

## Lake St. Clair/St. Clair River Management Plan

### **Management Plan Advisory Committee**

*November 19, 2001  
Zuccaro Banquet and Catering  
Chesterfield Township, Michigan*

#### **MEETING SUMMARY**

On November 19, 2001 the kickoff meeting of the Management Plan Advisory Committee for the Lake St. Clair/St. Clair River Management Plan Project was held in Chesterfield Township, Michigan. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the Advisory Committee with background information on the planning effort and solicit feedback on the proposed scope and content of the plan. This summary was compiled by the Great Lakes Commission. Action items, next steps and the list of meeting participants are provided at the end of the summary.

The meeting agenda addressed the following topics: Project Background and Authorization, Review of Current or Planned Management Initiatives, and Study Goals, Methods and Schedule. Below is a summary for each of these discussions.

#### **Review of Project Background and Authorization**

Matt Doss, Great Lakes Commission, reviewed the background and Congressional authorization for the management plan initiative. The management plan was authorized by Congress in Section 426 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999. This legislation calls for a comprehensive management plan for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River that identifies sources and causes of environmental degradation, monitoring of contamination levels and dissemination of information to public authorities and others. The plan is to be developed in coordination with state and local governments and appropriate federal and provincial authorities of Canada. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the federal agency authorized to oversee this planning effort. The Great Lakes Commission was contracted by the Corps to assist in coordinating this effort.

#### **Review of Current or Planned Management Initiatives in the Study Area**

Matt Doss provided an overview of major management initiatives and research currently underway or planned in the Lake St. Clair region. The objective of this review was to inform participants of the numerous programs and activities currently dedicated to Lake St. Clair/St. Clair River management. Doss stressed that, while there are numerous successful programs and initiatives already in place, there is a need to integrate existing efforts into a single comprehensive framework. In order to be most effective, these initiatives would benefit from integration across jurisdictions and between the U.S. and Canada. He emphasized that this plan would not be a duplication of existing efforts. Rather, this plan is a means to showcase and highlight those activities currently underway. In addition, it can serve to synthesize existing efforts by coordinating goals and priorities.

#### **Study Goals, Methodology and Schedule**

Matt Doss outlined the goals, methodology and schedule for developing and implementing the plan. Prospective study goals include:

- Synthesize, integrate and promote existing studies, plans and recommendations;
- Outline a cohesive, ecosystem-based management framework;
- Generate consensus on management priorities;
- Identify authorities and funding mechanisms;
- Catalyze and leverage local activism; and
- Contribute to a binational Lake St. Clair management initiative.

Doss outlined prospective methods for plan development. The plan is to be developed in cooperation with U.S. and Canadian federal and state/provincial agencies, tribal/First Nation authorities, local authorities and the public. The Great Lakes Commission and the Army Corps of Engineers will provide project coordination.

The project management structure consists of four components: 1) the Project Management Team; 2) Technical Work Groups; 3) an Advisory Committee; and 4) the Secretariat and Consultants.

The Project Management Team (PMT) consists of federal, state, provincial and local agencies and tribal authorities. The role of the PMT members is to serve as a representative and “point of contact” for their agency, as well as solicit staff participation and expertise to contribute to various components of the plan. The Technical Work Groups will be responsible for drafting specific sections of the plan; 3) the Advisory Committee will comment on and review the plan. Participation on this committee will include public and private stakeholders from the Lake St. Clair/ St. Clair River.

The tentative schedule, outlined by Doss, is as follows:

September:	Convene Project Management Team and Advisory Committee
Sept. – Jan.:	Technical Work Groups Meet
February:	Preliminary draft plan completed
May:	Final draft plan completed, “State of the Lake” Conference held
August:	Final plan completed

This schedule is subject to change and participants will be notified of these changes.

### **Open Discussion on Management Plan Study and Process - Comments and Recommendations**

#### ***Content and Format:***

- Water quality isn’t cited as an end point in any of the chapters. The plan should emphasize environmental outcomes.
- Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) requirements should be addressed and/or recognized.
- Included a literature survey in the plan.
- Examine economic impacts and beneficial results from implementing the plan.
- Celebrate the issues we agree on, but document points of disagreement and process for resolving them.
- Need to look at upland issues, headwaters protection.
- Need to address water withdrawals, Annex 2001.
- Need a better agreement on spill reporting and what has to be reported. Need cooperation from government administrations on both sides of the border.
- Address enforcement in the document. Look at U.S. – Canadian / Michigan – Ontario enforcement regimes and included an appendix with enforcement statistics.
- Pollution prevention strategies should be included.
- Included an organizational chart showing who does what in the region.

