



NEWS

Volume XIII, Summer 1998

Environmental bond proposal to go before voters

On election day this November Michigan voters will have a chance to vote on Governor Engler's environmental bond proposal, the Clean Michigan Initiative. Initially proposed by the governor to include \$500 million for various environmental and redevelopment programs, the bond proposal was increased to \$675 million and passed by the state legislature in early July.

If approved by Michigan voters, the bond proposal will provide

- ◆ \$335 million to redevelop polluted urban sites—often referred to as brownfields—of which \$40 to \$60 million must be spent on sites posing an immediate or substantial threat to the environment;
- ◆ \$50 million for waterfront redevelopment;

see Bond, p. 3...



Email list established for RAPs and LaMPs!

see page 11

RAP leaders gather for summit meeting

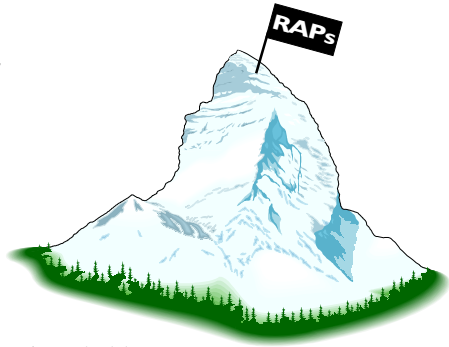
Raise public awareness, involve local governments, coordinate agency programs, exchange information, build partnerships, and, above all, provide funding for PAC operations and remediation activities.

These priorities stood out during discussions held as part of a RAP Summit for Michigan's Areas of Concern. RAP leaders from across the state convened May 8-9 near Traverse City, Mich., to discuss challenges facing their Remedial Action Plans, learn about funding opportunities for RAP activities and share ideas and success stories.

Staff from the Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency were on hand to receive input and discuss plans for Michigan's RAPs and for the Lakewide Management Plans. Both agencies are developing long-term plans for the RAPs and LaMPs, and the meeting provided an important opportunity for public advisory council members and other local RAP participants to contribute to the planning process.

A highlight of the meeting was U.S. EPA's announcement that it will commit \$10,000 annually over the next three years to each public advisory council to support baseline operations. Responding to a major need facing local PACs, the funding will help leverage additional resources while underwriting staff support, mailings, meeting costs and other PAC-related expenses (see related article on page 2).

see Summit, p. 6...



Workshop Announcement

Communities in Action

Building Local Partnerships for Solving Water Quality Problems – with a focus on Southeastern Michigan

Friday, Sept. 11, 1998 - Mt. Clemens, Mich.

see page 11 for details



Agency News

News from U.S. EPA

Supporting strong PACs— U.S. EPA's commitment

By Jo Lynn Traub, Director
Water Division, U.S. EPA Region 5

Last May's RAP Summit in Traverse City was, by all accounts, a tremendous success! My staff returned from the event energized and impressed by the keen knowledge and dedication of the PAC members and other RAP stakeholders who participated.



The Summit provided our Lake Team Managers, as well as staff from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, with an invaluable opportunity to solicit input from the local level in the process of determining the most critical, immediate work which must be accomplished in each of Michigan's Areas of Concern. After all, who knows better than PAC members and other local leaders what the most critical remediation needs are in Michigan's AOC communities? You can rest assured that the voluminous information compiled during the RAP Summit will go a long way toward enabling us to develop a multi-year funding needs assessment for the Great Lakes. We hope to complete this process in the near future and will keep you posted regarding the results of our efforts.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the Statewide Public Advisory Council (SPAC) for sponsoring the RAP Summit and recognize the staff at the Great Lakes Commission for the superb job they did in organizing and facilitating the event. The dedication of the SPAC members and their commitment to a strong and well coordinated statewide AOC program was apparent throughout the course of the Summit discussions.

Most important, perhaps, I want you to know that one of the messages we heard loud and clear was the need for each PAC to obtain a consistent level of funding for the next few years in order to work toward completing the RAPs. I am pleased to reiterate U.S. EPA's commitment, first announced at the RAP Summit, to maintaining a base level of funding for each Michigan PAC in the amount of \$10,000 per year, contingent on the continued availability of Coastal Environmental Management funds in the region. By the time of the SPAC's next meeting in September, we hope to have determined how to get these funds to the PACs in an expeditious and efficient manner.

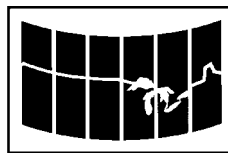
I am confident that each of the PACs will work in partnership with their federal and state counterparts to ensure this funding is used in the most efficient and effective ways possible, and I am excited by the opportunities these funds present to make a real difference in each of the RAPs. Please keep up the good work, and know that U.S. EPA remains committed to working in partnership with you to restore and preserve our most tremendous natural resource—the Great Lakes! ♦

News from the IJC

RAP updates: A valuable tool

By Bruce Kirschner
RAP Coordinator, International Joint Commission

The complexity and scope of restoring beneficial uses in the Areas of Concern (AOCs) have become much broader than many of the original participants had anticipated. Accordingly, the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) process has spanned a much longer time than was first forecast. Some jurisdictions, including the state of Michigan, have endorsed the development of RAP updates as an effective means of documenting and tracking the development and implementation of remedial actions.



These updates also provide a useful public outreach mechanism and, since they are not constrained by RAP document requirements, they can more easily outline undertakings of outside agencies and public advisory groups. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) also has used RAP updates to report on new research findings. For example, in the 1996 Oswego River RAP Update, NYSDEC reported the preliminary results of an ongoing study of the effects on infants due to their mothers' consumption of environmentally contaminated Lake Ontario fish. Information such as this is valuable for those in the RAP community.

Many RAP participants do not have ready access to current research findings and summaries provided in RAP updates provide a reader-friendly method of delivering useful information. New research results may also provide additional justification for needed remedial actions. For more information regarding the 1996 Oswego River RAP Update, contact Bob Townsend, NYSDEC, at 518-457-8960, retownse@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

In April, the Michigan Department of Environment Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency highlighted the utility of updates as part of a Letter of Commitment regarding three binational AOCs: St. Marys River, St. Clair River, and Detroit River (see related article, page 5). The section of the Letter of Commitment pertaining to progress reports calls for a single format for reporting progress biennially to both the International Joint Commission and the public. According to the letter, the progress reports are to "reflect progress in implementation, update technical information, assess progress towards achieving the delisting criteria, as well as highlighting progress towards achieving priorities defined by previous reports." The NYSDEC updates serve as an outstanding example of how this type of information can be delivered.

Progress reports provide an important means of delivering information to the public, elected officials, industries, and other interest groups. Communicating information on new research results and agency initiatives in a timely manner is an important step beyond the traditional approach of merely reporting on success stories. Posting progress reports on the Internet through the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) will only increase their usefulness. ♦

Regional News

...Bond, continued from p. 1

- ◆ \$90 million to protect water wells, extend sewers to communities with failing septic tanks, clean storm-water and monitor rivers, lakes and streams for pollution (the money cannot be used to separate storm and sanitary sewers);
- ◆ \$50 million to address nonpoint source pollution;
- ◆ \$50 million to improve road, water and sewer systems in state parks;
- ◆ \$50 million to improve recreation facilities at local parks;
- ◆ \$25 million to remove contaminated sediments from rivers;
- ◆ \$20 million for pollution prevention, including low-interest loans for small businesses; and
- ◆ \$5 million to contain pollution from lead-based paint in older homes.

Particularly important for Michigan's 14 Areas of Concern is funding provided for nonpoint source pollution and remediation of contaminated sediments (see related article, page 4).

Cleaning up contaminated sediments—a challenge facing virtually all of the AOCs—is technically complex and extremely costly. With the exception of sites with an identified, responsible party, finding the money for these efforts has proven difficult. If approved by the voters, the bond proposal will target so-called orphan sites, or those with no specific responsible party to pay for cleanup efforts. Many of these sites are in AOCs.

