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**WLEB PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES**

This document is a framework for the objectives, goals and actions that will be supported by the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership to further the mission and purpose of the partnership.

The partnership is adopting Strategic Objectives in alignment with both the 8 priority areas of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration and with important local resource concerns within the WLEB project area. For each Strategic Objective, the partnership will establish specific goals (milestones) and short, intermediate and long term action items that will support the furtherance of each goal.

<b><i>WLEB STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</i></b>		
<b>Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Based Strategic Objectives</b>		
<b>Resource Concern</b>	<b>Strategic Objective</b>	
Aquatic Invasive Species AIS	Work to prevent introduction or expansion of aquatic invasive species with the waters of the project area and Lake Erie.	
Habitat Conservation and Species Management HC	Protect, restore, and manage habitat in the watershed to optimize plant and animal survival, abundance and diversity.	
Coastal and Stream Health (Water Quality) CH/WQ	Protect the waters of streams, rivers, and Lake Erie to minimize risks to human health, protect drinking water sources, and provide clean and abundant water for use and enjoyment within the project area	
Areas of Concerns/Contaminants AOC	Cleanup up and delist the Maumee RAP Area of Concern as identified by the International Joint Commission.	
Non point Source Pollution NPS	Address problems of non point sources of pollution within the Western Lake Erie Basin project area.	
Toxics	Reduce exposure to and eliminate discharge of	

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TOXIC	persistent toxic substances in the Western Lake Erie Ecosystem.	
Information Base and Representative Scientific Indicators INFO	Coordinate shared information systems that support the use of sound science and well developed ecosystem indicators in the Western Lake Erie Basin Watershed for the purpose of ensuring good resource management decisions	
Sustainable and Balanced Growth SBG	Design, adopt and maintain programs and systems that result long term in balanced and sustainable uses of the natural resources in the project area	

**WLEB Partnership Locally Based Strategic Objectives**

<b>Resource Concern</b>	<b>Strategic Objective</b>	
Hydrologic Management /Flooding Attenuation HYDRO	Investigate and understand the hydrology of the WLEB watersheds for the purpose of promoting wise management of the water resources of area.	
Dredging DR	Develop solutions to the dredging and disposal problems in Toledo Harbor, Maumee Bay and Lake Erie.	
Forest Resource Protection FRP	Protect the remaining Forest Resource Base in the project area and reforest critical or strategic lands.	
Native Plant Community Protection NPC	Protect and restore Native Plant Communities in Oak Openings and other important regions of the project area.	
Sustainable Energy Production ENER	Utilize renewable energy sources in a way that does not negatively impact conservation and natural resource protection within the project area.	
Public Information/Education EDU	Effectively tell the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership story, objectives, goals, and	

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	activities to the citizens, legislators, and decision makers in the watershed.	
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**Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Based Strategic Objectives**

**Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)**

Work to prevent introduction or expansion of aquatic invasive species with the waters of the project area and Lake Erie.

**GOAL 1:**

Support actions that provide research, technology, government actions, outreach and public education which 1) prevent new introductions of AIS into the Great Lakes and 2) control the spread of established AIS populations.

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	<i>Note: Specific action items for each goal will be added by the next WLEB Leadership Meeting, for approval by the leadership group.</i>	<i>This area will identify responsible lead partner, supporting partners and time frame.</i>	
	Identify and coordinate with programs that educate Great Lakes boaters and anglers on how to take preventive actions against aquatic invasive species.		
	Develop and implement a comprehensive educational AIS campaign to educate the bait industry, pet industry, recreational boaters and anglers.		

**GOAL 2:**

Support actions of government agencies and organizations that will result in an

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AIS Integrated Management Program within the Western Lake Erie Basin project area that incorporates coordinated rapid response, control, and management programs.

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	Identify all AIS rapid response, control and management programs within the Western Lake Erie Basin.		
	Determine effectiveness of those programs.		
	Close loopholes and develop one comprehensive program.		

**Habitat Conservation and Species Management (HC)**

Protect, restore, and manage critical plant and animal habitat to optimize a full range of ecosystem services, including hydrologic retention, nutrient and sediment trapping, spawning, nesting and nursery habitats and other habitat needs for fish and wildlife.

