



Building Capacity and Partnerships to Restore Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern Under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Tuesday, August 4, 2009
Michigan State University Union
East Lansing, Michigan

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

President Obama has proposed \$475 million for a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, with a substantial portion dedicated to cleaning up the Great Lakes Areas of Concern. The workshop will identify restoration priorities in Michigan's 14 Areas of Concern and develop partnerships and other arrangements to prepare proposals and seek funding for key restoration projects. Staff from the Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality will review restoration needs in Michigan's Areas of Concern and representatives from U.S. EPA and other federal agencies will discuss funding opportunities under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Local leaders from Michigan's Areas of Concern will discuss restoration needs, network with project partners and consider next steps for preparing funding proposals.

AGENDA

- 8:00 a.m. **Registration and Display Setup** (*Displays will be set up in the Parlor Room*)
- 9:00 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks and Review of Workshop Purpose** (*Gold Room*)
Jeff Spoelstra, Chair, Statewide Public Advisory Council for Michigan's Areas of Concern Program
- 9:15 a.m. **Overview of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**
John Perrecone, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-Great Lakes National Program Office
- 10:00 a.m. **Overview of the MI-Great Lakes Plan and Integration with the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**
Emily Finnell, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes
- 10:15 a.m. **Introduction and Overview of Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern Program**
Roger Eberhardt, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes
- 10:30 a.m. **Break**
- 10:45 a.m. **Overview of Restoration Priorities in Michigan's Areas of Concern**
- ***St. Clair River, Detroit River, and Clinton River***
Christine Aiello, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
 - ***Kalamazoo River, Muskegon Lake, White Lake and Manistique River***
Julie Sims, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
 - ***Rouge River, River Raisin, Saginaw River/Bay and St. Marys River***
Michelle Selzer, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
 - ***Torch Lake, Deer Lake, and Menominee River***
Sharon Baker, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

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Sponsors



12:00 Noon **Lunch** (*Parlor Room*)

1:00 p.m. **Overview of Agency Funding Programs Under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**
(*Gold Room*)

- ***U.S. Environmental Protection Agency***
Karen Rodriguez, U.S. EPA-Great Lakes National Program Office
- ***National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration***
John Iliff, NOAA Restoration Center
- ***U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service***
Amy DeWeerd, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- ***U.S. Army Corps of Engineers***
Marty Kuhn, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District

Moderator: Matt Doss, Policy Director, Great Lakes Commission

2:30 p.m. **Project Planning Breakout Session and Networking with Project Partners** (*Parlor Room*)

This session will be used to discuss implementation priorities; consider funding options under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative; and build partnerships to design projects and develop funding proposals. Tables will be set up for federal agency representatives and for each of Michigan's 14 Areas of Concern. Partners interested in collaborating on implementation projects are invited to set up displays and network with Area of Concern leaders to market their services. During the session representatives from each Area of Concern will prepare a worksheet outlining key steps for advancing their implementation priorities, including

- *How each priority will be addressed*
- *Who will collaborate*
- *Which funding options to pursue under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative*
- *Next steps and the primary point of contact*

The breakout session will be organized into the following segments:

- 2:30 p.m. Introduction of agency staff, resource specialists and potential partners
- 2:45 p.m. Area of Concern leaders circulate to agency tables and network with potential partners to discuss funding options and partnership opportunities
- 3:45 p.m. Agency representatives and partners circulate to individual Area of Concern tables to discuss project ideas, technical and financial support, and potential partnerships

4:30 p.m. **Panel Discussion: Challenges and Opportunities for Restoring Michigan's Areas of Concern Under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative** (*Gold Room*)

Federal agency representatives will react to implementation priorities identified for Michigan's Areas of Concern and suggest options for moving forward to implement them under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Open discussion will follow.

- Rick Hobrla, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- John Perrecone, U.S. EPA-Great Lakes National Program Office
- John Iliff, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Amy DeWeerd, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Marty Kuhn, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District

5:00 p.m. **Closing Remarks and Adjournment**