



Lake Erie Areas of Concern Summit

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

Survey Responses on Remedial Action Plan Activities in Lake Erie's Areas of Concern

Lake Erie Areas of Concern

MICHIGAN

Clinton River
River Raisin
Rouge River

MICHIGAN/ONTARIO

St. Clair River
Detroit River

NEW YORK

Buffalo River

OHIO

Maumee River
Black River
Cuyahoga River
Ashtabula River

PENNSYLVANIA

Presque Isle Bay

ONTARIO

Wheatley Harbour

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Attached are survey responses reviewing Remedial Action Plan (RAP) activities in Lake Erie's Areas of Concern. The responses were submitted by the chairs of the local RAP committees in the Areas of Concern. The RAP committee chairs were asked to respond to the following questions:

- 1) Summarize the activities underway in your RAP to restore beneficial uses and make progress toward delisting.
- 2) What are you doing in addition to working on your beneficial use impairments?
- 3) What are the key obstacles that you face and how could you benefit from the experiences of the other Lake Erie AOCs and the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan?
- 4) What types of resources or assistance would be most useful in expediting progress in your RAP?
- 5) Please provide any other comments or information about your RAP that you feel is important.

Ashtabula River, Ohio

Submitted By: Carl Anderson

1) Summarize the activities underway in your RAP to restore beneficial uses and make progress toward delisting.

The Ashtabula River Dredge Plan has been approved and financing is in place for the project. Construction is well underway on the landfill and sediment transport pipeline. We anticipate using a hydraulic Dredge with a cutter head under water. We are removing a total of 700,000 cubic yards of sediment. There will be a clean sand cover on the river following dredging in any areas with minor residual contamination. We are also working with local property owners to resolve any issues they may have with our project as an outreach function.

The material will be pumped 3 ½ miles to the landfill through a 16" double lined welded plastic pipeline with 3 booster pumps in the line. We will dewater and treat the water at the landfill and send it back to the river via a second pipeline. We are on schedule for a September start on the dredging. Dredging is scheduled to be complete and the landfill capped in July 2008. This remedy will remove the majority of the contaminated mass, reduce human health and ecological risks to acceptable levels over time, provide sufficient navigable water depths, and revitalize another Ohio River system. RAP members believe this remedy will go a long way towards allowing the AOC to be eligible for future delisting.

2) What are you doing in addition to working on your beneficial use impairments?

Ashtabula RAP members have focused almost exclusively upon contaminated sediment removal. There are some other activities members get involved with annually. The local Speakers Bureau conducts general public outreach and education and also appears on local and regional radio and television stations and numerous newspapers. We assist with the local Waterways Adventure course offered to area schools for grades 4 through 6 teaching water quality, ecology, and science in a practical hands-on curriculum reaching 2350 students over a five year period. An Ashtabula Watershed Steering Committee composed of some current RAP members recently formed. The Committee is currently seeking ODNR funding under its Watershed Coordinator grant program to develop a Watershed Action Plan (WAP) for the entire 37-mile watershed. Post-cleanup, a comprehensive Ashtabula River WAP will be an important tool for community-based long term watershed management of the Ashtabula River.

3) What are the key obstacles that you face and how could you benefit from the experiences of the other Lake Erie AOCs and the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan?

Post dredging will include fish habitat shelves in areas of the river that are suitable. The Partnership really has no major hurdles remaining other those that may evolve in construction.

4) What types of resources or assistance would be most useful in expediting progress in your RAP?

We are well underway to remediation of the river and can think of none at this time. Following dredging in order to remove Ashtabula as an AOC, we may need to revisit this question.

5) Please provide any other comments or information about your RAP that you feel is important.

Black River, Ohio

Submitted By: Ken Pearce, RAP Chair
Ted Conlin, RAP Coordinator
Anne Marie Vincent, RAP Liaison

1) Summarize the activities underway in your RAP to restore beneficial uses and make progress toward delisting.

Over the past couple of years, the Black River RAP has been successful in demonstrating incremental improvements in the RAP process. On Earth Day 2004, a 21-year old advisory against coming into contact with the water and sediments of the mainstem was lifted by the Ohio Department of Health. At the same time, the designation of the Black River's Fish Tumors and Other Deformities beneficial use impairment was changed to In Recovery Phase. Both of these success were mainly due to the dredging of contaminated sediments in the mainstem. In 2005, the health of the benthic macro-invertebrate communities in the East Branch of the Black River improved to such an extent, the RAP was able to delist this river segment for the Degradation of Benthos beneficial use impairment.