**GOAL 1:**

Support actions of government agencies and organizations that will result in list of species of concern and work to implement moratoriums by the States on the trade of species on that list, until the species are screened and approved for trade.

**Comment [krm1]:** Should be under AIS or changed to read protection of endangered, rare, and/or threatened species

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When
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<p><b>GOAL 2:</b></p> <p><i>Identify and preserve</i> existing wetlands, open/nearshore waters, riverine habitats and related riparian areas, and coastal and upland habitats to prevent degradation.</p>			
Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
1	Identify critical areas for preservation.		
<p><b>GOAL 3:</b></p> <p><i>Restore</i> wetlands, open/nearshore waters, riverine habitats and related riparian areas, and coastal and upland habitats.</p>			
Action #	Action Item	Who*	When
1	Restore 13,000 acres of wetlands in the WLEB project area by 2010, via Lake Erie and Michigan CREP programs, (potentially Indian CREP), USDA Wetland Reserve program, and other wetland restoration programs. (This action aligned with the Governors Joint Letter on short term Wetland Restoration in the Great lakes)	WLEB Partners	By 2010
2	Restore 65,000 acres of wetlands in the WLEB project area by 2015, via Lake Erie and Michigan CREP programs, (potentially Indiana CREP), USDA Wetland Reserve program, other wetland restoration programs, and substantially expanded wetland restoration funding. (This action aligned with the WLEB share of the Great Lakes Regional		By 2015

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	Collaboration Wetland Restoration long term goals for the Great lakes.)		
<b>GOAL 4:</b> Complete the habitat restoration project via implementing the Cooperative Conservation Initiative (CCPI) in the St. Joseph River Watershed. Complete by March, 2008.			
Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
1	Assist the CCPI contractor in establishing 30 acres of wetland restorations and 1.5 miles of riparian corridor demonstration site in the St. Joseph River Watershed	ODNR Us Fish and Wildlife	By March, 2008
2	Enter into partnership agreements to help provide resources to help restore additional wetlands and riparian areas identified as priority sites by the CCPI contractor and its project partners.	All WLEB partners who can bring resources to the table	By March, 2008

**Stream and Coastal Health/Water Quality (SH/WQ)**

Protect the waters of streams and rivers within the Maumee River Basin, and Lake Erie to minimize risks to human health, protect drinking water sources, and provide clean and abundant water for use and enjoyment.

**GOAL 1:**

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Support actions resulting in implementation of practical solutions addressing the impacts of combined sewer overflow (CSO)

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	Encourage congress to pass legislation providing municipalities nationwide with an annual funding source to help reduce the burden that water infrastructure programs are placing on local communities and their rate payers		
	Encourage congress to pass legislation to fully fund the Clean Water State Revolving Fund which will provide low interest loans to local communities		
	Encourage local congressional representatives to provide appropriations for specific community CSO, SSO, and Storm water projects.		
	Coordinate with communities to implement that community's approved long term control plan (LTCP) in order to achieve compliance with federal regulatory requirements		
	Expand demonstration projects and research for alternative CSO controls		
	Encourage watershed planning and applications of best management practices components of wet weather management to promote infiltration and reduce impervious cover.		

Note: Each Maumee River Basin community is uniquely different in respect to what their specific needs are for improving their wastewater programs. Each community is also in different stages of working through their mandates based on the status of implementing items such as Long Term Control Plans and Consent Decree requirements.

**GOAL 2:**

Work towards delisting 303(d) impaired stream segments within the Maumee River Basin

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	Coordinate with State and federal regulatory agencies, local governments, and watershed groups		
	Inventory 303(d) stream segments within the project area, their associated impairments, and TMDL development status		

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	Evaluate possible impairment causes associated with each pollutant and its respective stream reach utilizing existing information such as TMDLs, NRCS rapid assessments, and Watershed Management Plans		
	Prioritize which types of impairments to address and establish a schedule to address those corresponding 303(d) stream segments		
	Conduct field investigations to verify information and to obtain watershed details		
	Coordinate with State regulatory agencies to evaluate TMDL implementation plans and actions		
	Encourage the development of local watershed groups that include 303(d) listed stream segments in their focus area		
	Work with land owners along 303(d) stream segments to implement best management practices		
	Establish USGS stream gages which include water quality monitoring data along priority 303(d) stream segments of interest		

**GOAL 3 :**

Support actions that address failing onsite waste water treatment systems.

