

The Ohio Water Table

A Publication of the Water Management Association of Ohio

No. 141 / Quarterly



Ohio Gives \$1 Million to Sandusky for Nutrient Reduction in Sandusky Bay

Ohio EPA News Release, April 3, 2017; Heidi Griesmer, Ohio EPA, (614) 644-2160, Matt Eiselstein, ODNR, (614) 265-6860

The State of Ohio is giving \$1 million grant from the Ohio Healthy Lake Initiative to the city of Sandusky for nutrient reduction pilot projects in the Sandusky Bay.

“The Sandusky Bay Enhancement Initiative will help us meet the State’s July 2020 ban on disposing of dredged material in the open waters of Lake Erie while reducing nutrients that can cause harmful algal blooms,” said Ohio EPA Director Craig W. Butler.

“Lake Erie is vital to sustaining Ohio’s coastal communities, including Sandusky. We are proud to be a part of this innovative project that will help improve water quality here in the Sandusky Bay and Lake Erie,” said ODNR Director Jim Zehringer.

“Cedar Point is committed to the health and quality of Sandusky Bay and Lake Erie, our most important natural resources,” said Jason McClure, vice president and general manager of Cedar Point. “Our visitors come to enjoy the breathtaking surroundings of the park, and we’re pleased to be a partner in the efforts to protect these waters for future visitors.”

Continued on Page 3

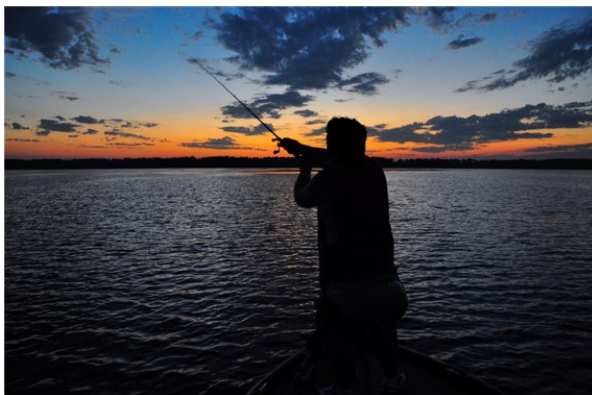


Figure 1: East Harbor State Park, July 2010.
Source: Ohio DNR Photo Gallery

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President's Column

Alex Covert, WMAO 2016-2017 President



Another Spring Break has come and gone. Daffodils, crocus, and tulips are blooming. Robins and blue jays are chirping and jeering. And winter seems to have released its grip on the local weather... Or has it? This week, the temperature got into the mid-70s and tomorrow shows a low near 29 degrees. And get this, there is a snow-flake icon displayed on my weather app! That's Ohio for you, however - where the weather is anything but predictable.

Along those lines, working in the water-resources field can be just as unpredictable. Things can change in the blink of an eye. Policies are modified. Funding comes and goes. Science and new technologies mix things up. People change positions or retire. The proverbial ebb and flow of the water-resources world requires everyone involved to be ready for change.

As I mentioned in the winter newsletter, it's time for WMAO to think ahead and to do some strategic planning for the coming years. As part of this effort, WMAO members (**that's you**) were emailed a link to a short [SurveyMonkey questionnaire](#). In July, WMAO Board members will be working together to develop a straightforward plan that clarifies WMAO's top priorities and goals going forward. This is practical planning – the kind that every organization should do periodically. And we want to make the most of it by getting input in advance from our members.

If you haven't done so already, I'm hoping you'll take a few minutes to provide answers, so that we have your perspective as the planning process unfolds. Input is critically important, so thank you for taking the time to do this!

We ask that surveys be completed by Friday, April 28, 2017 – that should give us the time we need to compile, review, and learn from all the input.

S. Alex. Covert

*"...working together
to develop a
straightforward plan
that clarifies
WMAO's top
priorities and
goals..."*

WMAO Scholarship

\$1,000 College Scholarship for tuition, fees, and books.

Applications due April 28, 2017.

Click [here](#) for more information and online application.

Ohio Gives \$1 Million to Sandusky

Continued from Page 1

The grant will allow Sandusky to engineer and develop four in-water habitat projects, recreating some of the natural wetlands and mud-flats that once surrounded Sandusky Bay. Clean dredged material from dredging of the federal navigation channel in Sandusky will be used to establish the new in-water habitats and water quality treatment to help reduce nutrients and sediments from entering Lake Erie.

