

**Western Lake Erie Basin Coordinated Management Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2012**

Attendees

James Cole (The Nature Conservancy), Amanda Conover (Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative), Steve Gruner (Sandusky Park District), Kevin Joyce (Black Swamp Conservancy), Jason Lewis (Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge), Tara Nagaich (Erie Metro Parks), Tim Schetter (Metro Parks of Toledo Area), Dave Sherman (Ohio Division of Wildlife), John Simpson (Winous Point), Joe Uhinck (Ottawa Soil and Water Conservation District)

Purpose

To discuss the activities of the Western Lake Erie Basin Coordinated Management Committee in pursuit of established goals and objectives.

A) Review of Goals and Objectives

The committee discussed the goals and objectives developed at the previous planning meeting, and decided that the existing goals could be combined into three broad goals. It was also decided that smaller planning groups should be created to work on specific goals and objectives (see chart below).

B) Presentation of TNC's Stopover Model

James Cole discussed the methods and shared regional maps from TNC's Great Lakes Migratory Bird Stopover Habitat Model. The committee determined it was too soon to know how the model's results could be incorporated into the committee's activities, but recognized the potential for the model to be used to guide future land protection efforts. James also suggested the model could be used to determine if proposed acreage goals for restoration are feasible. For more details on the model methods and results, contact James Cole (jbc@tnc.org).

C) Discussion of Potential Committee Activities

Ideas for committee activities included:

- Spreadsheet of available funding opportunities
- Develop a BMP document for farmland management
- Create a reforestation list of desirable plant species for the WLEB
- Assemble a bibliography of existing management recommendation documents. Identify knowledge gaps to focus efforts to create new documents.
- Future committee meetings should be structured to allow partners to present plans for future management on their property, and then receive feedback.
- Other future meetings could focus on developing proposals for funding opportunities
- Share priority areas for acquisition/protection from partners' management plans
- Future meetings could include visits to previous restoration sites to see short- and long-term effects of various management strategies.

D) Next Steps

Please review the following chart of revised committee goals and objectives. Provide any comments or suggestions to Amanda Conover (obcicoordinator@gmail.com). Also, please consider which planning group you would be interested in joining.

Revised Goals and Objectives of the WLEB Coordinated Management Committee

Mission: To increase the capacity of our partners to conserve Western Lake Erie Basin wetlands by supporting unified management practices, coordinated protection and restoration efforts, and the promotion of the economic benefits of conservation.

Goal 1: Promote information exchange among partners and technical experts on management strategies and permit processing

Planned by OBCI

Supporting Objective 1: Share results from previously implemented management efforts

Action Item: Site visits to areas where management actions have produced both desired and undesired results

Supporting Objective 2: Provide opportunities for feedback from partners on plans for future habitat management projects

Action Item: Develop a forum for partners to receive feedback on proposed management actions in WLEB wetlands

Goal 2: Promote coordinated management of WLEB wetlands across partnership boundaries

Planning Group 1

Supporting Objective 1: Coordinate efforts to manage existing wetland habitat within the WLEB

Action Item: Identify wetland habitat types and area extents present in the landscape

Action Item: Develop goals for wetland habitat type percentages within WLEB

Action Item: *[How can we use inventory of wetland habitats to meet goals for percentage of wetland habitat types]*

Action Item: Develop a management plan for WLEB wetlands which identifies Best Management Practices

Supporting Objective 2: Increase resource sharing of equipment and supplies among partners

Action Item 1: Develop a shared online database where partners can list equipment and supplies available to be shared

Planning Group 2

Supporting Objective 3: Coordinate efforts to protect high priority land parcels within the WLEB

Action Item: Rank priority areas for protection within the Western Lake Erie Basin

Action Item: *[How will we use this ranking to protect habitat?]*

Supporting Objective 4: Coordinate among partners to pursue funding opportunities

Action Item: Develop spreadsheet of funding opportunities in the WLEB region

Action Item: Collaborate on partnership proposals for funding opportunities

Goal 3: Increase understanding of the economic benefits of conservation to the local community

Planning Group 3