

CRITICAL LAKE ERIE LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE

DRAFT FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

Recommendations Summary

Tom Ridge Environmental Center
Erie, Pennsylvania

March 16-17, 2006

The participants of the dialogue were tasked with developing recommendations based on the needs assessment that was synthesized by the background paper and group discussion during the afternoon session. The needs established were grouped into four categories and a summary of the recommendations developed is provided below.

Communication/Education/Outreach

Group Members: Mary Ellen Scanlon, Bill Craig, Margaret Porter, Eric Obert

- A. Update contact list to get 2007 Lake Erie LaMP Update out to broader audience.
- B. Create a "Friends of Lake Erie" type of group, which could be a role played by the binational public forum.
 - a. Upcoming event (Lake Erie RAP summit) in the summer may be a good time to discuss the lakewide group, get on the agenda.
- C. Create a specific event to focus attention on the statue of Lake Erie. The event could use a model like Lake Superior Day. The event could work with people already in with the media to tie in local watersheds/initiatives to the lake. Boilerplate material could be sent out to groups to encompass all the benefits. Provide basic information and create a Lake Erie Day movement.

Governance/Coordination

Group Members: Matthew Child, Bayer Boyer, Gary Gulezian, Jim White

- D. Convene meeting of watershed implementers with those with an interest in the LaMP, what the LaMP is, and the how to enhance both, get some funding to:
 - a. Enhance understanding regarding watershed participants activities
 - b. Could happen 2006, summer
 - c. Convened by GLNPO and EC
- E. Structural changes to governance. Thinking along the lines of the George Francis structure.
 - a. Implementation agreements need to formally engage/ regional/local entities. (e.g. COA as a tripartite agreement).

- b. GL Cities Initiative, conservancy districts, conservation authorities.
- F. Understand the role of Agriculture and Land Use Issues
- a. Regulation vs. incentives
 - b. Linkage to land use, land stewardship, etc.
 - c. Nearshore and tributary focus to avoid going over the brink
 - d. Important role for local waters participants

Implementation/Funding/Data

Group Members: Dan Button, Matt Doss, Tim Bruno, Jim Grazio

- G. Clearer federal visions for roles of the LaMP
- a. Who: IJC
 - b. When: During the GLWQA
- H. LE LaMP needs to provide concrete recommendations/action plans to drive implementation.
- a. Who: Work Group/Management Committee
 - b. When: Next Meeting
- I. The LaMP should organize and analyze existing data (ex. Millennium Network) leading to an implementable action plan
- a. Who: Work Group
 - b. When: next meeting
- J. LaMP should help coordinate RAP and non-RAP watersheds efforts, facilitate 2-way communication and recommend appropriate levels of funding
- a. Who: Working Group
 - b. When: ongoing

LaMP/GLWQA

Group Members: Jennifer Vincent, Elizabeth Wright, Julie Letterhos, Dan O’Riordan, Lori Boughton, Kai Chen

- K. Parties need to more clearly define LaMP and embed it within the agreement.
- L. Use LaMPs as an umbrella which will manage all great lakes activities, so all local work is directed to the same goal, a shift in thinking and management. LaMP is currently a sideline.
- M. Current agreement is a barrier, focused on toxics, but huge impacts from land use, invasives not covered.
- i. Remove BUI focus from the lake analysis
 - ii. Re-evaluate critical pollutant focus
 - iii. Evaluate a more ecosystem management approach

- O. Consider a shorter vision-style agreement with a clear domestic action agreement (Eg. COA), paired with a detailed implementation plan
 - i. agreement currently dates itself quickly

- P. Council of Watersheds
 - i. LaMP a steward of lake and RAPs evolve to become a watershed focus to aid in implementing the Lamp. RAP work does not end with restoration of BUIs, ongoing work needed. 34 reps to meet with LaMP group to begin conservation and coordination.
 - ii. “Lake Erie Jamboree”, summer 2006