

2009 U.S. Areas of Concern Program Annual Meeting
**Implementing Restoration Targets and
 Achieving On-The-Ground Results for the Great Lakes**

October 1-2, 2009 ~ Hyatt Regency Hotel ~ Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Meeting Overview

This annual meeting will convene participants from the 30 U.S. AOCs to review recent developments affecting the AOC program; discuss approaches for implementing delisting targets; build capacity to implement on-the-ground restoration actions; identify opportunities to address AOC restoration priorities under President Obama’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative; and consider actions that will strengthen the regional U.S. AOC program.

Meeting Agenda

Day One: Thursday, October 1

8:00 a.m. Registration and Display Set Up (*Regency Ballroom Prefunction Area and Atrium*)

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks (*Regency Ballroom C & D*)

Vicki Thomas, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office
 Steve Galarneau, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
 Gail Epping Overholt, University of Wisconsin Extension, Milwaukee River AOC Coordinator

9:30 a.m. Status Report on the U.S. Areas of Concern Program (*Regency Ballroom C & D*)

Progress in Delisting Beneficial Uses in the U.S. Great Lakes Areas of Concern
 John Perrecone, U.S. EPA, Great Lakes National Program Office

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

Status of the Canadian Areas of Concern and Coordination on the Binational Areas of Concern
 Jon Gee, Manager, Great Lakes Areas of Concern Program, Environment Canada

Building Capacity and Overcoming Obstacles: Perspectives from the Great Lakes States
 Steve Galarneau, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

10:45 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. President Obama's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative – A Watershed Moment for the Great Lakes
 (*Regency Ballroom C & D*)

Todd Ambs, Water Division Administrator, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

11:30 a.m. Questions and Discussion

12:00 Noon Lunch (*Regency Ballroom A & B*)

1:00 p.m. Afternoon Breakout Sessions

The six afternoon breakout sessions will be presented in two tracks. Conference attendees may attend two of the six sessions. There will be a 30 minute break at 2:45 p.m. between the 1:00 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. sessions. Refreshments will be available in Regency Ballroom C & D, where the plenary sessions are being held.

1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	3:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
<i>Building Organizational Capacity to Implement Restoration Actions in the AOCs</i>	<i>Partnerships to Build Capacity: Working with Consultants, Universities and Others</i>
<i>Best Practices for Developing Strong “Shovel Ready” Habitat Restoration Proposals</i>	<i>Using Social Media and Other Innovative Approaches for Communicating the RAP Process in Your Community</i>
<i>Strategies for Implementing Delisting Targets, Developing Delisting Packages, and Communicating the Delisting Process in Your AOC</i>	<i>Working with Business and Industry to Build Partnerships to Implement Contaminated Sediment Cleanups Under the Great Lakes Legacy Act</i>

1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	3:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
<p>Building Organizational Capacity to Implement Restoration Actions in the AOCs (<i>Executive Ballroom A</i>)</p> <p>This session will showcase local groups that have been successful in building the capacity needed to advance restoration efforts for their AOCs. Representatives from the groups will discuss their strategies for raising funds, securing technical support, designing projects and coordinating with partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper Jill Spisiak Jedlicka, Buffalo River RAP Coordinator • Sheboygan River AOC Jon Guntow, Chair, Sheboygan River RAP Committee • St. Louis River Alliance Julene Boe, Executive Director, St. Louis River Alliance • Building Capacity through Integration Ken Genskow, University of Wisconsin-Madison/Extension <p>Moderator: Ken Genskow</p>	<p>Partnerships to Build Capacity: Working with Consultants, Universities & Others (<i>Executive Ballroom B</i>)</p> <p>This session will review how RAP groups can build partnerships to develop and implement restoration projects in their AOC. The speakers will provide perspectives on working with consultants, universities and others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Private Sector Consultants Kris Erickson, Chief Environmental Scientist, Ecology & Environment, Inc. • Working with Consultants and Universities: Perspectives from a Local RAP Group Greg Mund, Muskegon Lake AOC • University Support to the Fox River-Green Bay AOC Bud Harris, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay • A New Opportunity to Tap into Undergraduate Students and Faculty Glenn C. Odenbrett, Project Director, GLISTEN (Great Lakes Innovative Stewardship Through Education Network) <p>Moderator: Matt Doss, Great Lakes Commission</p>
<p>Best Practices for Developing Strong “Shovel Ready” Habitat Restoration Proposals (<i>Regency Ballroom C & D</i>)</p> <p>This session will provide guidance on developing habitat restoration projects that are technically sound and eligible for funding. Staff from federal agencies will review their funding programs for habitat restoration and provide guidance on preparing strong proposals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing Strong Habitat Restoration Proposals: Guidance from Federal Agencies John Iliff, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) • Case Study: Fish Passage for the Milwaukee River Watershed Andrew Struck, Director, Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department • Funding Options Under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for Habitat Restoration <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Amy McGovern 2) NOAA: John Iliff 3) U.S. EPA: Karen Rodriguez 4) Sustain Our Great Lakes/National Fish & Wildlife Foundation: Donn Waage <p>Moderator: Karen Rodriguez, U.S. EPA, Great Lakes National Program Office</p>	<p>Using Social Media and Other Innovative Approaches for Communicating the RAP Process in Your Community (<i>Executive Ballroom A</i>)</p> <p>This session will showcase how AOCs are using new approaches to communicate restoration efforts in their community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Socializing” the H₂O Hero Message in the Rochester Embayment AOC Paul Sawyko, Coordinator, Water Education Collaborative, Rochester Embayment AOC • Education & Outreach – Building Support for Your AOC Victor DiGiacomo, RAP Coordinator, Eighteenmile Creek AOC • Strategies for Environmental Communications from the Biodiversity Project Jennifer Browning, The Biodiversity Project • EPA’s Approach to Using Social Media Pranas Pranckevicius, U.S. EPA, GLNPO <p>Moderator: John Perrecone, U.S. EPA, GLNPO</p>

