

Interim Progress Report

Development of a Coastal Wetlands Database for the Great Lakes Canadian Shoreline

(WETLANDS2-EPA-03)

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Progress To Date:

The project has been generally advancing as scheduled in the proposal. The experts workshop was held in May, 2003 at the GLC office in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Based on this workshop a bi-national standard Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Classification System was finalized and coastal wetland database creation protocols established.

Appropriate aerial photographs for Great Lakes coastal wetlands as identified in "The Ontario Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Atlas" were identified by CWS and OMNR. Aerial photograph purchasing and transfer of contact prints to CWS was completed by OMNR. CWS has organized all of the aerial photographs and is creating digital rectified images were required as per proposal specifications. Classification and area generation of coastal wetlands is well underway, with initiation beginning in the Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

The Coastal Wetland Atlas and existing digital evaluated wetland data was intended to be the base for identifying coastal wetland locations in the Lower Great Lakes. However, upon review of additional data sources: other OMNR NRVIS digital water polygon data and aerial photographs it has become obvious that some coastal wetland delineations are incomplete and others have not been identified in the databases referenced above. For this reason, CWS is adding additional polygons and wetlands using the vector creation protocol as identified in the QAPP. The original proposal indicated that spatial editing and/or the creation of new data will occur in only 3 cases:

- 1) the absence of a digital wetland boundary
- 2) splitting the upper extent of an existing wetland boundary because it is not considered coastal and
- 3) complexed wetlands whose current boundaries need to be split into geomorphological entities, as outlined in the classification schema.

This additional step has resulted in significantly more spatial editing and data creation than originally planned. However, upon review and discussion between the GIS technical expert investigator, the Quality Assurance Manager and Project Manager it was decided to add this step, as it will result in a more complete and accurate final product. For this reason the additional step has been incorporated into the database creation protocol. It is not expected that this additional work will result in a change to the project schedule. Project progress will be review in at the end of November to ensure continued advancement of the project to meet proposal deadlines.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (US\$)

Category	Detail	Project Budget	Expenditures To Date
Personnel (salaries)			
Benefits			
Supplies and Materials	Data Acquisition: Air photos, NRVIS data layers, Geomatics Service Centre processing fees, etc.	\$16.5K	\$ 7.8 K (Colour IR Photos I) \$ 3.1 (FRI)
Travel		\$2K	\$ 0.5 K
Contractual	Contract staff to identify, order and organize FRI air photos	\$8K	\$ 1.4 K
Other direct costs	Workshop Financial processing fee	\$5K \$3.5K	
Other indirect costs			
	Total for OMNR	\$35K	\$ 12.8 K
<i>Monetary value of in-kind work - Personnel - salaries (CND)*</i>		<i>\$12K</i>	<i>\$ 7 K</i>

Canadian Wildlife Service (US\$)

Category	Detail	Project Budget	Expenditures To Date
Personnel (salaries)	Air photo interpretation and GIS data processing/creation	\$24K	\$18K
Benefits		\$4K	\$2.5K
Supplies and Materials			
Travel		\$2K	\$1.5K
Contractual			
Other direct costs			
Other indirect costs	CWS support and admin.	\$3K	\$2K
	Total for CWS	\$33K	\$24K
*In-kind (CND): Personnel (salaries) Equipment		\$25K \$5K	\$15K \$5K

* Both OMNR and CWS lead investigators will be providing in-kind funding of staff time and equipment use (i.e. computers, GIS software, stereoscope). Information and databases (aerial photos, etc.) compiled and created as part of other coastal wetland studies ongoing or completed, will also be used to address the objectives of this proposal.