

50000 Water Quality Council

Purpose: To protect and improve the water quality of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) region's streams and lakes, for the economy, recreation, and safe, reliable public water supplies by providing technical expertise. The Water Quality Council (WQC) will serve as a regional forum for education, advocacy, and grantsmanship for our members and stakeholders.

51170 Water Quality Council

Goal: Coordinate and recommend positions on water quality issues and policies to the TMACOG Board of Trustees in an effort to improve and protect water quality in our region and Lake Erie.

Objectives:

- Engage TMACOG members to:
 - Maintain and recruit members and leadership of the WQC.
 - Develop meeting programs to address current and long-term water quality goals of the region.
 - Develop programs and projects to carry out the missions of the WQC's standing committees.
 - The Wastewater Committee will provide overall coordination for the "208" Areawide Water Quality Management Plan, incorporating functions described under item 51300 – maintain the *Plan* and make recommendations to the TMACOG Executive Committee and Board of Trustees through WQC.
 - Stormwater Coalition, as described in item 54100 — will help Stormwater Coalition members understand and meet the requirements of US EPA and Ohio EPA stormwater permits.
 - Public Water Supply Committee, as described in 51500 — planning and coordinating on among member water utilities to foster provision of safe and reliable water supplies.
 - Watersheds Committee, as described in 52100 — establish regional process to address pollutant loadings from watersheds that impact our region's water quality by coordination with stakeholders, planning and conducting studies, implementation programs, and technical support to members.
 - Further develop and refine staff activities, subject to action by WQC. Potential programmatic objectives:
 - Provide guidance related to water quality issues to educate legislators, mayors, city councils, county boards, etc., as appropriate.
 - Develop and update the Agenda for Lake Erie. A water quality policies document recommended for support by the TMACOG Board of Trustees.
 - Collaborate on grants, loans, and other state and federal program funding opportunities.
 - Outreach and communication with members, media, and the public.
 - Reports or presentations on staff accomplishments; annual report.
- Provide assistance and coordination to members of TMACOG, both individually and on a regional basis, with funding for sanitary sewerage, water supply, stormwater infrastructure, or water quality restoration or remediation projects.

51xxx Agriculture Committee Development

Goal: Launch committee to make recommendations to WQC regarding the role of agriculture in the restoration of the western basin of Lake Erie.

51200 Water Quality Program Development

Goal: To develop and secure funding for environmental programs and projects for TMACOG and in partnership with our members.

Objectives:

- Programs and goals for which we will pursue grant opportunities, depending on funding availability and interest from partners, are:
 1. Goals of the *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan*.
 2. Goals of the *Portage River Watershed Plan*.
 3. Goals of the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition.
 4. Goals and recommendations of the *Maumee Area of Concern Stage 2 Watershed Restoration Plan*.
 5. Goals and recommendations of the *Swan Creek Watershed Balanced Growth Plan*.
 - ~~6.~~ ~~Goals and recommendations of the TMACOG Stormwater Management Standards Manual.~~
 - ~~7.~~6. Goals and recommendations of the TMACOG *Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping Practices for Municipal Operations*.
 - ~~8.~~7. Goals and recommendations of the *Wolf Creek / Berger Ditch Stream Corridor Restoration Plan*.
 - ~~9.~~8. Goals and recommendations of the Water Quality Council, TMACOG Stormwater Coalition, Public Water Supply, Wastewater, Watersheds, and Agriculture Committees, and the Portage River Basin Council.
 - ~~10.~~ ~~Coordinate with state of Ohio water infrastructure funding agencies by participating in the Small Community Environmental Infrastructure Group.~~
 9. Coordinate with other state of Ohio regional councils with water quality planning programs through the Ohio Association of Regional Councils Water Quality Committee.
 - ~~11.~~10. Provide safe recreation on Lake Erie; the Maumee, Toussaint, and Portage rivers and their tributaries ~~sits tributaries within the TMACOG planning area;~~ ~~Maumee Bay~~ and; ~~its beaches, and tributaries by~~ beaches by planning and developing public access, and by reducing bacterial pollution levels.

51600 Regional Water Planning Committee

Goal: Provide a forum for elected officials to examine regional water systems, including issues of interconnectivity, redundancy, storage, and sustainability.

