

Regional Planning Scenario #1: Regional Engagement during Plan Update – Localized Regions

- Districts will be required to convene a meeting with surrounding Districts during the early stages of their plan update process to discuss options for shared services;
- The “region” will be different for each District (most likely adjoining Districts only);
- No shared services will be required, but the meeting(s) will hopefully promote such partnerships;
- No major changes to plans or cycles (may add a section in the format to talk about regional partnerships);
- Authority and responsibility remains with individual Districts;
- Pros: Promotes greater dialogue between neighbors, voluntary partnerships allow for maximum flexibility, retains local control
- Cons: Will add a lot of meetings over the course of a few years for already stretched coordinators (everyone is on different cycles), system doesn’t provide much formal framework for developing partnerships, will effectively have 52 different regions, no guarantee that anything will come of it.

Regional Planning Scenario #2: Regional Engagement during Plan Update – Established Regions

- Districts will be required to convene a meeting with all Districts in their ‘region’ during the early stages of their Plan Update;
- The “region” will be pre-defined (unsure how, perhaps OSWDO regions?) and the same for all Districts in that region;
- Each region can be coordinated by an Ohio EPA Planner to promote consistency and dialogue;
- Each region will have a regional ADR prepared by Ohio EPA Planner;
- No shared services will be required, but the meeting(s) will hopefully promote such partnerships;
- No major changes to plans or cycles (may add a section in the format to talk about regional partnerships);
- Authority and responsibility remains with individual Districts;
- Pros: Promotes greater dialogue between neighbors, voluntary partnerships allow for maximum flexibility, retains local control, promotes regional thinking in the planning process
- Cons: Adds multiple additional meetings, doesn’t incentivize border districts to work with their geographic neighbors