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	Expand distribution of existing educational information about proper septic system operation and maintenance by targeting know residents and landowners in the project area with existing septic systems		
	Distribute educational materials to home buyers, realtors, and those applying for a septic system permit		
	Promote septic system workshops and tours of existing septic system demonstration projects		
	Evaluate discrepancies between state septic system regulations and encourage adoption of a common set of requirements		
	Encourage local governments to improve their planning processes by promoting coordinated development review and approvals, building a GIS layer identifying land suitable for septic systems, and updating comprehensive plans to address impacts from septic systems		

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	Promote approaches for local entities to offer funding or cost-share assistance to landowners for connection to local wastewater treatment plants as well as funding for low-income landowners that may need assistance in installing, repairing, or operating and maintaining their septic systems		
	Encourage the establishment of Septic System Management (Conservancy) Districts (also referred to as Onsite Wastewater Management Districts) for outreach and education efforts, inspection and maintenance programs, and enforcement actions		

**GOAL 4:**

Encourage effective compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	Encourage successful implementation of NPDES Stormwater Quality permit requirements by developers and construction site operators, industrial facilities, municipalities, and confined animal feeding operations by coordinating outreach and education efforts		
	Encourage similar regulatory implementation strategies and policies among various State Permitting Authorities		
	Promote technical training and professional certification opportunities for State Permitting Authority staff as well as regulated entity staff		
	Encourage regional coordination of the development of guidance materials to help clarify permit requirements for regulated entities		
	Promote enforcement of existing regulations		
	Encourage sector specific compliance initiatives by State Permitting Authorities which are prioritized by pollutants of concern and potential for environmental harm		

**Areas of Concern/Contaminants**

Cleanup up and delist the Maumee RAP Area of Concern as identified by the International Joint Commission.

**GOAL 1:**

Support actions that realize the objectives of Maumee Remedial Action Plan for the recovery of the beneficial use impairments affecting the Maumee Area of Concern."

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	Work with the appropriate agencies/groups to identify delisting targets and projects to move us towards delisting.		
	Maumee RAP will be providing projects and plans that we could include as action items to support projects that would address this objective.		

**Non point Source Pollution and Impairments (NPS)**

Address problems of non point sources of pollution within the Western Lake Erie Basin project area.

**GOAL 1:**

Support actions that reduce nutrient exports from tributaries in to Lake Erie.

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Action #	Action Item	Who*	When
	Support implementation of controlled subsurface drainage research and demonstration projects within the watershed by the controlled drainage task force. Publicize research findings on effects on nutrient exports and farmer experiences with pilot projects.		
	Work with partners such as Certified Crop Consultants, Farm Bureau, Environmental Defense and others to implement a pilot project on nitrogen reduction modeled after the Iowa Soybean Association nitrogen management efforts in Iowa.		
	Support and secure funding for additional research into the causes and effects for the resurgence of soluble phosphorous increases in the tributary runoff into Lake Erie		
	Expand funding for the Ohio EQIP special projects to increase the number of advanced level conservation plans that are developed and implement on farms in the project area.		
	Support the Environmental Defense/Joyce Foundation effort to accelerate conservation land treatment in the Tiffin and Blanchard Hydrologic Units.		
<p><b>GOAL 2:</b></p> <p>Support actions that reduce the amount of sediment exported from the tributaries into Lake Erie</p>			
Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	Expand the EQIP Special Project Signup and the		