With an AOC encompassing an entire watershed, water and habitat quality impacts, especially those coming from non-point sources can be loosely associated to specific geographical areas. With that in mind, the Black River RAP, with help with the watershed coordinator, has been expanding its effort to develop local sub-watershed groups. These groups will be better able to affect changes in local policies and other land use decisions. The RAP has been demonstrating the need for riparian protection and set-back ordinances to county boards of commissioners and their county department heads.

The Lorain County General Health District has started a comprehensive home sewage treatment system inspection and operations and maintenance program. An earlier RAP program to reduce mercury contamination by the City of Elyria has been exported to the rest of the watershed.

2) What are you doing in addition to working on your beneficial use impairments?

Education and Outreach. The RAP recently produced a new RAP video that explains the progress that has been made in the watershed and what is now needed to complete the restoration. The RAP is looking to expand on this by producing videos specific for each major sub-watershed in the AOC. By continuing to develop these outreach efforts, the RAP hopes to be able to instill a stewardship at a local level that will allow for water quality and habitat improvements sub-watershed by sub-watershed.

3) What are the key obstacles that you face and how could you benefit from the experiences of the other Lake Erie AOCs and the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan?

Public perception.

- We continue to fight the battle that impacts to habitat or water quality is everyone's problem and not a regulatory issue, especially in the large rural and agricultural expanses of the watershed. That is why we are taking on the battle locally.
- In much of the watershed, water management means getting the runoff waters off the property as quickly as possible. Little local effort is afforded to help with excess runoff waters besides cleaning ditches.

4) What types of resources or assistance would be most useful in expediting progress in your RAP?

Help change public perception.

We have no economists on the RAP and with the dire financial situations in the industrialized areas around the Great Lakes, would it be helpful to develop state-by-state conferences for county commissioners, mayors, zoning and planning boards, etc. that could demonstrate the economic benefits of dealing with non-point source. Many times everything at the local level depends so much on costs. Many articles have been written on this and there are many web sites discussing this, but the word is not getting to the people who need to hear it. Many of the public officials may want to affect changes but fear a backlash from their constituents because of the cost. If some one could only be able to look at the local environmental problems and help the officials see past the initial costs to the eventual savings at the end. But to be effective, this would have to be set up state by state and each conference would have to specifically address problems AOC by AOC.

5) Please provide any other comments or information about your RAP that you feel is important.

Buffalo River, New York

Submitted By: Jill Spisiak Jedlicka, Buffalo River RAP Coordinator

- 1) **Summarize the activities underway in your RAP to restore beneficial uses and make progress toward delisting.**
 - Contaminated Sediment Feasibility Study
 - Assessment of Phytoplankton Pops, and Eutrophication
 - Assessment of bird populations and herpetological populations
 - Habitat Assessment in Buffalo and Niagara River AOCs
 - Remediation of inactive hazardous waste sites
 - Review and implementation of CSO Long Term Control Plan

- 2) **What are you doing in addition to working on your beneficial use impairments?**
 - Updating RAP Remedial Strategy and establishing Monitoring Protocol
 - Riverwatch Program, Cleanups and Public Outreach efforts
 - Buffalo River Greenway, Open Space Preservation and Habitat Restoration
 - SPDES Permit Reviews
 - Brownfield Opportunity Area Planning
 - Establishing a Buffalo River Information Repository
 - Buffalo River Economic Valuation Study (U of Illinois, and NEMW Institute)

- 3) **What are the key obstacles that you face and how could you benefit from the experiences of the other Lake Erie AOCs and the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan?**
 - Funding and prioritization
 - Flow dynamics of river combined with impacts of navigational dredging and shoreline alteration make development of delisting criteria and an updated remedial strategy difficult
 - Buffalo River has never confirmed whether it should be a part of the Lake Erie LaMP or Lake Ontario LaMP, since it has hydrologic connections to both...therefore, the LaMP process has not been utilized to its fullest or adequately applied to our AOC.