The 64-square-mile Sandusky Bay is a microcosm of Lake Erie, providing significant environmental influence on the fisheries, wildlife habitat and water quality of our Great Lake. In 2016, the State of Ohio identified Sandusky Bay as a state priority area for water quality improvements and in-water habitat restoration initiatives that will benefit the Bay as well as Lake Erie. The lessons learned through the Sandusky Bay Enhancement Initiative may apply across the Lake Erie basin.

The State of Ohio has initiated, along with the City of Sandusky and various not-for-profit organizations, a series of strategic investments to systematically link restoration projects in Sandusky Bay and its watershed. This approach will address at least five core priorities of the Lake Erie Commission's *Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan*: Nutrient Reduction, Dredge Material Beneficial Use, Habitat Restoration, Invasive Species Management and Funding Coordination.

Midwest Biodiversity Institute Seeking Partners for Citizen Based Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (cQHEI) Program

The Midwest Biodiversity Institute located in Columbus, Ohio is in the process of seeking funding for a unique, state-wide, citizen based habitat monitoring program. The program, called cQHEI Network, is a two tiered process that will first train a number of qualified instructors who will in turn be responsible for using their training to prepare and train local citizens, groups and organizations in the practice and use of the cQHEI.

Trainees will all be trained to Ohio level 1 data collector standards. Once training is completed, local participants will be expected to begin evaluating local riverine habitats, with an emphasis on headwaters and areas that have been historically under evaluated.

As part of the proposal MBI is working with Ohio University to develop a dynamic cQHEI database that will store and analyze the collected cQHEI data. It will be designed to have significant public access and will be compatible with existing Ohio QHEI data.

While MBI seeks funding for the program, we are looking for statements of interest from participants who would provide potential trainers and would be willing to hold their own training sessions in their local, home areas. The program is intended to be a wide spread effort leading to a network of participants from all areas of Ohio. It is anticipated that the data collected will provide important information about habitat conditions in areas that have had little attention in the past.

If you or your organization believes you might be interested in participating and providing instructor trainees, please send us a letter or email letting us know of your interest. We'll keep you advised of our progress. Send emails to: Ed Rankin, erankin@mwbinst.com, Allison Boehler, aboehler@mwbinst.com, or Pete Precario, pprecario@mwbinst.com. Feel free to contact any of us with any questions.

Visit Our Website: <http://www.midwestbiodiversityinst.org/>



Research Highlights from State of Ohio Water Resources Center

The Ohio Water Resources Center is a federally authorized center situated at The Ohio State University. We fund State relevant water related research. Below are highlights from a completed project funded via 104(b) USGS program, conducted by Dr. John Hoornbeek of Kent State University. If you are interested learning more about our research projects see the Ohio Water Resources Center webpage at wrc.osu.edu

Dr. John Hoornbeek, Director of the Center of Public Policy and Health (CPPH) and Associate Professor at Kent State University (KSU-CPPH), worked with staff and students at the KSU-CPPH to complete an Ohio Water Resources Center funded project via 104(b) USGS sub-award. This project titled “**Policy Tools for Reducing Harmful Algal Blooms**” is seeking to inform the policy conversation around addressing the nutrient enrichment issue in Lake Erie by conducting research that focuses on better understanding the policy tools currently being used to reduce nutrient runoff into the lake and what is being done elsewhere to address nutrient issues in major water bodies.

We found that federal government agencies and the State of Ohio are making *substantial* efforts to reduce nutrient flows in the Ohio Lake Erie basin. They are requiring many hundreds of federal and/or state permittees to assess and/or develop nutrient treatment and management capacities. They are spending many millions of dollars on nutrient reduction efforts. They are also collecting and disseminating information on nutrient enrichment, HABs, and ways in which these problems can be addressed. And finally, both federal and state governing entities are organizing multiple efforts to address and/or manage flows of nutrients to the Lake Erie water basin.

