



*Building Capacity and
Overcoming Obstacles:
Perspectives from the Great Lakes
States*

Steve Galarneau
Lake Michigan Program Coordinator & Office of the Great Lakes
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Key Issues

- * Contaminated sediments are the main driver
- * Match requirements
- * Monitoring needs
- * Additional drivers from outside AOC boundaries
- * Sustained funding for State RAP positions



St. Louis River AOC

Contaminated Sediments

- * The main driver for AOC designation
- * Clean up efforts are often long term and expensive – can they be sustained?
- * PRPs, NRD, GLLA
- * Expert participation needed in BUI assessment
- * Communicating complex issues to local officials and residents



Muskegon Lake AOC

Match Requirements

- * Usually 35% or higher
- * Even in-kind match is difficult to find
- * Affects all levels of government and local NGOs
- * *"What good are federal investments that require a match if States have to turn it away?"*



St. Clair River AOC

Monitoring Needs

- * Baselines needed for many BUIs
- * Access to current assessment data
- * Little to no resources available for monitoring activities
- * Need reference site information (data)



Presque Isle Bay AOC
Courtesy of PADEP



Buffalo River AOC

Other Drivers

- * Nonpoint source loads from outside the AOC
- * Separating watershed impacts from AOC is difficult



St. Mary's River AOC

Lack of stable funding for State RAP Positions

- * Competitive process undermines State's role
- * Need EPA's commitment to supporting State's role
- * Need a win-win solution



Milwaukee River AOC

Obstacles

- * Significant state and local budget deficits
- * Limited resources to conduct monitoring against which to measure success
- * Consistent and long term funding needed
- * Pitting partnership approach against a strict regulatory enforcement approach
- * Securing match requirements



Waukegan Harbor AOC

Obstacles

- * Adequate and stable funding to remediate contaminated sediments
- * Lack of reference sites
- * Limited staffing to scope out projects, write proposals, communicate new information to partners
- * Lack of baseline data for BUIs



Grand Calumet River AOC

Solutions

- * Reduce or eliminate match requirements
- * Work with Local Stakeholders/Partners to take the lead on implementing projects
- * Provide pass through funds to State and local groups (non competitive)
- * Continue and expand RAP coordination resources
- * Seek out innovative funding sources



GLRI

- * Opportunity for significant progress in remediating and possible delisting BUIs
- * Single State Agency taking coordinative lead on State applications for funds
- * Coordinating with and encouraging partner groups to apply directly for funds