- 4) **What types of resources or assistance would be most useful in expediting progress in your RAP?**
 - We need research conducted on what an “urban, non-AOC reference community” would look like in terms of delisting criteria
 - Need more opportunities for RAP Coordinators and representatives to meet and/or discuss progress, problems, and to establish “strength in numbers” to pressure governments of all levels to find funding and prioritize RAP implementation

- 5) **Please provide any other comments or information about your RAP that you feel is important.**

Clinton River, Michigan

Submitted By: MARK RICHARDSON, RAP CHAIR

- 1) Summarize the activities underway in your RAP to restore beneficial uses and make progress toward delisting.**

We have completed draft delisting criteria for our eight BUIs. We have initiated work on a two-year project to develop specific delisting criteria for habitat-related BUIs that will apply on a sub-watershed basis. We have begun work on a RAP update.

- 2) What are you doing in addition to working on your beneficial use impairments?**

We are providing stakeholder oversight for the Clinton River watershed initiative, a two year project to develop an integrated data base, modeling tool, identify critical areas and draft restoration plan (RAP update)

- 3) What are the key obstacles that you face and how could you benefit from the experiences of the other Lake Erie AOCs and the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan?**

Lack of data to identify candidate areas for contaminated sediment removal. More contacts with and support needed from local government units to develop coherent land use strategy.

- 4) What types of resources or assistance would be most useful in expediting progress in your RAP?**

More grants to conduct sediment studies and develop contaminated sediment removal strategy.

- 5) Please provide any other comments or information about your RAP that you feel is important.**

Number of local governments/agencies makes coordinating water quality related land use measures difficult.

Cuyahoga River, Ohio

Submitted By: Jim White, RAP Executive Director

1) Summarize the activities underway in your RAP to restore beneficial uses and make progress toward delisting.

Delisting Action Plan, funded by USEPA Grant under development. Actions moving forward in: Ship Channel, CSOs, Dam removal, Tributary-based Watershed management plans, Long-term Sediment management plans.

2) What are you doing in addition to working on your beneficial use impairments?

A) Organizational development of tributary-based watershed organization to support trib-based watershed stewardship.

B) Education and Outreach brochure series to help educate 1400 local public officials regarding watershed functions and sustainable stewardship.

C) Wetland Mapping and Mitigation brokering

D) CLEERTEC- Cuyahoga/ Lake Erie Environmental Restoration Technology Enterprise Center developing "Green Bulkhead" ship channel edge system.

E) Exploring the formation of a Self-funding watershed organization e.g. Conservancy District for watershed management.

3) What are the key obstacles that you face and how could you benefit from the experiences of the other Lake Erie AOCs and the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan?

A) Geopolitical Complexity- 91 local governments in the Cuyahoga Watershed

B) Lack of central coordinating function/ "Diplomatic Recognition" of RAPs by community partners

C) Lack of a sustainable funding source for operational capacity for watershed management.

D) Inadequate monitoring/ reporting functions and sources for measuring trends and progress

4) What types of resources or assistance would be most useful in expediting progress in your RAP?

A) Predictable/ sufficient source of operating funds

B) Coordinated – States& Lake work plan with coordinated performance targets for prioritizing RAP work goals and local skills.

5) Please provide any other comments or information about your RAP that you feel is important.

Detroit River – U.S.

Submitted By: Connie Boris, Ph.D., Chair, Detroit River Public Advisory Council

1) Summarize the activities underway in your RAP to restore beneficial uses and make progress toward delisting.

The Detroit River Public Advisory Council-U.S. side has re-formed after the original PAC group of committed individuals was disbanded, approximately two years ago. The new PAC group, formed over the past six months, has initiated the following activities:

Meeting on a bimonthly basis instead of quarterly basis in order to move the process of de-listing faster

Approving the establishment of a subcommittee to develop criteria to delist the fish and wildlife degradation impairment and the fish and wildlife habitat impairment, a subcommittee to develop criteria to delist the remaining beneficial use impairments, and a subcommittee for other purposes, such as fund-raising. (The original PAC group also had a subcommittee that researched the literature on all the BUIs and developed delisting criteria for many of the BUIs)

Commented on the State of Michigan's Delisting Criteria for Beneficial Use Impairments

Met with state Legislators to appropriate monies to support GLNPO and the GLC by discussing accomplishments

Discussing adopting the Clinton River PAC by-laws as the Detroit River PAC by-laws
(A few years ago, the original PAC group spent several months drafting a set of by-laws with the help of an attorney, but their work product is not being considered at this time.)

2) What are you doing in addition to working on your beneficial use impairments?

