

"Healthy Waters, Healthy Communities, and Healthy Economies"



Keynotes:

- **Taylor Abbott**, Executive Director, Ohio River Commission
- **Anne Vogel**, Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Region 5

Plenary Sessions:

- **H2Ohio Program Panel** with leadership from Ohio Dept. of Agriculture, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Lake Erie Commission, Dept. of Natural Resources, and Ohio Water Partnership
- **Data Centers in Ohio Panel: Policy, Environmental, and Energy Implications** with speakers representing elected officials, government agencies, utilities, and industry
- **Ports & Commerce Panel** with speakers from across the basin representing port authorities and economic development

**Breakout Sessions, Socials & Networking,
Student Posters, & Restoration Site Field Trip!**

See next page for the full agenda & register online:
bit.ly/orb2026

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Ohio Environmental Council



THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY

Program Schedule Overview

Wednesday, October 14

Time	Activity	Location
12:00-1:00pm	Registration Open	North Atrium
12:00-4:00pm	Exhibitor and Poster Setup	North Atrium
1:00-4:00pm	Field Trip to Hellbranch Run Stream & Wetland Restoration Site	Meet at the Convention Center's North Atrium by 12:30pm
4:00-6:30pm	Informal Social Event	Agave and Rye (479 N High St. 43215)

Thursday, October 15

Time	Activity	Location
7:30-8:30am	Registration Open	North Atrium
8:30-9:00am	Opening Remarks & Award Ceremony	C-Pods
9:00-10:30am	Anne Vogel Keynote & H2Ohio Panel	C-Pods
10:30-10:45am	Break	North Atrium
10:45-12:15pm	Breakout Sessions	D-Pods
12:30-1:30pm	Lunch	C-Pods
1:30-3:00pm	Breakout Session	D-Pods
3:00-3:15pm	Break	North Atrium
3:15-4:30pm	Taylor Abbott Keynote & Ports and Commerce Panel	C-Pods
4:30-6:00pm	Poster Session and Happy Hour	North Atrium

Friday, October 16

Time	Activity	Location
7:30-8:30am	Registration Open	North Atrium
8:30-10:00am	Data Center Plenary Panel	C-Pods
10:00-10:15am	Break	North Atrium
10:15-11:45am	Breakout Sessions	D-Pods
11:45-12:30pm	Federal Perspectives on Ohio River Basin Restoration and Closing Session	C-Pods
12:30-1:30pm	Exhibitor and Poster Breakdown	North Atrium

Detailed Schedule

Wednesday, October 14

12:00-1:00pm | Registration Open | North Atrium of the CCC

1:00-4:00pm | Field Trip to **Hellbranch Run Stream and Wetland Restoration Site** with the Stream + Wetlands Foundation, Ohio Environmental Council, and the Big Darby Coalition

12:00-4:00pm | Exhibitor and Poster Setup | North Atrium of the CCC

4:00-6:30pm | Informal Social Event | Agave and Rye, 479 N High St., 43215

Thursday, October 15

7:30-8:30am | Registration (with continental breakfast) | North Atrium

8:30-9:00am | Opening Remarks | Rooms C170 and C171 ("C-Pods")

Welcome & presentation of the Ohio River Basin Champion Award by Chris Lorentz, Professor, Biological Sciences, Thomas More University and Chair, Ohio River Basin Alliance

9:00-9:30am | **Plenary Speaker** | C-Pods

Anne Vogel—Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, introduced by **Craig Butler**, Executive Director, Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District and Past Chair, Ohio River Basin Alliance

9:30-9:45am | **Break & View Student Posters and Exhibitors** | North Atrium

Exhibitors:

American Rivers

Fondriest Environmental

H2Ohio Rivers Program

LimnoTech

Miami Conservancy District

Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

Ohio River Foundation

Resource Environmental Solutions, LLC

State Climate Office of Ohio

Sustainable Economies

University of Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory

USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services - Ohio

Posters:

- *Applying Indigenous Scientific Principles to the Thomas More University Biology Field Station* Lillie Daniel (Thomas More University)
- *Bloom Mapper Satellite monitoring of harmful algal blooms in U.S. Lakes* Punwath Prum (University of Pittsburgh)
- *Comparing Bat Diversity Between a Developed Area and a Riparian Corridor Along the Ohio River* Julia Oberg (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)
- *Fish Tagging in Gunpowder Creek: A Pilot Study* Aaron Dennemann (Thomas More University) and Brock Bostick (University of Cincinnati)
- *From Water to Food Web: Microplastic Accumulation Across Freshwater Fish Trophic Levels* Isabella Bennett (Thomas More University) and Lilliana Bungiro (Salve Regina University)
- *Maximizing Juvenile Yield of Plain Pocketbook Mussels (*Lampsilis cardium*) Using Commonly Known Hosts* Daniel Schmidt (Thomas More University)
- *Testing Degeneration of Streams by Assessing Macroinvertebrate Biodiversity in Urbanized and Rural Ecosystems* Lauren Crowley (Thomas More University)

9:45-10:30am | **Panel Discussion on H2Ohio** | C-Pods

- **Jim Samuel**—Executive Director, Ohio Water Partnership (Moderator)
- **Brian Baldridge**—Director, Ohio Department of Agriculture
- **John Logue**—Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- **Joy Mulinex**—Executive Director, Ohio Lake Erie Commission
- **Steven Gray**—Assistant Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources

