

U.S. Areas of Concern Program Annual Meeting: Setting Targets, Delisting Impairments and Beyond!

September 24-25, 2008 ~ Kensington Court Hotel ~ Ann Arbor, Michigan

Meeting Overview

The annual meeting for the U.S. Areas of Concern program will convene participants from the 30 U.S. AOCs to review recent developments affecting the AOCs; assess the status of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's AOC recommendations; identify opportunities to expedite progress on key AOC tasks; and consider actions that will strengthen the regional U.S. AOC program.

Meeting Agenda

Day One: Wednesday, September 24

9:00 a.m. Registration

10:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Vicki Thomas, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office
Ken DeBeaussaert, Director, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes

10:15 a.m. Status Report on the U.S. Areas of Concern Program

Bringing Delisting into Focus: Framing the Scope of the Target Setting Process
Mark Elster, U.S. EPA, Great Lakes National Program Office

The Great Lakes Legacy Act: Progress to Date and Prospective Amendments to the Program
Dave Cowgill, U.S. EPA, Great Lakes National Program Office

**11:00 a.m. Implementing the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration at the State Level:
Perspectives from the Great Lakes States**

A panel of state agency managers will discuss their efforts to implement the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration within their states, and provide a general state perspective on the status of the U.S. Areas of Concern program.

**11:30 a.m. Public-Private Partnerships for Fish and Wildlife Restoration: Lessons from the Detroit River
International Wildlife Refuge**

John Hartig, Refuge Manager, Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

12:00 Noon Lunch and Keynote Speaker

Climate Change and the Great Lakes: Future Impacts and Strategies for Adaptation
Dr. Donald Scavia, Director, Michigan Sea Grant

1:00 p.m. Afternoon Breakout Sessions

The breakout sessions will be organized along three tracks, each with two sessions:

1. *Fish and Wildlife Restoration*
2. *Capacity Building and Sustainability for Local RAP Groups*
3. *Assessing Beneficial Use Impairments and Implementing Contaminated Sediment Cleanups*

Conference participants may participate in two sessions. They do not have to be within the same track. There will be a 30-minute break at 2:45 p.m., between the 1:00 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. sessions.

1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

3:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Track 1: Fish and Wildlife Restoration

Approaches for Securing Funding and Technical Support from Federal Programs for Fish and Wildlife Restoration

- *Resources from the Great Lakes Wetlands and Habitat Initiative*
Jan Miller, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- *NOAA Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program*
John Iliff, NOAA Restoration Center
- *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program*
Mark E. Holey, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- *Public-Private Partnership: the Great Lakes Watershed Restoration Grant Program*
Karen Rodriguez, U.S. EPA, Great Lakes National Program Office

Case Studies of Fish and Wildlife Restoration Projects in the AOCs

- *Muskegon Lake Habitat Restoration*
Kathy Evans, Coordinator, Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership
- *Prioritizing Potential Wetland Restoration Sites in Great Lakes Watersheds*
Ed Schools, Michigan Natural Features Inventory
- *Methods and Considerations for Identifying Fish Habitat Restoration Sites in the St. Clair-Detroit River Corridor*
David Bennion, U.S. Geological Survey
- *Green Bulkheads on the Cuyahoga River*
Jim White, Executive Director, Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan
- *Documenting Progress and Charting a Course for the Future: Assessing the Fish & Wildlife BUIs in the Saginaw River/Bay AOC*
Mark Coscarelli, Public Sector Consultants

Track 2: Capacity Building and Sustainability for Local RAP Groups

Options for Organizing RAP Groups and Linking with Watershed Management Efforts

- *Kalamazoo River*
Jeff Spoelstra, Coordinator, Kalamazoo River Watershed Council
- *River Raisin*
Dan Stefanski, Chair, River Raisin Public Advisory Council
- *Cuyahoga River*
Jim White, Executive Director, Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan
- *Maumee River*
Kris Patterson, Executive Director, Partners for Clean Streams

Making Your Case: Advocacy and Communicating Economic Benefits from AOC Restoration

- *Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition*
Chad Lord, National Parks Conservation Association
- *Internet-Based Legislative Tracking Tool*
Erika Jensen, Great Lakes Commission
- *Findings from the Brookings Institution Study on Economic Benefits from Great Lakes Restoration*
Britany Affolter-Caine, Senior Research Associate, Brookings Institution

Track 3: Assessing Beneficial Use Impairments and Implementing Contaminated Sediment Cleanups

Assessing the Status of the Fish Tumor, Restrictions on Dredging and Fish Consumption Beneficial Use Impairments

- *The Process for Setting Fish Tumor Delisting Targets at Presque Isle Bay*
Jim Grazio, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Sean Rafferty, Pennsylvania Sea Grant
- *Michigan’s Statewide Assessment of Dredging Restrictions*
Michelle Selzer, Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality
- *Detroit River Fish Consumption Advisories*
Donna Kashian, PhD, Research Scientist, University of Michigan

Implementing Contaminated Sediment Cleanups under the Great Lakes Legacy Act: Addressing Financing and Other Challenges

- *Overview of the Great Lakes Legacy Act and Lessons Learned from the First Five Years*
Marc Tuchman, U.S. EPA-GLNPO
- *Concepts for Tying Waterfront Development to Environmental Restoration and Funding the Non-Federal Match for Great Lakes Legacy Projects*
Evans Paull, Northeast-Midwest Institute

5:30 p.m. Picnic on the Huron River (optional - a \$35 fee will be charged and advance registration is required)

Join us on the banks of the Huron River for a picnic, nature hikes and other fun activities. Dinner will be provided and a cash bar will be available. Bus transportation will be provided from the hotel to the picnic.

Day Two: Thursday, September 25

8:00 a.m. Review Agenda for Day Two

8:15 a.m. Building Partnerships to Restore Wetlands: Lessons from Ducks Unlimited

8:30 a.m. Progress and Challenges in Establishing Delisting Targets for the U.S. Areas of Concern

This session will review progress in meeting the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's goal of establishing delisting targets for all U.S. AOCs by the end of 2008.

Overview of Common Questions and Key Issues in Developing Delisting Targets

Dr. Sanjiv Sinha, Vice President, Environmental Consulting and Technology

Status Report from the Great Lakes States: Progress and Challenges in Setting Delisting Targets

A panel of AOC program managers from the Great Lakes states will assess their progress in establishing delisting targets and identify challenges and resources needed to complete targets by the end of 2008.

9:15 a.m. State Breakout Sessions to Assess Obstacles and Resources Required to Complete Delisting Targets

Participants will convene by state to review the status of developing delisting targets for their AOCs and to outline a plan of action to ensure the remaining targets are completed by the end of 2008.

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Meeting the Deadline: Reports from State Breakout Sessions

Representatives from the breakout sessions will report on their findings and summarize what will be required to ensure that delisting targets for their state's AOC are completed by the end of 2008.

11:15 a.m. Open Forum

12:00 Noon Adjourn