Attending SPAC, professional, and society meetings to represent the Detroit River AOC

Brainstorming on approaches to increase participation on the Detroit River PAC

Awareness of a need for fund-raising to cover at least administrative expenses (which had always been borne by previous PAC members as personal out-of-pocket expenses)

3) What are the key obstacles that you face and how could you benefit from the experiences of the other Lake Erie AOCs and the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan?

Besides funding, which is a key obstacle, the other obstacle is the disconnect between the RAP goals and the acute lack of awareness on the part of elected officials and local government staff. Habitat-related BUIs do not show up on governmental radar screens or if a habitat conservation proposal is presented by a group, it doesn't get implemented or integrated into municipal activities, so very little is accomplished.

A key observation is that the PAC is without authority and without funding. As one PAC member aptly described, the PAC is just a "club". The Detroit RAP 200 + recommendations are still just a list and not incorporated into municipal planning.

The Detroit River PAC-U.S. is expected to be well represented at the Lake Erie Summit, and we hope to learn from your experience and how you expect to see your recommendations implemented in the future, particularly the recommendations for the fish and wildlife BUIs.

4) What types of resources or assistance would be most useful in expediting progress in your RAP?

The Detroit River PAC has always been comprised of a group of volunteers committed to protecting the River. However, in addition to their volunteer time, they have had to pick up the costs for copying, mailing, FOIA requests, mileage. So one useful item to expedite progress would be funding to supply the most basic resources: powerpoint projector, display board showcasing the Detroit River RAP-U.S., copying, mailing, and mileage expenses for meetings (not office rental expenses – just out-of-pocket expenses supported with receipts).

5) Please provide any other comments or information about your RAP that you feel is important.

The Detroit River PAC-U.S. has little to report in terms of concrete accomplishments since the 1999 and 2001 Remedial Action Plan drafts. The Detroit River PAC-Canada is funded, while the Detroit River PAC-U.S. has no funding and hasn't had any funding for several years. Because the Detroit River PAC is comprised of a group of committed volunteers, they have to believe that their time is being used wisely and they are serving a purpose. Given the time constraints of most individuals, if they cannot readily perceive that progress is being made, they will drop out of the group. So, we need suggestions on ways to keep the PAC energized with no funding and see that their recommendations on delisting BUIs or other recommendations are implemented in the near future. Have other PACs become a non-profit organization and has that helped them secure funding? Has it been worthwhile for them to them to set up a non-profit given the requirements of 2-year audits, etc?

Detroit River – Canada

Submitted By: Melanie Coulter, RAP Coordinator

1) Summarize the activities underway in your RAP to restore beneficial uses and make progress toward delisting.

There are a number of RAP implementation activities underway in the Canadian portion of the Detroit River AOC. Organizationally, we have several active committees and work groups that oversee different aspects of the RAP. This includes the Public Advisory Council and Outreach Committee which organize public involvement and education, and provide public feedback about the RAP to other implementers. Our Implementation Committee includes many community organizations who are working on RAP implementation including (among others): the City of Windsor which is upgrading its pollution control plant and attempting to eliminate CSOs; the Essex Region Conservation Authority and the Essex County Stewardship Network which work with landowners to implement habitat enhancement and non-point source pollution reduction projects; Environment Canada which undertakes extensive research into wildlife and water quality issues; Ontario Ministry of the Environment which is attempting to track down point sources in AOC tributaries; Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources which is completing a GIS-based natural cover assessment of the area; and the University of Windsor which does a great deal of Detroit River research and monitoring. There is also an active Habitat Work Group which has recently completed an aquatic habitat assessment and is currently developing a list of priority habitat sites in the AOC. Our Monitoring and Research Work Group has nearly completed an assessment of the current status of BUIs in the AOC, recently developed a coordinated monitoring plan for the RAP, and is also working with the St. Clair Canadian RAP Implementation Committee to coordinate corridor monitoring activities where appropriate. These are only some of the many RAP activities taking place. Additional information is available on our web site (address below).

2) What are you doing in addition to working on your beneficial use impairments?

We are engaged in a variety of public education and outreach activities through our Outreach Committee and RAP Coordinator. We have a regular electronic newsletter that is very popular, and are planning a large public celebration of one of the Detroit River islands which has been the home of bald eagles in recent years. We have conducted educational campaigns about various issues, including the need to properly dispose of household chemicals, awareness of household mercury items, bald eagles nesting in the watershed, and Detroit River delisting criteria. The Public Advisory Council is also currently working on a report card about efforts to address BUI #1 (fish consumption advisories).

