

Great Lakes Areas of Concern: Achieving Restoration Targets and Sustaining Stewardship

June 28-29, 2007
Hilton Garden Inn
Cleveland, Ohio

Conference Overview

The conference will convene participants from the 30 U.S. Great Lakes Areas of Concern to review recent developments affecting the AOC program; assess the status of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's AOC recommendations; identify opportunities to expedite progress on key AOC tasks; improve linkages among the AOCs, Lakewide Management Plans and other programs; and consider actions that will strengthen the regional U.S. AOC program.

Conference Agenda

Day 1: Thursday, June 28

9:00 a.m. Registration

10:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Thomas Denbow, Chair, Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan Coordinating Committee
Vicki Thomas, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office

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

Progress and Challenges for the U.S. Areas of Concern
Mark Elster, U.S. EPA, Great Lakes National Program Office

Progress in Cleaning Up Contaminated Sediments under the Great Lakes Legacy Act
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
Sandra George, Restoration Programs Coordinator-Lake Erie, Environment Canada

Administering the Areas of Concern Program: Perspectives from the Great Lakes States
Julie Letterhos, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

11:15 a.m. Questions and Discussion

11:45 a.m. What Makes an AOC an AOC: An Historical Perspective and Critical Assessment

Gail Krantzberg, Professor and Director, Centre for Engineering and Public Policy, McMaster University

12:00 Noon Lunch and Keynote Speaker

Getting People to Care: Sustaining Great Lakes Stewardship for Future Generations
Jerry Dennis, author of *The Living Great Lakes* and the forthcoming *A Watcher on the Shore*

1:15 p.m. Afternoon Breakout Sessions

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

1. *Contaminated Sediments*
2. *Fish and Wildlife Restoration*
3. *The Role of Local RAP Groups*
4. *Delisting*

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 1:15 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. sessions.

Track 1: Contaminated Sediments

Options for Generating Nonfederal Funding and Public Involvement in Sediment Cleanups under the Great Lakes Legacy Act and Other Programs

- *Facilitating Effective Community Engagement in Contaminated Sediment Cleanups*
Kathy Evans, Muskegon Lake Public Advisory Council
- *Industry Perspective on the Ashtabula River Legacy Act Project*
Rick Mason, RMI Titanium
- *Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper as Nonfederal Sponsor for a Great Lakes Legacy Act Project*
Barry Boyer, Buffalo River Remedial Action Plan
- *Combining Funding Sources for the Waukegan Harbor Contaminated Sediment Cleanup*
Tammy Mitchell, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- *Tax Increment Financing and Other Funding Options for Sediment Cleanups*
Evans Paull, Northeast-Midwest Institute

Questions and Discussion

Moderator: Marc Tuchman, U.S. EPA, GLNPO

Contaminated Sediments: Assessment and Remedial Tools and Technologies

- *Introduction and Overview of Advancements in Contaminated Sediment Management in the Great Lakes*
Joseph DePinto, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, LimnoTech
- *Contaminated Sediment Site Assessment: Investigative and Analytical Tools in a Site Conceptual Modeling Framework*
Timothy Dekker, P.E, Ph.D., Senior Manager, LimnoTech
- *Contaminated Sediment Remediation - Tools, Technologies and Approaches*
Bruce Fidler, P.E., BCEE, Sr. Associate, Malcolm Pirnie
- *Sustainability Considerations in Area of Concern Cleanups - Opportunities and Challenges*
Greg Peterson, Vice President, LimnoTech

Questions and Discussion

Moderator: Joe Depinto

Track 2: Fish and Wildlife Restoration

Funding Options and Implementation Case Studies for Fish and Wildlife Restoration

- *Review of Habitat Funding Program Database from the Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes Habitat Initiative*
Jan Miller, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- *Funding from NOAA's Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program*
Jenni Wallace, NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center
- *An Overview of Tools and Technologies for Implementing Fish and Wildlife Restoration*
Keith Bowers, Biohabitats & Society for Ecological Restoration

Case studies:

- *Owbow Restoration on the Rouge River*
Scott Parker, Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc.
- *Dam Removal on the Cuyahoga River*
Kelvin Rogers, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- *Stream Restoration on Eighteenmile Creek*
Victor DiGiacomo, Coordinator, Eighteenmile Creek AOC