Objectives:

- Reconvene at call of the Water Quality Council Chair or as requested by TMACOG members

The following work programs have been approved by Water Quality committees

Approved by Wastewater Committee 02/06/19

51300 Areawide Water Quality Management Plan (AWQMP)

Goal: To coordinate Water Quality Council to reach consensus on regional water quality policy by updating the AWQMP (the 208 Plan).

Objectives:

- Maintain sewage Facility Planning Areas (FPAs) with wastewater facility and service update information as it becomes available.
- Work with DMAs and their consultants to upgrade present sanitary sewerage service area maps by incorporating their computer mapping data into the “208” Plan.
- Support the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency’s, Certification of Areawide Water Quality Management Plan as part of the State Water Quality Management Plan.
- Coordinate with Ohio EPA and management agencies in Ohio to review sanitary sewerage permits to install for consistency with the adopted 208 plan.
- Develop educational materials for DMAs and general public.
- Tour wastewater treatment facilities for current information and documentation.

51305 604b Home Sewage Treatment System Mapping

Goal: Assist county health departments within the TMAOG region map the locations of the home sewage treatment systems.

Objectives:

- Collaborate with county health departments, starting with counties that do not have the resources for mapping
- Develop shapefiles and maps using ArcGIS.

51310 Wastewater Committee

Goal: Recommend wastewater policies to the TMACOG Board of Trustees for effective and efficient sanitary sewerage systems that support the goals of the Agenda for Lake Erie.

Objectives:

- Update the “208” Plan as discussed in 51300.
- Coordinate and assist county health departments in educating the public with new sewage rules and proper septic system management.
- Work with the Small Community Environmental Infrastructure Group on funding issues.
- Work on water and sewer training in coordination with the Public Water Supply (PWS) Committee, providing Ohio contact hours for both water and wastewater operators, and Ohio and Michigan professional development hours for professional engineers.
- Provide wastewater planning services to TMACOG members in Henry and Fulton counties that request it. These members are not included in the “208” Plan.
- TMACOG will monitor legislation and regulations that affect publicly owned treatment works (POTW) services, and seek input from committee members on potential regional positions.

- Assist members with identifying sources for funding and preparing proposals.
- Create a network of wastewater operators within the TMACOG region as a resource for assistance and education. Establish an education and outreach program with the Public Water Supply Committee for careers in water/wastewater treatment.

Approved by Public Water Supply Committee 03/07/19

51500 Public Water Supply Committee

Goal: Recommend positions on public water supply issues and policies to the TMACOG Board of Trustees that will provide the region with abundant, safe, and reliable water for residential and commercial needs.

Objectives:

- Discuss area capital improvements in order to share process and project planning, and to promote early and ongoing coordination among all parties, especially if there is an impact to the region.
- Discuss best practices and efficiencies.
- Emphasize long-term cost management; facilitate potential shared purchasing to capture cost reductions.
- Review, monitor, and propose changes to rate structures to support best practices in water quality management.
- Cooperate and coordinate in preparation for outages, i.e. work to create a formal Emergency Management Plan.
- Communicate operation and maintenance practices - share contact information for assistance (i.e. all join OH WARN).
- Pool technology and software operations for better resources and financial efficiencies.
- Protect the public from expenditures on redundant resources.
- Develop and update an inventory for public water supply system infrastructure.
- Share equipment and human resources, when appropriate for mutual benefit.
- Establish a training program subcommittee in coordination with the Wastewater Committee to provide Ohio contact hours for both water and wastewater operators, and Ohio and Michigan professional development hours for professional engineers.
- Establish an education and outreach program with the Wastewater Committee for careers in water/wastewater treatment.

Approved by Watersheds Committee 01/23/19

52100 Watersheds Committee

Goal: Recommend water quality and habitat policies to the TMACOG Water Quality Council for effective management of watersheds that support the goals of the “Agenda for Lake Erie.”

Objectives:

- The Watersheds Committee will take the lead among the Water Quality Program committees in updating the Agenda for Lake Erie.
- Facilitate information sharing between developers and stewards of local 9-Element Plans and

TMACOG members and partners.

