

**Lake St. Clair Coastal Habitat Project Management Team  
Conference Call Summary  
November 20, 2003**

**Participants**

Name	Organization	E-mail
Dora Passino-Reader	USGS, Great Lakes Science Center	<a href="mailto:dora_reader@usgs.gov">dora_reader@usgs.gov</a>
Sandra Morrison	USGS, Great Lakes Science Center	<a href="mailto:smorrison@usgs.gov">smorrison@usgs.gov</a>
John Paskus	MNFI-MSUE	<a href="mailto:paskusj@michigan.gov">paskusj@michigan.gov</a>
Alyssa Olson Callahan	NOAA Coastal Services Center	<a href="mailto:alyssa.olson-callahan@noaa.gov">alyssa.olson-callahan@noaa.gov</a>
Victoria Pebbles	Great Lakes Commission	<a href="mailto:ypebbles@glc.org">ypebbles@glc.org</a>
Thomas Rayburn	Great Lakes Commission	<a href="mailto:tray@glc.org">tray@glc.org</a>
Bob Haas	Michigan DNR	<a href="mailto:haasrc@Michigan.gov">haasrc@Michigan.gov</a>
Ed Schools	MNFI, Michigan State University	<a href="mailto:schoolse@michigan.gov">schoolse@michigan.gov</a>
Jeff Adkins	NOAA Coastal Services Center	<a href="mailto:Jeffery.Adkins@noaa.gov">Jeffery.Adkins@noaa.gov</a>
Bill Parkus	SEMCOG	<a href="mailto:parkus@semcog.org">parkus@semcog.org</a>
Suzan Campbell	Great Lakes Commission	<a href="mailto:campbell@glc.org">campbell@glc.org</a>

**Canadian and First Nation Participation**

The PMT discussed the difficulties in obtaining Canadian and First Nation data in support of the project. There has been some Canadian and First Nation participation in project through selected conference calls and meetings. However, despite numerous and ongoing efforts by both GLC and MNFI project staff, the Core Group has been able to obtain very little data or other digital information from either Canada or Walpole Island First Nation. (Note: A formal Data Sharing Agreement and Scope of Work in support of the project has been under review by Walpole Island since July, 2003). The lack of such data will may result in products that have a U.S. focus or emphasis. A key example is the MNFI modeling efforts. Certain base data is needed, and without it, MNFI will be unable to produce a GIS layer that will identify priority conservation areas for the Canadian and/or First Nation portion of the study area.

The project will continue and each of the products will be developed to reflect data and information that is available. If and when Canadian and First Nation data and information become available, it will be incorporated into the various project products depending on the status of the project (i.e., feasibility of incorporating depending on status of development) and as time permits.

## **Review of Revised Draft Plan Outline**

There were a couple of minor suggestions to the draft plan outline, which will serve as a guide for drafting the full document. The revised outline is available on the project web site at [www.glc.org/habitat](http://www.glc.org/habitat). It was emphasized that the outline is a guide only. It is expected that some sections may be added, while others may be combined, deleted or moved to other sections as the document evolves, based on available information, readability, etc.

GLC project staff requested PMT members to provide reference documents and information sources that can inform the effort to draft the habitat conservation and restoration plan. GLC staff are particularly interested in local studies that link habitat stressors to specific human activities. Subwatershed plans required under U.S. EPA's new stormwater Phase II regulations are possible source documents.

PMT members are encouraged to participate in development of the draft habitat conservation and restoration plan in several ways:

- draft specific sections (take lead on initial rough draft only)
- provide background materials based on professional/organizational resources/expertise
- analyze internal agency data and information for a product/analysis/summary that can be included within the draft habitat plan

To this end, SEMCOG agreed to provide selected socio-economic data layers and master plan status and related information for the jurisdictions on the U.S. side of the study area. The GLC is pursuing this information from SEMCOG and will follow up directly with county and local planning officials for more detailed information where it is desired. Thank you SEMCOG!

PMT members from the U.S. Geological Survey offered to analyze aquatic data and information within their agency, in cooperation with MDNR, to provide useful data layers and a complementary narrative that reflects the results of the analysis and can be incorporated in the draft habitat plan. Thank you USGS!

The USGS noted the absence of riverine as an explicit habitat type in the project classification scheme. D. Passino-Reader will initiate a follow-up phone call with V. Pebbles, S. Morrison and A. Olson-Callahan to determine how the project habitat classification scheme might best be modified to incorporate USGS data and information.

## **Web site**

PMT members were asked to comment on the web site. No substantive comments were made at this time. GLC staff noted that text for the specific habitat types was draft and that final text for those pages and other pages would be excerpted from the draft habitat plan.

## **ICM Tool**

Alyssa Olson-Callahan provided an overview of the three intended trials to test and refine the Integrated Coastal Management tool. It was agreed that the first trial would be in conjunction

with the next PMT meeting, sometime this winter (late January to mid February time frame). It was suggested that a separate trial workshop might be conducted during this same time frame for selected planning staff identified by SEMCOG. NOAA agreed that it is willing to conduct multiple workshops during each of the three visits to the region to test the tool.

### **Summary of Action Items and Next Steps**

PMT members are encouraged to contact the GLC in support of the development of the draft habitat conservation and restoration plan in one or more of the following ways:

- draft specific sections (take lead on initial rough draft only);
- draft case studies or specific information that can be featured through a sidebar or text box within the draft plan;
- provide photos of Lake St. Clair coastal areas, habitat or other natural features with attribute data (where? when? what? source?);
- provide background materials based on professional/organizational resources/expertise;
- analyze internal agency data and information for a product/analysis/summary that can be included within the draft habitat plan.

USGS will initiate follow-up conference call on aquatic classification for draft plan with selected PMT members.

GLC will obtain selected socio-economic data layers and information from SEMCOG.

GLC and NOAA/CSC staff will email the PMT with prospective dates for the next PMT meeting. An important part of that meeting will be a workshop on the ICM tool being developed by NOAA/CSC.