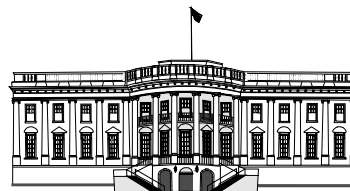
Funding proposed for nonpoint source pollution will be used in three primary areas: implementing watershed plans; reducing pollutants from specific sources, such as road crossings or farms; and implementing large-scale watershed programs, including in the Saginaw Bay watershed.

During the legislature's consideration of the bond proposal, a stipulation was added, with the SPAC's vocal support, that the Dept. of Environmental Quality notify public advisory councils of any sediment cleanup work to be conducted under the proposal in an AOC.

For more information, contact MDEQ, Office of the Great Lakes, P.O. Box 30473, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7973, 517-335-4056. ◆

Detroit to host national summit on sustainable development

The President's Council on Sustainable Development will hold a national summit on sustainable development May 2-5, 1999, in Detroit, Michigan. The summit will celebrate the success of current efforts and also serve as a launching point to spark a national dialogue on sustainable development. Organizers hope the summit will spur additional actions to integrate environmental, economic, and social objectives and efforts to accomplish these goals simultaneously instead of creating tradeoffs between them.



Detroit's selection as the summit site is part of the organizers' efforts to showcase successful initiatives that have brought together communities, businesses, all levels of government, and nonprofit organizations to implement sustainable development locally. In Detroit, Mayor Dennis Archer has joined with Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara to form a collaboration to tackle common problems in the region. In recent years, Archer and McNamara have worked together to create a joint Roundtable on Sustainable Development, which works to redevelop brownfields and revitalize downtown by bringing business back to the inner city.

Council members Ray Anderson, chief executive officer of Interface, Inc.,

and Carol Browner, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will serve as conference co-chairs. Local hosts include Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer, Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara, and General Motor's Vice Chairman Harry Pearce.

The President's Council on Sustainable Development was created by President Clinton in 1993 to advise him on sustainable development and economic, environmental and equity issues. The council is comprised of 30 diverse leaders from business, government, and community,

environmental and native American groups. The council has forged a consensus that sustainable development offers opportunities to increase America's prosperity and revitalize America's communities using an integrated approach.

For more information, contact the Council's Summit Coordinator, 730 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, DC 20503, 202-408-5296, email: infopcsd@aol.com, or visit the Council's web site at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/PCSD/>. Local contacts are Josephine Powell, Wayne County Department of Environment, 313-224-2658, jpowell@co.wayne.mi.us, and Edwina Henry, Office of the Mayor, City of Detroit, 313-224-3457, henrye@mayor.ci.detroit.mi.us. ◆



Keeping it on the land...

...and out of the water!

Sept. 16-18, 1998

Radisson Hotel and SeaGate Center
Toledo, Ohio

Soil Erosion and
Sediment Control Opportunities
for the Great Lakes Basin

Featuring presentations on federal, state, regional and local initiatives affecting resource conservation efforts in the Great Lakes basin and opportunities for reducing nonpoint source pollution in both rural and urban environments.

Deadline for early registration is August 15.

To request a conference flyer and registration form, contact Matt Doss, Great Lakes Commission, 734-665-9135, mdoss@glc.org.

Guest Feature

This space is reserved for guest articles from elected officials, agency representatives, citizens and others with a special interest in the AOC Program or the environment of the Great Lakes. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SPAC, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the Great Lakes Commission.

Governor John Engler's Clean Michigan Initiative: What does it mean for the Areas of Concern?

By G. Tracy Mehan, III, Director, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes

Governor John Engler's Clean Michigan Initiative strategically deploys new resources to attack two of the most pressing water quality challenges to the Great Lakes and Michigan: contaminated toxic sediments and polluted runoff.

Forty-two Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs) were identified under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the United States and Canada. Fourteen are located in Michigan, including the Clinton, Detroit and Rouge rivers, to name just a few in southeast Michigan. These sites are contaminated by persistent, bioaccumulative toxics such as PCBs and mercury. They are the source of continued pollution, or "loadings," to the Great Lakes ecosystem because they do not easily breakdown in the environment. They contribute to contamination in fish consumed by humans and wildlife.

The cleanup and remediation is funded primarily through enforcement actions under state and federal law. Presently in Michigan there are seven sediment cleanups underway representing an investment of \$41.5 million, primarily paid for by liable parties usually referred to as "potentially responsible parties" (PRPs). An eighth cleanup is underway in which the PRP is spending approximately \$70 million.

Governor Engler has proposed earmarking \$25 million for toxic sediment cleanups for eight AOCs that involve sites without sufficient PRPs to foot the bill. By targeting these "orphan" sites, the Governor supplements the Great Lakes cleanup effort without relieving liable parties of their responsibilities. The principle of "polluter pays" remains intact.

Yet, the most pervasive challenge to better water quality is, simply put, polluted runoff. The experts call this "nonpoint source" pollution as distinguished from pollution due to point sources, the archetypical pipe in the water, which have been the subject of intense regulation since the passage of the federal Clean Water Act in 1972.

Phosphorus, pesticides, oil, and the like are washed off farms, parking lots, streets, golf courses and construction sites into our rivers, streams and lakes, destroying water quality and critical fish habitat. Sediment itself, not even contaminated by toxics, is the number one pollutant by volume in Michigan's waters. It covers up the gravel fish need for spawning, fills in stream channels and carries with it other pollutants such as phosphorus.

Governor Engler chaired the National Forum on Nonpoint Source Pollution, a blue-ribbon committee convened by the National Geographic Society and the Conservation Fund. According to the National Forum's final report, "It is clear that if we are to gain further ground, the line of attack must shift to non-point water pollution." The report cited U.S. EPA's 1992 report to Congress that ranked agriculture as the leading source of pollutants in assessed rivers and lakes. Crop and animal production contributed to 72 percent of impaired river miles and 56 percent of impaired lake acres. Urban runoff and storm sewers are the number two causes of impairments for lakes and number three for rivers.

Unfortunately, the \$95 million per year U.S. EPA has given to states since 1990 to cope with nonpoint sources is less than 5 percent of the total funds it spends on water quality, according to Resources for the Future, a Washington think tank. In recent years, it accounted for only 1.7 percent of U.S. EPA's total budget!

Governor Engler has dedicated \$50 million in the Clean Michigan Initiative to implement approved watershed plans for the control of runoff, eliminating erosion from road-stream crossings, stabilizing stream banks, fencing livestock away from streams, and implementing stormwater controls, to name just a few possibilities.

Writing in the July 1994 issue of *Water Environment and Technology*, Governor Engler noted that "We must increasingly rely on partnerships between private citizens and organizations, as well as between the private sector and government. These partnerships will allow us to pool resources and address those water quality problems of highest priority."

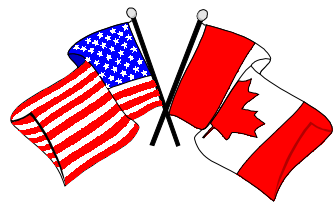
In proposing an ambitious plan for toxic sediment cleanups and controlling polluted runoff, Governor Engler has kept yet another promise by reason of his Clean Michigan Initiative. He has offered an exciting water quality agenda to complement his initiatives on state parks, brownfield redevelopment and waterfront reclamation.

