

RAPs @ 20 LAMP



*Murray Charlton
NWRI July 11, 2006*

*Comments may not represent
Government of Canada or
Environment Canada*



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Canada

Differences and similarities between the LaMP and RAPs

- Both come from GLWQA
- Both are supposed to have an “ecosystem approach”
- Cause and effect overlap, for example, point and non-point sources
- RAP is a local focus for intense improvement eg: sediment remediation
- Lamp is a broad focus for maintenance of prior improvements plus watershed/habitat improvement



Intersection of LaMP and RAPs

- The LaMP requires a new implementation phase featuring land use improvements.
- Traditional LaMP personnel are not well equipped to assess and prioritize this implementation phase.
- Fortunately. Ontario Conservation Authorities have been active for some time on watersheds (for example)
- And RAPs have often taken a watershed

8/8/2006

Page 3

approach



Environment Canada
Environnement Canada

Canada

Dispelling The Myths

- RAPpers are tree huggers
- True, we admit that we think taxpayers money should be spent to improve the environment for everyone - but look at how many citizens have been enlisted. Improving public access and pleasure has been a major factor in the acceptability of some RAPs. Economic spin-offs are a good marketing feature too.

Dispelling The Myths

- “We’re going to get this done”
- Truth is we will make a good start and will repair some longstanding problems. BUT, if there are ongoing issues such as sewage that are related to people the issue does not go away. The operating funding for STP excellence will be a continuing budget debate.

Why The Pressure To Finish Up?

- Governments want new programs and many problems have been around for a long time.
- Some taxpayers buy into the quick fix scenario but concerned citizens do not.
- Some concerned citizens don't see an end or any possibility of success and some of these will actively oppose solutions.
- We need to understand government impatience and work with it.
- Promote the program via public groups

Multiple Threats Aren't Likely to Disappear

- Municipal Sewage
- Urban Runoff
- Changing Agriculture – feedlots
- Why isn't erosion control sold for its intrinsic value instead of saving Lake Erie?
- Industrial contamination – how did we ever get into the flame retardant problem???

Science to Aid LaMP and RAPS

- Often, proposed academic science cannot contribute to decisions because it is too detailed – generates information at a level unlikely to be used.
- Corollary is that science that will or might influence decisions should be high priority.
- Also, scientists need to get with the restoration program instead of marketing uncertainty as an impediment to decision progress.

Alien Species – An Issue Gone Wrong

- Since 1988 alien species have appeared at a rate of more than one per year!
- Early on the vector was clear – saltwater ships
- But, unlike decisions on detergents and PCBs governments have not taken incisive action.
- The ships are still in the lakes and I feel treatment of ballast water and any other mitigation will eventually fail.

Musings

- Need to tune up the BUIs
 - Some are not very workable eg: degraded zooplankton
 - May need some new ones eg: taste and odour
- Need to capture the energy for ecosystem improvements at watershed scales even though this scale may not have been foreseen.
- GLWQA Review

Musings

- What are the best things that happened?
- What factors contributed to them?
- Which of these can/should jurisdictions attempt to keep going?



Musings Into the Future

- The RAP and LaMP programs have been profitable because they focused attention. In some cases important public engagement continues.
- LaMPs call for more general improvements that are less easy to market.
- Ordinary folks can get their heads into the RAPs more easily than the LaMPs.
- Every important issue comes from a local source somewhere

BUT

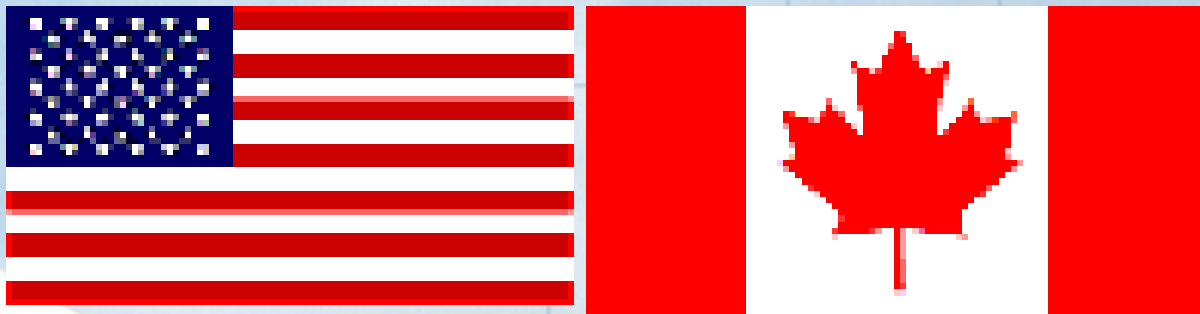
- OK, we have atmospheric sources.
- Even NPS come from somewhere.
- So, local actions where they can happen are very important despite other considerations.
- This means RAP-like activities will be needed for some time and possibly forever.
- Remedial *Action Plan* > *Management Action Plan*

Bottom Line

- We need lake wide goals.
- We need to de-list the AOCs that are close – get on with the worst ones.
- We need a vision for the lakes that includes local areas. Can't write off hot spots.
- We need a vision for the lakes as taxpayers see them.
 - Inordinate attention to fishing interests – not enough to the millions drinking and swimming
- Taxpayers will approve of resonating programs – it's our job to resonate



Thank you!



Friends Working Together