

Lake Erie Areas of Concern Summit

July 11-12, 2006 ~ Tom Ridge Environmental Center ~ Erie, PA

Notes from Breakout Discussion Sessions

Meeting participants were divided into four groups for focused discussion on the following questions:

- *What are the common themes among the many suggested priorities for followup actions?*
- *Which are the highest priorities for the Lake Erie community as a whole?*
- *How can we work collectively on these priorities and how should we follow up on them?*

The following are notes from each breakout group.

Breakout Session #1

Priorities:

1. Linking land to water (via LaMP councils, Phase II stormwater model, statewide advisory councils, state coastal management and nonpoint source programs, etc.)
2. Education of public officials and other decisionmakers
3. Influence decisionmakers
4. Funding that is consistent and innovative
5. Strong leadership (mentor programs, orientation kits)

Notes:

- Assessment and remediation of beneficial use impairments
- Consistent funding of positions
- Linking land to water
 - consider watershed when addressing issues
 - source area / impacted area
 - RAP/LaMP exchange of ideas
- Education
 - educate and influence public officials
 - educate decisionmakers
 - communication to the public
- Consistent and innovative funding / financing innovations
- Strong leadership
- Consistent monitoring (before and after)
- Wetlands
- Influence the “right” people (public, media)

Breakout Session #2

Priorities:

1. Communication between RAPs and LaMPs (local, technical)
2. RAP representation on the LaMP
3. Create and maintain forums for information exchange (e.g., clearinghouse for information)

4. Training on funding
5. Newsletters and communication tools (e.g., e-forums)
6. Linkages with local watersheds (get information out)

Who:

- Watershed authorities, local implementers.
- Technology transfer: RAP forums, workshops with special themes.

Notes:

- Social marketing: facilitates environmental problems and solutions and changes human behavior and recruitment.
- Education: Informed – motivated – taking action.
- Linking RAPs with LaMPs, including land issues.
- Communication measures to share information, resources and actions
- RAP updates on emerging pollutants and human health (chemical warfare on our children)
- RAP/LaMP funding
- Stop pollution – connect land use and pollution controls with the water
- Communicate with other groups to get stronger and identify different ways to get things done.
- Sustainable, CORE funding for RAPs – need local, dedicated and continuing leadership and more focused funding for BUIs and monitoring needed after delisting.
- Communication of BUI implementation specifics / clearinghouse.
- LaMPs should always have included RAPs and local watershed groups.
- RAPs need to go after diverse funding sources (become nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and look at success stories among the RAPs.
- Convey economic costs of not protecting the land and try to motivate citizens and generate funding.
- Issue of governance – vertical and horizontal layers of government
- Self-funded organizations.

Breakout Session #3

Priorities:

1. Funding
2. Communication plan (public, stakeholders, policymakers, etc.)
3. Outcome / AOC delisting integrated with lakewide efforts
4. Carry out implementation plan
5. Monitor /measure

Notes:

- Sustainable funding (“bang for your buck”)
- Integration/networking (policymakers, legislators, funders, experts, users)
- Public education
- Public involvement (get to the users)
- AOC impacts to the lake as individual areas
- Effective communication
- Create tangible goals for the AOCs (implementation of issues)
- Re-energize communities, stakeholders
- Research links to LaMP and remedial actions
- Outcome-based attention to high priority issues for lakewide focus
- Involvement of student interns to deliver research message to community

- Create buy-in by tailoring information to stakeholders
- Track outcomes lakewide to drive priorities of AOCs.
- Funding; contingent upon economic impacts; value must be shown (sustaining working landscapes); local RAP opportunity costs.

Breakout Session #4

Priorities:

1. Core funding and implementation (dedicated staff – local and state; operational funds)
2. Water-land connections (monitoring, urban sprawl, etc.)
3. Networking (between RAPs; between RAPs and LaMPs; between locals and state/federal agencies)
 - a. Informal
 - b. Formal
 - c. Meetings
 - d. Between LaMPs and RAPs
 - e. RAP implementers