

## Appendix 6 Issues Table

Issues	Water quality threats, problems, needs	Current efforts	Future efforts/needs
<b>All Water quality issues</b>	<p><i>Across the board problems -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Altered hydrology</li> <li>▪ Land use changes</li> <li>▪ Poor design practices</li> <li>▪ Lack of funding to counteract negative impacts</li> <li>▪ Cumulative development impacts</li> </ul>	<p>Subdivision regulation update in progress with input from county agencies, HBA, realtors, etc.</p> <p>Education efforts about watersheds, storm water management, best management practices (BMPs)</p> <p>Watershed groups being formed in Portage County including larger regional efforts, especially for the Lake Erie basin</p> <p>Grant applications for water quality preservation being submitted</p>	<p><i>Across the board needs –</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding</li> <li>▪ Personnel to enforce regulations</li> <li>▪ Enforcement responsibility</li> <li>▪ Updated, effective design BMPs</li> <li>▪ Education efforts for all aspects of water quality protection</li> <li>▪ Increased land protection efforts</li> <li>▪ Housing affordability issues</li> <li>▪ Lack of activism in Ohio River basin watersheds (in Portage County)</li> </ul>
<b>Storm Water Management</b>	Meet EPA NPDES Phase II requirements	Storm Water Mgmt. Plan (SWMP) 2004 Storm Water Task Force Storm Water Ordinance Committee	County-wide compliance with EPA requirements
	<p>Lack of documentation and data –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Illicit discharges</li> <li>▪ Storm water system outfalls</li> <li>▪ Flooding problem areas</li> <li>▪ Poorly functioning storm water facilities</li> </ul>	Illicit discharge mapping started (SWMP) Outfall location mapping started (SWMP)	<p>Monitoring &amp; enforcement mechanisms needed</p> <p>County-wide GIS to assist mapping efforts</p> <p>Need for data collection and updating at regular intervals</p>
	Construction site runoff	<p>Subdivision Regulation Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP)</p> <p>Onsite inspections</p> <p>Cooperation with zoning inspectors—zoning permits not issued if there are problems</p> <p>Storm Water Ordinance Committee with input from Home Builders Assoc.</p> <p>Education about storm water BMPs</p>	<p>Effective enforcement mechanism</p> <p>More stringent regulations including riparian setbacks</p> <p>Builder/developer workshops (BMPs)</p>

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	<p>Post-construction run-off</p> <hr/> <p>Lack of education &amp; awareness of storm water systems and functions including ditches and tile fields</p> <p>Lack of awareness of Best Management Practices (BMPs), pollution prevention</p>	<p>Storm Water Ordinance Committee</p> <p>Soil &amp; Water Conservation District requirements part of subdivision reviews</p> <hr/> <p>SWCD website information and newsletter</p> <p>Road crew workshops (SWMP)</p> <p>Public meetings and education about storm water, watersheds, water quality</p>	<p>Education about BMPs (Builder/developer workshops)</p> <hr/> <p>Local links to Storm Water website</p> <p>Ongoing public meetings &amp; public education</p> <p>Realtor &amp; homeowners workshops</p> <p>Encourage, organize clean-ups at outfalls and along streams</p>
<b>Increasing impervious surfaces</b>	<p>Increased run-off volume and speed</p> <p>Less percolation (less groundwater recharge)</p> <p>Faster delivery of pollutants</p> <p>Higher temperature of run-off</p> <p>Poor facility design</p>		<p>Low-impact and conservation development</p> <p>Use of pervious “hard” surfaces</p> <p>Encourage greenways</p>
<b>Flooding</b>	<p>Lack of documentation of problem areas</p> <p>Inaccurate floodplain maps</p> <p>Altered hydrology</p>	<p>Flood Damage Prevention Regulations</p> <p>Floodplain mapping updates (limited areas)</p> <p>Some zoning with environmental regulations regarding floodplains</p>	<p>Accurate, county-wide floodplain mapping</p> <p>Riparian, wetland setbacks</p> <p>Riparian preservation and need for greenways</p> <p>Conservation and low-impact developments</p>
<b>Wastewater Management</b>	<p>Lack of documentation of problem areas</p> <p>Failing septic systems</p> <p>Poor soils for septic leach fields are dominant in county</p> <p>Shallow injection wells (Class V) – old or poorly designed wells can pose threat to water quality</p> <p>Need to balance demand for expanded service and water quality goals</p>	<p>Illicit discharge mapping (SWMP, see above)</p> <p>Updated 208 Clean Water Plans</p> <p>Use of Clean Water Plans for sewer extension decisions</p> <p>New state regulations for septic systems in progress</p> <p>Digital soils mapping planned</p> <p>EPA oversight and registration of Class V injection wells</p> <p>EPA Total Daily Maximum Loads program</p> <p>Randolph Township sewer improvements project</p>	<p>Community input to 208 Clean Water Plans</p> <p>Identification and remediation of poorly functioning Class V wells</p> <p>Need to identify priority development areas to guide growth patterns</p>

