

Maumee River Remedial Action Plan Strategic Plan 1997

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Maumee RAP Mission Statement

*The Maumee River Remedial Action Plan
is a community effort to restore the health and beauty
of the Maumee River Ecosystem for the benefit of all who live here.*

Why & How Was The Strategic Plan Developed?

In mid-1996 the members of the Maumee RAP began to consider their progress in respect to the activities outlined in the *Recommendations for Implementation* Report. With the tenth anniversary of the first Maumee RAP public meeting approaching, it was decided that a strategic plan should be developed to establish future goals, to guide future activities, and to make it easier to define the accomplishments of the organization.

A Strategic Planning Design Team was appointed by the Maumee RAP Implementation Committee (MRIC) to create the process by which to develop this strategic plan. They identified several basic issues or concerns to be addressed in the plan. The process also identified the crucial roles of each of the MRIC action groups in both formulation and implementation of this strategic plan.

A Strategic Planning Kickoff was held at Walbridge Park on February 7, 1997. The action groups began by listing their accomplishments and their frustrations. They then clearly defined their individual action groups' purpose statements followed by initial and tentative drafts of their short and long term goals and actions.

Over the next several months of regular action group meetings, many individuals, businesses, governments, and organizations worked together to refine and expand these goals and actions. At each monthly meeting of the MRIC and/or the MRIC Steering Committee these refinements and suggestions were reviewed and discussed. From this dialogue and these suggestions, each action group developed its own goals and activities as included in this plan. The *Maumee RAP Strategic Plan* shows both consistency in format and freedom for each group to describe its goals and activities in the manner that will best enable them to successfully achieve their purpose and implement their goals and objectives.

The Maumee RAP is moving forward on many fronts and this strategic plan will help assure our common understanding and commitment toward the successful restoration of the Maumee Area of Concern.

Where Are We Going & How Do We Get There?

The *Maumee RAP Strategic Plan* resulted in a reassessment of the Maumee RAP's direction. Several conclusions have been drawn from going through this strategic planning process.

Maumee RAP is a Partnership

It was reaffirmed that the Maumee Remedial Action Plan is a cooperative effort between local governments, businesses, industry, and citizens of Northwest Ohio along with state and federal governments to restore the waters of the Maumee Area of Concern to "fishable and swimmable" conditions. Furthermore, this cannot be accomplished without this cooperation and partnership which is provided under the Maumee RAP.

Role of the Maumee RAP Implementation Committee

It was reaffirmed that the Maumee RAP Implementation Committee (MRIC) was created to provide general oversight of the implementation of the Maumee RAP recommendations pursuant to its operating procedures. It coordinates the many activities carried out by the Maumee RAP such as water quality surveillance and monitoring, evaluation, education, and community involvement. MRIC has created several subcommittees, known as action groups, to help with its responsibilities. They include Issue Action Groups, Watershed Action Groups, and Support Action Groups. MRIC consists of 23 voting members which includes a balance of representatives from government, active citizens, and local businesses. The principal function of MRIC is to assure the restoration of water quality and impaired beneficial uses of the waters of the Maumee Area of Concern through serving as an advocate to encourage government and industry to commit to needed actions and provide the necessary resources.

The MRIC Operating Procedures state that:

"The purpose of the Maumee RAP Implementation Committee is to provide general oversight to the implementation of the Maumee RAP recommendations.

It will coordinate the surveillance & monitoring, evaluation & education, and involvement of the community.

It will advise and consult with the TMACOG Board of Trustees and the District Chief of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency regarding the implementation of the recommendations."

The MRIC Steering Committee is responsible for the overall direction of the Maumee RAP process and MRIC. The *Maumee RAP Strategic Plan* relies on the Steering Committee to be the forum for the various types of action groups to come together and work as a team. The Steering Committee is to assure that the action groups share their needs for help and assistance with each other. According to the operating procedures the Steering Committee is to be composed of the MRIC chair, vice-chair, one citizen representative, one business representative, and one government representative as well as ex-officio representatives of the Ohio EPA and TMACOG. The strategic planning process has called for this group to include the chairs of each of the action groups.

