

Kari A. Gerwin

4421 Berwick Ave. Toledo, Ohio 43612 • (419) 509-5251 • kari.gerwin77@gmail.com

**Director of Water Quality Planning, Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments
2018-Present**

Highlighted Work

- Secured and administered \$490,000 U.S. EPA Water Workforce Grant to recruit and train new water and wastewater operators to address the growing workforce need in northwest Ohio
- Led the development of TMACOG's first water quality legislative agenda through consensus building with over 100 members and partners
- Coordinated stakeholders to communicate collective interests of drinking water customers and regional stakeholders as Ohio EPA developed a nutrient reduction plan for Lake Erie
- Coordinated with statewide partners and provide testimony to oppose Ohio House Bill 175, which deregulated Ohio's ephemeral streams
- Developed recommendations for improved community engagement in state-level water policy making

Responsibilities

- Lead and develop the TMACOG Water Quality Program and supervise planning staff
- Build consensus on local, state and federal policy priorities for improving Lake Erie Water Quality
- Write water quality policy recommendations for the biennial update of TMACOG's legislative agenda – The Agenda for Lake Erie
- Oversee the development and update of the TMACOG region's Areawide Water Quality Management Plan to meet Clean Water Act Section 208 requirements
- Track State and Federal policy decisions and legislation impacting NPDES permits and western Lake Erie source water
- Engage the Ohio Legislature and Ohio state agencies on bills, rules, and policies impacting water quality through written and oral testimony, public comment, and one-on-one meetings
- Assist and advise local governments in meeting State and Federal water quality regulations
- Develop projects, apply for grant funds, and administer collaborative programs to support regional water quality goals
- Provide statements and interviews to the media to communicate water quality issues and promote the organization's initiatives

**Water Quality Planner, Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments
2012-2018**

Highlighted Work

- Coordinated stakeholder groups to engage Ohio EPA in development of the Ohio Stormwater Permit
- Developed educational materials and hosted workshops and events for the purposes of member professional development, legislator engagement, and public outreach

- Managed large and small grant-funded projects to address regional water quality problems

Agricultural Nutrient Reduction Cost-Share Program (\$500K GLRI, U.S. EPA)– Partnered with Soil and Water Conservation Districts to provide funding to farmers for implementation of nutrient management BMPs

Green Infrastructure Community Support (\$60K U.S. EPA Urban Waters) Work with community in Toledo, Ohio and public and private partners to create a community-driven plan for green infrastructure and green space

AFFILIATIONS

- Ohio Association of Regional Councils Water Quality Subcommittee
- Manure Nutrient Management Collaborative, a subgroup of the International Joint Commission Great Lakes Water Quality Board
- Maumee Scenic River Advisory Council

OTHER RELATED EXPERIENCE

GIS Analyst/Coordinator, October 2005 to December 2007

Colorado State University-Center for the Environmental Management of Military Lands

Adjunct Instructor, Spring Semester, 2008 – Spring Semester 2009

Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toledo, Toledo Ohio

EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Master of Arts in Geography and Planning (Environmental Geography), August 2006

University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio

Thesis: *Relating Watershed Land Cover to Biotic Integrity in the Lake Erie Direct Tributaries, Northwest Ohio* – Compiled Ohio EPA water quality data (IBI and ICI) and conducted land use assessment to analyze influence of land use on fish communities

Research Assistant – Worked with Maumee Remedial Action Plan (RAP) to prioritize restoration projects and practices in the Lake Erie Direct Tributaries. Developed biological, habitat, and water quality online database.

Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies, December 2003

University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio

Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) – Analyzed relationship between land use change and water turbidity/suspended solids in The Ottawa River Watershed using remote sensing, water quality data collection, and laboratory methods.