In January, Standard and Poors upgraded Michigan's credit rating to AA+, the highest in at least two decades. This positive development allows Michigan citizens to take advantage of a healthy economy to implement the Clean Michigan Initiative for the benefit of future generations. ♦

Letter of Commitment for shared AOCs signed

By Robert Sweet
Michigan Dept. of
Environmental Quality

A Letter of Commitment for the restoration and protection of the three AOCs shared jointly by Michigan and Ontario (St. Marys River, St. Clair River and Detroit River) was signed by senior representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the Canadian Government, and the Province of Ontario on April 17, 1998, in Windsor, Ontario. The Letter of Commitment was developed by the four agencies with primary responsibility for developing RAPs in Michigan



and Ontario (U.S. EPA, MDEQ, Ontario Ministry of Environment, and Environment Canada) to establish a framework of roles and responsibilities for the implementation of RAPs in these shared AOCs.

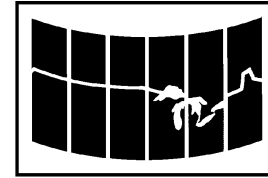
In signing the letter, the four agencies acknowledged the benefits of cooperation and affirmed the responsibilities each has to its citizens. The agencies reiterated their commitment to the RAP/AOC process and to ensuring public involvement in the shared AOCs. While each of the AOCs will maintain its individuality, the letter establishes common terms of reference as well as processes for binational activities. These include such diverse activities as establishing a delisting process, monitoring and reporting progress, and public outreach. The two Canadian agencies will have primary responsibility for administering the shared activities for the St. Marys River and St. Clair River RAPs, while MDEQ will maintain the administrative lead for the Detroit River RAP. For more information, contact Robert Sweet, MDEQ, 517-335-4182, sweetr@state.mi.us. ♦

IJC releases Biennial Report

The federal governments of Canada and the United States should be the leaders in protecting the Great Lakes, according to the International Joint Commission in its Ninth Biennial Report on Great Lakes Water Quality. Released on July 22, the report aims to rejuvenate action by the governments and bring resolution to ongoing problems and issues affecting the Great Lakes. The report also recommends that the Canadian and U.S. governments investigate the environmental status of Lake St. Clair and the St. Joseph River and report back to the IJC so that it may consider recommendations regarding their possible designation as Areas of Concern.

Under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, Canada and the United States are formally committed to restore and protect the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem.

“The agreement is a visionary document that is a model of international cooperation,” says Tom Behlen, director of the IJC’s Great Lakes Regional Office. “It is due to be reviewed this year and the International Joint Commission strongly feels that reopening the



agreement is not necessary, the governments only need to renew their commitment to it and work to achieve its objectives.”

There are positive signs that the lakes are returning to better health, but not enough has been done to eliminate all problems. For example, persistent toxic substances are still found within the Great Lakes ecosystem, and there is evidence that they impair human intellectual capacity, change behavior, damage the immune system and compromise reproductive capability. Other problems are land-use patterns, increasing shoreline development, habitat modification, biological contamination and nutrient input.

The IJC’s Ninth Biennial Report makes 19 recommendations to further research, monitoring, and the development and application of ecosystem models. These recommendations include:

- ♦ Initiating and completing remediation of contaminated sediment;

see Report, p. 7...

Workshop Announcement

Transferring Successful Strategies and Techniques for Areas of Concern

September 25-26, 1998
Hammond, Indiana

Sponsored by the International Joint Commission

The purpose of the workshop is to transfer successful strategies and techniques to promote environmental remediation in the 42 Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs). Presenters from AOCs in Ontario and the Great Lakes states will focus on issues such as lessons learned in decision-making for contaminated sediment clean-up; sustainable development activities in Racine, Wisconsin, and Northwest Indiana; environmental education as a means of enhancing public consultation; demonstration of computer software for comparison of sediment remediation options; challenges of consulting the public in binational AOCs; discussion of public concerns regarding siting of confined disposal facilities; and a roundtable discussion on lessons learned.

For more information, contact Bruce Kirschner, 313-226-2170, ext. 6710, kirschnerb@windsor.ijc.org.

Regional News

Community foundations take on the environment

*Tanya Cabala, Chair, White Lake Public Advisory Council
Arn Boezaart, Environmental Project Coordinator, Community Foundation for Muskegon County*

Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes have acquired an important new player in the environmental arena: community foundations. Longtime supporters of the arts, community development and community philanthropy in general, community foundations are beginning to fund local environmental projects through the Great Lakes Environmental Collaborative.

With coordination by the Council of Michigan Foundations and funding from the Great Lakes Protection Fund and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the project is helping 21 shoreline community foundations from Duluth to Rochester, New York, including 11 in Michigan. The community foundations are convening two community meetings on environmental issues and starting permanent endowment funds to support local and regional environmental initiatives.

The Community Foundation for Muskegon County has stepped forward

to fund environmental projects and to encourage greater coordination among local environmental organizations, including the public advisory councils for the Muskegon Lake and White Lake Areas of Concern. With an initial award of \$2,500 from the Collaborative and the promise of a \$15,000 match toward a permanent endowment, the Muskegon Foundation established a \$100,000 environmental endowment in just nine months. A permanent environmental committee has been established and is developing grant-making guidelines with the goal of awarding its first environmental grants later this year.

While most community-based environmental endowments will not initially have huge sums of grant funding to dispense, they provide an instant attraction for other philanthropic interests of a like mind. Most significant, however, is the visibility and ongoing attention to environmental issues that will be fostered by community foundation involvement. Community foundations typically have a high profile and are well-respected in their communities. Their entrance into the environmental arena will signify that the environment is an important and legitimate area of

community concern. It also brings new enthusiasm, ideas and resources to the table.

With support from the Great Lakes Environmental Collaborative, the Muskegon Foundation already has sponsored several successful events and is working toward a larger, more effective community-wide environmental strategy. We encourage and welcome the new partnerships that will come about from the Great Lakes Environmental Collaborative!

Community foundations from Michigan participating in the Collaborative include the Bay Area Community Foundation (Bay City), Berrien Community Foundation, Alger Regional Community Foundation (Munising), Muskegon County Community Foundation, Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan, Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation, Marquette Community Foundation, Greater Keweenaw Community Foundation, Les Cheneaux Community Foundation, and the Sault Ste. Marie Community Foundation. For more information on the Collaborative, contact Rob Collier at the Council of Michigan Foundations, 616-842-7080, cmf@cmf.org. ♦

...*Summit*, continued from p. 1

Approximately 70 individuals attended the meeting, including representatives from 12 of Michigan's 14 AOCs. The meeting opened with presentations on funding opportunities for RAP activities from an array of agencies and organizations that support such efforts. The speakers reviewed their funding programs and answered questions about funding priorities, application procedures and anticipated funding levels.

The most important component of the RAP Summit was the lake basin breakout sessions, during which the PAC delegations convened by lake basin for detailed, facilitated discussions. During these sessions each PAC delegation identified the top three policy related priorities for its AOC as well as examples of specific, corresponding projects. The groups

next identified unmet needs and common issues and priorities for the lake basin as a whole. This process generated detailed information on AOC, lake basin and statewide RAP priorities in a manner consistent with U.S. EPA's lake team approach for managing the RAPs and Lakewide Management Plans (see page 10 for a summary of this input).

Based on the results of the lake basin breakout sessions, Roger Eberhardt and Kathy Evans assessed priorities for MDEQ and the SPAC. Meeting participants were invited to suggest additional approaches to strengthening the statewide AOC program.

The meeting concluded with a panel discussion titled *Looking to the Future for Michigan's RAPs: Reactions and Discussion*. The panel members reacted to the meeting

discussions and identified common themes and unexpected outcomes.

Perhaps the most energizing portion of the summit meeting was the exchange of ideas among the PAC members. One suggestion, in particular, that the SPAC is pursuing is development of an email listserv to facilitate communication on RAP and LaMP issues among PAC members, agency staff and other interested parties (see related article on page 11).