However, based on information compiled and analyzed during the course of this project, we offer lessons and ideas for consideration by Ohio policymakers and natural resource practitioners. First, while the State of Ohio and federal government agencies are carrying out many activities to reduce nutrient flows, they appear fragmented. They do not appear to be *implemented* in a way that adheres to a single coordinated and focused nutrient reduction strategy targeted to reduce nutrient flows in the Ohio Lake Erie basin. By contrast, at least several other water basin programs around the United States (US) appear to be focusing their nutrient reduction efforts in strategic and coordinated fashion, and these efforts also appear to be characterized by clearly articulated goals and publicly available tracking and accountability systems to measure progress. We found no similar tracking and accountability system in place for Ohio’s Lake Erie basin, and suggest that policymakers consider tasking a single

organization to develop and implement such a system to track and report on progress in implementing nutrient reduction efforts (perhaps in coordination with other Lake Erie basin jurisdictions). Finally, our review of other basin-wide nutrient reduction programs -- including the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Long Island Sound Study program, and the Tampa Bay Estuary Program – identified additional policy tools targeting nutrient reductions that can be considered for use in Ohio’s Lake Erie basin. These include (but are not limited to): 1) more comprehensive nutrient management programs

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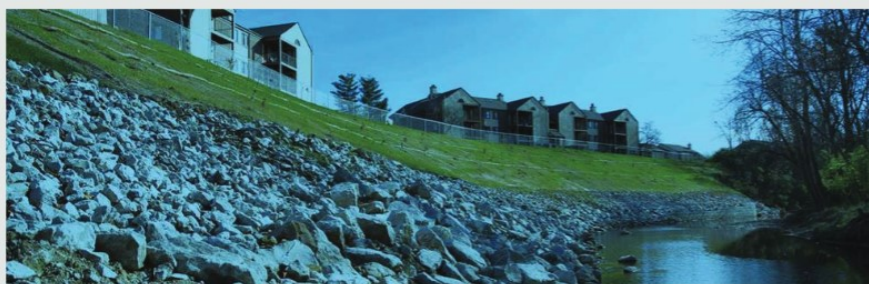
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Figure 1: John Hoornbeek and Dr. Joseph Ortiz discussing the project

for animal feeding operations; 2) effluent trading programs applicable to nutrients; 3) efforts to work with the agricultural community to enable enhanced reporting on agricultural Best Management Practice (BMP) implementation for geographically specified watersheds, and; 4) additional revenue-raising programs to support state level nutrient reduction efforts.

Researcher Profile: Dr. John Hoornbeek studies environmental and public health policy, and his research spans issues of local and state concern to issues with national and international implications. He has served as a policy practitioner at the federal, state, and local levels of government in the US. His public service work has included appointments with the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services, the Wisconsin State Legislature, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Congress, and the National Environmental Services Center at West Virginia University. Dr. Hoornbeek earned his Doctoral Degree from the University of Pittsburgh, his Master's Degree from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, and his Bachelor's Degree from Beloit College.



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Ohio Floodplain Management Association

