

**WLEB Annex 4 DAP Initial Meeting**  
**April 20, 2016**  
**IDEM, WSP Conference Room C - Indianapolis, IN**

**1. Attendees**

**In person:** Bowden Quinn, George and Christine Brand, Indra Frank, Jessica Faust, Julie Harrold, Justin Schneider, Kent Wamsley, Marylou Renshaw, Ron Turco, Sharon Partridge, and Joe Schmees observing

**Conference Call:** Allen Haynes, Bob Gillespie, Chi-hua Huang, David Lochner, Doug Nusbaum, Janel Meyer, and Matt Jarrett

**2. Discussion**

**a. Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) Annex 4 and Domestic Action Plan (DAP)**

**Background**

- i. Overview of water quality monitoring and assessment to determine if surface waters are meeting their designated uses and/or Water Quality Standards (WQS)
  1. 303(d) List of Impaired Waters
    - a. Cornerstone for Total Daily Maximum Loads (TMDLs) development and 319(h) funding priority list
  2. TMDLs and approved Watershed Management Plans (WMPs) will be incorporated into the DAP
- ii. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) - address legacy and emerging issues and other environmental concerns related to the Great Lakes
  1. Annex 4 – address nutrients regarding the Great Lakes
    - a. Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) – addressing cyanobacteria primarily through the reduction of phosphorus
- iii. DAP – plan meeting water quality targets of 0.23 mg/l for total phosphorus and 0.05 mg/l for soluble reactive phosphorus
  1. Outline provided
- iv. WLEB Collaborative – expedite actions improving water quality within the WLEB
  1. Aspirational goal of reducing phosphorus by 20% by 2020 and 40% by 2025
  2. Between Ontario, Ohio, and Michigan
  3. Indiana's participation is with Annex 4 and the development of the DAP
- v. Existing efforts within WLEB area
  1. **Allen County** – 319(h) grant projects including Watershed Management Plans (WMPs), Best Management Practices (BMP) implementation, and monitoring data
  2. **Dekalb County** – NRCS Farm Bill implementation, as well as programs assisting with repair/replacement of failing septic systems, well capping regarding abandoned well, and removal of Emerald Ash Borer
  3. **Agricultural Research Services (ARS) with Dekalb and Steuben County as well as a local landowner** – edge of field monitoring regarding conservation practices
  4. **The Nature Conservancy (TNC)** – two-stage ditches, coordination with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and other organizations to make improvements within watersheds
  5. **Indiana Farm Bureau** – Nutrient Management and Soil Health Strategy is part of the State Nutrient Reduction Strategy and emphasizes the need for edge-of-field monitoring
  6. **Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)** – fixed station monitoring, TMDLs, and support to develop WMPs as well as implementation of BMPs

- vi. Considerations discussed regarding efforts within WLEB
  - 1. Coordination needed between all initiatives within the area
  - 2. Target appropriate stakeholders for involvement in initiatives
  - 3. Effort to connect public to pertinent resources
  - 4. Need for “grass-roots” involvement
  - 5. Need for edge-of-field monitoring to identify water quality improvement
- vii. Presented *Analysis of Total Phosphorus at Fixed Station Sites in the Lake Erie Basin (2008 – 2014)*
  - 1. Trends of total phosphorus loading coming into Indiana from Ohio, at the confluence of the St. Joseph and St. Mary’s Rivers, and leaving Indiana into Ohio
  - 2. Data suggest the St. Mary’s River, flowing from Ohio into Indiana, has the greater need for load reduction, more so than the Maumee River leaving Indiana and flowing into Ohio
- b. Advisory Committee logistics**
  - i. DAP first draft due in December of 2016
  - ii. Considerations:
    - 1. Structure/composition of committee
    - 2. Ground rules
    - 3. Decision-making process
    - 4. Facilitation/meeting logistics
    - 5. Next meeting
- c. Annex 4 DAP website**
  - i. Develop website to support efforts
  - ii. Benefit to one-stop location for the WLEB within Indiana
    - 1. Currently, Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA)
  - iii. Purpose
    - 1. Provide an educational resource for public
    - 2. Collaborative portal for Annex 4 DAP advisory committee

### 3. Next Steps

- a. If interested in being a member of the Annex 4 DAP Advisory Committee, inform Marylou Renshaw ([mrenshaw@idem.in.gov](mailto:mrenshaw@idem.in.gov)).
  - i. Assemble Advisory Committee
- b. Determine scheduling logistics of first Annex 4 DAP Advisory Committee
  - i. Schedule meeting
- c. Determine logistics of Annex 4 DAP Advisory Committee
- d. Determine logistics of Annex 4 DAP website