3) What are the key obstacles that you face and how could you benefit from the experiences of the other Lake Erie AOCs and the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan?

Because resources are always limited, we would benefit from having access to educational materials prepared in other RAPs that could be adapted and/or printed in our area. We would also benefit from the work that other RAPs have done with respect to delisting criteria, especially identifying appropriate restoration standards for Lake Erie communities. Given that we are a binational AOC, we would also benefit from the opportunity to meet with participants in other binational AOCs to learn how they address some of the unique issues facing binational RAPs.

4) What types of resources or assistance would be most useful in expediting progress in your RAP?

Of course, additional financial and human resources to develop and undertake RAP implementation activities are always important and required. However, we would also benefit from the results of any monitoring activities that include the Detroit River (especially when the results can be measured against other nearby AOCs).

5) Please provide any other comments or information about your RAP that you feel is important.

For more information about the Canadian portion of the Detroit River RAP, please visit our web site – www.DetroitRiver.ca – or contact our Coordinator at postmmaster@detroitriver.ca.

Maumee River, Ohio

Submitted By: Cherie Blair, Matt Horvat, and Patrick Lawrence

1) Summarize the activities underway in your RAP to restore beneficial uses and make progress toward delisting.

While compiling projects in the *Activities and Accomplishment in the Maumee AOC 1991-2001* (2002) the Maumee RAP was evaluating its next steps toward delisting. When Ohio EPA created the *Delisting Targets for Ohio Areas of Concern* (2005) the path was set for the development of the *Maumee AOC Stage 2 Watershed Restoration Plan* (DRAFT-Jan. 2006) (*Stage 2 Plan*). This *Stage 2 Plan* has received "Full Endorsement Pending" status from the State of Ohio and will be fully endorsed with the completion of a Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Measures section. Ohio EPA is now reviewing this plan as an official Maumee RAP Stage 2 Report.

As the Maumee RAP gears up for the implementation of this *Stage 2 Plan* they are evaluating the structure of their organization, its capabilities, resources, and what projects will best lead them to delisting. This strategic and organizational planning is expected to be captured in Volume 3 of the *Stage 2 Plan* which is expected to be submitted to Ohio EPA along with other requested changes in early 2007.

2) What are you doing in addition to working on your beneficial use impairments?

During the planning and review mentioned in question #1 the Maumee RAP has continued to develop and implement projects and has maintained its community outreach efforts such as the *Swan Creek Watershed Pilot Project*, *Ottawa River Dam Decommission and Stream Restoration Project*, *Give Water a Hand Residential and Business Campaigns*, *Get the Lead Out!*, *Clean Your Streams*, and *Student Watershed Watch*.

One of the main objectives of the Maumee RAP through the *Stage 2 Plan* is to develop plans and projects that are ready for implementation as funding opportunities arise. With most funding sources today looking for on-the-ground, ready to implement projects the only way to take advantage of those opportunities is to prepare plans in advance and to build the support of local communities, educators, business and other partners. Most of the funding requested by the Maumee RAP is to support the development of these plans and to support staff that will guide their funding, implementation, and public involvement.

3) What are the key obstacles that you face and how could you benefit from the experiences of the other Lake Erie AOCs and the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan?

The Maumee RAP has been successful in identifying and funding projects over the last 15+ years. However, with funding options decreasing the Maumee RAP needs to determine the best structure and methods for raising funds to implement projects while maintaining the staff to develop the projects, build partnerships, and maintain the organization of volunteers. The Maumee RAP could benefit from others who have overcome similar capacity and sustainability challenges.

4) What types of resources or assistance would be most useful in expediting progress in your RAP?

If ongoing and secure RAP program/staff funding for agency and local coordinators can be established, a more concentrated effort can be placed on fundraising and partnership building for large projects that can move the Maumee AOC closer to delisting.

5) Please provide any other comments or information about your RAP that you feel is important.