Role and Interaction of MRIC Action Groups

The strategic planning process has reaffirmed the existing use of Issue Action Groups and Watershed Action Groups and tasked the MRIC Steering Committee to assure that they work together. The *Maumee RAP Strategic Plan* consists of these action groups evaluating their direction and setting a short and long term course of action. The strategic planning process showed the necessity for two new action groups to support the needs identified by the existing action groups. The Finance Action Group and the Public Outreach and Education Action Group are the response to the requests of the Issue and Watershed Action Groups.

Periodic Reporting and Review of the Plan

The *Maumee RAP Strategic Plan* will be reviewed annually to evaluate the previous year's accomplishments and outline the actions for the upcoming year. A complete evaluation and update of the whole plan will be conducted every two to four years.

Issue Action Groups

When the Maumee RAP previously evaluated and prioritized its water quality problems, action groups were established to focus on solutions to these problems. Agricultural Runoff, Dumps and Landfills, Open Space and Wetlands, and Urban Runoff Action Groups were all formed as a result of these priorities. Action group members often have special expertise or interest, and contribute to solving these problems across the entire Maumee Area of Concern.

Agricultural Runoff Action Group

Purpose Statement: The purpose of the Agricultural Runoff Action Group is to promote the reduction of agricultural nonpoint source pollutants to improve water quality.

Goals, Actions, Potential Barriers & Help Needed:

Short Term:

Goal 1: - Toussaint River Improvement Incentive Program Grant

Actions: - Develop detailed work plan
 - Implement work plan
 - Enlist area governments and their citizens
 - Educate, inform, and involve resource managers and stakeholders within the Toussaint River watershed

- Potential Barriers: - Release of funds
 - Local matching funds
 - Farmers attitude toward land use in the Toussaint River watershed regarding filter strips and other BMPs
- Help Needed: - Open Space and Wetlands Action Group for bioengineering portion of project
 - Finding money for local match
- Goal 2: - Strip Till Lease Program: Reducing Soil and Nutrient Runoff Grant
- Actions: - Establish test plots at Bowling Green FFA Land Lab and OSU Agriculture Research and Development Center
 - Distribute information through fairs, meetings, newsletters, etc.
 - Conduct equipment demonstration workshop
 - Rental of strip till equipment to farmers
- Potential Barriers: - (none identified)
- Help Needed: - Finding money for local match
- Long Term:**
- Goals: - Work with agencies throughout the watershed to reduce phosphorus to 100 percent of the reduction goal as designated in the 1985 Revised Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement
 - Assist and support Ohio EPA, NRCS, and other interested entities in the Sediment Reduction Project goals
- Actions: - Encourage voluntary adoption of agricultural BMP's that are ecologically and economically advantageous
 - Educate, inform, and involve resource managers and stakeholders of the Maumee River watershed and RAP area
 - Promote and support research of new biological and agricultural technologies
 - Seek funding for implementation of land use practices and riparian corridor enhancement
 - Continue to encourage proper use and disposal of pesticides
 - Encourage BMP's for nitrogen management
- Potential Barriers: - Farmers returning to/continuing conventional tillage
 - Farmers attitude towards land use
 - Research time/program bureaucracy
- Help Needed: - Grant support

Dumps and Landfills Action Group

Purpose Statement: The purpose of the Dumps and Landfills Action Group is to promote the remediation of contaminated sites in a manner that is consistent with the goals of the Maumee RAP.

Goals, Actions, Potential Barriers & Help Needed:

Short Term:

6 Month Goal: - Develop a status database for contaminated sites in the Maumee Area of Concern

18 Month Goals: - Prioritize the sites on Otter & Duck Creeks for additional investigation and remediation and bring these sites to the attention of stakeholders (i.e. PRPs, elected officials, appropriate enforcement authorities)

- Improve communications with and dissemination of information from the agencies, especially U.S. EPA

- Enlarge the group to include more people with the appropriate technical skills and more representatives from local industry

Actions: - Review MAOC Project site assessments of sites on Otter & Duck Creeks

- Identify priority sites for remediation along Otter & Duck Creeks

- Identify the kind of information to be included in the database, the location of the data, and the file format

- Continue monitoring other sites throughout the Maumee Area of Concern

- Promote appropriate reuse of contaminated sites

- Conduct appropriate public outreach (educational) efforts

- Request that a member of the U.S. EPA Region V staff who is involved in local remediation projects to have quarterly conference calls with our group during regular meetings and attend one Dumps and Landfills meeting each year