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<b>Solid &amp; Hazardous Waste Management</b>	Abandoned solid waste sites Illegal junkyards and dumps Lack of documentation of pollution problems such as leaching Lack of funding to clean up sites	ODNR oversight – Class I-IV injection wells Health Dept. and PC Solid Waste District inspection, licensing, enforcing standards for solid waste facilities	Need more data collection and documentation of problems Remediation of leaching sites Appropriate facility design or retrofitting where needed
<b>Resource Consumption</b> ▪ Mineral – sand and gravel	Proximity to water resources Little regulation of excavation and drainage – no environmental impact studies Aquifer contamination or disruption Groundwater consumed for processing Impacts to ecosystems, natural vegetation No regulation over removal incident to construction work (grading) Settling ponds – No engineering requirements; little oversight Alters hydrology	Local zoning restrictions Industrial Mineral regulations for in-stream & near-stream mining – ODNR oversight ODNR technical expertise available 120’ excavation setback from Scenic River 75’ stockpile setback from Scenic River Emergency response plans in place for spills, leaks Use of environmentally-friendly oil in machinery Reclamation required within 3 years – grading, resoiling, establishing vegetative cover Potential use of settling ponds to mitigate wetland loss	Watersheds <100 sq. mi. are not addressed in ordinance Control headwater impacts Better reclamation and coordination of agency oversight of wetlands, riparian areas, etc. that may be impacted
▪ Mineral – oil and gas wells	State regulated rather than local zoning control Altered hydrology and habitat disturbance can lead to invasive species Potential groundwater contamination	ODNR oversight	Avoid drilling in ecologically sensitive areas
▪ Water (Drinking, recreational)	Potential of decline in water quality or water contamination due to negative watershed impacts or threats to groundwater (see all Issues)	EPA monitoring of drinking water quality, stream quality, watershed health OEPA Source Water Assessment & Protection Program in progress for water source areas County supplies adequate for growth Regional cooperation for emergency supplies Post-construction Pollution Prevention Plans	Plans to complete a Portage County Water Protection Plan Land management practices and policies that protect water resources Education efforts to support water quality protection

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Headwaters impacts</li> </ul>	<p>Lack of accurate mapping of streams for Portage County                      Lack of education about negative impacts – filling, hydrological alterations, culverting                      Lack of regulations</p>	<p>OEPA Headwaters Streams Program</p>	<p>Need for accurate mapping                      Education and BMPs                      Need to establish riparian setbacks                      Increased land protection efforts in headwaters areas</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Farmland</li> </ul>	<p>Loss of farmland to new land uses                      Loss of economic viability                      Farm fragmentation and division                      Poor run-off management can threaten water quality</p>	<p>Preservation initiatives – Portage Co. Farmland Preservation Plan; Clean Ohio Purchase of Development Rights Program; Transfer of Development Rights initiative (state level)                      Farm market initiatives                      Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV)                      NRCS agricultural programs</p>	<p>Dedicated revenue source for preservation                      Renewal of Clean Ohio funds                      Economic support of agriculture</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Woodlands</li> </ul>	<p>Loss of woodlands to urban expansion                      Soil and root disturbances                      Fragmentation                      Species loss and threats                      Pollution (acid rain, etc.)                      Drainage modification impacts</p>	<p>Ohio Forest Stewardship Committee                      Ohio Forest Legacy Program                      Current protection efforts by conservation organizations, park districts, ODNR                      Selective timber harvesting, forest management</p>	<p>Need to balance economic and environmental/aesthetic benefits                      Planned connectivity                      Riparian preservation and setbacks                      Increased land protection efforts</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wetlands</li> </ul>	<p>Loss of wetlands and habitat                      Fragmentation                      Negative impacts from pollution, run-off, urban land use proximity                      Loss of mitigation \$                      Manpower deficit for timely permit issuance and enforcement</p>	<p>Army Corps of Engineers and Ohio EPA oversight – no net loss                      NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentives; Wetland Reserve Programs, Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP)                      Current protection efforts by conservation organizations, park districts, ODNR                      Wetland setbacks (some adopted at local level)</p>	<p>Need enforcement manpower                      Increased land protection efforts                      County-wide setback requirements                      Create local mitigation banks, projects                      Continued education efforts</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Soil</li> </ul>	<p>Construction site run-off                      Manpower deficit for enforcement                      Road widening projects – need for run-off, erosion compliance                      Poor agricultural practices</p>	<p>SWPPP; Storm Water Management Plan                      NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program</p>	<p>Need coordination of EPA and ODOT for erosion, run-off control                      Education about BMPs for construction companies, farmers</p>

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<b>Biodiversity</b>	Loss of important, sensitive ecosystems Habitat loss, fragmentation, degradation Loss of native species Invasive species, diseases Altered hydrology Lack of data collection Lack of consistent monitoring	Land acquisition initiatives Conservation easements The Nature Conservancy (TNC) – Upper Cuyahoga River is priority conservation area; TNC land holdings Portage Park District, ODNR, SWCD, NRCS Local land trusts NEO Regional Biodiversity Partnership NEO Regional Conservation Plan initiative Riparian and wetland setbacks, wetland preservation Ohio GAP Analysis Program ODNR Natural Heritage Data mapping	Need science-based data collection Need science-based standards for consistency and comparison Need monitoring over time Funding for land protection and management
<b>Regulations &amp; Policies (Environmental)</b> ▪ Zoning	Enforcement of environmental regulations is difficult – lack of manpower, information, education Lack of environmental regulations with enforceable parameters	Education efforts of SWCD, Storm Water Management Plan, and other agencies Ohio Lake Erie Commission Model Zoning Ordinance	
▪ County Subdivision	No riparian or wetland setbacks	Subdivision regulation update in progress	
▪ Ohio Revised Code	Change from local to state control of oil and gas well regulations Elimination of “general welfare” as a basis from some aspects of townships’ regulatory control over land use, leaving only “health and safety” as criteria.	Greater Ohio Township Association	