The RAP Summit was sponsored by the Statewide Public Advisory Council and coordinated by the Great Lakes Commission. A summary of the meeting discussions has been distributed to the SPAC members and PAC chairs; additional copies are available upon request. Contact Matt Doss, Great Lakes Commission, 734-665-9135, mdoss@glc.org. ♦

Regional News

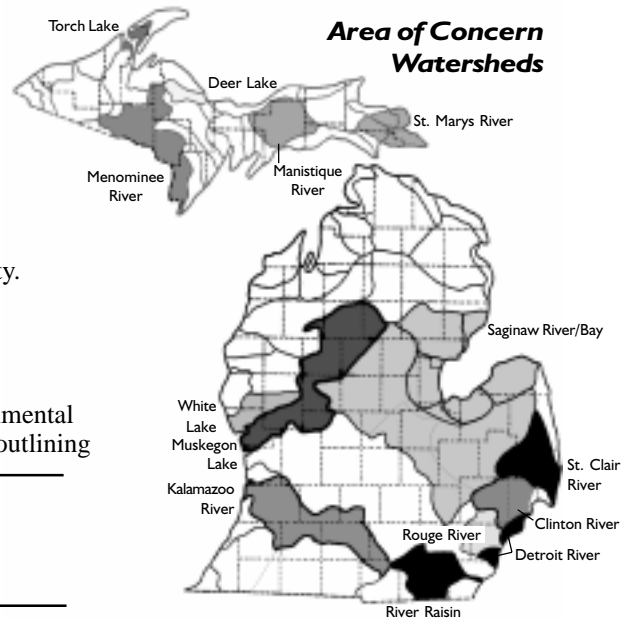
AOC watershed map available for PACs

Do you know your watershed?

When we think about an Area of Concern, we usually envision a river, lake or bay. In fact, AOCs include the entire watershed that feeds water into the water body. The watershed concept is an important part of the RAP process and helps explain why activities taking place miles from your local river can adversely affect its water quality. Taking a watershed view also dramatically increases the geographic scope of the RAPs. For example, the watersheds of Michigan's 14 AOCs encompass all or part of *two-thirds* of the state's 83 counties!

To highlight Michigan's AOC watersheds, the Department of Environmental Quality has produced a large, color map—similar to the map at right—outlining

**Michigan's 14 Areas of Concern
encompass all or part of
two-thirds of the state's counties.**



the watershed for each of the state's AOCs. The map was displayed at the SPAC's legislative briefing in February (see related article, page 11) and served as a powerful reminder of just how much territory is being covered by the Remedial Action Plans.

MDEQ has received several requests for copies of the map and wishes to make it available to interested parties. The electronic version, useful for publishing newsletters and fact sheets, is available free of charge. A hard copy, mounted on rigid posterboard and approximately 36 by 46 inches in size, is available for \$270. A smaller version mounted on different material would cost less. The department is interested in knowing if PACs would like to have their own map or whether it might be better to simply produce a several copies that could be loaned out. If you would like a copy of the map or have ideas on how it could best be used, contact Sharon Baker, 517-335-3310, bakersl@state.mi.us. ♦

...Report, continued from p. 5

- ♦ Reducing and eliminating sources of air pollution containing specific toxic and persistent toxic substances;
- ♦ Reducing pollution to the Great Lakes from agricultural land;
- ♦ Funding research about endocrine disruption in humans and wildlife;
- ♦ Adopting a strategy relating to dioxins and furans;
- ♦ Identifying and eliminating specific uses of mercury;
- ♦ Developing a detailed program for the systematic destruction of PCBs; and
- ♦ Monitoring of nuclear facilities and toxic chemicals used at nuclear facilities, as well as the effects of certain radioactive elements.

In order to facilitate the cleanup of all Areas of Concern around the Great Lakes basin, the report urges the implementation of eight recommendations outlined in a March 1998 IJC report that dealt with human health, public-private partnerships, funding and staffing, public participation, information transfer, quantification of environmental benefits and Public Advisory Council funding (see page eight for a summary of this report).

Contact: Jennifer Day, International Joint Commission, 519-257-6733, dayj@windsor.ijc.org. ♦

Workshop Announcement

Assessing contaminated sediments in Muskegon Lake and White Lake



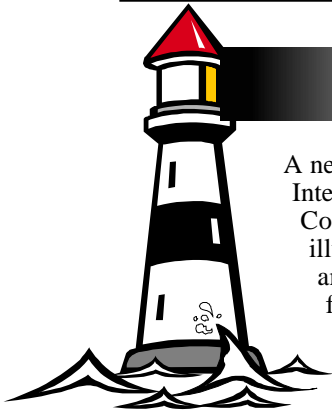
October, 1998 - Date to be announced
Muskegon, Michigan

Contaminated sediments in Muskegon Lake and White Lake will be the focus of an October workshop in Muskegon, Mich. The workshop will review what is known about contaminated sediments in the lakes and what information is still needed to inform local decision making. The meeting also will address economic impacts of contaminated sediments; options for removing, treating and monitoring them; and approaches for choosing a cleanup strategy.

Workshop presenters include staff from the International Joint Commission, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corps of Engineers, Grand Valley State University's Water Resources Institute and others. The workshop will feature a video presentation of a unique underwater dredge and hydraulic pump operation capable of removing sediments without dispersing them in the water.

For more information on the workshop—including the final date—or to register, please contact Kathy Evans, Muskegon Conservation District, 616-773-0008.

Regional News



Illuminating successful RAP strategies

A new report from the International Joint Commission illuminates examples of successful organizational and technical efforts in Areas of Concern across the Great Lakes basin. Released by the IJC in March 1998, *Beacons of Light; Successful Strategies Toward Restoration in Areas of Concern Under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement*, showcases eight AOCs which can serve as "beacons" to guide other AOCs. The report

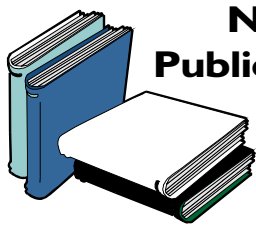
provides background on each of the AOCs, its success story, and the lessons learned. The AOCs profiled and their noteworthy successes are:

- ◆ Black River - strategic planning;
- ◆ Grand Calumet River/Indiana Ship Canal - public-private partnership;
- ◆ Hamilton Harbour - sustainable development;
- ◆ Ashtabula River - effective use of a partnership;
- ◆ Bay of Quinte - phosphorus trading;
- ◆ Manistique River - Superfund remediation; and
- ◆ Muskegon and White Lakes - creative fund raising.

Major obstacles to RAP implementation identified in the report include:

- ◆ Lack of planning for implementation of "big ticket" remedial measures;
- ◆ Reductions in government support with no associated increase in local capacity;
- ◆ Failure to set priorities within and between AOCs;
- ◆ Insufficient public participation;
- ◆ Inadequate information transfer; and
- ◆ Failure to quantify the benefits of remediation, particularly regarding human health.

continued on next page...



New Publications

State of the Lakes 1997 Annual Report

Governor John Engler released the latest annual report on the State of the Great Lakes on April 29. The report focuses on numerous issues impacting the Great Lakes ecosystem, including fisheries, water levels and air toxics. It features guest authors from business, government and the environmental community.

The governor highlighted his Clean Michigan Initiative, a bond issue for environmental cleanup, as well as his financial support for fish hatchery renovation, sea lamprey control and other programs to control the spread of exotic species.

The 1997 Annual Report also features differing perspectives on Lake Huron; directional drilling under the Great Lakes; climate change policy in the wake of Kyoto; Lake St. Clair; and unique and globally significant islands of the Great Lakes.

Copies of the report are available free of charge from the Office of the

Great Lakes at 517-335-4056. The report is also available in electronic format at <http://www.deq.state.mi.us/ogl/glar97.pdf>.

Pollution Solutions; Promoting Pollution Prevention in the Great Lakes Basin

This newly published report summarizes work conducted under the Great Lakes National Program Office's (GLNPO) Pollution Prevention Grant Program. From 1992 through 1995, GLNPO awarded more than \$1,600,000 for 20 projects that used pollution prevention to address the problem of toxic chemicals in the Great Lakes.