Potential Barriers: - U.S. EPA is in Chicago

- Lack of public understanding about contaminated sites and their impact on water quality

- Very little public knowledge about what to do with these contaminated sites

- Lack of communication between industry, government, the agencies and concerned citizens due to ongoing litigation

Help Needed: - An individual to create and maintain a site status database

Long Term:

- By 2000 Goal: - Prioritize the Swan Creek sites and bring these sites to the attention of the appropriate stakeholders (i.e. PRPs, elected officials, appropriate enforcement authorities)
- Actions: - Review MAOC Project site assessments for sites on Swan Creek
 - Identify priority sites for remediation along Swan Creek
 - Promote appropriate reuse of contaminated sites
 - Conduct appropriate outreach (educational) efforts
 - Support the use of funding mechanisms from many possible sources for investigations and remediation
 - Continue monitoring other sites throughout the Maumee Area of Concern
 - Maintain the database
- Potential Barriers: - Monumental costs for remediation of contaminated sites
- Help Needed: - An individual to maintain the database

Open Spaces and Wetlands Action Group

Purpose Statement: The purpose of the Open Spaces and Wetlands Action Group is to promote the preservation, restoration, enhancement, and protection of open spaces and wetlands in the Maumee Area of Concern.

Goals, Actions, Potential Barriers & Help Needed:**Short Term:**

- Goals: - Increase involvement (10 new members by the end of 1997)
 - Increase public education/knowledge of issues and of the action group
 - Make connections with other agencies (i.e. The Nature Conservancy, Black Swamp Conservancy, Farmland Task Force, Wood Co. Park District, etc.)
 - Expand our activities into Eastern Lucas, Wood, and Ottawa counties
 - Educate/contact planning commissions regarding wetlands
 - Continue to assist with local cleanups and tree plantings
- Actions: - Toussaint River Improvement Incentive Project bioengineering project
 - Floodplain management workshop in Eastern Lucas County area
 - Continue to make contacts with existing groups
 - Contact members of planning commissions, furnish reference materials for determining wetland areas

- Support Toledo Area Metroparks, and Wood Co. Parks levies for land acquisition
- Support/assist in conducting a study of the cost of development for the area

Potential Barriers: - Not enough people, limited resources and volunteers

Help Needed: - Support & coordination from MRIC, TMACOG & Ohio EPA

Long Term:

- Goals:
- Cover/address more of the Maumee AOC
 - Increase the permanent protection of green space and wetlands
 - Document important wetlands and green spaces in the Maumee AOC
 - Ensure that green space and open space are included in regional planning

- Actions:
- Inventory the Maumee AOC
 - Work for land acquisition funding at regional/state level
 - Implementation of a transfer tax/fee for set-asides
 - Conduct or assist with a Quality of Life survey
 - Support enforcement of wetland regulations
 - Work to ensure that development plans are reviewed on a watershed level
 - Act as a network or clearinghouse for information

Potential Barriers: - (none identified)

- Help Needed:
- Ohio EPA GIS Data Dictionary
 - Ohio EPA with MAOC Project GIS (ArcView)

Urban Runoff Action Group

Purpose Statement: The purpose of the Urban Runoff Action Group is to reduce the pollution in stormwater runoff from urban and developing areas throughout the Maumee watershed.

Goals, Actions, Potential Barriers & Help Needed:

Short Term:

- Goals:
- Complete Toledo Metropolitan Area Stormwater Utility Study Grant
 - Continue storm drain stenciling (3000 drains by the end of 1998)
 - Educate the public about urban runoff pollution

- Actions:
- Conduct Toledo Metropolitan Area Stormwater Utility Study Grant
 - Activate Stormwater Policy Board of elected officials

- Investigate sources of funding
- Implement storm drain stenciling
- Enlist area governments and their citizens to support the Maumee RAP's activities
- Recognize volunteers
- Visit Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project sites
- Perform BMP demonstration projects
- Benchmark with other watersheds (i.e. Dayton and Cleveland)
- Provide information on use and disposal of household hazardous waste
- Educate public regarding environmental impact of stormwater