1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	3:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
<p>Strategies for Implementing Delisting Targets, Developing Delisting Packages, and Communicating the Delisting Process in Your AOC (Executive Ballroom B)</p> <p>This session will review how different AOCs are managing the process of delisting beneficial use impairments, including developing delisting strategies, documenting delisting, and communicating the process to the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. EPA’s Approach and Expectations for the AOC Delisting Process John Perrecone, U.S. EPA, GLNPO • Delisting Strategy for the Muskegon Lake AOC Greg Mund, Chair, Habitat Committee, Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership • Delisting Strategy for the Maumee River AOC Kristina Patterson, Executive Director, Partners for Clean Streams • Delisting Strategy for the St. Louis River AOC Megan O’Shea, Wisconsin DNR <p>Moderator: John Perrecone</p>	<p>Working with Business and Industry to Build Partnerships to Implement Contaminated Sediment Cleanups Under the Great Lakes Legacy Act (Regency Ballroom C & D)</p> <p>This session will review how AOCs are working with local industry to build partnerships to implement contaminated sediment cleanups under the Great Lakes Legacy Act. The session will also provide additional detail on the status of the Act, including changes made when it was reauthorized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the Great Lakes Legacy Act Marc Tuchman, U.S. EPA, GLNPO • Finding Common Ground for Partnerships with Industry Robert Rule, de maximis, inc. • An Industry Perspective Mark Kamilow, Honeywell • A Citizens Group Perspective Jill Spisiak Jedlicka, Buffalo River RAP Coordinator • The Role of the State Agency Sig Williams, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency <p>Moderator: Marc Tuchman</p>

6:00 p.m. Dinner Cruise on the Milwaukee River and Lake Michigan (meet in the hotel lobby at 6:00 pm to walk to the boat dock. The boat will depart at 6:30 pm. Please inform the conference organizers if you require van transportation.)

Join us for a boat cruise down the Milwaukee River and on Lake Michigan along the Milwaukee waterfront. Dinner will be provided and a cash bar will be available. This event is sponsored by the URS Corp. and JFNew.

Day Two: Friday, October 2

8:00 a.m. Opening Remarks and Review of Agenda for Day Two (Regency Ballroom C & D)

8:15 a.m. Congressional Report (Regency Ballroom C & D)

Congressional Expectations for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
Chad Lord, Political Director, Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition

8:45 a.m. Economic Benefits from Restoring the Great Lakes: What They Are and How to Showcase Them to Build Support for Great Lakes Restoration Efforts (Regency Ballroom C & D)

This session will review research on economic benefits from restoring the Great Lakes, including work conducted by the Brookings Institution and other entities, and showcase how this information can be used to build support for Great Lakes restoration efforts at the federal, state and local levels.

Showing How Restoring the Great Lakes Advances a Broader Strategy for Regional Economic Revitalization
John Austin, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution, Director, Great Lakes Economic Initiative

An Agenda for Jobs and Economic Transformation in the Great Lakes Region
Timothy R. Sheehy, President, Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce

9:45 a.m. State Breakout Sessions: Building Capacity and Overcoming Obstacles to Implement Restoration Actions in the Areas of Concern (Rooms to be announced)

Discussion question for each state: What is your state’s strategy for advancing AOC delisting under the GLRI? What types of resources and capacity do you need to effectively implement this strategy?

11:00 a.m. Reports from the State Breakout Sessions and Open Discussion (Regency Ballroom C & D)

12:00 Noon Adjourn

