



partnerships for healthy rivers



January 2022 • Monthly Update

Maumee Watershed Alliance Awarded Conservation Innovation Grant

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is awarding more than \$500,000 to innovative approaches and technologies to improve conservation in Indiana under the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program and a portion of \$300,000 in a collaborative CIG project led by the state of Michigan. Nationally, \$15 million is being awarded to conservation partners across the country for 19 projects. The funded projects focus on helping agricultural producers mitigate the effects of climate change and increase the resilience of their operations. Many of these projects will focus on providing conservation benefits for historically undeserved producers.

CIG is a competitive program that supports the development of new tools, approaches, practices and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands. Through creative problem solving and innovation, CIG harnesses the expertise, resources and capacity of partner organizations nationwide to help boost natural resource conservation on private lands and support climate smart agriculture.

The Maumee Watershed Alliance (MWA) will demonstrate phosphorus recovery technologies with the goal of demonstrating an 80% total phosphorus removal over extended demonstration periods. The demonstrations will be conducted at three locations with three different manure waste systems: deep-pit swine, dairy and mixed manure lagoon. The MWA will also explore the market value of recovered products from the lagoon to serve as a cost recovery mechanism and facilitate large scale adoption of the practice. Michigan and Ohio are also included in this CIG project.

“Innovation is key to addressing the climate crisis and conserving the natural resources we all depend on,” said NRCS Indiana State Conservationist Jerry Raynor. “CIG partners are using the latest science and research to come up with solutions that work for Indiana farmers and foresters and help ensure the longevity of American agriculture.”

Maumee Watershed Alliance

Dr. Winslow to Speak at Fort Wayne Farm Show



Ohio Sea Grant Director, Dr. Chris Winslow will be speaking at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 19 in the Appleseed Room A at the 2022 Fort Wayne Farm Show. Dr. Winslow will be addressing the state of lake Erie, the economics of harmful alga blooms, and give research initiative updates.

Dr. Winslow coordinates Ohio Sea Grant’s Great Lakes research with agencies and universities, as well as assists in research, curriculum development, and student recruitment at The Ohio State University’s Stone Laboratory. Dr. Winslow earned his doctorate at Bowling Green State University, with research focusing on interaction between the native smallmouth bass and invasive round goby. Dr. Winslow is a fixture at Stone Laboratory, teaching Aquatic Ecology classes to high school and college students and mentoring college students and their Lake Erie research projects in the lab’s Research Experience for Undergraduates Scholarship Program.

The 2022 Fort Wayne Farm Show takes place January 18-20 and is free and open to everyone. A full list of events can be found on our website at



Collaborating Watershed Organization Update



Upper Maumee Watershed Partnership

Collecting and Sharing Real-Time Data for Source Water Protection

Project Summary: This project will install real-time sensors to monitor nutrient levels in the Upper Maumee River at the City of Defiance Water Treatment Plant (WTP). This data will enable WTP staff to make critical data-driven decisions on when to pump from the Maumee into the Defiance water supply reservoir. In addition, this information will fill important data gaps needed to support the City's current Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) and future work to develop its Integrated Watershed Improvement Plan (IWIP)-complementary efforts that are both designed to benefit water quality in the Maumee watershed and Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB). This project will also provide information needed to help create stakeholder-driven conservation efforts through agricultural and urban-rural partnerships; not only in the Upper Maumee Watershed, but in other parts of the Great Lakes Region. The work in Defiance will serve as a replicable, scalable pilot project for a Smart Watershed approach in the Great Lakes tributaries through civic engagement, ongoing implementation of best management practices and data communication with GLOS. Finally, this project will support the goals of the "Smart Great Lakes Initiative" by strengthening partnerships with other regional stakeholders working to address basin-wide water quality problems in the Great Lakes.

Project Background: The Maumee River, beginning in Ft. Wayne, Indiana and emptying into Lake Erie in Toledo, OH has the largest watershed of any river flowing into the Great Lakes system with over 6600 square miles of drainage area (Cousinoet al., 2015; Figure 1); it is a key contributor to conditions that cause harmful algal blooms (HABs) in western Lake Erie. The City of Defiance is uniquely located at the confluence of the Auglaize and Maumee Rivers; 85% of the total flow of the Maumee passes through our community. Nutrient loading is exacerbated by extreme weather, and it is assumed that a large percentage of nutrient loading occurs in a small percentage of wet weather events, typically in the spring. As the largest tributary of any to the Great Lakes, we have the direct opportunity to make measurable impact on the WLEB and apply successes in Smart Lake Erie to the tributaries. The confluence of Defiance has had a significant role in the region throughout history, and the challenges facing our community today are greater than ever. This project is funded by a GLOS

YOU CAN HELP!

Your donations support current and future efforts in water quality, community engagement and education, and the projects of the MWA and partnering watershed organizations.

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