Presque Isle Bay, Pennsylvania

Submitted By: Dr. Mike Campbell

1) **Summarize the activities underway in your RAP to restore beneficial uses and make progress toward delisting.**

Infrastructure improvements in the City of Erie, at great expense, to eliminate dry weather and combined sewer overflows and construct a 4-million gallon overflow retention facility

Studies of major streams in Presque Isle Bay watershed and identification of priorities for remediation of non-point source pollution – initial stages of developing a comprehensive watershed management plan

Natural recovery, with source control measures has been suggested to be the most viable strategy for managing contaminated sediments; ongoing sedimentation and sediment transport studies expected to provide scientific basis for supporting this concept.

Intensive effort has been directed to monitoring tumor rates in brown bullheads, and trying to pin-point exact causes. Current studies are focusing on the development of delisting targets for this BUI, improved methods of tumor identification and data analysis methodologies for comparing tumor rates in Lake Erie AOCs to background tumor rates. Presque Isle Bay researchers are also conducting field studies seeking to learn more about the ecology of brown bullheads, including their migration behavior between the bay and outer harbor areas.

2) **What are you doing in addition to working on your beneficial use impairments?**

Numerous successful programs have been developed by stakeholders to increase public education about aquatic ecology, the RAP process, non-point source pollution, invasive species, etc.

Stakeholder groups have been involved in numerous volunteer clean-up efforts and habitat improvement projects. The PA Lake Erie Watershed Association (PLEWA) has begun to focus its energy on the Presque Isle Bay watershed, including recent assistance with a funding request to install litter traps on two streams (Mill Creek and Garrison Run) that are major sources of non-point source pollution to the bay.

Recently completed sediment study including surface grab samples, core sampling, and toxicity bioassays – preliminary results presented at May 2006 IAGLR meeting and discussion there suggest possibility that we may soon be able to delist on the BUI for “restrictions on dredging”

3) **What are the key obstacles that you face and how could you benefit from the experiences of the other Lake Erie AOCs and the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan?**

Obstacles:

Identifying the underlying causes of fish tumors, and definitively relating tumors to specific contaminants in the bay is an extremely difficult, if not impossible task. Monitoring fish tumors is a major drain on local resources (funds and people).

The costs and technical hurdles of addressing non-point source pollution sources from the watershed, particularly in already developed areas, are overwhelming.

How we could benefit from other AOCs and LaMP:

Sharing information about how other AOCs are addressing fish tumor questions

Sharing ideas about how others are planning and funding watershed restoration in their AOCs

LaMP technical guidance and leadership for our local AOC watershed restoration plan

4) What types of resources would be most useful in expediting progress in your RAP?

Funding programs coupled with technical assistance specifically for AOC watershed restoration planning

Funding for cost-share incentive programs that target retrofitting BMPs at already developed sites

Funding and leadership for Lake Erie AOCs working together to annually evaluate background tumor rates in Lake Erie bullheads, and comprehensive studies (including consideration of viral and parasite effects) to determine linkage between contaminants and brown bullhead tumors in Lake Erie AOCs

5) Please provide any other comments or information about your RAP that you feel is important.

Presque Isle Bay is an extremely important economic resource in our community, for recreation and tourism. This greatly increases the intensity of stakeholders' emotions about negative labels associated with the site, and has created tension within the PAC. Have other Lake Erie AOCs experienced similar issues with the AOC designation?

River Raisin, Michigan

Submitted By: Richard G. Micka, River Raisin PAC

- 1) Summarize the activities underway in your RAP to restore beneficial uses and make progress toward delisting.**

On-going remediation of sludge lagoons along I-75 at the River Raisin in Monroe, Michigan (Michigan DEQ).
Type of contamination remediated -- PCBs.

- 2) What are you doing in addition to working on your beneficial use impairments?**

Pilot Watershed Improvement Plan (Coastal Management Grant). Restoration of 1812 River Raisin Battlefield in the Coastal Zone (remediation of Old Paper Mill; demolition and removal to licensed landfill.)

- 3) What are the key obstacles that you face and how could you benefit from the experiences of the other Lake Erie AOCs and the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan?**

Not eligible for funding under the Great Lakes Legacy Act due to a consent decree between U.S. EPA and Ford Motor Company. Unable to complete remediation of Section 307 site identified by Harding ESE (MACTEC) in a detailed analysis (6.25.03). Another obstacle is the criteria established for removal of PCBs (Pounds of PCBs removed versus percent PCBs removed). Experiences of other Lake Erie AOCs and Lakewide Management Plan pending resolution of Consent Decree.