- Provide a forum for setting project priorities to meet Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) targets and water quality standards in support of the creation and update of 9-Element Plans and other watershed-based planning efforts.
- Support projects and policies that help to meet Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Annex IV phosphorus reductions, TMDL targets, and biological water quality standards.
- Research options for goal setting and benchmarking to measure progress in meeting targets in Annex IV, TMDLs, and biological water quality standards
- Using outcomes of Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Annex IV Targets (see 52131 AWP FY18) identify priority projects that will offer the most feasible and cost-effective phosphorus load reductions. These will serve as pilot projects to enable the staff, committee, and stakeholders to develop methodologies and refine modeling techniques.
- Outreach to and engage the agricultural community and watershed groups in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan to understand and address the diverse water quality issues in Lake Erie's Western Basin.
- Provide a forum for communication between groups addressing Lake Erie water quality including the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) Partnership and the Ohio Lake Erie Commission through activities such as annual to semi-annual meetings.
- Monitor existing and new funding opportunities for watershed planning or projects and communicate to appropriate stakeholders

Approved by Stormwater Coalition 01/17/19

54100 Stormwater Coalition (SWC)

Goal: Address stormwater flooding, drainage, and water quality issues on a watershed basis through regional cooperation, coordination, and education in the development and implementation of long-range stormwater management plans.

Objectives:

- Plan quarterly SWC meetings to address various aspects of the NPDES stormwater permits that are specific to the region and/or time of year.
- Coordinate Stormwater Action Group (SWAG), which provides technical support and guidance to SWC.
- Coordinate the Stormwater Coalition (SWC) to encourage sharing of information and resources in meeting National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permits, and solving stormwater management problems on a watershed basis.
- Coordinate SWC efforts and water quality policy recommendations with other TMACOG Water Quality committees.
- Assist Stormwater Coalition members in fulfilling the NPDES stormwater permit requirements for six minimum control measures:
 - Public Outreach and Education
 - Public Involvement
 - Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

- Construction
- Post-construction
- Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping
- Reach out to new regulated MS4s in Wood and Lucas counties.
- Utilize the Clear Choices Clean Water-Greater Toledo Lake Erie program to help fulfil some SWC members permit requirements for public education and outreach (See 54400).
- Provide one workshop for member jurisdictions or the development community aimed at improving implementation of stormwater and/or construction BMPs.
- Participate in the Toledo -Lucas County Sustainability Commission.
- Provide Good Housekeeping training and educational materials as requested by member jurisdictions.
- Stay current with stormwater regulations and inform members of upcoming stormwater regulations and compliance deadlines.
- Provide individualized Stormwater Program Evaluations as requested by member jurisdictions.
- Connect local secondary, college, and university students with opportunities to participate in design, installation, or maintenance of green stormwater infrastructure projects.
- Participate in and support the Toledo-Lucas County Rain Gardens Initiative.
- Encourage involvement of member jurisdictions in the Ohio Stormwater Association to facilitate communication with stormwater practitioners across the state.
- Identify up to two professional development opportunities for TMACOG Stormwater Program staff.
- Identify funding opportunities, facilitate project coordination, and provide SWAG technical support for stormwater projects that demonstrate best management practices, help meet National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit requirements, and support Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation.
- Provide support to member jurisdictions to facilitate reuse of vacant properties for stormwater benefits.
- Review and provide feedback on stormwater issues and policies relevant to transportation through outreach to Ohio Department of Transportation and through coordination with TMACOG's Transportation Department.
- Provide professional development opportunities for member communities and help meet personnel training requirements through membership in the Center for Watershed Protection (CWP). Host or organize group viewing of CWP stormwater-themed webcast series and facilitate discussion.

54400 Clear Choices Clean Water (CCCW)

Goal: Implement a regional water quality education campaign as a local affiliate of the national Clear Choices Clean Water program. The web-based program will be led by the members of TMACOG's Stormwater Coalition with a goal of empowering the citizens of northwest Ohio to make impactful choices to improve water quality while also meeting some Ohio EPA stormwater permit requirements for public involvement, participation, and education.

Objectives:

- Ensure ongoing funding through program administration, member and sponsor billing, and biennial payment.

- Facilitate CCCW working group that includes SWC members and partners.
- Work with CCCW national office to maintain CCCW website.
- Provide regular updates to website and coordinate content updates with the CCCW working group
- Identify opportunities to promote CCCW at member and partner events
- Distribute data reports to SWC members quarterly for inclusion in member's required reports to OEPA.
- Provide support to members in seeking sponsorships for CCCW materials purchase
- Provide support to member and partner stormwater education efforts.