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	Conservation Security Program to provide incentives to achieve greater than 75% conservation tillage use over the watershed.		
	Enroll ____ acres of new conservation buffers via the Lake Erie CREP and the regular Continuous CRP programs. (spell out goals by practice type? and time frame)		
	Complete the revision and implementation of the Michigan and Indiana CREP programs within the watershed		
	Establish target goal for sediment reduction number		
<b>GOAL 3:</b>			
Reduce the amount of bacteria delivered to surface waters and exported into Lake Erie			
Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	Establish bacterial reduction goal necessary to reach attainment of recreational uses for each hydrologic assessment unit		
	Reduce failure rate of home sewage treatment systems to 10%		
	Achieve an average of less than 10 days per year under "do not swim" advisory at all regularly monitored public bathing beaches (Lake Erie and interior)		

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<b>GOAL 4:</b> Work with local officials and landowners to address drainage concerns, in-stream and riparian habitat degradation, hydromodification and channel modification/instability			
Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*

**Toxics**

Reduce exposure to and the discharge of persistent toxic substances in the Western Lake Erie Ecosystem.

**GOAL 1:**

Support actions that clean up contaminated sediments in the project area with emphasis on the mouths of Lake Erie Tributaries.

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*

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<p><b>GOAL 2:</b></p> <p>Disseminate fish advisories throughout the WLEB project area</p>			
Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	Put a link to fish advisory information up on WLEB's website.		

<p><b>Information Base and Representative Scientific Indicators (Info)</b></p>			
<p>Coordinate shared information systems that support the use of sound science and well developed ecosystem indicators in the Western Lake Erie Basin Watershed for the purpose of ensuring good resource management decisions.</p>			
<p><b>GOAL 1:</b></p> <p>Develop the next generation of Erosion Control and Soil and Water Conservation Technology and Information to enable increased potential for sediment reduction efforts.</p>			
Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
1	Complete the Upper Auglaize Interagency Watershed Modeling Work Plan II, and secure funding needed to implement the project.		
2	Support the Conservation Evaluation and Affects Projects (CEAP) in the Upper Auglaize, St Joe, and Bean Creek portions of the watershed and utilization of the findings.		

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3	Support the establishment of stream monitoring stations (sediment, nutrients, flow) on the Blanchard and Tiffin Watersheds as part of the Environmental Defense/Joyce Foundation project		
4	Support the Environmental Defense/Joyce project to monitor Lost creek Watershed and compare present water quality to "Pre-CRP and Pre No-Till" Conditions when the watershed was monitored in the early 90's		
5	Identify opportunities for pilot projects to demonstrate/identify effective new or non land application methods (Composting, digesting, dewatering, etc) of utilizing livestock manure and wastes		

**GOAL 2:**

Develop a network of water resource information systems to assist decision makers in the watershed through enhanced access to data and information.

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
1	Maintain and continue to improve the WLEB watershed GIS website hosted by the University of Toledo. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and add additional water resource information from available sources</li> <li>Identify gaps in existing water resource information</li> </ul>	UT	
2	Complete the USGS/ODNR project on the WLEB watershed water use. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide water use for the WLEB through a web-based application by 8-digit HUC as well as by political boundary</li> <li>Coordinate water use information in the WLEB from all three states</li> </ul>	USGS, ODNR	2007
3	Support continuation of the Heidelberg Tributary Monitoring program on the Maumee main stem.		
4	Complete a monitoring needs assessment study of the WLEB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify existing monitoring networks and programs from all sources</li> <li>Analyze existing networks and identify needs and gaps</li> <li>Coordinate with WLEB partnership agencies</li> </ul>	USGS	2007

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	and organizations to identify additional monitoring needs		
5	Annually complete geo referenced conservation tillage transects in the watershed to track land management changes.	NRCS	
6	Continue the University of Toledo land use remote sensing project to provide a history of land use changes over time and a georeferenced land use cell layer for use in watershed modeling projects.	UT	
7	Complete the Rapid Watershed Assessments for the WLEB watersheds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the Rapid Watershed Assessments, complete an <i>estimate</i> of livestock numbers for each HUC unit.</li> </ul>	NRCS	

**GOAL 3:**

Collate and identify the economic revenue generated as a result of resource-based tourism in the Western Lake Erie Basin.