- Potential Barriers:
- Cooperation of all jurisdictions
 - Legal barriers to regional utilities
 - Lack of volunteers and publicity for storm drain stenciling program

- Help Needed:
- Obtaining funding
 - Getting volunteers

Long Term:

- Goals:
- Regional cooperation on stormwater management
 - Implementation of BMPs in all communities
 - High public awareness of urban runoff pollution
 - Compliance with industrial and construction permit requirements
 - Eliminate stormwater connections to sanitary sewers

- Actions:
- Develop regional utility/stormwater management program
 - Work with Ohio EPA to issue stormwater permits on a watershed basis
 - Continue to educate public regarding environmental impact of storm water
 - Develop and implement a means to insure compliance with industrial and construction permit requirements (i.e. community action, building permits, bank loan checks, etc.)

- Potential Barriers:
- NPDES regulations
 - Public opinion
 - Governments budgets

- Help Needed:
- Publicity

Watershed Action Groups

The watershed approach to water quality management involves the elimination and/or control all of the sources of pollutants within the watershed area. Two such action groups have been formed, one for the Ottawa River and one for Swan Creek. These action groups have the role of developing plans, programs, and projects for improving water quality in the specific watershed. They may also call upon the expertise of the Issue Action Groups to assist in specific problems.

Ottawa River Action Group

Purpose Statement: The purpose of the Ottawa River Action Group is to return the Ottawa River to "fishable and swimmable" condition with ecological and recreational value.

Goals, Actions, Potential Barriers & Help Needed:

Short Term:

- Goals:
- Continue to increase public awareness of Ottawa River issues
 - Continue/increase community involvement (upstream and downstream)
 - Resolve city of Toledo's CSO & SSO issues
 - Remediation of the Unnamed Tributary
 - Continue/increase additional local government involvement
 - Continue/increase industrial involvement
 - Total elimination of septic systems in the lower & middle reaches of the Ottawa River
 - Continue/pursue water quality monitoring with emphasis on upstream bacteria resulting from package plants and failed septic systems
 - Continue dialogue with the Buffalo Army Corps of Engineers
 - Prepare workplan for assessment of sediment contaminant distribution
 - Prepare workplan for navigational dredging
 - Assess economic impact of the area due to the condition of the Ottawa River
 - Interface with Issue Action Groups to address specific problems
 - Initiate assessment of loadings (sediment, chemical, and biological) from tributaries
 - Consolidate data management
- Actions:
- Conduct "Profiling the Ottawa River" (once every two years: next in fall 1998)
 - Conduct Maumee Watershed Clean Your Streams Day (tentatively Sept. 13; with Swan Creek Action Group)
 - Determine other ways to involve the community (public meetings, Block Watch meetings, volunteer inventory)
 - Have city of Toledo representatives regularly report and examine barriers to the progress of eliminating CSOs & SSOs

- Have government representatives report on progress of remediating the Unnamed Tributary
- Identify current septic systems in use and require all systems to tie into municipal sewer systems
- Evaluate the possibility of relocating the Ottawa River away from the major dump sites
- Meet with representatives of other local governments (i.e. Washington Township, etc.) to solicit involvement in terms of providing funding and/or volunteers for projects and for participation in the Ottawa River Action Group
- Meet with industries to solicit involvement in terms of providing funding and/or volunteers for projects and for participation in the Ottawa River Action Group
- Submit a grant application for an Economic Impact Study regarding the effects (recreational & commercial) on the community as a result of the condition of the Ottawa River
- Submit a grant application for a Dredging Impact Study
- Meet with appropriate agencies to determine who should prepare the workplan for the Ottawa River
- Create workplan for assessing sediment contamination and distribution in the Ottawa River
- Create navigational dredging workplan
- Initiate a conference call with the Buffalo Army Corps of Engineers
- Meet with representatives of the Issue Action Groups to determine how they might be able to help the Ottawa River Action Group meet objectives
- Submit a grant application for water quality monitoring with emphasis on upstream bacteria
- Continue and evaluate NPDES facilities
- Consult with agencies to form a single location for all related data/reports

- Potential Barriers:
- Lack of money for CSO and SSO projects, water quality monitoring, and dredging-related studies
 - Volunteers for projects (Clean Your Streams Day, etc.)
 - Technical complexity of issues

