

Co-ordinating Federal, Provincial and Local RAP Actions Through the Canada-Ontario Agreement

Lake Erie AOC Summit
July 11-12, 2006

Introduction

- In June 2002, Canada and Ontario signed a new Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem (COA)
- Since 1971, there have been five COAs
- Current COA runs from 2002-2007

COA Agencies (Federal)

- Departments of:
 - Environment (Lead)
 - Agriculture and Agri-Food
 - Canadian Heritage
 - Fisheries and Oceans
 - Health
 - Natural Resources
 - Public Works and Government Services
 - Transport

COA Agencies (Provincial)

- Ministries of:
 - Environment (Lead)
 - Natural Resources
 - Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Purpose of the Agreement

- Establishes principles to guide actions of the Parties with regard to Canada's obligations under the GLWQA
- Enables annexes to the Agreement to address specific topic areas or management functions
- Sets administrative arrangements in place for management of the Agreement

Contents of the COA

- Common priorities, goals, and anticipated results
- Management strategies to achieve the goals and results
- Roles and responsibilities of each party
- A commitment to report regularly on the state of the Basin and progress

Funding Support

- Federal government already had GL funding in place in 2002 and recently renewed its support for another 5 years
- In 2002 Ontario committed \$50 million (new) to support COA implementation. Expires March 2007
- COA agencies also support Agreement through “regular business” programs and operations

Four Annexes

- Areas of Concern (Annex 1)
- Harmful Pollutants (Annex 2)
- Lakewide Management (Annex 3)
- Monitoring and Information Management (Annex 4)

Content of Annexes

- Annex Goals
- Clear result statements
- Detailed actions (commitments) to be taken by Canada or Ontario or by both Parties jointly

Administrative Framework

COA Management Committee:

- Co-chaired by EC and MOE
- Senior management level representation from all federal and provincial COA agencies

Annex Implementation Committee:

- Co-chaired by EC and MOE
- Reps from all agencies involved in implementation

AOC Annex Goals for 2007

- Delisting two AOCs
- Completing all required actions in at least six AOCs
- Making progress towards delisting in remaining AOCs

Areas of Concern Leads

- EC leads in Thunder Bay, Hamilton Harbour, Port Hope, St. Lawrence River
- MOE leads in Nipigon Bay, Jackfish Bay, Peninsula Harbour, Spanish Harbour, Wheatley Harbour, Niagara River and Bay of Quinte
- Joint leads in Toronto, St. Marys River, Severn Sound (delisted 2003) St. Clair River, and Detroit River

COA and RAPS

The current COA Agreement commits the Parties to addressing the continuing sources of pollution to Areas of Concern by achieving the following 7 Results:

COA and RAPS

Result 1

Reduced pollutant discharges from municipal sewage treatment plants and combined sewer overflows.

Examples

City of Sarnia - Upgraded WWTP to secondary treatment.

City of Windsor - Lou Romano WWTP expansion.

COA and RAPS

Result 2

Reduced loadings of nutrients, pathogens and trace contaminants from urban stormwater.

Examples

City of Sarnia - SWM Plan and CSO disconnection

City of Windsor - SWM Retention Treatability Study

COA and RAPS

Result 3

Reduced nutrient, microbial and trace contaminants from agricultural sources

Examples

ERCA - non-point source remediation program

RLSN - St. Clair/Sydenham River Stewardship Initiative

COA and RAPS

Result 4

Develop Management Strategies for contaminated sediment

Examples

EC/MOE - Development of a Canada-Ontario Decision-Making Framework for Contaminated Sediments in the Great Lakes

COA and RAPS

Result 5

Rehabilitated aquatic and riparian habitat leading to the re-establishment of fish and wildlife populations

Examples

RLSN/DU/SCRCA - Healthy Waterways Initiative

COA and RAPS

Result 6

Collaborative action among government, organizations and basin residents

Examples

Detroit River Canadian Cleanup

St. Clair River RAP Implementation Committee

Wheatley Harbour Implementation Team

COA and RAPS

Result 7

Publicly available environmental monitoring information for evaluating environmental recovery and adjusting remediation strategies

Examples

St. Clair-Detroit River Corridor coordinated monitoring

Public Oversight

- Great Lakes Innovation Committee (GLIC) formed in late 2003
- Members from diverse sectors, municipalities, NGOs, First Nations
- Has recommended improvements to next COA

Public Reporting

- Parties required to report on progress of the Agreement and on the state of the lakes
- 2002-03 progress report published and 2004-05 report is under development
- SOLEC reports released every two years

For more information

- www.ene.gov.on.ca

From main page take “Water” link to “Great Lakes and Inland Lakes” and then “The Great Lakes”

The full text of the Agreement and other Great Lakes publications are available.