

# Indiana's Annex 4 Domestic Action Plan (DAP) Advisory Committee Meeting

## Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB)

### March 10, 2017

**Next Meeting:** Friday, April 28, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.  
Allen County NRCS Service Center  
3718 New Vision Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46845

#### 1. Attendees (8)

Mike Dunn, Jessica Faust, Jeff Frey, Dick Miller, Bowden Quinn, Marylou Renshaw, Jill Reinhart, and Rick Duff

#### Attended by Conference Call (7)

Jessica D'Ambrosio, Bob Gillespie, Doug Nusbaum, Kate Sanders, Anne Marie Smrcheck, Janel Meyer, and Sandy Voglewede

#### 2. Discussion

##### a. Point contact for the Advisory Committee

- i. Jessica Faust, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), [jfaust@idem.in.gov](mailto:jfaust@idem.in.gov).
- ii. Contact for distribution of shared information.

##### b. Introduction of new Great Lakes Coordinator for the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)

- i. Rick Duff is the new Coordinator.
- ii. Formally worked with Indiana NRCS.

##### c. Status of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) application

- i. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) received funding for two (2) auto samplers (Newville in the St. Joseph watershed and Willshire in the St. Marys watershed) and a supergauge (Antwerp in the Maumee watershed).
  1. Currently, OEPA is obtaining equipment to begin sampling.
  2. Tentatively, start within a month.
- ii. IDEM received GLRI funding for an auto sampler near the Ferguson Bridge at the confluence of the St. Joseph and St. Marys where the Maumee forms. IDEM & USGS need to execute an MOU.

##### d. Draft DAP prior to public notice (PN)

- i. Specify importance of nitrogen.
- ii. Emphasize conservation work is being accomplished at local level, but with a collaborative effort.
- iii. DAP will be revised and submitted to Committee members for review and comment by Friday, March 31, 2017.
  1. Due dates will be given upon submittal to members.
- iv. Update *Indiana's Domestic Action Plan, Milestones and Action Items* table with pertinent information dating back to and including 2016.
  1. Include monitoring efforts (what monitored for, where, when, and by who) as inventory is needed. Bob Gillespie, Anne Marie Smrcheck, and Kate Sanders will collaborate on inventory.
- v. Monitoring specificities located within Appendix.

##### e. DAP PN and inclusion of questions

- i. Sierra Club expressed importance of a 60-day comment period.
- ii. Marylou Renshaw will be working to define review and PN process of plan.
- iii. Questions to include,
  1. Is the level of detail sufficient?
  2. Is there a sector not included that should be, i.e., Health Department, County Surveyor, and /or Certified Crop Advisors?
  3. Is there a source not included that should be?

- iv. Consider questions for inclusion with the DAP for PN to discuss at next April meeting.
- v. Tentatively, DAP scheduled for PN in June of 2017.
  - 1. Available for comment state-wide.
- vi. Once on PN, outreach meeting regarding DAP will be scheduled.
  - 1. Meetings held within WLEB with one (1) in Indianapolis in consideration of partnering agencies.
  - 2. The Nature Conservancy, Jessica D'Ambrosio and Doug Nusbaum, agreed to discuss with County Surveyors to determine interest and begin coordination with sector.
  - 3. TNC, Mike Dunn, agreed to discuss with Certified Crop Advisors to determine interest and begin coordination with sector.
- vii. Formatting of DAP will not occur until drafting final version of document.
- viii. Final DAP will be posted without PN by February of 2018.
- f. **February Annex 4 Meeting (Windsor, Canada)**
  - i. Marylou Renshaw represented Indiana at the meeting and discussed Indiana's DAP.
    - 1. Presented on actions, metrics and timeline, gaps, and engagement.
    - 2. Stressing target loads (based on total phosphorus (TP) and dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP) targets of 0.23 mg/l and 0.05 mg/l) reflect a 40% reduction in phosphorus (TP) and dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP) overall.
  - ii. Other participants of Annex 4 (States and Canada) have been delayed in completing their drafts.
    - 1. Date to share DAPs amongst Annex 4 has been delayed.
  - iii. Indiana's development of the DAP through a diverse advisory committee appears to be unique.
    - 1. The *Ohio WLEB Collaborative Implementation Plan* (reissued in February) is a pathway for transitioning Ohio to a Great Lakes Water Quality (WQ) Agreement DAP.
    - 2. Michigan DAP will be comprised of an action matrix which will be included within the *Michigan WLEB Implementation Plan*.
    - 3. The US EPA DAP will not be available until after June of 2017.
  - iv. **ErieStat, Tracking Progress Toward WLEB Phosphorus Reduction Targets**
    - 1. Jordan Seger, Director of Soil Conservation, Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) is Indiana's representative.
    - 2. Utilization of Story Map located at <http://www.glc.org/work/eriestat>.
    - 3. Manner in which reporting progress. (Indiana is employing a number of measurement tools and appears to be unique in that way.)
    - 4. Utilizes tillage and cover crop transects, and identifies the difference between practices assisted with funding and those not assisted.
    - 5. Important to note, Indiana currently has more unassisted tillage and cover crop practices than assisted.