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	Work with Sea Grant and Lake Erie Coastal Ohio to collect economic revenue generated as a result of resource-based tourism.		

**GOAL 4:**

Cross reference Ohio state government planning documents for the WLEB with Michigan and Indiana documents as well as other Great Lakes planning documents (multi-state, federal and international).

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Key Ohio documents include:

- Ohio NPS Statewide Plan
- Ohio Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Plan
- Ohio "208" plans
- OLEC Strategic Plan
- Other state plans concerning wildlife, recreation, scenic rivers, transportation planning, etc.

Identify a mechanism to align the various planning documents to offer specific, mutually beneficial goals for the WLEB partnership as well as potential area of collaboration.

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
1	State program staff and/or the appropriate subcommittee survey, list and review documents and offer recommendations. (Internal ODNR/OEPA workgroup needs briefed on this exercise and allowed time to have input.)		
2	State program staff and/or the appropriate subcommittee develop recommendations for Operations Group or appropriate subcommittee.		

**GOAL 5:**

Cross reference local government planning documents within the WLEB with those state, regional and federal plans identified in Goal 4

Key local planning documents include:

- local watershed plans
- 208 plans
- TMDLs
- local NRCS and SWCD workplans
- municipal stormwater plans

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- Other local plans concerning wildlife, recreation, transportation planning, etc.

Identify a mechanism to align the various planning documents to offer specific, mutually beneficial goals for the WLEB partnership as well as potential area of collaboration.

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When
1	State program staff and/or the appropriate subcommittee survey and list all local planning efforts or access information developed all ready by the Ops Group and/or subcommittees. (Internal ODNR/OEPA workgroup needs briefed on this exercise and allowed time to have input.)		
2	State program staff and/or subcommittees develop recommendations on mutually beneficial goals for Ops Group.		

**Sustainable and Balanced Growth (SBG)**

Design, adopt and maintain programs and systems that result long term in balanced and sustainable uses of the natural resources in the project area.

**GOAL 1:**

Establish functioning watershed groups in each 8 digit HUC unit in project area.

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Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	Develop action plan (strategy) as to what it will take to grow functioning groups in the HUC units that do not now have them.		
	Select one or two target watersheds to implement plan and energize local entities for action.		
	Evaluate success of efforts, improve strategy if needed, and expand to remaining watershed in project area.		

**GOAL 2:**

Support actions that increase the adoption of the Lake Erie Balanced Growth program and principles.

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	Schedule a presentation of the Ohio Lake Erie Balanced Growth Program to the WLEB Leadership Group.		
	Host a Balanced Growth Technical Workshop within the WLEB project area.		
	Provide resource data that will assist in the implementation of the Swan Creek Watershed (Toledo Area) Lake Erie Balanced Growth Pilot Project.		

**GOAL 3:**

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Sustainable use of surface and ground water resources

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	Establish water conservation and efficiency goals for each water use sector (public water supply, industrial self-supplied, power generation, agricultural, non-agricultural irrigation, etc).		
	Develop education and outreach program regarding water conservation and efficiency.		
	Assemble list of water management practices and available technologies.		
	Develop mechanisms for the measurement and evaluation of water conservation and efficiency.		
	Evaluate effects of bio-fuel production on the water resources in the project area.		

**GOAL 4:**

Support actions that increase the economic value of natural areas via sustainable use thru eco-tourism and other sustainable recreational activities.

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	Identify funding or programmatic support to assist partners in implementing the "stopover" habitat concept for migratory birds.		

**GOAL 5:**

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Support actions that encourage Brownfield redevelopment to reduce pressures for conversion and development of agricultural lands.

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	Identify all Brownfields in the Western Lake Erie Basin		
	Prioritize Brownfield's identified in WLEB.		
	In the most sensitive watersheds, encourage each state to clean-up one Brownfield a year.		

**WLEB Partnership Locally Based Strategic Objectives**

**WLEB Hydrology and Flooding**

Investigate and understand the hydrology of the WLEB watersheds for the purpose of promoting wise management of the water resources of area. Emphasis areas would include:

- Reduce/mitigate stream and stormwater flood damages
- Understand water use and availability
- Understand the hydrologic aspect of ecological systems
- Provide improved hydrologic information to decision-makers and citizens

**GOAL 1:**

Identify water resource issues in the WLEB and coordinate discussion and understanding of potential solutions.