Questions and Discussion

Moderator: Keith Bowers

Approaches for Developing Restoration Targets for Fish and Wildlife

- *A Policy Perspective on Establishing Restoration Targets for Fish and Wildlife Impairments*
Roger Eberhardt, Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality

Case studies:

- *Manistique River, Michigan*
Julie Sims, Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality
- *Detroit River, Michigan*
Suzan Campbell, Michigan Natural Features Inventory
- *St. Louis River, Minnesota*
George Host, Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota Duluth
- *Muskegon Lake, Michigan*
Kathy Evans, Muskegon Lake Public Advisory Council

Questions and Discussion

Moderator: Roy Schrameck, Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc.

Track 3: The Role of Local RAP Groups

Engaging Elected Officials: Key Messages and Advocacy Opportunities

- *A Congressional Perspective on Great Lakes Restoration*
Joy Mulinex, Great Lakes Task Force
- *Outreach to State and Local Elected Officials*
Kristy Meyer, Ohio Environmental Council
- *Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Coalition*
Chris Grubb, National Wildlife Federation
- *Key Messages for Great Lakes Restoration*
Peter Alexander, Biodiversity Project

Questions and Discussion

Moderator: Matt Doss, Great Lakes Commission

Capacity Building and Organizational Development for Local RAP Groups

- *Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper*
Barry Boyer, Buffalo River Remedial Action Plan
- *Maumee River RAP Reorganization*
Patrick Lawrence, Chair, Maumee RAP Advisory Committee
- *Cuyahoga River*
Jim White, Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan
- *St. Louis River Citizens Action Committee*
Ted Smith, St. Louis River Citizens Action Committee

Questions and Discussion

Moderator: Vicki Deisner, Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Session One: 1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Session Two: 3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Track 4: Delisting

Approaches for Delisting Beneficial Use Impairments and Areas of Concern

- *Overview of Regional Guidance on Establishing Delisting Targets*
Mark Elster, U.S. EPA, Great Lakes National Program Office

Case studies:

- *Oswego River AOC Delisting*
Bob Townsend, New York Department of Environmental Conservation
- *Presque Isle Bay Restrictions on Dredging Delisting*
Lori Boughton, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- *Cuyahoga River RAP Remedial Management Units*
Jim White, Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan
- *Manistique River Degradation of Benthos Delisting*
Julie Sims, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Questions and Discussion

Moderator: Gail Krantzberg, McMaster University

Technical Approach for Delisting Fish Tumor Impairments

- *Fish Tumor Causes, Contributing Factors and Pathology*
Vicki Blazer, U.S. Geological Survey
- *The Process for Setting Fish Tumor Delisting Targets at Presque Isle Bay*
Jim Grazio, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- *The Case for Lakewide Delisting Criteria*
Dr. Paul Baumann, Leader, U.S. Geological Survey Field Station, Ohio State University

Questions and Discussion

Moderator: Sean Rafferty, Pennsylvania Sea Grant

5:00 p.m. Reception

6:30 p.m. Dinner Cruise on Lake Erie (optional – a \$35 fee will be charged and advance registration is required)

Dinner and a cash bar will be provided as the boat cruises the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie.

Day 2: Friday, June 29

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

8:15 a.m. Foundation Perspectives on Great Lakes Restoration

Representatives from major regional foundations that support Great Lakes restoration efforts will discuss their priorities, how they work with local organizations and opportunities to advance Area of Concern restoration with support from the foundation community. Representatives from the following foundations have been invited:

Cleveland Foundation, John Mitterholzer

Gund Foundation: Jon M. Jensen

Wege Foundation: Mark Van Putten

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: Moira McDonald

9:00 a.m. Success Stories and Key Challenges from Local RAP Participants

Representatives from local RAP groups will be invited to highlight their successes and share challenges they are addressing in their Areas of Concern.

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Open Forum: Next Steps and Life After Delisting

A panel will provide perspectives on the future of the Great Lakes Areas of Concern and opportunities for local RAP groups to evolve and sustain stewardship efforts in their watersheds. Open discussion will follow among all participants on next steps and priorities for the U.S. Areas of Concern program.

John Gannon, Senior Scientist, International Joint Commission

Joe Bonnell, Program Director, Ohio State University Extension Watershed Team

11:45 a.m. Closing Remarks

12:00 Noon Adjourn