#### ***Role of the Plan:***

- Need to address public confidence in the lake. The plan should raise public confidence.

#### ***Implementation:***

- Address impediments to implementing plan recommendations.

- Address linkages needed for long term implementation.
- People will want to know if things are getting better or worse. We need a solid database with monitoring data.
- Make website accessible to teachers. Make it an educational tool.
- When developing the plan, look at who will be your “foot soldiers.” Who will administer the plan?
- Several participants emphasized the importance of a monitoring strategy to measure change and document progress. If you have no process to evaluate the planning effort, than you have no way to measure impact of the planning effort.

***Additional Issues:***

- Private landowners are missing from the stakeholder groups.
- Include an Information/Education component. How can we ensure buy-in?

**ACTION ITEMS**

The Great Lakes Commission, in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers and Environmental Consulting and Technology will:

1. Develop a revised schedule and outline
2. Develop a website
3. Make Power Point Presentations available online
4. Assemble Technical Workgroups
5. Create List serve
6. Prepare a draft vision statement and principles to guide the workgroups
7. Prepare the draft for *Human Health, Beach Closures and Drinking Water*, as a template to guide the workgroups in developing their chapters.

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Affiliation</u></b>
Nancy Andrews	Environmental Consulting and Technology, Inc.
Lisa Appel	Wildlife Habitat Council
Masami Barnett	Lake St. Clair Advisory Committee
Chuck Bellmore	Mt. Clemens Utilities
Florence Bissell	US Army Corps of Engineers
William Callahan	Michigan House of Representatives
Eunice Confer	US Senator Carl Levin
Mike Donahue	Great Lakes Commission
Matt Doss	Great Lakes Commission
Rick Doyle	St. Clair Parks Commission
Tom Edsall	US Geological Survey
Rose Ellison	US Environmental Protection Agency
Greg Esler	St. Clair Shores
Carl Freeman	Wayne State University
Jeff Friedle	Michigan Dept. of Agriculture
Sandra George	Environment Canada
Patrick Gerrity	CDR Patrick G. Gerrity, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port, Detroit
Bob Haas	Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources
Gordon T. Harding	City of Windsor

Gerri Hofmann	State Rep. William Callahan
Thomas Johengen	CILER, University of Michigan
Gary Johnson	Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Peggy Johnson	Lake Erie LaMP Forum, Clinton River Watershed Council
Bob Kavetsky	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Bruce Kirschner	International Joint Commission
Dennis Leonard	Detroit Edison
Colette Luff	US Army Corps of Engineers
Michael Magee	Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Doug Martz	Macomb County
Barbara McCallahan	US Senator Debbie Stabenow
Reg McMichael	City of Saria – City Engineer
Guy Meadows	University of Michigan
Elizabeth Moore	Great Lakes Commission
Ralph Moore	National Park Service
Dennis Olshove	Macomb County Commission
Art Ostraszewski	Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality
Michael Overton	City of Grosse Pointe
Bill Parkus	SEMCOG
Erich Pfuehler	US Rep. David E. Bonior
Adele Pleatman	Sub-consultant with CH2M-Hill
John Randolph	East China Township
Jack Robertson	Lower Thames Conservation Authority
Cyndi Roper	Clean Water Action
Harry Salisbury	US Army Corps of Engineers
Joe St. John	St. Clair Shores Waterfront Advisory Committee
Dolly Schenk	River of Life – Clinton River Watershed
Frank Schoonover	Harsen’s Island St. Clair Flats Association
Roy Schrameck	Environmental Consulting and Technology, Inc.
Jim Selegean	US Army Corps of Engineers
Cynthia Sellinger	GLERL, NOAA
Deneen Seyko	St. Clair Township, St. Clair County
Bill Smith	Macomb County WQB, Clinton River AOC PAC
Van Snider	Michigan Boating Industry Association
Steve Stewart	Michigan Sea Grant Extension
George Thomas	City of Detroit Water Dept.
Maciej Tomczak	Great Lakes Institute, University of Windsor
Gary Towns	Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources
Jody Willis	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Brad Wilson	Clean Water Fund