The report is the last of three summaries of projects completed under the three major areas of GLNPO's competitive grants program: pollution prevention, sediment assessment and remediation, and habitat restoration and protection. The reports are available online at:

Pollution Solutions; Promoting Pollution Prevention in the Great Lakes Basin, - March 1998 (<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/p2/pollsolu/pp2cover.htm>);

Moving Mud: Remediating Great Lakes Contaminated Sediments - April 1996 (<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/sediment/movemud/>); and

Mining Ideas: Turning a Grant Assistance Program into a Knowledge Base - April 1997 (<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/mineidea.html>).

For more information or hard copies of the reports, contact Lawrence Brail, brail.lawrence@epa.gov.

Watershed Training Opportunities

This booklet provides information on watershed training opportunities sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water and the Watershed Academy. It includes descriptions of the academy's four main activities (training courses, publications, watershed management facilitation, and website) as well as training courses and educational materials produced throughout EPA's Office of Water.

The booklet is available free from the National Center for Environmental Publications: phone 800-490-9198 and include the EPA document number, EPA841-B-98-001. The booklet also is available via the Watershed Academy's homepage at <http://www.epa.gov/OWOW/watershed/wacademy.htm>. The academy may be reached by phone at 202-260-5368, academy@epamail.epa.gov.

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Regional News

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The report concludes with the following recommendations regarding issues that must be considered in all AOCs:

Human Health Considerations:

Human health information being developed for the LaMPs should be incorporated into the RAP process. This will help justify remedial actions and should especially be disseminated in AOCs with susceptible populations consuming sport-caught fish.

Public-Private Partnerships:

Lessons learned from successful public-private partnerships should be compiled and disseminated to other AOCs.

Funding and Staffing: The Parties to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agree-

ment should identify resources available annually for RAP activities as well as resources still required to restore beneficial uses in the 42 AOCs. This information should be used to determine both minimal and optimal levels of support needed to complete each AOC's restoration activities and to strike a balance between planning and implementation efforts.

Public Participation: More resources should be mobilized to enhance public participation efforts, including better use of low-cost or no-cost means of reaching and influencing the public.

Information Transfer: Information technology should be better used to enhance public participation efforts

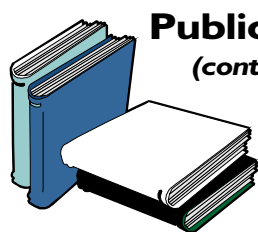
and improve information sharing.

Quantification of Environmental Benefits:

Greater effort should be devoted to informing citizens and politicians of the reduction in human health risk achieved under the Superfund Program in the Waukegan Harbor AOC.

PAC Funding: Inter-PAC transfer of information concerning funding sources and techniques should be promoted to improve the PACs' effectiveness in seeking outside funding.

The report is available free of charge from the IJC, P.O. Box 32869, Detroit, MI 48232, 313-226-2170. ♦



Publications (continued)

Protecting Lake Superior: A Community-Based Approach

This publication from the National Wildlife Federation describes successful grassroots pollution prevention projects in the Lake Superior basin. The guide offers common-sense ideas and tactics for protecting the Great Lakes from toxic pollution.

The publication is available for \$6.00 by calling 734-769-3351; by email at eales@nwf.org; or by writing to the National Wildlife Federation, Great Lakes Natural Resource Center, 506 E. Liberty, 2nd Floor, Ann Arbor, MI, 48104-2210.

Realizing Remediation: Progress in the Remediation of Contaminated Sediments in the Great Lakes

U.S. EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office has released this comprehensive report documenting past and current sediment remediation activities in the Great Lakes Basin. The report provides a synopsis of

each sediment remediation project that has taken place in the U.S. Waters of the Great Lakes region and lists an additional 15 sites where remediation projects are planned in the near future.

The report is available free of charge. Contact Lawrence Brail, brail.lawrence@epa.gov. The report is also available online via the GLNPO sediments web page at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/sediments.html>.

Saving Our Watersheds: A Field Guide to Watershed Restoration Using TMDLs

This guide, produced as part of the National Wildlife Federation's Saving Our Watersheds project, describes how watershed associations, civic organizations, advocacy groups and individuals can take steps to clean up polluted waters through the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) provision of the Clean Water Act. TMDLs are ceilings on the amount of pollutants allowed in a water body. They are an enforceable mechanism for restoring polluted watersheds and have the potential to address the increasingly significant problem of diffuse sources of pollution, such as runoff from agricultural fields, urban areas and from airborne toxics.

The guide is available for \$6.00 by calling 734-769-3351; by email at

eales@nwf.org; or by writing to the National Wildlife Federation, Great Lakes Natural Resource Center, 506 E. Liberty, 2nd Floor, Ann Arbor, MI, 48104-2210. The guide also is available online at <http://www.nwf.org/northeast/watersheds/index.html>.

Discovering Great Lakes Dunes

This 32-page, fully illustrated booklet describes the making of dunes, dune types and locations, dune zones, and the value and protection of dunes. The booklet contains illustrations of important dune concepts and photos of dune complexes and the plants and animals that live on Great Lakes dunes. The booklet was published through a joint venture by the Gillette Natural History Association, Michigan State University Extension and the Michigan Sea Grant Program.

Single copies are available for \$4.95 plus 6 percent state sales tax; \$3.95 for quantity orders for educational purposes (tax exempt information required); and \$3.45 for wholesale purchases. Contact: Gillette Natural History Association, Gillette Visitors Center, Hoffmaster State Park, 6585 Lake Harbor Rd., Muskegon, Michigan 49441. Phone 888-224-6806 toll free or 616-799-1010. ♦

Lake Erie Priorities

Lake Basin/Statewide Needs:

- ◆ Governance arrangements
- ◆ Funding
- ◆ Research and monitoring
- ◆ Program implementation
- ◆ Planning
- ◆ Information and education
- ◆ Resource issues

AOC-Specific Issues and Priority Projects:

Saginaw River/Bay

RAP revisions

- *expand the RAP's scope to address additional issues*

Public education

- *expand outreach and education programs*

Public awareness

- *increase participation in the RAP process at all levels*

St. Clair River

Staff support

- *increase staff assigned to work directly on specific AOC needs*

Watershed planning

- *address issues such as point/nonpoint source pollution, combined sewer overflows, and habitat restoration*

Funding

- *fund studies to fill data gaps (e.g., sediment assessment, combined sewer impacts, etc.)*

Clinton River

Funding

- *local staff support for the RAP*

Information management

- *real-time monitoring*

Public education

- *implement outreach programs on critical issues (e.g., nonpoint source pollution, failed septic systems, etc.)*

Detroit River

Source control

- *address point and nonpoint sources of toxic pollution and combined sewer overflows*

Contaminated sediments

- *implement remediation efforts that begin upstream and work downstream*

Pollution prevention education

- *implement a household hazardous waste education and technical assistance program*

Rouge River

Contaminated sediments

- *address sources of contaminated sediments*

Habitat

- *protect headwaters areas; remove Corps of Engineers project*

Public education

- *implement clean sweeps and pollution prevention programs*

River Raisin

Contaminated sediments

- *remove historic sources and conduct follow-up monitoring*

Habitat

- *restore damaged habitat areas*

Environmental education

- *expand outreach programs*

Lake Michigan Priorities

Lake Basin/Statewide Needs:

- ◆ Full-time program staff
- ◆ Support from the governor and legislature
- ◆ Statewide media campaign
- ◆ Integration of RAPs into agencies' base programs
- ◆ Increased "savviness" for interacting with the government
- ◆ Enforcement of existing regulations
- ◆ Statewide programs to improve local land-use planning

AOC-Specific Issues and Priority Projects:

Muskegon Lake

Education/public awareness

- *implement an AOC/LaMP school education program*

Contaminated sediments

- *implement cleanup and removal activities*

Habitat restoration and protection

- *protect/restore shoreline habitat through land-use planning*

White Lake

Organizational capacity and membership

- *obtain support for PAC operations and public outreach*

Land-use and watershed decision-making

- *convene local units of government, state agencies and the PAC to address land-use issues*

Contaminated sediments and habitat

- *develop strategic plans for contaminated sediments and habitat*

Kalamazoo River

Land-use planning

- *educate local officials about low-impact land-use practices and enact ordinances toward this end*

Nonpoint source pollution

- *develop educational and regulatory programs for soil erosion*

Habitat loss

- *identify sources and causes of habitat loss*

Lake Superior Priorities

Lake Basin/Statewide Needs:

- ◆ Funding for remediation and RAP development
- ◆ Knowledge on LaMP and RAP process
- ◆ Inclusion of PACs in the RAP process
- ◆ Communication within and between agencies and with PACs
- ◆ Outreach and communication to local communities
- ◆ Information exchange among the PACs
- ◆ Placement on priority lists (e.g., Superfund)

AOC-Specific Issues and Priority Projects:

Deer Lake

Updating the RAP

- *develop recommendations for beneficial use impairments*

Public support

- *implement public education and awareness efforts*

Scope and focus of the PAC

- *define watershed boundaries and physical characteristics*

Torch Lake

Funding for remediation activities

- *\$13 million needed for 14 parcels*

RAP revisions

- *address beneficial use impairments*

PAC funding

- *public education, technical and organizational support*

St. Marys River

Logistical support for PAC functions

Community outreach and communication

Binational coordination

Combined sewer overflow elimination project

Email list established for RAPs and LaMPs in Michigan

The SPAC has established an email list for the RAP and LaMP community in Michigan. A recommendation from the May 1998 RAP summit, the email list, called MICH-RAP, will provide a forum for exchanging news and information on RAP and LaMP activities.



Subscribers to MICH-RAP will receive email messages posted by other subscribers and can post their own messages to the list. The list is ideal for announcing meetings or community events, promoting new publications, or requesting information or suggestions on specific issues.

MICH-RAP is open to public agency and nongovernmental parties involved in the RAP or LaMP programs. This includes members of public advisory councils and other RAP groups; federal, state and local agency staff; elected officials; and other interested parties. To subscribe, individuals send an email message to majordomo@great-lakes.net with the command *subscribe MICH-RAP* in the body of the message. No subject line is required.

MICH-RAP is a service of the Statewide Public Advisory Council and will be managed by the council's support staff at the Great Lakes Commission. For more information, contact Matt Doss, 734-665-9135, mdoss@glc.org. ♦

Communities in Action

Building Local Partnerships for Solving Water Quality Problems – with a focus on Southeastern Michigan



Friday, Sept. 11, 1998 - Mt. Clemens, Mich.

The workshop will highlight opportunities and obstacles for building local political support for remedial action plans and other watershed management efforts in Southeastern Michigan. Using the Clinton River as a case study, the workshop will review the role of local governments in managing water resources and present case studies of successful, community-based initiatives from across Southeastern Michigan.

Keynote speaker Rep. William Callahan will discuss the problems facing Lake St. Clair in the context of the broader challenges facing the Great Lakes.

The workshop is open to all interested parties. There will be a \$25 charge for lunch. A boat cruise on Lake St. Clair will be held the evening of the workshop. For more information or to register, contact Matt Doss, Great Lakes Commission, 734-665-9135, mdoss@glc.org.

The registration deadline is September 4!

Second annual legislative briefing highlights RAP efforts

Progress in developing the RAPs coupled with ongoing funding shortfalls were the themes of the SPAC's second annual legislative briefing, held on Feb. 4 in Lansing. The briefing featured presentations on Michigan's Areas of Concern program and allowed time for the SPAC members to update their representatives on local RAP activities.

SPAC Chair Nancy Douglas reviewed the background and goals of the AOC program and highlighted recent accomplishments, including the formation of new public advisory councils and the completion of sediment cleanups in several AOCs. Tracy Mehan, director of the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes, discussed how the RAPs would benefit from the governor's Clean Michigan Initiative environmental bond proposal and Margaret Guerriero, U.S. EPA's Lake Superior Regional Team Manager, presented the agency's approach to the AOC program. Rep. Bob Brown and Sen.

Ken DeBeaussaert provided a legislative perspective on the RAPs.

During the briefing, the SPAC presented a \$3 million funding needs statement for Michigan's AOC program. Based on critical staffing and project needs facing the statewide program, the statement urged the legislature to "recognize the Areas of Concern program and the citizen's interest

as a matter of the highest priority." Douglas noted that many of the RAPs were entering the implementation stage, which would involve costly cleanup activities. She told the legislators that "if we're going to keep the process moving forward and build upon the work that's already been done, we need your help."

The SPAC's annual legislative briefing has become an important forum for showcasing RAP activities and raising the profile of the AOC program among Michigan's political leaders. For more information, contact Matt Doss, SPAC support staff, 734-665-9135, mdoss@glc.org. ♦



AOC Updates

The following updates and opinions are provided by members of the Statewide Public Advisory Council.

CLINTON RIVER

By William Smith

The Clinton River PAC is finalizing the 1998 RAP Update, which will supersede the 1995 version, and is planning for the SPAC workshop to be held in the Clinton River AOC on Sept. 11 (see announcement on page 11).

The Surface Water Improvement and Monitoring (SWIM) Team, organized by the Macomb County Health Department, completed its first month of operations in May. It conducted 54 investigations, of which seven are pending, 44 are resolved and three have been referred to the county prosecutor's office. The prosecutor's office now has a dedicated environmental prosecutor to act on SWIM Team investigation referrals. This significant effort has uncovered a number of major pollution sources.

On June 17, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the formation of a nine-member Water Quality Board to scrutinize the pollution control efforts of the Health Department's SWIM Team, the special prosecutor for environmental enforcement and the Public Works Department. County Board Chairman John Hertel said "They are going to be a citizen's watchdog group on any water quality issue in the county, whether it's the (Clinton) river, a tributary, or Lake St. Clair. They're like a lighthouse. They'll be shining light on what's happening with water quality." With this action, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners has acted on the three key recommendations concerning local governance made in the 1997 report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lake St. Clair.

The Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) has had a busy year. Spring Monitoring Day, involving local students, was held on April 30 and resulted in the discovery of a significant pollution source, which was referred to local authorities. Some 30 local community organizations sponsored 24 events on River Day 98, held on June 6 to celebrate the Clinton River as a valued natural resource.

Events included canoe trips, wetlands walks, fly fishing demonstrations, storm drain stenciling and river cleanups.

The CRWC continues the Bear Creek Project to develop an urban management plan and has an additional grant to provide pollution prevention assistance to auto service shops in the Bear Creek area. A \$100,000 U.S. EPA grant has been awarded to convene county and local representatives to develop a work plan for an illicit connection program. Fieldwork has started along Stony Creek on a wetland functional assessment project, also funded by U.S. EPA.

The monitoring station at the mouth of the St. Clair River has been upgraded to provide real-time computer links to the Great Lakes Institute for Systems Research at Oakland University. The blue gill biomonitoring system is also on line. The cooperative research and development agreement between Oakland University, the Army Tank Command and the Macomb County Health Department has produced educational materials for algae and zooplankton identification and study.

DEER LAKE

By John Meier

The Deer Lake Public Advisory Council continues to meet at least quarterly to complete organizational activities and to discuss rewriting the Remedial Action Plan. Several committees have been formed to evaluate the 14 beneficial use impairments and to determine how to address them. A special meeting was held in March to prepare for the RAP Summit. Six members attended the summit, which was a valuable experience for all of us. Sharon Baker, MDEQ Surface Water Quality Division, has attended most of our meetings and has been a great help in getting the Deer Lake PAC off the ground.