- Help Needed:
- Compiling a detailed plan of action
 - Gathering information on funding sources

Long Term:

- Goals:
- Continue assessment of loadings (sediment, chemical, and biological) from tributaries
 - CSOs & SSO problems resolved

- Implement upstream agricultural erosion prevention (where applicable)
- Actions:
- Set up monitoring program to evaluate contribution from tributaries
 - Begin implementation of the workplans
 - Determine long term actions for assistance with CSOs, SSOs, and other problems as process continues
 - Coordinate agricultural runoff erosion prevention with Agricultural Runoff Action Group
- Potential Barriers:
- Money for writing plans and monitoring implementation
 - Money for dredging
- Help Needed:
- Writing proposals and coordinating efforts

Ottawa River Action Group ~ Dredging Subcommittee

Overall Objective: To contribute to the process of making the Ottawa River “fishable and swimmable,” as defined in the Remedial Action Plan for the Maumee AOC, by specifically addressing the issue of contaminated sediment in the Ottawa River.

Initial Goals and Objectives:

1. To develop a compilation of current information in terms of:
 - a. Contaminants present
 - b. Contaminant distribution
 - c. Human health risk
 - d. Ecological risk
 - e. Sources and their current contributions
2. To determine information needs, in terms of the above five items
3. To determine funding sources & mechanisms to obtain the above information

Implementation Strategies/Workplan:

1. Bring in additional speakers to discuss the issues listed above, specifically relating to current information, information needs, and mechanism to obtain information
2. Formulate a plan to address information needs, set priorities, and ultimately to discern concerns and options to address concerns with respect to contaminated sediment in the Ottawa River
3. Review and revise this statement of objectives, achievements, and implementation strategies as needed (as new information becomes available)

Swan Creek Action Group

Purpose Statement: The purpose of the Swan Creek Action Group is to remediate and restore Swan Creek for the appropriate uses of rural and urban communities.

Goals, Actions, Potential Barriers & Help Needed:**Short Term:**

- 1 Year Goals:
- Identify watershed projects and priorities
 - Identify target interest groups and get them involved
 - Request updates regarding monitoring results and status of CSO abatement systems
 - Enforcement of existing requirements of septic system tie-in to sewer systems

- Actions:
- Identify and label segments of Swan Creek
 - Conduct assessments
 - Seek funding (Lake Erie Protection Fund, U.S. EPA CEM monies, etc.)
 - Conduct Swan Creek Charette
 - Identify goals and strategies to implement the outcomes of the Charette
 - Build on existing momentum (seek community partnerships)
 - Support and facilitate RiverWalk
 - Conduct Maumee Watershed Clean Your Streams Day (tentatively Sept.13; with Ottawa River Action Group)

- Potential Barriers:
- Lack of funding
 - Lack of partnerships
 - Dredging issues
 - Unrecognized potential

- Help Needed:
- Writing and management of grants
 - Gathering input from other action groups to reach our short term goals
 - Help of other RAP action groups

Long Term:

- By 2000 Goal:
- Accomplish significant progress in RiverWalk Project and other (yet to be identified) projects
 - Significantly increase general open space (habitat buffer zones, filter strips, etc)
 - Request updates regarding monitoring results and status of CSO abatement systems
 - Enforcement of existing requirements of septic system tie-ins to sewer systems

- Actions:
- Continue to support RiverWalk Project

- Potential Barriers:
- (none identified)

- Help Needed:
- Help of other RAP action groups

Support Action Groups

The Issue and Watershed Action Groups identified two areas where they needed assistance as part of this strategic planning effort. The Finance Action Group and the Public Outreach and Education Action Group are the response to these requests. The Support Action Groups will be responsible for providing assistance to the other action groups as well as providing direct assistance to the Maumee RAP Implementation Committee in implementing its programs and advancing the Maumee Remedial Action Plan.

Finance Action Group

Purpose Statement: The purpose of the Finance Action Group is to coordinate the process by which adequate funding is secured and provided for the achievement of the purpose, goals, and objectives of the Maumee RAP.