### 3. Accomplishments

- a. Shared current activities underway in the WLEB to reduce sediment and nutrient loss and to improve water quality.
- b. Reviewed available WQ monitoring data as well as committee members' knowledge of the WLEB watershed. Preliminarily determined the St. Mary's watershed is the highest priority for both point and NPS BMPs.
- c. Established criteria for evaluating the approaches that will be set forth in the DAP to reduce phosphorus loads. For example:
  - i. Use existing programs and optimize partnerships.
  - ii. Effect the most change with least cost.
  - iii. Prioritize resources to areas with the most potential for TP and DRP reduction.
  - iv. Employ social indicators.

- d. Established a webpage on ISDA's WLEB website, <http://www.in.gov/isda/3432.htm>.
- e. Agreed on a methodology to determine "watersheds of focus" for the allocation of resources. This includes mapping critical areas from WMPs and NRCS modeled areas with the greatest phosphorus (P) export potential and overlaying them with water quality data to identify the intersections. This process is underway.
- f. Determined the most representative site for monitoring Indiana's progress in meeting its P target loads on the Maumee is at Antwerp, Ohio. The USGS operates a stream-flow gage and an auto-sampler there and follows the recommended Annex 4 protocol collecting the necessary parameters.
- g. Completed two (2) rounds of field reconnaissance for monitoring sites.
- h. Agreed on additional monitoring sites to determine phosphorus loads including the following:
  - i. On the St. Mary's at the Ohio/Indiana border. OEPA received GLRI funding for a site at Willshire, OH.
  - ii. On the St. Joseph at the Ohio/Indiana border. OEPA received GLRI funding for a site at Newville, OH.
  - iii. At the confluence of the St. Joseph and St. Marys where the Maumee forms. IDEM received GLRI funding for an auto sampler near the Ferguson Bridge.
  - iv. A conference call was held on September 28, 2016 with participants from IDEM, IN USGS, Ohio EPA, Ohio DNR, OH USGS, and the U.S. EPA to discuss these monitoring sites to optimize resources and establish a regional network. IN and OH submitted their GLRI applications based on the decisions of this meeting. IN applied to secure GLRI funding of \$200,000 for a term of up to three years.
- i. Reviewed the collaborative Implementation Plans of Michigan and Ohio, as well as the Expectations for the DAPs by the NGOs
- j. Commenced drafting the DAP by populating the outline. Draft outline was reviewed at the October Advisory Committee meeting. Efforts by agencies and the TNC have been sent for inclusion in the draft.
- k. Developed *Indiana's GLWQA DAP* presentation for outreach purposes.
- l. DAP status and presentation given to Nutrients Annex (Annex 4) subcommittee on February 8, 2017.
- m. DAP status updates given to various environmental organizations on March 8, 2017.
- n. Development of DAP including the Milestones and Action Items table is on-going.

#### 4. Next Steps

- a. Committee members complete *Indiana's Domestic Action Plan, Milestones and Action Items* with pertinent information dating back to and including 2016.
- b. Marylou Renshaw will complete draft DAP and distribute to committee for review and comment by Friday, March 31, 2017.
- c. Consider the questions for inclusion with the DAP for PN.
- d. Schedule and coordinate logistics for April meeting.