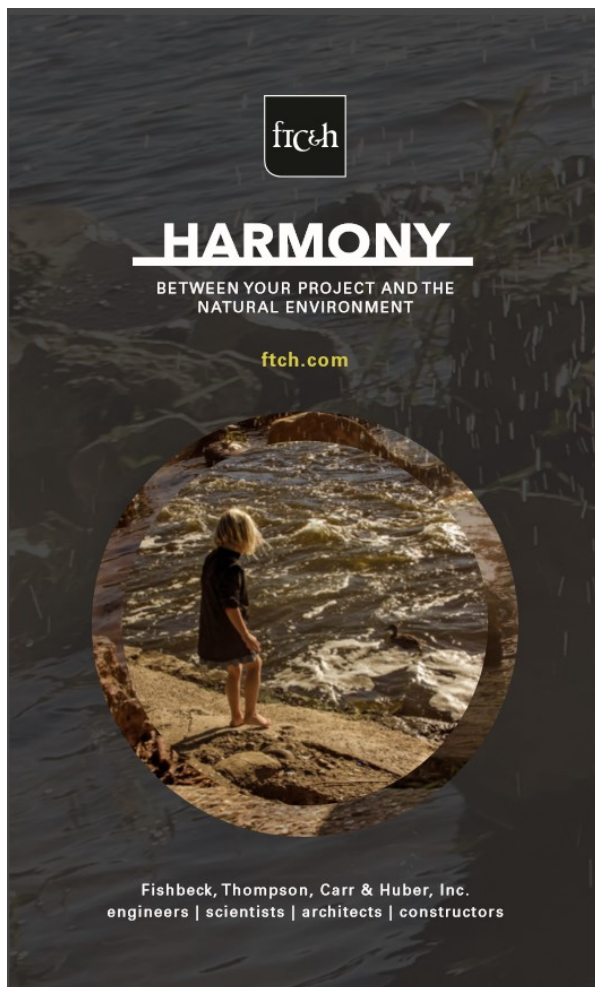


Division Updates

By **Stephen Moore**, OFMA President

2 Dimensional Modeling Training – On April 10 & 11 OFMA offered a two-day course that introduced the new two dimensional modeling feature available in Version 5 of HEC-RAS. Topics presented to those in attendance included the theoretical basis for two-dimensional hydraulic computations, GIS basics, developing terrain models in support of 2-D modeling, 2-D data requirements, use of RAS Mapper, and incorporating boundary conditions in 2-D models. Hands-on workshops will be conducted to provide course attendees ample opportunity to learn how to develop, analyze and interpret the results of two-dimensional floodplain models. The course instructor was Dr. Donald Chase an internationally recognized expert in modeling and computer simulation of large-scale water resource systems.

“Please remember when filling out your 2017 WMAO membership application to check OFMA....”



Save the Date - 2017 Ohio Statewide Floodplain Conference to be held on August 23-24, 2017 at the Doubletree Hotel Columbus/Worthington. Please visit ofma.org for more information.

Membership - Please remember when filling out your 2017 WMAO membership application to check OFMA as your primary Division Affiliation. By designating OFMA it will help us provide better service, information and training to those who are interested in floodplain issues across the State of Ohio.

Award Nominations Sought - During the annual Floodplain Management Conference, the Ohio Floodplain Management Association (OFMA) recognizes communities, individuals and agency partners that help promote the best practices in floodplain management. **OFMA counts on its members, and others like yourself who are involved with floodplain management, for nominations of deserving peers, communities and projects.** The awards program was initiated in 2000 with the first statewide floodplain management conference. The categories are: Floodplain Administrator of the Year; Innovation in Floodplain Management; Peter G. Finke – Most Valuable Contribution to Floodplain Management; and Distinguished Member Service. The nominees and supporting information are reviewed by the OFMA Awards and Scholarship Committee.

Upcoming CFM Exam Opportunities! - The Ohio Floodplain Management Association offers CFM examination testing periodically across Ohio.
2017 CFM Exams include:

April 19, 2017

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

ODNR

2045 Morse Road, Building B

3rd Floor Conference Room

Columbus, OH 43229

Proctor: Alicia Silverio

August 24, 2017

1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

The Doubletree Hotel (Columbus/Worthington)

175 Hutchinson Avenue

Columbus, OH 43235

Proctor: Jason Farrell

November 8, 2017

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

318 Dorney Plaza, 3rd Floor Conference Room

Findlay, OH 45840

Proctor: Todd Richard

To register for the CFM Exam, please contact the Association of State Floodplain Managers at: 608-828-3000 or cfm@floods.org. Exam information and study guide may be referenced at: www.floods.org.

Committees –

OFMA has established standing committees to address areas of greatest concern to OFMA and to perform many of the functions of the organization. There are currently seven standing committees:

Legislative/Policy

Education-Training/Events

Education-Outreach/Website

Finance

OFMA Conference Planning

Membership/Nominations

Awards/Scholarships

Participation in OFMA Committees is not limited to WMAO Members. If you are interested in participating in an OFMA Committee, please contact Stephen Moore at smoore@groveport.org.



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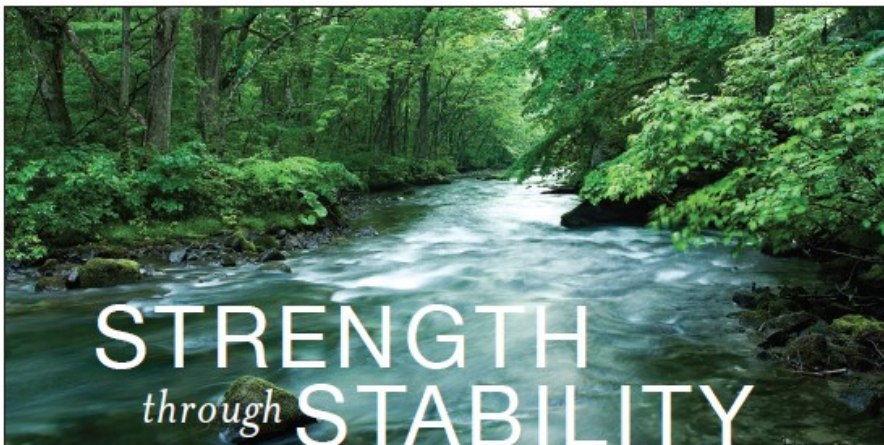
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**17th Annual
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Join the City of Akron and the Akron Global Water Alliance for the USA Water Conference 2017 on May 31 - June 1, 2017, at the University of Akron.