10:45am-12:15pm | **Breakout Sessions** | D-Pods

D181

1. 10:45-11:15am *One Voice, Shared Impact: Collaborative Structures for Clean Water & Healthy Ecosystems* Elizabeth Schuster and Marissa Ferrari (Sustainable Economies)
2. 11:15-11:45am *Clean Water in the Ohio River Basin & Beyond: A Full-Delivery Water Quality Solution from the H2Ohio Program* Paul Golubic (Resource Environmental Solutions, LLC)
3. 11:45-12:15pm *Aquifer Recharging Wetlands - Treating Surface Water to Protect Drinking Water* Chuck Brandel (ISG)

D182

1. 10:45-11:15am *Accelerating Ohio River Basin Restoration: Risk-Sharing Procurement Models for Nature-Based Solutions* Ben Eubanks (Resource Environmental Solutions, LLC)
2. 11:15-11:45am *Quantifying Legacy Stream Loss from Coal Refuse Disposal in West Virginia: Identifying Opportunities for Restoration* Shawn Grushecky (Resource Environmental Solutions, LLC)
3. 11:45-12:15pm *From Water Scarcity to Water Positive: Volumetric Water Benefits Through Watershed Restoration* Mimi Feldmann-DeMello (Resource Environmental Solutions, LLC)

12:30-1:30 pm | **Lunch** | C-Pods

1:30-3:00pm | **Breakout Sessions** | D-Pods

D181

1. 1:30-2:30pm *Bridging Research, Advocacy, and Practice: Network Collaboration for Appalachian Disaster Resilience* Emily Carlson (Central Appalachian Network) and Brendan Muckian-Bates (Appalachian Citizen's Law Center)
2. 2:30-3:00pm *From Federal Platform to Local Action: Building a Flood Resilient Ohio River* Brendan Muckian-Bates (Appalachian Citizen's Law Center)

D182

1. 1:30-2:30pm *Water for All: Centering Environmental Justice across the Ohio River Basin* Beck Swab (Root and Spiral)
2. 2:30-3:00pm *Wildlife damage management has an increasingly important role in conservation efforts* Caleb Wellman (USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services)

3:00-3:15pm | **Break & View Student Posters and Exhibitors** | North Atrium

3:15-3:45pm | **Plenary Speaker** | C-Pods

Taylor Abbott—Executive Director, Ohio River Commission, introduced by **Jonathan Burgess**, Director, University of Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory and Incoming Chair, Ohio River Basin Alliance

3:45-4:30pm | **Panel Discussion on River Commerce and Port Cities** | C-Pods

- **Jonathan Burgess**– Director, University of Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory and Incoming Chair, Ohio River Basin Alliance (Moderator)
- **Mary Ann Bucci**–Executive Director, Port of Pittsburgh Commission
- **Robert Naylor**–Director, Jefferson County Ohio Port Authority
- **Paul Worley**–Director, Adams County Economic Development

4:30-6:00pm | **Student Poster Session and Happy Hour Reception** | North Atrium

Friday, October 16

7:30-8:30am | Registration (with continental breakfast) | North Atrium

8:30-10:00am | **Panel Discussion: Data Centers in Ohio: Policy, Environmental, and Energy Implications** | C-Pods

- **Glen Delaney**–Director of Partnerships, Earth Economics (Moderator)
- **State Rep. Adam Holmes**–97th District, Ohio
- **Dana Saucier**–VP and Head of Economic Development, JobsOhio
- **Ben Levitt**–Director, Commodity Insights, S&P Global Commodity Insights
- **Glenn Marzluf, PE**–General Manager, Del-Co Water Company

10:00-10:15am | **Break** | North Atrium

10:15-11:45am | **Breakout Sessions** | D-Pods

D181

1. 10:15-10:45am *Approaches to Municipal and Community Engagement in Watershed Planning: Lessons Learned from Allegheny County, PA* Amy Miller (Allegheny County Conservation District)
2. 10:45-11:15am *Tazewell County Resiliency Projects: From Countywide Flood Planning to Nature-Based Implementation* Endicott Parks (Resource Environmental Solutions, LLC)
3. 11:15-11:45am - Open

D182

1. 10:15-10:45am *Long-term trends in Marcellus Shale produced water chemistry* Mel Shafer (West Virginia Water Research Institute)
2. 10:45-11:15am *Robinson Fork Mitigation Bank - A Case Study in Landscape-Scale Floodplain Restoration and Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration* Katie Wolff (Resource Environmental Solutions, LLC)
3. 11:15-11:45am *Improving the sustainability and resiliency of the Ohio River Basin: How can AI, 3D Digital Twins and Models help?* Sudhir Kshirsagar (Global Quality Corporation)

11:45am-12:30pm | **Federal Perspectives on Ohio River Basin Restoration** | C-Pods

12:30pm | **Closing Session** | C-Pods

- **Sarah Hippensteel Hall**, Manager of Communications, Outreach, and Stewardship, Miami Conservancy District and Incoming Vice Chair, Ohio River Basin Alliance
- **Jonathan Burgess**, Director, University of Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory and Incoming Chair, Ohio River Basin Alliance