

4th Binational Lake St. Clair Conference Implementing Restoration and Protection Efforts for the Heart of the Great Lakes

March 19-20, 2008 ✧ MacRay Harbor ✧ Harrison Township, Michigan

Conference Overview

The conference will review the status of environmental management efforts in the U.S. and Canadian Lake St. Clair watershed. The focus of this year's conference is implementing restoration and protection efforts for Lake St. Clair. The program includes plenary presentations on the status of major initiatives and smaller breakout sessions focused on specific restoration and protection initiatives. Separate sessions are dedicated to key initiatives in the U.S. and Canadian sides of Lake St. Clair. The conference is intended for resource managers, local officials, elected representatives, citizens' organizations, business/industry representatives, local residents and the media with an interest in the Lake St. Clair watershed.

Conference Agenda (a complete agenda is available online at www.glc.org/stclair/conf2008)

Day One: Wednesday, March 19

9:00 a.m. Welcoming Remarks, Review of Four Agency Agreement and Purpose of the Binational Lake St. Clair Conference

Hon. Bill Crouchman, Chair, Macomb County Board of Commissioners
Representatives from the U.S. and Canadian agencies responsible for Lake St. Clair
Video Statements from Senator Carl Levin and Congresswoman Candice Miller

9:15 a.m. Reports on Major Initiatives and Environmental and Water Quality Status Report

Moderator: Rose Ellison, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Implementation of the Lake St. Clair/St. Clair River Comprehensive Management Plan
Chuck Hersey, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Implementation of the Lake St. Clair Canadian Watershed Management Plan
Jennifer Vincent, Environment Canada

Implementation and Key Findings of the Lake St. Clair Regional Monitoring Project

Gary White, R.S., M.S., Director, Environmental Health Services Div., Macomb County Health Department

St. Clair-Detroit Drinking Water Monitoring Project

Steven C. Gold, MPH, Deputy Health Officer, Macomb County Health Department

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Breakout Sessions to Review Key Initiatives in the Lake St. Clair Watershed

Six breakout sessions will be held in three groupings. Conference participants may attend one session in each of the three groupings.

10:45 a.m. Breakout Group One

Option 1: Managing Phragmites: Lessons from the Great Lakes and Beyond

This session will review approaches for managing phragmites, an invasive reed that is invading coastal areas on Lake St. Clair and around the Great Lakes. The session will review government programs in Michigan and Ontario, permit requirements, control methods, and resources available to help land owners and resource managers. Research on long-term control strategies will also be discussed.

Moderator: Emily Finnell, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes

1) Control Efforts and Research Around Lake St. Clair

Ernie Kafcas, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

2) Michigan Programs, Requirements and Resources for Controlling Phragmites

Tracy Collin, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

3) Phragmites Management: The Ontario Experience

Donald Craig, Water Operations Manager/Forester, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

Option 2: Protecting Drinking Water from Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River

This session will discuss the operations and future direction of drinking water protection efforts on Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River, including how the drinking water monitoring system will be maintained and funded

Moderator: Pamela Turner, Detroit Water and Sewerage Department

1) Operations, Capabilities and Management of the St. Clair River-Lake St. Clair Drinking Water Protection Network

Annette DeMaria, Environmental Consulting and Technology

2) Overview of the Sarnia-Lambton Water Monitoring System

Dean Edwardson, Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association

3) Institutional Options for Maintaining Drinking Water Monitoring Systems

Thomas Kalkofen, Director, Macomb County Health Department

12:15 p.m. Lunch and Keynote Speaker

Advancing Restoration of the Great Lakes: A Perspective from the United States Senate

Hon. Debbie Stabenow, United States Senator

1:30 p.m. Breakout Group Two

Option 1: Monitoring for Bacterial Contamination in the Lake St. Clair Watershed: Current Efforts and Future Directions

This session will review current programs to monitor for bacterial contamination in the Lake St. Clair watershed, and future options to improve monitoring, detection and control programs.