Margaret Guerriero, U.S. EPA, attended the March 25 meeting to explain the Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) process and how the RAP will relate to the plan. She also discussed long-range project planning and funding options.

DETROIT RIVER

By David A. Mekarski, AICP

As a result of a year-long study by a committee of the international Detroit River Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC), the Michigan BPAC delegation has recommended the formation of the Detroit River RAP Partnership to follow implementation of RAP recommendations and to provide advice to MDEQ and U.S. EPA. The partnership is open to all organizations, government agencies, nonprofit groups, citizen groups, sports groups, business and industry and others who can contribute resources toward cleaning up the river. The partnership approach follows the thinking of other AOCs and reflects U.S. EPA's position that Total Quality Management concepts and limited resources argue in favor of using partnerships.

The Detroit River Michigan Interim Partnership has been meeting and recruiting members since its approval by the BPAC in 1997. To date, 18 organizations representing state and local governments, industry, universities, nonprofit organizations and citizen groups have indicated a willingness to join in the effort. The Partnership's goals are to conduct open meetings on a regular basis; seek input from the public; provide public education; promote the goals of the Detroit River RAP; set annual implementation goals and report regularly on progress toward realizing them; encourage formation of local groups with responsibility for implementing specific parts of the RAP; and contribute the expertise and resources of member agencies and organizations.

The Partnership's draft implementation structure will provide a framework to help stakeholders focus on the primary goal of delisting the Detroit River as an AOC. Through this framework, RAP issues will be considered, recommendations for new work will be formulated, and individual remedial actions will be implemented. The structure provides linkages between local implementors, the general public and state and federal partners.

Under U.S. EPA's guidance, the Partnership will hold a series of facilitated

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AOC Updates

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meetings in fall 1998 to open membership to the broadest possible cross section of the Detroit River community. Meetings are currently being planned for Belle Isle and Wyandotte to attract membership from new stakeholder groups.

MUSKEGON LAKE

By Kathy Evans

The Muskegon Lake PAC sent four members to the RAP Summit in May. U.S. EPA's announcement that it would provide base support to Michigan's PACs was one of the highlights of the two-day event. Much thanks goes to the Great Lakes Commission for coordinating the excellent program.

The Muskegon Lake PAC is involved in several projects at this time. A draft strategy to protect Ruddiman Creek is being finalized; a strategic planning process and workshop to restore and protect aquatic habitat is underway; and a workshop will be held in October as part of an initiative to involve and educate the community about contaminated sediment hot spots (see the meeting notice, page 7).

The PAC, Conservation District and MDEQ staff have developed a needs assessments for Ryerson Creek and are working on a similar assessment for Ruddiman Creek. Both are adversely impacted tributaries to Muskegon Lake. A local steering committee for the Bear Creek watershed is meeting to develop a watershed plan for that tributary as well.

Later this year the National Envirothon will bring hundreds of students to Michigan to compete and test their knowledge about natural resources and to develop creative solutions to environmental problems. A field day for the students will be in Muskegon, including a boat tour of Muskegon Lake. The PAC's local staff support at the Muskegon Conservation District will narrate the tour, explaining the watershed issues that impact Muskegon Lake. The Grand Valley State University Research Vessel, *W.G. Jackson*, also will allow the students to perform water quality tests of Muskegon Lake and Lake Michigan.

Many volunteer activities have taken place over the summer. A MDEQ grant allowed volunteers to continue cleanups and habitat plantings along shoreline and tributaries, and a grant through Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Fund is providing support for a habitat protection strategic plan. Storm drain stenciling is continuing along with dissolved oxygen monitoring of various tributaries. Current PAC funding will end September 30 and, to continue local RAP activities, the PAC and support staff are developing grant proposals for base PAC support, education and community involvement, and a GIS/habitat and land-use education and technical support program. The PAC is waiting for more information on the grant process to continue with these planning efforts.

ROUGE RIVER

By Cathy Bean, MDEQ

The last several months have been very busy in the Rouge River Watershed, with the various subcommittees of the Rouge River RAP Advisory Council (RRAC) continuing to complete numerous tasks. The public education subcommittee recently completed a comprehensive recreation guide for the entire Rouge watershed. The guide is composed of a map showing locations where residents and visitors can go for recreational activities and to view the Rouge River. The guide has been widely distributed to recreation departments across the watershed.

The nNonpoint source subcommittee has completed its downspout disconnect brochure, created to educate residents about the contribution they make to the stormwater flow problem in the Rouge River. The brochure was designed for use by all watershed communities and is already in use by local governments.

The habitat subcommittee has issued its first awards for habitat projects in the watershed. Selected projects include a wildflower installation by the Ford Motor Company and habitat restoration on the property of the Western Wayne Conservation Club. The subcommittee is also looking at how to reduce habitat loss in the watershed due to development pressures.

The on-site sewage disposal subcommittee has developed a working guidance for inspection of septic systems. They hope the guidance will be used to standardize inspection procedures in the Rouge watershed and to train future inspectors.

As always, the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project is moving ahead with many important projects to help restore the Rouge River. Perhaps most significant is application by local municipalities for MDEQ's new Voluntary General Stormwater Permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. The permit was developed by MDEQ with significant input from the Rouge Project and several Rouge watershed governments. MDEQ has made the permit available statewide for local municipalities. The first community has already applied for coverage under the permit and many more are expected to follow in 1999. Applicants are required to define the watershed covered by the permit, and local governments are encouraged to work together on common stormwater problems. The permit allows and encourages public entities to devise and implement local strategies to improve stormwater quality in their communities.

Combined sewer overflow (CSO) projects are nearing completion and 68 of the 83 Phase I CSO outfalls are presently receiving treatment or have been completely eliminated. The elimination or treatment of CSO wastewater is believed to have a significant, positive impact on water quality in the Rouge River. Studies are being conducted to confirm the results of these efforts.

This spring the Rouge Project had its first Waterfest, a one-day event which introduced 1,200 elementary school children to water issues. Children visited various stations throughout the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus to learn about topics ranging from aquatic life to firefighting to forecasting rainstorms. The event was a huge success and planning has begun for next year's event.

A process is being developed to revise the Rouge River RAP. Last winter some controversy arose over dates

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AOC Updates

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established in the original RAP document for completion of CSO control work. Before these dates are amended, MDEQ has requested a public participation process to include all stakeholders in the decision-making process. The RRAC has determined that participation by local governments is lacking and that a mechanism must be developed to solicit their input in the RAP revision process. The entire process will take approximately two years and is expected to be completed by the year 2000.

The 1998 progress report for the Rouge River RAP is nearly complete and will be published this fall. The document will be a compilation of successes in implementing the Rouge RAP, including reports on Rouge Project activities. The *Rouge River Report Card* will be published prior to the progress report and will provide a concise summary of conditions on the river based on data collected by the Rouge Project and other stakeholders. The report card will be a very useful tool for identifying where to focus future efforts. It will also help local governments in developing watershed management plans required under the general stormwater permit.

Friends of Rouge has also been busy establishing new programs to help educate and empower watershed residents to clean up the Rouge River. Their newest program, called the Rouge River Stewards, sends "river stewards" into local communities to spread the word about river issues and to encourage residents to do their part.

SAGINAW BAY/RIVER

By Dennis Zimmerman

In Gratiot County, the Friends of the Bad River have formed a partnership with the Soil Conservation District to work on the north branch of the Bad River. Work will include erosion repair, tile outlet repair, streambank restoration, filter strip installation, log jam removal, beaver dam removal, and repair/removal of other stream obstructions. Financial support has been received from the Townships of Brant and St. Charles, the Village of St. Charles, and the Community State Bank of St. Charles. These monies will be complimented by a matching grant

from the Michigan Wildlife Habitat Foundation. Work is scheduled to begin in August 1998.

