

## Appendix A: Watershed Balanced Growth Plan Suggested Table of Contents

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The state expects that the main audience for the Watershed Balanced Growth Plan will be local officials and staff who will be responsible for implementing the plan to whatever extent desired by the local communities. A secondary audience for the plan will be state officials and staff who will be responsible for ensuring that state activities are consistent with the plan. To reflect its intent as a working document, the plan should be concise and focus on the PCA and PDA maps (and PAA maps if applicable). Extended technical discussions and logistical details should ideally be provided, but placed in appendices.

A. A summary that describes how the Watershed Balanced Growth Plan (WBGP) will help achieve the goals and objectives of the Ohio Balanced Growth Program (and, in the Lake Erie watershed, the Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan), as well as local goals if applicable.

B. A description of the watershed, including but not limited to the following aspects (if available, this section may reference or summarize information from an existing Watershed Action Plan):

1. Territory boundary and size
2. Major natural features and characteristics
3. Current population and expected change over 20 years
4. Natural resources
5. Major industry/economic aspects
6. Major public infrastructure projects slated for implementation over next 5 years
7. Key needs

C. Description of the Watershed Planning Partnership, including:

1. Governance structure
2. Members
3. Decisions making process and rules

- D. Priority Conservation Areas
  - 1. How the areas were selected (what criteria were used)
  - 2. How the PCAs meet the intent of the Balanced Growth Program
- E. Priority Development Areas
  - 1. How the areas were selected (what criteria were used)
  - 2. How the PDAs meet the intent of the Balanced Growth Program
- F. Priority Agriculture Areas (if applicable)
  - 1. How the areas were selected (what criteria were used)
  - 2. How the PAAs meet the intent of the Balanced Growth Program
- G. Map(s) of the PCAs and PDAs (and PAAs) in the watershed. If the watershed area is so large that the scale of the maps does not permit clear readability at the standard page size, maps should be broken down into smaller areas (for example, by community) so that they can be printed at a suitable scale to permit readability in the plan's printed format.
- H. Implementation strategies
  - 1. Cooperation between jurisdictions
  - 2. Responsible parties
  - 3. Preliminary schedule of projects
  - 4. Review of changes to local land use designations
  - 5. Economic development programs
  - 6. Letters of commitment from members
- I. A schedule and process for update of the WBGP and staffing/resources needs
- J. Any unresolved issues
- K. A plan for public comment and process for incorporating these comments into the plan

Appendix: Technical details for the modeling process used to establish the PCA and PDA (and PAA) maps.

## Appendix B: Watershed Planning Programs

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This is a list of selected state, federal, and other resources for watershed planning and restoration. The state programs are also listed in the State Programs Inventory, but are included here to highlight their role in providing funding specific to watersheds and watershed planning.

### **Ohio Programs**

**A. Ohio's Watershed Coordinator Grants Program:** Started in 2000, this program provides salary and fringe (on a declining scale) to local governments and nonprofits to support watershed coordinators. They work with local stakeholders to develop a comprehensive watershed plan to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of stream segments within the watershed. They also help local watershed groups to implement resource-focused education/information programs in the watershed and work to make the water resource group more permanent. The program emphasizes education, technical assistance, financial incentives, and voluntary actions, as opposed to regulatory mandates or permits.

(See [http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/H\\_Nav2/Water/WatershedCoordinator/tabid/9192/Default.aspx](http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/H_Nav2/Water/WatershedCoordinator/tabid/9192/Default.aspx))

Watershed coordinators across Ohio work with diverse partnerships of stakeholders to develop and implement watershed action plans (WAPs), which are reviewed and endorsed by Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Soil and Water Conservation, and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) Division of Surface Water.

(See <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/nps/index.aspx>)

The Watershed Coordinators Program is supported by the Ohio State University's "Ohio Watershed Network," which provides information to community members and natural resources professionals who want to protect the resources in their watershed.

(See: <http://ohiowatersheds.osu.edu/>)

**B. Ohio's Water Pollution Control Loan Fund:** Provides funds for low-interest loans to communities, individuals, and others for water-quality improvement activities. Traditionally the funds have been used for wastewater treatment facilities; however, loans are used increasingly for other water quality management activities including storm water and nonpoint source projects.

(See [http://www.epa.state.oh.us/defa/wpcif\\_new.aspx](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/defa/wpcif_new.aspx))

**C. The Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program:** Created to counter the loss of ecological function and biological diversity that jeopardizes the health of Ohio's water resources. This program funds both preservation and restoration of aquatic habitat to accomplish this goal. (See: <http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/09wrrsp.aspx>)

**D. Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Set-Asides:** A portion of the capitalization grant may be used for set-aside activities, e.g., loans for land acquisition and/or easements for source water protection or implementation of source water protection measures, or direct assistance for wellhead protection programs.