Moderator: Steve Lichota, Assoc. Director, Environmental Health, Macomb County Health Department

1) Bacterial Monitoring Programs in Macomb and St. Clair Counties

Jim Buzonik, Macomb County Health Department

Ron Miller, St. Clair County Health Department

2) Strengths and Weaknesses of E. Coli as an Indicator of Bacterial Contamination

Sheridan Haack, U.S. Geological Survey

Option 2: Options for Preventing Nutrient Enrichment in Lake St. Clair

This session will review sources of nutrients that cause excessive algae and plant growth in Lake St. Clair, and options for controlling them.

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

1) Point Source and Non-Point Source Phosphorus Loading to Lake St. Clair from the Clinton River

Dr. John Lehman, Professor of Biology, University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and Arts

2) Options for Controlling Phosphorus from Wastewater Treatment Plants

Cory Lancaster, CDM

3) Public Education to Encourage Environmentally-Friendly Lawn and Garden Care

Lillian Dean, FAICP, Coordinator, Healthy Lawns & Gardens, Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority

4) Using Public Ordinances to Minimize Nutrient Enrichment in Local Water Bodies

Anne Vaara, Executive Director, Clinton River Watershed Council

3:00 p.m. Break

3:30 p.m. Breakout Group Three

Option 1: Lake Levels and Flows Affecting Lake St. Clair

This session will review how changes in lake levels and circulation patterns are impacting Lake St. Clair, and prospects for mitigating and adapting to these impacts.

Moderator: Roger Gauthier, Program Manager, Great Lakes Commission

1) Recent Water Level Changes and Near-Term Forecasts

Keith Kompoltowicz, Meteorologist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District

2) Investigations of St. Clair River Flows

Dr. Rob Nairn, P. Eng, Principal, Baird & Associates

3) St. Clair River Task Team Investigations under the International Upper Great Lakes Study

James R. Nicholas, Director, Michigan Water Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey

Option 2: Why Monitoring Matters: Outcomes from Regional Monitoring Programs and Implications for the Future

This session will review results from U.S. and Canadian regional monitoring efforts for Lake St. Clair and implications for future policies, funding and management activities.

Moderator: Kirsten O. Jurs, Storm Water Coordinator, St. Clair County Health Department

1) Outcomes and Potential Responses from the Lake St. Clair Regional Monitoring Project
Gary White, Macomb County Health Department

2) Monitoring in the Canadian Lake St. Clair Watershed: Turning Information into Action
Chris Harrington, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

3) Water Quality Monitoring: Implications for Future Policy and Funding in the Lake St. Clair Watershed
Jim Ridgway, Vice President, Environmental Consulting and Technology, Inc.

5:00 p.m. Reception

Day Two: Thursday, March 20

8:30 a.m. Opening Remarks

9:00 a.m. Concurrent U.S. and Canadian Breakout Sessions

U.S. Breakout Session: Key Initiatives for Advancing Implementation of Restoration and Protection Efforts in the U.S. Lake St. Clair Watershed

Moderator: Ken DeBeaussaert, Director, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes

Preliminary Findings and Recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lake St. Clair
J. Russell LaBarge, Jr., Chairman, Macomb County Blue Ribbon Commission on Lake St. Clair

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Authority for Leading a Partnership to Implement the Lake St. Clair Management Plan

LTC. William Leady, Commander, Detroit District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Options for Generating Local Funding for Lake St. Clair Restoration and Protection Projects
Bill Parkus, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Canadian Breakout Session: Moving Forward on the Implementation of Canada's Lake St. Clair Management Plan

Overview of Lake St. Clair Canadian Management Plan Issues and Recommendations
Jennifer Vincent, Environment Canada

What Programs and Outreach Activities are Already in Place to Support Management Recommendations?

Brian McDougall, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

Jake Lozon, Rural Lambton Stewardship Network

Peter Roberts, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Discussion: Moving Forward on Implementation

What do we need to move forward? What programs or activities still need to be implemented to achieve the goals and objectives of the Management Plan? Where are the priority areas in the Lake St. Clair Watershed?

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Report Out from Breakout Sessions

Moderators will review outcomes from their sessions and proposed next steps. Open discussion will follow.

11:30 a.m. Closing Plenary Session

12:00 Noon Wrap Up and Adjourn

Dave Cowgill, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office