

## **Notes from Water Resource Meeting**

October 2, 2013

10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Facilitators: Bill Demidovich and Meghan Altier

### **Ground Rules**

- Everyone participates
- Open/Honest Dialogue
- Respect Opinions
- Consensus Decision Making

### **Definitions**

- Theme: A central focus of the OWRC
- Objective: Desired endpoint associated with theme
- Action Item: Specific action needed to support theme

### **7 Key Themes**

1. Education and Outreach
2. Watershed Management
3. Water Quality
4. Water Quantity
5. Data and Information
6. Water Resource Infrastructure
7. Water Related Natural Hazards

## Education and Outreach

### ID Current Org Concerns:

- Continue education programs: Grade school on up
- Capitalize on Grass Roots
- Updated Brief statements – Status – Summarized (i.e. Erie Lake Commission)
- Sustainability: Educate importance of water
- General Public Information (i.e. 2050 world wide)
- Success Stories: Highlight theme (Recycle and best practices)
- How do we measure the effectiveness of Education and Outreach
  - Audience Analysis: Who, Where, What, Capacity

### ID Major Drivers

- Awareness – limited amount of resources – Value
- Water Resource Changing in Public Eye (i.e. fracking and algae)
- Changing Water Issues for the State of Ohio
- Rate Increase – Due to treatment changes
- Education to health concerns
- **Increase of severe storms – changing weather patterns** (across all key themes) Big impact on Cost
- Change Behavior – support other activities
- Urbanization: Urban storm water – change land use pattern

**Stop:** NO      **Keep:** Yes

**Start:** Check back to other themes and cross check. Strive to remain relevant and fresh – reactive to current events.

## Watershed Management

### ID Current Org Concerns:

- Support Partnership – Currently there is no one stop shop for information (DATA). It is inefficient and not integrated. Suggested resource: ohio.erin.com
- Public Action Groups incentivized. Public involvement: keep then going or start new ones.
- Process Model: What would be sustainable statewide? Currently the grant program is competitive creating a “Patchwork” effect. Not required and may have lost support
- Driven by Water Quality in the past – not looking at all aspects.
- Not comprehensive – water issues
- This cuts across many themes – Delivery

### ID Major Drivers

- In the past the major driver was money availability in Grants availability
- Now: Environmental – Public Awareness and Education for the Public

- Work holistically – Process how to enable all agencies
- Lack of Drivers: Lack of support by districts
- Long lead time – 15 years to show success
- Complex problem that needs experts
- Complexity
- Cut backs on Agency Staffing
- Goes back to Education!
- Crisis
- Federal and State set up BY watershed
  - Not comprehensive statewide
  - Organization
  - Not always recognized by Local Governments

**Stop:** NO      **Keep:** Yes

Changes to Narrative: Success in Objective #1. #2 add “interstate”

**Start:** Reference driver list for potential new objectives.

### **Water Quality**

#### ID Current Org Concerns:

- Drinking Water – not getting better: Getting worse and or more awareness
  - Nitrates in Ground Water
  - Chloride in Ground Water
  - Nutrients in Ground and Surface Water
  - Arsenic
- Increase in TDS (Salinity) leads to corrosive and increase cost to industry
- Lack of Awareness
- Human Health Issues (i.e. leafy green vegetables passed to consumers in food)
- Regulations and awareness – change in resources
- Recreation component – (i.e. beach postings)

#### ID Major Drivers

- More water issues lead to Human Health Concerns
  - Recreation
  - Food
  - Awareness
  - Political Drivers
- Emerging Contaminants
  - Pharmaceuticals
  - PPCP’s
  - Personal Care Products
  - Plastic Bottles
- Regulations – lots of money for water treatment
- Infrastructure Issues

- Water Quality Monitoring: Measure effectiveness of activities and impact budget conversation every year.

**Stop:** NO      **Keep:** Yes

**Start:** Support Research into new water technology

- Regulations spans technology
- ID new sources of water problems and then find a way to fix the problems
- New Research
- Better communication between: companies, agencies, universities etc.
- Leverage the Water Innovation Cluster or Confluence.