(See <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/financialassistance.aspx>)

**E. Ohio Coastal Management Program:** The Ohio Coastal Management Program integrates management of Ohio's Coastal Management Area along Lake Erie to preserve, protect, develop, restore, and enhance its valuable and often vulnerable resources. The Program is a cooperative action of the state and its political subdivisions to manage coastal resources and foster their sustainable use for the benefit of the state's citizens. The Ohio Coastal Management Law (O.R.C. Chapter 1506) designated the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) as the lead agency to develop and implement this program. The 19-member Coastal Resources Advisory Council represents a broad range of interests, experience, and knowledge related to the management, use, conservation, and development of the coastal area.

(See: <http://www.ohiodnr.com/coastal>)

The Program manages grants for local governments, non-governmental organizations, and others to undertake coastal planning, restoration, and water quality improvement projects in the Ohio Coastal Management Area and Lake Erie watershed. Funding is available through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management.

(See: [http://www.ohiodnr.com/LakeErie/Grants\\_CMAG/tabid/9337/Default.aspx](http://www.ohiodnr.com/LakeErie/Grants_CMAG/tabid/9337/Default.aspx))

**F. The Clean Ohio Fund:** The Clean Ohio Fund restores, protects, and connects Ohio's important natural and urban places by preserving green space and farmland, improving outdoor recreation, and by cleaning up brownfields to encourage redevelopment and revitalize communities.

The citizens of Ohio originally voted in 2000 to approve the Clean Ohio Fund with a \$400 million bond program. In 2008, the Clean Ohio Fund was a critical component of the Ohio Bipartisan Job Stimulus Plan that aims to create new jobs while laying the foundation for future economic prosperity. Placed before Ohio's voters as Issue 2, the ballot initiative was overwhelmingly approved in all 88 counties which extended the Fund with another \$400 million bond program.

The Clean Ohio Fund consists of four competitive statewide programs: the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund, the Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program, the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program, and the Clean Ohio Trails Fund.

(See: <http://clean.ohio.gov/>)

**G. Ohio Sea Grant Program:** Ohio Sea Grant is a statewide program that supports greater knowledge and stewardship of Lake Erie and the Great Lakes through research, education and outreach. It is part of the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) (NOAA) Sea Grant College Program. Its activities focus on these areas: coastal business retention and expansion/development; tourism, recreation, and convention marketing; research and analysis; water quality; nonindigenous species; seafood safety; aquaculture and commercial fishing.

(See: <http://www.ohioseagrant.osu.edu/>)

**H. Ohio EPA's Source Water Assessment and Protection Program:** Makes available to watershed coordinators Geographic Information System data or maps of public water supply wells, drinking water protection areas, sole source aquifers, karst regions, potential contaminant sources, and basic geologic information.

(See: <http://web.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/pdu/swap.html>)

**I. Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program:** Ohio's 312 miles of Lake Erie shoreline is a great source of wealth and vitality for its residents and visitors. Forty-one percent of Ohio's citizens live within the Lake Erie basin and reap its many natural, scenic, and economic benefits every day. Nonpoint source pollution, which includes habitat alteration, is now responsible for most water quality problems in Lake Erie and its tributaries. Whereas large point source polluters are more easily identified and regulated, almost everyone contributes to nonpoint source pollution on a daily basis. This makes controlling nonpoint source pollution a challenge. The Program plan was developed by the Ohio DNR and Ohio EPA, with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(See: <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/soilandwater/programs/coastalnonpoint/default/tabid/8861/Default.aspx>)

**J. Lake Erie Protection Fund:** In 1990 the Ohio legislature established the Lake Erie Protection Fund that is overseen by the Ohio Lake Erie Commission. The funds are used to help Ohio protect and enhance its greatest natural resource, Lake Erie. The Fund makes grants to projects that research, monitor, demonstrate, and educate about the Lake, its shoreline, or its watershed.

(See: <http://www.lakeerie.ohio.gov/LakeErieProtectionFund.aspx>)

### **Federal Programs**

**A. Great Lakes National Program Office, USEPA:** Funds awarded to monitor Great Lakes ecosystem indicators, provide public access to Great Lakes data, help communities address contaminated sediments, support local protection and restoration activities, promote pollution prevention, and provide assistance to implement community-based Remedial Action Plans and for Lakewide Management Plans.

(See <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/about.html>)

**B. Nonpoint (319) Source Implementation Grants:** Provides grants to states and tribes to implement nonpoint source projects and programs. These include Best Management Practices installations to manage animal wastes and sediment, pesticide and fertilizer control, stream bank restoration, lake protection/restoration, and septic system restoration and management.

(See: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/nps/319Program.aspx>)

**C. Water Pollution Control (CWA 106) Program Support:** Provides grants to states, tribes, and interstate water pollution control agencies to abate and prevent surface and groundwater pollution from point and nonpoint sources. Eligible activities include water quality planning, monitoring, permitting, surveillance, enforcement, advice and assistance to local agencies, etc., to establish and maintain water pollution control programs.

(See: <http://www.epa.gov/owm/cwfinance/pollutioncontrol.htm>)

**D. Water Quality Cooperative Agreements (CWA 104(b)(3) Grants):** Provides grants to support innovative demonstration projects for addressing storm water, combined

sewer overflows, sludge, pretreatment, mining, animal feeding operations, and other sources relating to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program. Grants cover research, investigations, experiments, training, surveys, and studies related to the causes, effects, and prevention of pollution.