These purposes will include:

- To identify the potential sources of revenue and coordinate the appropriate methods by which to request and secure adequate funding for the operations and activities of the Maumee RAP
- To develop and recommend an MRIC budget and an allocation strategy by which financial support will be provided for each component of this budget
- To provide regular and systematic financial reports to MRIC

Goals, Actions, Potential Barriers & Help Needed:

Short Term:

- Goals:
- Identify and recruit additional Finance Action Group members
 - Reach consensus on the specific goals and objectives for this action group
 - Identify and recruit liaisons to facilitate ongoing dialogue with other action groups

- Activities: - Activities by which to achieve these goals

- Potential Barriers: - (none identified)

- Help Needed: - (none identified)

Long Term:

- Goals: - (none identified)

- Activities: - (none identified)

- Potential Barriers: - (none identified)

- Help Needed: - (none identified)

Public Outreach & Education Action Group

Purpose Statement: The purpose of the Public Outreach & Education Action Group to recruit volunteers for all Maumee RAP Action Groups and serve as the public outreach facilitator for MRIC and its action groups in promoting the Maumee RAP.

These purposes include:

- Coordinating and facilitating communications between Maumee RAP action groups
- Building general public awareness of the Maumee RAP and its RAP activities
- Acquiring media support and participation

Goals, Actions, Potential Barriers & Help Needed:

Short Term:

- 3 Month Goals:
- Identify and recruit new members to the action group
 - Reach consensus on action group objectives, future membership, meeting schedule, and roles (i.e., role of staff, role of chairman, operating relationship to other action groups, etc.)
 - Draft communications/recruitment plans
 - Identify and recruit liaisons to facilitate ongoing dialogue with other action groups
- 6 Month Goals:
- Finalize communications plan with timeline
 - Finalize recruitment plan with timeline
- Potential Barriers:
- Past interaction with MRIC action groups
 - High expectations versus budget limitations
- Help Needed:
- (none identified)

Some of the opportunities this reformed action group will have include:

- Creating a RAP image
- Attracting new volunteers
- Cultivating media interest/support
- Reinforcing support of funding sources

The communications/recruitment plans should consider the following tactical components for inclusion:

- Speakers Bureau
- Small meeting component
- Recruitment vehicle
- Displays (include volunteer recruitment “sign-up”)
- Brochures & Fact Sheets
- Web Site with E-mail address
- Public Service announcements
- Progress and Annual Reports

- Press relations (press releases, features, timing for “slow news days”)
- Relationship building to utilize other groups’ communications vehicles, cultivate media person(s) for active involvement, etc.
- Promotions (magnets, t-shirts, key chains, etc.)

Reference

Great Lakes Areas of Concern

The International Joint Commission (IJC) is a binational organization that was established under the *1909 Boundary Waters Treaty* to advise Canada & the United States in preventing or resolving problems along their common border. Over the years the IJC has become involved in issues related to such matters as water and air quality, lake levels, and power generation.

Due to concern about the degraded water quality in the Great Lakes, the *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement* was signed by Canada and the United States in 1972. This Agreement provided the focus for a coordinated cleanup effort to control phosphorus pollution.

In 1978 the Agreement was revised and expanded to include toxic substance discharges as well as an ecosystem approach. This ecosystem approach called for an integrated and comprehensive perspective to restoring and protecting water quality throughout the Great Lakes.

Then in 1985 the IJC received a report from the Great Lakes Water Quality Board. This Board is the IJC’s principal advisor on Great Lakes water quality issues. Their report identified 42 specific Areas of Concern (AOCs) where either the general or the specific objectives in the *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement* were not being met. Consequently, these areas had significantly impaired beneficial uses (i.e. fish or beach advisories). These Areas of Concern generally included major municipal and industrial centers on Great Lakes rivers, harbors, and connecting channels.

The Agreement was amended in 1987 to include specific programs and activities which included the development of Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) for the severely polluted or impacted Areas of Concern.

Maumee Remedial Action Plan Developed

When the Areas of Concern were identified in 1985, U.S. EPA’s Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) hired consultants to assist the states in developing remedial action plans. The consulting firm was to prepare reports for each AOC in Ohio by the end of 1986.

The local governments and citizens of Northwest Ohio expressed their interest in being involved in the process of identifying the problems in their area and in developing the Maumee Remedial Action Plan. Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) with the assistance of the statewide RAP coordinator, Ohio EPA, planned the first Maumee RAP Public Meeting on October 1, 1987.

