

**Western Lake Erie Basin Coordinated Management Committee
Planning Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2012**

Attendees: Jason Lewis (Ottawa NWR), Dave Zenk (Metro Parks of the Toledo Area), Scott Butterworth (ODOW), Ron Huffman (Ottawa NWR), Eddy Pausch (Ottawa NWR), John Simpson (Winous Point)

Purpose: Increase cooperation and coordination of land management efforts in the Western Lake Erie Basin.

Area Extent: Ottawa, Lucas, Erie, Sandusky, and Wood Counties. Area of extent may be revised based on priority habitat for preservation or restoration as determined by The Nature Conservancy research.

Goals and Objectives:

- 1) Increase resource sharing among partners.
- 2) Promote information exchange among partners and technical experts on management strategies, conservation priorities, and permit processing.
- 3) Manage WLEB wetland habitats across partnership boundaries to ensure a diversity of habitat types available on the landscape.
 - a. Inventory existing protected wetland habitat in the W. Lake Erie Basin to identify habitat types and area extents present in the landscape
 - b. Rank priority areas for protection within the Western Lake Erie Basin
 - c. Develop a management plan for Western Lake Erie Basin wetlands which identifies Best Management Practices
- 4) Coordinate efforts to pursue funding opportunities, ensuring highest priority projects (as determined by the WLEB Committee) are most competitive
- 5) Promote the economic benefits of conservation to the local community.

Potential Members: The following groups were suggested as potential members for the Committee.

Core Group:

Lake Erie Marsh Owner's Association
Black Swamp Conservancy
Erie Metro Parks
Sandusky Park District
Ducks Unlimited
Ottawa Soil and Water Conservation District
Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve
Wood County Park District

Additional Members:

OSU Extension
Black Swamp Bird Observatory
Ohio EPA
Lake Erie Cooperative Weed Management Area
Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur
Office of Coastal Management
Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments

Next Steps:

- Amanda Conover will contact the list of potential members to invite them to participate on the committee. Only the core group (primary land management agencies) will be contacted to attend initial meetings
- Metro Parks of Toledo Area will produce a map of the committee's focus area, including ownership of preserved areas.
- Amanda Conover will contact The Nature Conservancy to check on progress of project to identify priority habitat in the W. Lake Erie Basin and attempt to obtain a copy of the results.
- Committee Members will send applicable existing conservation plans for their organizations to Amanda Conover to be compiled and distributed to the rest of the committee.
- Amanda Conover will contact the Green Ribbon Initiative to discuss the development of their management plan, to possibly serve as a model for this committee.