In March 1998 the Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed (PSBW), assisted by the East Central Michigan Planning and Development Region, completed a series of three workshops on conservation development. This marked the fourth year of workshops on issues related to land-use planning and development. The latest workshops featured Randall J. Arendt, vice president of Conservation Planning at the Natural Lands Trust based in Media, Pennsylvania. Arendt is an internationally renowned advocate of conservation development and the author of numerous publications. Each workshop was attended by more than 70 local officials and planners.

PSBW Chair Bill Wright observed that "...these workshops are connecting the best ideas from throughout the United States with the talents and interests of our local communities. Land-use planning and development can be done with open space and water quality benefits."

Arendt also presented seminars on conservation design. He noted that the benefits of conservation design are substantial, both for individuals and the entire community. Property values are strengthened because of the amenities that are provided (trees, trails, etc.) and the natural features that are protected (woodlands, wetlands, etc.). Communities benefit by protecting open space and water quality and clustering homes so that services can be provided more effectively. The local officials attending Mr. Arendt's presentations left very enthusiastic about applying his methods.

The PSBW's May meeting included a presentation and discussion on potential environmental threats from large-scale hog farming. Preliminary test data indicate there is a massive and immediate threat to both surface and ground waters from the concentrated infusion of liquified manure. Commercial hog raisers eventually intend to house 25,000 or more hogs at each of two sites in the watershed. A series of meetings was planned and will involve representatives from

MDEQ and the State Department of Agriculture.

Michigan is now being targeted for large-scale hog and beef operations because, unlike other states, it has no regulations that protect individuals and properties from this type of environmental incursion. Commercial operators rely on Michigan's Right to Farm Act to protect them. The PSBW has not developed a formal position statement but informal discussion among the membership seems to indicate a general consensus that the Right to Farm Act was not intended to be applied in this manner.

ST. CLAIR RIVER

By Paulette Duhaime

On March 9, 1998, Health Canada and McMasters University presented the preliminary results of a sport fish and wildlife consumption study at a public meeting in Sarnia, Ontario. Five AOCs were included in the survey: Toronto Harbor, Hamilton Bay, Niagara River, Detroit River and the St. Clair River. Of approximately 1,000 anglers interviewed on the St. Clair River, 67 percent reported that they eat the fish they catch. This was the highest percentage of angler consumption in any of the five AOCs surveyed. A detailed report, including follow-up surveys of high consumption anglers, will be released later this year.

St. Clair County has applied to the Michigan Great Lakes Protection Fund for a grant to support monitoring of nonpoint source pollution. The St. Clair River Watershed Improvement Program was financed by a \$15,000 grant from Environment Canada's Great Lakes 2000 Cleanup Fund. The program deals with Canadian creeks and drains feeding the St. Clair River and offers landowners assistance for projects addressing soil loss, bacterial contamination and other nonpoint source issues. An expected \$140,000 to \$200,000 from the Great Lakes 2000 Cleanup Fund will support this and similar programs through March 1999.

A \$4,000 grant from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment is financing a project to determine what habitat types are underrepresented or

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...continued from previous page unprotected in the watershed and setting priorities for habitats that need immediate attention for protection and/or rehabilitation. Many of these grants are brokered through the Friends of the St. Clair River in the U.S. and Canada, and the BPAC is very appreciative of the efforts of its dedicated "friends."

A RAP Stage 1 Update has been finalized emphasizing environmental conditions in the St. Clair River. The report identifies three restored beneficial uses and one determined "not impaired." The report can be found on the Internet at www.geomatics.com/stclairRAP/. An implementation annex is also being finalized with emphasis on progress in addressing actions from the Stage 2 Recommended Plan. Finally, the St. Clair River BPAC is celebrating 10 years of work to clean up and preserve the St. Clair River.

ST. MARYS RIVER

By Mike Ripley

Things are finally starting to roll on the St. Marys River! The BPAC met five times in the past six months to address issues related to the RAP. The Ontario Ministry of Environment's Lake Superior Programs Office in Thunder Bay, Ontario, has the lead in developing the RAP and in April presented the BPAC with an outline for the Stage 2 document. The outline includes an ambitious schedule to submit drafts of each chapter of the document to the BPAC and other agencies involved. The BPAC has submitted a letter expressing comments and concerns regarding the proposed contents of the document and review schedule.

The International Joint Commission (IJC) has completed its status assessment of the St. Marys River AOC. The IJC's Science Advisory Board visited the area in November 1997 and conducted extensive interviews with the agencies responsible for developing and implementing the RAP, the BPAC and other stakeholders on the river. The status assessment report is expected to be issued in July 1998.

The BPAC has applied to U.S. EPA for a Coastal Environmental Management grant to fund an office and library of materials related to the St. Marys River and the RAP process to be housed at

Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The grant proposal also calls for development of a GIS database for the AOC.

The BPAC also has examined its own structure and functions. In March, the executive council met to update its terms of reference to better allow the BPAC to function as the voice of stakeholders on the river. The challenge for the BPAC at this time is to broaden its membership to include more stakeholder representation and to better involve the community as a whole. The BPAC hopes to achieve these goals through outreach and education of stakeholders and community members.

TORCH LAKE

By Jim Spence

April marked the first anniversary of the Torch Lake Area Public Action Council (PAC). It was a busy year in which the PAC embarked on two major efforts: internal organization and an introductory review of each of the AOC's 14 potential beneficial use impairments.

The impaired beneficial use review was presented over the course of seven months by graduate students enrolled in an environmental decision making class at Michigan Technological University in Houghton. Each month the students published articles in the local newspaper reviewing the impaired uses to be presented at that month's meeting. Their PAC presentation elaborated on the material published in the paper and their written documents will form much of the foundation for a more in-depth review that will take place over the coming year. This information is available on the Internet at <http://www.ss.mtu.edu/ep/torchlake>.

The PAC's organizational efforts resulted in the adoption of bylaws, incorporation as a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation, the securing of grant monies, and the receipt of more than \$2,700 in donations from local government, businesses, and a local environmental group. The funds will be used, in part, to help underwrite the PAC's logistical needs. Future monthly meetings will be held at Lake Linden-Hubbell High School at 6:30

p.m. on August 26, September 16, October 28, November 18, and December 23. The public is encouraged to attend.

Remediation efforts also are underway in the AOC. The Natural Resources Conservation Service remediation design of a small, stamp-and-contaminated site dubbed "The Moonscape" has been completed. The project has been released for bids and the work is scheduled to be completed by this fall. This will be the first contaminated site to be remediated with MDEQ monies. Along the shore of Torch Lake, a heavy metal contaminated slag deposit will soon be remediated by a private business who will be recycling the material into a subfloor in an old industrial building. This will effectively cap the material within a protective structure while removing a large amount of contaminants from the shore of the lake.

WHITE LAKE

By Tanya Cabala

The White Lake PAC is completing a reorganization project begun last fall with the assistance of Clean Sites. The PAC's goal is to evaluate progress since the group formed in 1992 and to revitalize its work in response to changes at the local and state levels.

A task force of core PAC members, the local RAP coordinator and community representatives met for several months. The group generated goals for improving the PAC's work: make the PAC more action-oriented; improve public involvement in RAP activities; and improve business participation on the PAC.

The task force met for several months and generated a preliminary strategic plan designed to achieve the goals. The PAC changed the mission statement to reflect the new action emphasis and reduced meetings to every other month with a leadership team meeting monthly to coordinate subcommittee activities. The group also decided to focus efforts on an annual State of the Lake event to publicize progress on the RAP, solicit public input on priorities, and increase overall awareness.

The PAC is enthusiastic about its new direction and is committed to continual evaluation of its most important task—involving the public in restoring and protecting beautiful White Lake and its surrounding areas. ♦

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