

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

### **Management Plan Advisory Committee**

*May 30, 2002  
Thomas Edison Inn  
Port Huron, Michigan*

#### **MEETING SUMMARY**

On May 30, 2002, the second meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Lake St. Clair/St. Clair River Management Plan Project was held in Port Huron, Michigan. The purpose of the meeting was to review the status of the management plan and to solicit input on institutional arrangements for managing Lake St. Clair. The Management Plan Advisory Committee meeting was preceded by a meeting of the Project Management Team. A luncheon was held between the two meetings that featured remarks from William Howland, Manager of the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

This summary was compiled by the Great Lakes Commission. The list of meeting participants is provided at the end of the summary.

#### **Status Report on the Planning Process, Information Needs, and Schedule**

Matt Doss presented a status report for the Lake St. Clair/St. Clair River Management Plan project. He reported that the management plan outline has been finalized; a project website has been established; technical workgroups have been convened; draft chapters were prepared for all of the topical chapters in the management plan; and numerous meetings were held with key agencies and organizations to discuss the management plan.

Doss reported on remaining information needs and the schedule for completing the management plan. He identified specific information gaps and additional outreach/information needs. He also discussed the need to develop goals, objectives and recommendations and emphasized the role of the Advisory Committee in this process. Finally, Doss presented the following proposed revised schedule, and stressed that this schedule was likely to change after incorporating input from the PMT:

July-Dec.	Fill information gaps, complete goals, objectives and recommendations, and edit chapters
Feb. 1	PMT and Corps review
March 1	Comments from PMT and Corps
April 1	Revised draft to Corps
Late April	Advisory Committee review
May	Lake St. Clair Conference
July	Final management plan to the Corps

#### **Alternative Institutional Arrangements for Management Plan Implementation**

A primary objective of this meeting was to solicit input from the Advisory Committee on recommendations for a management framework for implementing the management plan. In preparation for this discussion, the Great Lakes Commission prepared a briefing paper that reviews issues and options for consideration in developing a binational management framework for Lake St. Clair. As part of this briefing paper, four alternative management scenarios were developed to inform discussion. To supplement the briefing paper, a Lake St. Clair Stakeholder Inventory was developed that provides a descriptive listing of agreements, major studies and reports, and agencies and organizations relevant to Lake St. Clair. Elizabeth Moore reviewed the briefing paper and the alternative management scenarios for Lake St. Clair with the Advisory Committee.

#### **Breakout Session Summaries**

To facilitate discussion on a Lake St. Clair management framework, meeting participants were divided into three "breakout sessions" and charged with addressing the following two questions:

- What key characteristics should a binational Lake St. Clair management institution have?
- What is your vision of the ideal management structure that would incorporate these characteristics?

Below is a brief summary of the common themes that emerged from discussion on these two questions.

***Key characteristics of a binational Lake St. Clair management institution:***

1. A binational partnership - a new independent body
2. Broad stakeholder involvement at all levels of government
3. Some degree of authority, legitimacy and accountability
4. Dedicated baseline funding and staff
5. Flexibility and adaptability
6. A watershed-based approach
7. A monitoring role
8. Ability to administer funds and grants
9. Education, advocacy and outreach role
10. Stakeholder support and buy-in, especially at the local level
11. Celebrate successes

***Vision of the ideal management structure that would incorporate these characteristics:***

A binational partnership agreement emerged as the stakeholders’ preferred management structure for Lake St. Clair. This partnership agreement would be most similar to the *Binational Watershed Partnership* model described in the briefing paper. It should be modified, however, to include local representation on the Steering Committee, an addition viewed as critical to success. The majority of stakeholders did not consider a legally-binding agreement appropriate and called for a simple structure that would not add an extra layer of bureaucracy.

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Lisa Appel	Wildlife Habitat Council
Mark Breederland	Michigan Sea Grant
Ralph Coe	St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
Elwin Coll	Macomb County Health Department
Ron Denning	Lambton College   Canadian BPAC Co-chair
Mike Donahue	Great Lakes Commission
Matt Doss	Great Lakes Commission
Geoffrey Donaldson	St. Clair County Met. Planning Comm.   Anchor Bay Watershed Project
Rick Doyle	St. Clair Parks Commission
Mike Dueweke	Eastern Michigan University
Abigail Eaton	Michigan Department of Agriculture
Rose Ellison	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Greg Esler	St. Clair Shores Parks and Recreation
Bob Haas	Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources
Gordon T. Harding	City of Windsor
Patty Hayman	St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
William Howland	Lake Champlain Basin Program
Gary Johnson	Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Peggy Johnson	Lake Erie LaMP Forum, Clinton River Watershed Council
Bob Kavetsky	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Fred Kemp	U.S. co-chair, St. Clair River Binational Public Advisory Council
Bruce Kirschner	International Joint Commission

Patrick Kuhne	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Colette Luff	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Elizabeth Moore	Great Lakes Commission
Tim Morse	Office of U.S. Congressman David Bonior
Joanne Munroe	Canadian Coast Guard
Gerry Murphy	Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Gary O'Keefe	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Dan O'Riordan	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Art Ostaszewski	Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality
Bill Parkus	SEMCOG
Adele Pleatman	Sub-consultant with CH2M-Hill
Darrell Randell	Ducks Unlimited   Lambton Federation of Agriculture
Mark Richardson	Macomb County Prosecutor's Office
Jim Ridgway	Environmental Consulting and Technology, Inc.
Joe St. John	St. Clair Shores Waterfront Advisory Committee
Frank Schoonover	Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association
Roy Schrameck	Environmental Consulting and Technology, Inc.
Bill Smith	Macomb County WQB, Clinton River AOC PAC
Gary Towns	Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources
Jennifer Vincent	Environment Canada
Mike Williams	Walpole Island First Nation
Jody Willis	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Sandy Wolny	St. Clair Shores Parks and Recreation