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
1	Identify existing hydrologic and hydraulic modeling and flood studies within the WLEB (what agencies, scale and use of, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood management</li> <li>• Stormwater management</li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality</li> <li>• Water use</li> <li>• Ecological</li> </ul>		
2	Coordinate and facilitate water resource planning between local, state, regional and federal agencies within the WLEB project area.		
3	Convene a meeting of the USACE, NRCS, USGS, ODNR Division of Water and the City of Toledo to review existing flood reduction efforts in the Toledo area and look for additional opportunities to find solutions.		
4	Coordinate and facilitate flood reduction planning between local, state, regional and federal agencies throughout the WLEB project area.		
5	Increase training opportunities for local agencies and organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host an Urban Stormwater Management training session for municipal officials and communities within the watershed</li> </ul>		
6	Utilize wetland restoration to contribute to flood damage reduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct analysis of flood events related to land-use changes in basin.</li> <li>• If possible, identify areas where land-use changes may have had the most impact on flood events.</li> <li>• Model scenarios of alterations in the flood plain as related to flood flow.</li> <li>• Conduct study of possible land-use changes that could impact flood events.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>GOAL 2:</b></p> <p>Support efforts to soften the developed and developing portions of the basin to reduce runoff and flood damage.</p>			
<b>Action #</b>	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who*</b>	<b>When*</b>
1	Support a "Champions" program for the development and implementation of a Rain Garden and/or Rain Barrel program.		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the Toledo Rain Garden/Green Development stakeholder group</li> <li>• Develop an information and education campaign (contact Franklin and Geauga SWCDs in Ohio and Rain Gardens of West Michigan – <a href="http://www.raingardens.org">www.raingardens.org</a> for ideas and suggestions for success).</li> </ul>		

**Dredging**

Develop solutions to the dredging and disposal problems in Toledo Harbor, Maumee Bay and Lake Erie.

**GOAL 1:**

Manage the sediments in Toledo Harbor in a sustainable way using a watershed perspective

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	Reduce sediment loadings from the watershed to the Maumee River and its tributaries by X% by 20??		
	Develop beneficial uses for 500,000 cubic yards of dredged material from Toledo Harbor annually by 2013.		

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**Forest Resource Protection**

Protect the remaining Forest Resource Base in the project area and reforest critical and/or strategic lands.

**GOAL 1:**

Increase the use of Riparian Forest Buffer Practices on natural streams in the watershed to provide stream corridor protection and habitat restoration.

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	Set goal for establish new acres of Riparian Forest Buffers.		
	Prepare a Riparian Forest Buffer "How To" Book and prepare literature needed to promote the practice within the Lake Erie CREP		
	Implement the Environmental Defense/Doris Duke/Joyce Foundation Contiguous Forest Buffer bonus payment.		
	Develop turnkey tree planting service(s) for riparian buffers to mirror the North West Ohio Windbreak Planting Service.		
	After a 3 year period, evaluate the Environmental Defense/Doris Duke/Joyce Foundation Contiguous Forest Buffer bonus payment. If successful look for funding/means to expand to other portions of the		

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	project area.		
<p><b>GOAL 2:</b></p> <p>Mitigate the potential damages of the loss of Ash trees on the forest resource of the WLEB project area and increase carbon sequestration with increased tree plantings in the watershed.</p>			
<b>Action #</b>	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who*</b>	<b>When*</b>
	Support research into solutions to the Emerald Ash Borer problem, and on the effect of the Emerald Ash Problem on the remaining forest species.		
	Take a proactive approach to future loss of Ash Trees by seeking resources to increase private and public tree plantings in urban areas.		
	Monitor the Lake Erie CREP tree planting practices to determine the effectiveness of the recent revisions, and if there are other opportunities or actions that can increase rural tree planting in the watershed.		
	Publicize and support the NRCS Rose Lake Plant Materials Center Ash Seed Collection program to assist in preserving ash germplasm from the project area.		