### **Water Quantity**

ID Current Org Concerns:

- Water Scarcity – ways to manage that issue
- Change in climate – Patterns – Water Extremes and Water Resiliency
- External Requests for Water
- Quantify water demands – Oil and gas development
- Competing Resources
- Prepare for Recycling for water – New Technology Plus Cost (“Grey Water”)
- Water Re-use Quality and Quantity
- Strengthen Infrastructure
- Link between Quality and Quantity (Connection)

ID Major Drivers

- Changes in weather patterns (more extremes water events)
- Economic Conditions
- Storm Water Regulation and Management
- Drive to keep things Local
- Competition for Use (i.e. Local vs. Region)
- Find a Balance between - Increase Population and Increase Demands – Economic Drivers

**Stop:** NO      **Keep:** Yes

Changes to Narrative: End of second sentence Add “and Damage”

**Start:** Encompass new and changing demand on Water (e.g. fracking and discharge waste from a new technology)

### **Data and Information**

ID Current Org Concerns:

- Too much detailed information for Public to digest
- Lot of information out there – would like a centralized place where issues that cross agencies (currently hard to find)

- Research not always available – Access (i.e. university journals)
- Easy accessible data
- Lack of support for long term sustainable monitoring and assessment
- Maintain long term data collection
- How to extend work that is being done in the field and labs out – Lag time
- Sites and monitoring: Money that is spent vs. data needs

#### ID Major Drivers

- Policies and decisions based on data – Good information vs. knee jerk reactions.
- Public Health Exposures to Public – Public health risk (might not know what it means)
- Community resilience
- Research – Data says – then do research

**Stop:** NO      **Keep:** Yes

It is the Foundation

#### **Start:**

- Stress Coordination to eliminate the duplication of work
- Advancing technology to aid coordination and communication (GIS world use things to keep working on this issue)
- Value statement – ahead of time: What is the Value? Creating a marketing plan

### **Water Resource Infrastructure**

#### ID Current Org Concerns:

- Age – it is falling apart
- Design and weather patterns
- Affordability – Funding
- Proper management of infrastructure
- Are we charging correctly
- Wait too long to repair
- Need for infrastructure planning
- Duplication: regional infrastructure and lack of coordination
- Political institution framework – do local jurisdictions have capability
- Cyber security

#### ID Major Drivers

- Cost
- Funding
- Customer Impact
- Regulatory Demand
- Resources

- Deteriorating infrastructure – economic and public health

**Stop:** NO      **Keep:** Yes

Changes to Narrative: Add locks, dams, harbors, shipping and levies

**Start:** Need infrastructure planning coordination, Max opportunities from federal programs

### **Water Related Natural Hazards**

(question should Natural remain in the title)

#### ID Current Org Concerns:

- Preparedness
- Invasive Species? (might not belong here)
- Emphasize avoidance of problems
- Plan security for IT, shipping, supply chain
- Security for water supplies and infrastructure...
- Natural weather emergencies
- Increase frequency in water emergencies
- Treatment plants – plans for Hazards and contingency plans
- Emergency preparedness
- Emergency Action Plans

#### ID Major Drivers

- Economic
- Failing Infrastructure
- Direction from FMEA
- Pushing mitigation planning
- Cost
- Insurance Companies Input?

**Stop:** NO      **Keep:** Yes

Update the number of presidential disasters.

**Start:** Emphasis on Avoidance of Problem

- Emphasis on awareness on where to develop and where not to develop
- Personal Risk

## **Parking Lot**

- Safety and Security
  - Stand alone theme or
  - Incorporated into infrastructure
- Hydro modification
  - Stand alone theme or
  - Incorporated into quality or quantity
- Emphasize more creative partnership – ask statewide representatives their 10-15 key water issues. Statewide vs. agency perspective
- Promote proactive measures for sustainability.

## **Farm Science Review Issues**

### Top Issues:

1. Maintain Safe Drinking Water
2. Preserve Fish and Water Habitat
3. Fertilizer Run Off
4. Fixing Aging Infrastructure

### Bottom Three

- Data and Information
- Sustain waters for tourism
- Maximize water role in job creation