

# Advancing Restoration of Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern

## Opportunities in Year Three of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Friday, February 10, 2012  
Lansing Center ~ Lansing, Michigan



### Workshop Overview

The workshop will bring together leaders from Michigan's 14 Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOC) to review restoration priorities and coordinate efforts to address them over the coming year with resources available under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Representatives from federal agencies will discuss the status of the GLRI, progress toward meeting its goals, and resources available for AOC restoration projects. Staff from Michigan's Office of the Great Lakes will review current plans for the state's AOC program, including the vision for completing restoration and moving to a new era of stewardship.

### Agenda

8:00 a.m.

#### Registration

9:00 a.m.

#### Welcoming Remarks and Workshop Purpose

Mary Bohling, Chair, Statewide Public Advisory Council for Michigan's Great Lakes AOC Program  
Patty Birkholz, Director, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes

9:15 a.m.

#### The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: A Newcomers Perspective

Chris Korleski, Director, U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office

9:45 a.m.

#### Michigan's AOC Program: Planning for Restoration and Beyond

Roger Eberhardt, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes

10:00 a.m.

#### Advancing AOC Restoration in Year Three of the GLRI

Brief, clarifying questions will be taken following each speaker, with an extended period for questions and discussion following the second half the panel presentations. The speakers will also be available during the afternoon work session to answer questions and discuss individual projects.

- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
John Perrecone, U.S. EPA, Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO)
- **Michigan Department of Environmental Quality – AOC Program**  
Rick Hobrla, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Great Lakes Legacy Act**  
Marc Tuchman, Great Lakes Legacy Act Program Manager, U.S. EPA, GLNPO

10:45 a.m.

#### Break

### Sponsors



11:00 a.m. **Advancing AOC Restoration in Year Three of the GLRI** (*continued*)

- *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*  
Julie Sims, NOAA Restoration Center
- *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*  
Lisa Williams, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- *Sustain Our Great Lakes*  
Todd Hogrefe, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*  
Tony Friona, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- *Michigan Department of Environmental Quality – Nonpoint Source Pollution Program*  
Bob Sweet, Water Resources Division

Questions and discussion.

12:15 p.m. **Lunch and Keynote Speaker**

*Implementing Great Lakes Restoration: Our Messages, Our Organizing and our Success*

Joel Brammeier, President & CEO, Alliance for the Great Lakes

1:15 p.m. **Work Session for AOC Leaders**

During this session representatives from each AOC will review their top restoration priorities for the coming year, identify potential funding sources for them, determine implementation responsibilities and capacity needs, and consider partnerships and other approaches to sustain progress in removing beneficial use impairments and restoring environmental quality in their community. State and federal agency staff will be available to answer questions about funding sources, technical support, and other items. A special discussion will focus on moving AOCs through the delisting process and sustaining long-term environmental stewardship.

3:15 p.m. **Changing Our Story: How to Develop a Positive Message about the Great Lakes and Water Resources in our Communities**

This panel discussion will explore how AOC leaders can develop a positive message about their local water resources as the AOCs are restored and eventually removed from the list of Great Lakes “toxic hotspots.” Open discussion will follow.

Jordan Lubetkin, Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition  
Jeff Alexander, Owner, J. Alexander Communications

Moderator: Frank Ruswick, Deputy Director, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes

4:00 p.m. **Concluding Remarks and Adjournment**



The Statewide Public Advisory Council is a coalition of representatives from the 14 community-based public advisory councils that are guiding cleanup efforts in Michigan's 14 Great Lakes Areas of Concern. The Council was formed in 1991 to facilitate public participation in Michigan's statewide Areas of Concern program, heighten public awareness of and participation in the development of cleanup plans, and generate public support for implementation of restoration and protection measures. The Council is supported by the Great Lakes Commission with funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Additional background is available online at <http://www.glc.org/spac/>.