(See: <http://www.epa.gov/owmitnet/cwfinance/waterquality.htm>)

**E. Conservation Security Program:** A voluntary program managed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide payments to farmers/ producers who already are practicing good stewardship on agricultural lands and incentives for those who want to do more.

(See: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/>)

**F. Environmental Quality Incentives Program:** A voluntary, locally-led program managed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service that provides technical education and financial assistance to farmers and ranchers who establish conservation practices and systems to address soil, water, and related natural resource problems. Cost-sharing and incentive payments are provided through 5- to 10-year contracts to help producers comply with environmental laws and regulations, including those for clean water.

(See: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/>)

**G. Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program:** Provides matching funds to existing farmland protection programs to purchase conservation easements. Eligible property includes farm or ranch lands that have prime, unique, statewide, or locally important soil and includes all cropland, rangeland, grassland, pasture land, incidental forest land, or wetlands.

(See: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp/>)

**H. Rural Utilities Service Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants:** Provide assistance for water and waste disposal facilities to low income rural communities where residents face significant health risks. Project grants and direct loans are available for local governments, Indian tribes, U.S. Territories, nonprofit associations, state governments, and others.

(See: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/programs.htm>)

**I. Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program:** Provides grants to advance farming systems that are more profitable and environmentally sound. It funds scientific research and education to reduce the use of chemical pesticides, to improve management of on-farm resources, to optimize conservation practices, and to promote partnership activities. Research and education projects are conducted by interdisciplinary research teams to include farmers as participants.

(See: <http://www.sare.org/>)

**J. Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program:** The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL 83-566), August 4, 1954, as amended, authorized NRCS to cooperate with States and local agencies to carry out works of improvement for soil conservation and for other purposes including flood prevention; conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water; and conservation and proper utilization of land. Eligible projects relate to watershed protection; flood mitigation; water quality improvements; soil erosion reduction; rural, municipal and industrial water supply;

irrigation water management; sediment control; fish and wildlife enhancement; and wetlands and wetland function creation and restoration.

(See: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watershed/index.html>)

**K. Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program:** A voluntary program for conservation-minded landowners who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on agricultural land, non-industrial private forest land, and Indian land.

(See: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/>)

**L. Land and Water Conservation Fund:** Uses offshore oil leasing revenues to support grants to states and local units of government to acquire and develop state and local park and recreation areas that guarantee public use in perpetuity.

(See: <http://ohiodnr.com/default/tabid/11089/default.aspx>)

**M. Landowner Incentive Program (non-tribal):** Provides matching grants to states, territories, and the District of Columbia to establish or supplement landowner incentive programs. Includes technical and financial assistance to landowners for projects that protect or restore habitats, such as removal of exotic plants, changes in grazing practices, in-stream structural improvements, road closures, and conservation easements.

(See: ODNR – DOW)

**N. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program:** Since 1987, the program has partnered with more than 28,725 landowners to restore over 639,000 acres of wetlands; 1,070,000 acres of prairie, native grassland, and other upland habitats; and 4,740 miles of in-stream aquatic and riparian habitat. In addition, the program has reopened more than 300 miles of stream habitat for fish and other species by removing barriers to passage.

(See: <http://www.fws.gov/Midwest/partners/ohio.html>)

**O. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Community-Based Restoration Program:** The Administration, under Section 306 of the Coastal Zone Management Act, approves state Coastal Zone Management Programs (Ohio has one) to control sources of nonpoint pollution which impact coastal water quality. The Program provides funds for small-scale, locally driven habitat restoration projects that foster natural resource stewardship within communities. It seeks to bring together diverse partners to implement habitat restoration projects to benefit living marine resources. Partnerships are sought at the national and local level to contribute funding, land, technical assistance, workforce support, or other in-kind services.

(See: [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects\\_programs/crp/index.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects_programs/crp/index.html))

**P. Targeted Watersheds Grant Program:** Designed to encourage successful community-based approaches and management techniques to protect and restore the nation’s watersheds. Implementation Grant projects that have been funded thus far focus on a broad array of methods for addressing watershed concerns including water quality trading, agricultural best management practices, wetland and riparian restoration, nutrient management, fish habitat restoration and public outreach and education.

(See: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative/>)

**Q. Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century Funding Programs:** These fund numerous programs such as the Surface Transportation Program and the National Highway System. States may spend up to 20% of their Surface Transportation Program

dollars for restoration and pollution abatement projects. Each state may also set aside 10 percent of their Surface Transportation Program funds for transportation enhancement projects, including conservation easements, wetland mitigation, and pollution abatement.

<http://www.dot.state.oh.us/local/>

(Also see: EPA's Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection,

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/>.)

### **Other Sources**

**Freshwater Future:** This non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization builds effective community-based citizen action to protect and restore the water quality of the Great Lakes basin. They provide financial assistance, communications and networking assistance and technical assistance to citizens and grassroots watershed groups throughout the Great Lakes basin. (Formerly the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network & Fund).

(See: <http://www.freshwaterfuture.org/grants.html>)