



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Buffalo District



FACT SHEET

February 2008

WESTERN LAKE ERIE BASIN STUDY (WLEB), OH, IN, MI

Section 441 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999

Location

- The study area includes the watersheds of the Maumee, Portage, and Ottawa Rivers, in northwest OH, eastern IN, and southeast MI that are major tributaries to the WLEB.

Project Description

- Comprehensive investigation of measures to improve fish and wildlife habitat, navigation, flood damage reduction, recreation, and water quality in the Maumee, Ottawa and Portage River watersheds.
- The combined watersheds have a drainage area of approximately 7,200 square miles, with the Maumee River contributing about 24 percent of the surface water flow into Lake Erie.
- A primary issue is pollution from non-point source discharges, particularly agricultural runoff. Non-point source pollutants and suspended sediments degrade water quality and contribute to the approximately 1,000,000 cubic yards (CY) of sediment dredged annually from the Maumee River navigation channel and Bay.

- Equally important are flood damage reduction, and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat.

Importance

- The watershed management study will provide a framework for sustainable development in the watershed by examining comprehensive ecosystem restoration including habitat and wetland restoration, prevention of future environmental losses, elimination of bacterial loadings and pollutants of concern, improvements to navigation channels, and analysis of flood control operations to ensure that they are meeting evolving conditions.

Consequences

- Without the study the Western Lake Erie Basin watershed stakeholders will continue to work in the watershed on a project by project basis and will not have the benefit of a watershed plan that can be relied upon for comprehensive and multipurpose solutions to their complex water resource problems.

Project Capabilities

- FY09 capability of \$508,000. \$8,000 would be used to complete the initial Feasibility Study done in conjunction with the city of Toledo. \$500,000 would be used to study recommendations made in the initial Feasibility in greater detail.
- Feasibility phase is cost-shared 50% Federal and 50% non-Federal for Section 441 of WRDA 1999.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FY 2009 and 2010 Project Needs and President's Budget

Project Phase	Est. Fed. Cost of Phase	Federal Funding to Date	FY09 Need	FY09 Budget	FY10 Need	FY10 Budget	△ (FY10 Need-FY10 Budget)
Feasibility	4,000k	1992k	508k	0	800k	0	800k

Project Sponsor/Customer

- The city of Toledo is the sponsor with other customers including numerous state agencies, non-governmental organizations and local municipalities in the states of OH, IN and MI. Federal partners include: NRCS, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).
- The Joyce Foundation is another potential cost share sponsor.

Congressional Interests

OH:

Representative Marcy Kaptur D-OH-9.
Representative Robert E. "Bob" Latta R-OH-5.
Representative Jim Jordan R-OH-4.
Representative John Boehner R-OH-8.
Senator George Voinovich R-OH.
Senator Sherrod Brown, D-OH.

IN:

Representative Mark Souder R-IN-3.
Representative Mike Pence R-IN-6.
Senator Richard Lugar R-IN.
Senator Evan Bayh D-IN.

MI:

Representative John Dingell D-MI-15.
Representative Timothy Walberg R-MI-7.
Senator Carl Levin D-MI.
Senator Debbie Stabenow D-MI.

Project Manager:

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Current Status

- In support of the comprehensive watershed management framework, the WLEB Partnership has been formed and information concerning the watersheds' existing physical, biological and socio-economic conditions are being inventoried and evaluated in cooperation with the partners.
- In May 2006, the Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) with the city of Toledo was completed.
- In the spring of 2008, existing conditions reports are scheduled to complete for the Lower Maumee, Upper Maumee, Ottawa, St. Joseph's, St. Mary's, Auglaize, Tiffin, Portage and the Maumee Bay itself.
- Discussions with potential non-Federal sponsors are on going concerning an expanded Feasibility Study to investigate specific measures in greater detail to promote watershed health.

Issues

- Without FY09 Federal funding, the Corps will not be able to co-lead the WLEB partnership with NRCS nor conduct the comprehensive feasibility level watershed assessment.