Regional Planning Scenario #3: Established Regions with dual-planning System

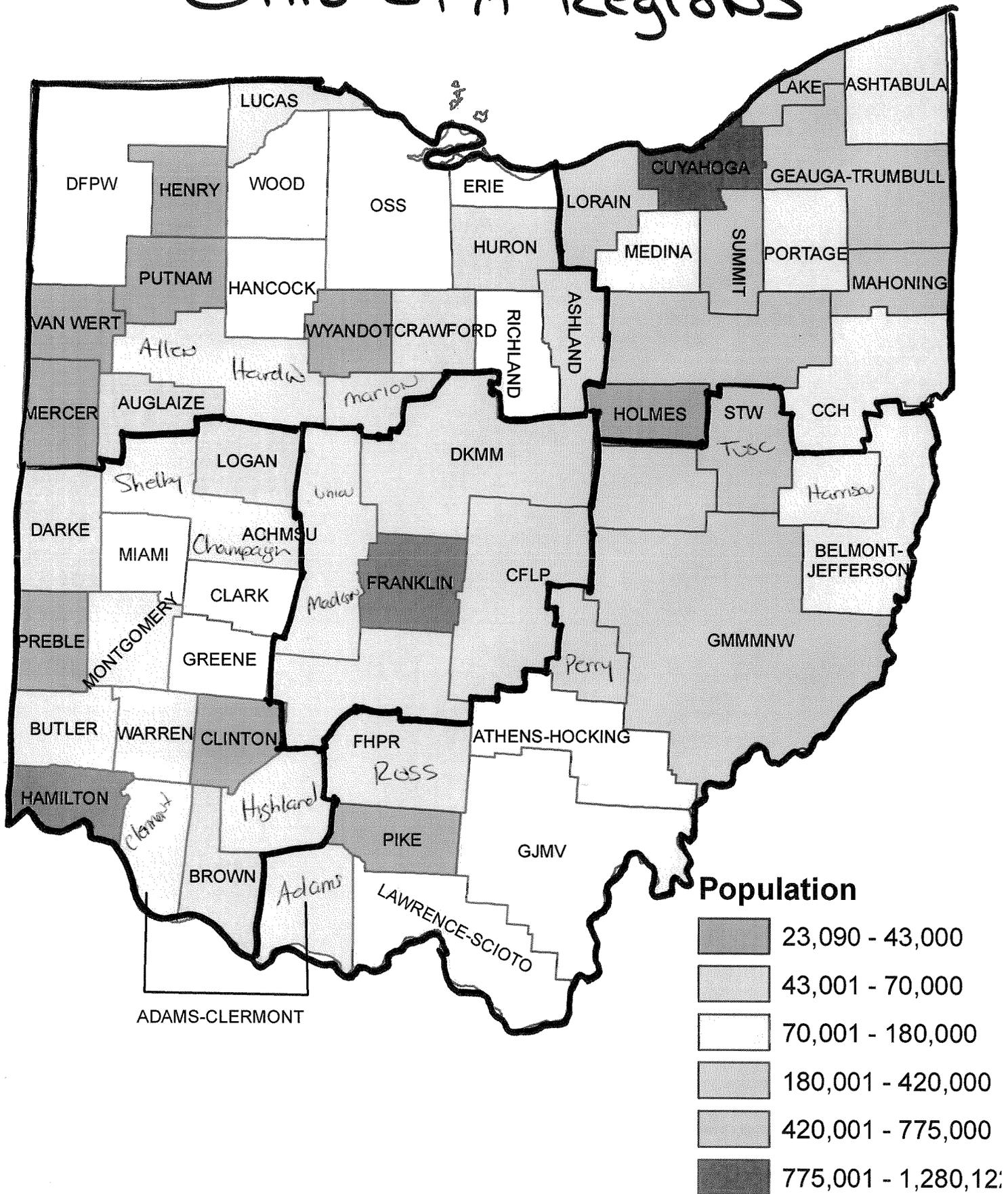
- Established regions, each coordinated by an Ohio EPA planner;
- Revamped planning system with two aspects: a regional strategic plan and a local operational plan:
 - Strategic Plan: Coordinated by Ohio EPA. Will be strategic, visionary, data intensive and have a special focus on shared services across the region (and with other regions). Will undergo “ratification” by District Board of Directors/Policy Committees;
 - Operational Plan: Extremely streamlined local plan focused on operational budget and programs. Should relate to regional strategic plan goals (but won’t do so exactly by the nature of having individual Districts). Ratification may be streamlined a bit;
- Plan cycle changed to put all Districts in a region on the same operational update schedule – approximately a year after the strategic plan is adopted? (regions will each be on different schedules);
- Percentage goal (and perhaps others?) is elevated to regional level (brings Ohio EPA into the fold for accountability of meeting goals) while access goal and program requirements remain responsibility of individual Districts;
 - Perhaps even promote regional specific goals?
- Regional ADR will be implemented – local ADR process dramatically streamlined;
- Authority remains with Districts, but responsibility for meeting some goals is shared between Ohio EPA and Districts;
- Pros: Promotes shared responsibility between Districts and Ohio EPA, streamlines local planning process, promotes regional thinking on goals, promotes strategic planning and visioning, maintains local authority; point persons on regions can help promote cooperation between regions;
- Cons: Adds another layer of planning “bureaucracy”, ‘Border’ Districts may have more in common with regional Districts than their neighbors (creating consistency issues)

Regional Planning Scenario #4: Established Regions with baseline Planning System

- Established regions, each coordinated by an Ohio EPA planner;
- Revamped planning system with two aspects: a regional baseline plan and local plan:
 - Regional Baseline: Ohio will coordinate the establishment of base services for all Districts in the region to meet the state goals – will require approval from Districts;
 - Local Plan: District will take the baseline plan and add additional programs, services, etc. to ‘personalize’ their plan prior to ratification (plan will likely be somewhat streamlined);
- Plan cycle changed to put all Districts in region on the same plan cycle – cycle will start with regional baseline development and then continue with local additions and ratification;
- Percentage goal (and perhaps others?) is elevated to regional level (brings Ohio EPA into the fold for accountability of meeting goals) while access goal and program requirements remain responsibility of individual Districts;
- Regional ADR will be implemented – local ADR process dramatically streamlined;
- Authority remains with Districts, but responsibility shared between Ohio EPA and Districts;
- Pros: Promotes some level of consistency in baseline services for all citizens in the region, promotes regional cooperation towards common goals, maintains overall District authority, brings Ohio EPA into the accountability fold
- Cons: Baseline development process will almost surely lengthen the planning process, can be extremely difficult to get agreement on consistency in any remotely large area

SWMD Population 2010

Ohio EPA Regions



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