The Conference will cover Algal Toxins and other Emerging Issues in Water Treatment and will feature updates and presentations from the US and Ohio EPAs, Utilities, Water Engineering firms and Consultancies, Operators, Scientists and Innovators from across the USA and across the world. We will also look at the Water Plant of the Future- new methods of water treatment, source water management, and watershed management.



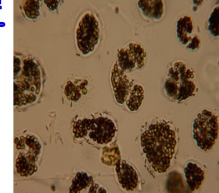
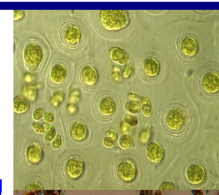
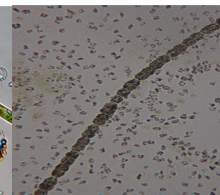
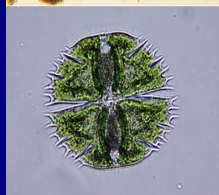
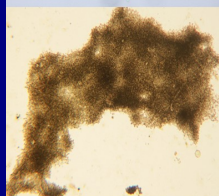
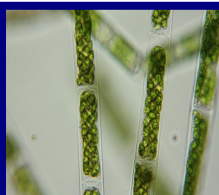
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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Presentations & Posters

The Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO)
46th Annual Meeting and Symposium
PARTNERSHIPS AT THE CONFLUENCE OF CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY
November 1 & 2, 2017
Crowne Plaza Columbus North - Worthington, 6500 Doubletree Avenue, Columbus, 43229

Abstracts are sought for 20-minute oral presentations or posters (due July 1, 2017). Submissions accepted at:

<http://wmao.org/call-for-abstracts/>

Abstracts not selected for presentations may be offered the option of presenting a poster or being part of a conference interactive activity. The Conference Planning Committee will make their selections and post accepted abstracts on the WMAO web site <http://wmao.org/> as part of the conference program.

Membership in WMAO is not required of presenters, though we encourage you to consider joining WMAO to support the water resources professional community in Ohio. All conference presenters are required to pay the conference registration fee.

Presentations should relate to the theme (see sidebar) and fit within one of the following categories:

- dam safety
- floodplain management
- lake management
- storm water
- watershed management
- drinking water
- ecology
- education and outreach
- fisheries
- innovative programs
- ground water
- regulation and policy
- messaging and data
- nonpoint sources
- public health and safety
- recreation
- wastewater

Wanted: Great Posters!

Abstracts will also be sought for posters featuring student research projects. The Conference Planning Committee will award prizes of \$250 and \$100 for the posters that best capture and explain the research project.

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Tell us about those partnerships that:

- Communicate issues related to water quality or quantity
- Are adopting new technology or innovative ideas
- Improved water resources

Are you working on a project with partners that:

- Provides the basis for informed decision making
- Restores ecosystems, watersheds or aquifers
- Addresses an identified problem affecting water resources
- Promotes sustainability

Submit an abstract today to share your story with other water resource professionals.

WMAO Awards recognize individuals for distinguished service or demonstrating leadership in the management, use or enjoyment of Ohio's water resources. Make your voice heard - nominate someone for a WMAO award (<http://wmao.org/awards/>) today! Nominations are due by September 30, 2017.

WATER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

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330-466-5631, admin@wmao.org
Dana Oleskiewicz, Administrative Director

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The Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO) is the one organization dedicated to all of Ohio's water resources.

VISION: The Water Management Association of Ohio will be the most effective and respected independent water resources organization in Ohio.

MISSION: The Water Management Association of Ohio promotes the comprehensive understanding, conservation and multifaceted use of Ohio's water resources.

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