Since that initial public meeting a great deal of information has been compiled and developed about the Maumee AOC, primarily by the local RAP coordinator - TMACOG. Some of that material has been included in such Maumee RAP documents as the: *Investigation Reports*, *Stage I Report*, and the *Recommendations for Implementation*.

While these documents were being prepared, many other activities were also occurring, and continue to occur. Research has been ongoing and issues are being addressed. These have happened from both within the RAP structure (by the action groups) and outside, such as the extensive sampling that has been done by the Ohio EPA's Maumee Area of Concern (MAOC) Project or the combined sewer overflow (CSO) improvements done by the cities of Toledo and Maumee.

Selected 1996 Maumee RAP Activities and Accomplishments

MRIC

- Began Strategic Long-Term Planning for the Maumee RAP - Aug. 1

Agricultural Runoff

- Is Your Drinking Water Safe? A Closer Look at Pesticides - public forum - Feb. 29
- From Satellites to Earthworms: Improving Farm Management - workshop - Aug. 27
- Received 2 grants: 1) LEPF - \$5650 (funded) [\$5450 matching]
2) OEPA 319 - \$275,000 (funded) [\$184,000 matching]

Dumps and Landfills

- Walking Tour of Dumpsites - public tour - July 25
- Profiling of the Ottawa River II (co-sponsored by Ottawa River RAG) - public meeting - Sept. 11
- Understanding Environmental Risk - informational session - Oct. 29
- Participated in the development of Toledo Eleven's (CBS) production of "River of Shame"- Aug.
- Evaluated the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EECA) and Monitoring Plan for the Stickney and Tyler Landfills. Comments on these documents were submitted to US EPA.

Open Space and Wetlands

- Swan Creek Streambank Stabilization - Christmas Tree Revetment Installation - Feb. 24,
- Monclova Township Earth Day Tree Planting - April 20
- GM Powertrain Arbor Day Tree Planting - April 25
- Swan Creek Cleanup (co-sponsored with ClearWater) - April 27
- Floodplain Management Workshop (co-sponsored by ODNR) - Dec. 10

Ottawa River

- Profiling of the Ottawa River II (co-sponsored by Dumps & Landfills RAG) - public meeting - Sept. 11

Public Outreach

(Since this group did not meet in 1996, the following tasks were accomplished by others.)

- AOC Tour & Presentation for the US EPA Region V State Water Directors - April 25
- Published a Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter Issue of the RAP Newsletter - June & November

- Had a booth at the Toledo Zoo's Conservation Carnival - July 13 & 14, 1996
- Maumee RAP Presentations for Czech Republic & Polish Delegations - Aug. 26 & Sept. 6
- Participated in the StreamKeepers Festival - Oct. 19
- Maumee RAP Presentations to a wide variety of groups, schools and organizations

Urban Runoff

- Stormwater Information Meeting - informational meeting - Feb. 14
- Conducted 4 training sessions for Storm Drain Stenciling Project Leaders - Summer
- Approximately 1170 storm drains were stenciled by 5 groups - May to Oct.
- Received 1 grant: 1) LEPF - \$50,000 (funded) [\$50,000 matching]

OTHER RAP PROJECTS

Maumee Bay Student Watershed Project

- Conducted a 2-day training for teachers involved in the Student Watershed Project - Sept.
- Completed Eighth Annual Sampling Day - 1300 students from 28 schools at 42 sites - Oct.9
- Conducted Eighth Annual Student Congress - Nov. 21

Swan Creek

- Began organizing an action group and planning for future activities - Sept. 18
- Accepted as an official Maumee RAP Action Group - Dec. 12

Misc.

- Received Cabela's Conservation Award for \$5000 to conduct a streambank stabilization project and for the Maumee Bay Student Watershed Project - April 20
- Walk for the World - 3.5 mile fundraising walk shared with B.G. City Parks - April 28
- Ohio EPA was awarded a \$500,000 grant from GLNPO for the PCB cleanup of the Unnamed Tributary of the Ottawa River.

**The Maumee RAP Strategic Plan was adopted
by the Maumee RAP Implementation Committee on June 12, 1997
and by the TMACOG Board of Trustees on July 31, 1997**