- 4) What types of resources or assistance would be most useful in expediting progress in your RAP?**

Enhanced maintenance dredging of the Federal Navigation Channel by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Detroit District). A confined disposal facility (CDF) is available. The CDF would need to be evaluated for disposal of contaminated material.

- 5) Please provide any other comments or information about your RAP that you feel is important.**

See details on River Raisin Area of Concern at: www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc/rvraisin.html.

Rouge River, Michigan

Submitted By: Bill Craig, Chair, Rouge River RAP Advisory Council

1) Summarize the activities underway in your RAP to restore beneficial uses and make progress toward delisting.

There are a number of inter-related efforts that have made progress towards restoration of BUIs in Rouge River watershed; notably, the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project, aka Rouge Project (www.rougeriver.com), the State of Michigan Watershed based MS4 Voluntary General Storm Water Permit (www.michigan.gov/deq), the Assembly of Rouge Communities (www.rougeriver.com), and the Friends of the Rouge (www.therouge.org). The list of projects and partners is extensive. The Rouge Project website has two recent reports that would point to progress being made, the 2004 Year in Review Report and the 2004 (Dec 2005) Rouge River Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment Report. Eliminating many CSOs, reducing SSOs, storm water detention projects, streambank stabilization, habitat restoration projects have all helped to reduce E. coli counts, increased DO levels and improve water quality.

2) What are you doing in addition to working on your beneficial use impairments?

We (watershed stakeholders) are involved in many public educations and awareness projects. Local governments have partnered in grant projects to promote watershed friendly activities; nutrient reduction, native vegetation planting, hazardous waste collection, and many citizen volunteer activities. Corporations are providing employee volunteers and funds for habitat restoration. The Rouge Advisory Council –RRAC recognizes quality habitat restoration projects with our habitat award.

3) What are the key obstacles that you face and how could you benefit from the experiences of the other Lake Erie AOCs and the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan?

Key obstacles to overcome are; lack of funding at all levels of government, downturn in economy, complexity and vastness of problems, competing issues, political “turf” disputes, lack of political will to address environmental problems such as; invasive species, wetland protection, waste reduction, SESC, mercury, CAFOs, and especially, poor environmental awareness and advocacy.

4) What types of resources or assistance would be most useful in expediting progress in your RAP?

Support for this long term effort with dedicated funds and people. Better expert support through networking, so we can learn what successes are being achieved and how, and what mistakes are being made and why. More business involvement. Specifically, more staff for RAPs and a minimal – keep the lights on – budget. RRAC once benefited from a dedicated RAP coordinator, with a budget.

5) Please provide any other comments or information about your RAP that you feel is important.

The Rouge RAP has benefited from the triangle relationship between the Assembly of Rouge Communities (ARC, the permit holders), the Friends of the Rouge (FOTR, our NGO) and RRAC. The ARC ,through the passage of PA 517, will evolve into a watershed alliance, which will be main driver of efforts, once the Rouge Project grant funds disappear.

St. Clair River, Michigan/Ontario

Submitted By: Patty Troy

1) Summarize the activities underway in your RAP to restore beneficial uses and make progress toward delisting.

- Establishment of Canadian RAP Implementation Committee (Oct '05), 4 subcommittees – point source; non-point source/habitat; sediment; and research & monitoring.
- Canadian habitat workshop (feb 05) to assess status and update workplan
- Sewer separation projects – Sarnia, Port Huron
- Canadian contaminated sediment project to define & evaluate remaining zones
- BSC marsh monitoring project

2) What are you doing in addition to working on your beneficial use impairments?

- Increase in public education / awareness activities – SCR Photo Contest (current through Sept 06), press release program, speakers bureau and power point under development.

3) What are the key obstacles that you face and how could you benefit from the experiences of the other Lake Erie AOCs and the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan?

Obstacles:

- Uncontrolled circumstances (ie marine spills)
- Need for water quality monitoring stations
- Need for better spill communication network
- US counterpart to Canadian RIC
- Turnover in DEQ RAP personel

Benefit from others included the political leverage on a federal level, similar to what the SPAC provides on a state level.

4) What types of resources or assistance would be most useful in expediting progress in your RAP?

- Funding for RAP Public Involvement Coordinator position
- Binational delisting criteria
- Enforcement focus in wetlands protection

5) Please provide any other comments or information about your RAP that you feel is important.

We are trying to maintain our focus on the SCR BUIs, on our public awareness activities and other workplan components.