**Native Plant Community Protection**

Protect and restore Native Plant Communities in Oak Openings and other important regions of the project area.

**GOAL:** The Nature Conservancy will be providing goals and action items to address this objective. An updated version will be provided at the WLEB

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leadership meeting.			
Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*

**Sustainable Energy Production**

Utilize renewable energy sources in a way that does not undo conservation and natural resource protection already on the land within the project area.

**GOAL 1:**

No backsliding of off-site nutrient and sediment transport resulting from CRP land going into production (i.e. assist producers as they transition from set-aside to production of raw materials for bio-fuels).

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	Quantify CRP acres as each Rapid Watershed Assessment is completed.		
	Conduct conservation planning needs assessment.		
	Work with FSA to target market conservation planning opportunities and benefits.		
	Develop conservation plans as needed as CRP acreage transitions into production.		

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**GOAL 2:**  
 Make known the potential for wind energy production in the project area.

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	Publish wind energy maps as part of the rapid assessments for each HUC unit.		
	Support and publish Division of Wildlife wind turbine recommended setbacks and no build zones in identified wildlife travel corridors and shore zones.		

**GOAL 3:**  
 Support actions that encourage use of crops for sustainable/renewable fuels.

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
	Hold meeting with biofuel crop farmers on benefits of no-till farming.		
	Identify groups working on this issue and utilize their outreach materials or develop an outreach material on benefits.		

**GOAL 4:**  
 Support actions that encourage utilization of green fleets by organizations within

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the WELB project area.

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*

**Public Information/Education (EDU)**

Effectively tell the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership story, objectives, goals, and activities to the citizens, legislators, and decision makers in the watershed.

**GOAL 1:**

Develop one message and branding statement/tag line for the Western Lake Erie for promotion.

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When
	Work with Lake Erie Coastal Ohio and Healing Our Waters – Great Lakes Coalition to develop a message for the Western Lake Erie Basin.		
	Develop for leadership committee adoption, a WLEB tag line/branding statement	Outreach committee	Done

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<p><b>GOAL 2:</b></p> <p>Secure additional professional communications assistance for the outreach committee.</p>			
Action #	Action Item	Who*	When
	Investigate the options and opportunities available to provide additional resources to outreach committee via existing partner, new partner or private firm.		
<p><b>GOAL 3:</b></p> <p>Establish and awareness amongst general public of Maumee River Basin issues and educate residents about project actions and project goals.</p>			
<b>Short Term Actions</b>			
Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
1	Develop a general framework PowerPoint presentation about the WLEB Partnership		
2	Develop a brochure about the WLEB Partnership		
3	Establish resources for updating the WLEB web site		
4	Develop a basin-wide media contact list for distribution of news releases and media alerts		
5	Develop a database of watershed, stakeholder, and other organizations within the Lake Erie Basin that we can target for presentations and information		

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6	Distribute to partners the adopted WLEB letterhead and WLEB buttons		
7			

***Intermediate Actions***

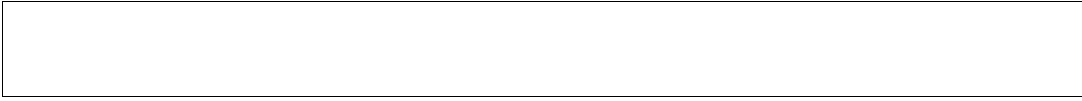
Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
1	Build framework and funding to enable WLEB project newsletter.		
2	Prepare WLEB public service announcements.		
3	Establish WLEB database of stakeholder, outreach and other interested groups.		
4	Hire a contractor to develop a strategic communications plan, which includes a situation analysis (examination of strengths and weaknesses of the WLEB partnership as well as outside opportunities and challenges), a stakeholder analysis, development of unified messages to increase awareness of concerns in the Western Lake Erie Basin, and recommendations of appropriate communications tools to use		

***Long Term Actions***

Action #	Action Item	Who*	When*
1	Arrange for production of watershed video documentary		
2	Secure establishment of WLEB educational curriculum materials		
3			

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