

Great Lakes Regional Collaboration  
AOC Strategy Team

January 26, 2005 Conference call

General update

- As lead agency on the federal task force, US EPA is still seeking a federal co-chair to replace Dennis Schornack.

Needed: Volunteers for overarching issues

- The Framework document identifies three overarching issues that need to be kept in mind by each strategy team as they work: human health, tribal perspectives, and research and monitoring.
- Jon Monasmith of the Saginaw-Chippewa Tribe has offered to be our monitor for the overarching issue dealing with tribal perspectives.
- Chairman Koncelik solicited volunteers for the other two issues. Our monitor for the research and monitoring issue will be Jim White with the Cuyahoga River RAP. Several individuals offered to help us stay on track with regard to the human health issue: Scott Bell with Limno-Tech; Dorreen Carey with the City of Gary, IN; Kathy Trapp, CH2MHILL, Inc.; and Jennifer Feyerherm with Sierra Club.

Update: AOC Strategy team web page

Matt Doss of the Great Lakes Commission gave an overview of the web page. The URL is: <http://www.great-lakes.net/aocstrategyteam/>. US EPA's lawyers have asked us to take down the list of team members due to privacy concerns. We will explore with them our options for helping team members contact one another.

Members were asked if anyone knows of a document that lists state and federal authorities that can be brought to bear on Beneficial Use Impairments. If so, please let Matt Doss know (734-971-9135, [mdoss@glc.org](mailto:mdoss@glc.org)).

Reminder: Background portion of our report to be drafted by Feb meeting

On the last call, it was agreed that we would try to have the background portions of our report drafted by the February meeting. At the time, the group agreed that would be the parts of the outline labeled Problem Statement, Desired State, and Assessment of Ongoing Efforts.

The chairman suggested we modify that plan slightly, because “desired state” can be viewed as dealing with delisting targets. That is one of the major issues our report needs to address, and is not simply background information. Pat Madigan, Julie Letterhos, and Matt Doss will work on pulling together the Problem Statement and Assessment of Ongoing Efforts by the February meeting. We’ll deal with the delisting targets through the drafting groups. The group had no objection to this approach.

Update: Call with RAP managers

- To help frame the issues for our team, we decided to have a conference call among the RAP managers in each of the Great Lakes States. We did that about a week ago. On the phone, we had: Julie Letterhos from Ohio; Lori Boughton from PA; Brian Frederickson from Minnesota; Linda Talbot from Wisconsin; Alex daSilva from Indiana; Tammy Mitchell from Illinois; Bob Townsend from New York; Rick Hobrla from Michigan. These are individuals who have direct and in most cases long-standing experience with the RAP program, and their insights were very useful.

New: Drafting groups needed for three topics

As you know, each team was assigned several topics to cover in their reports. Our topics are: the RAP program, implementation of the Legacy Act, and delisting.

Several of the other strategy teams have divided into smaller groups to work on their individual topics, and after our conversation with the RAP program managers, we thought that might work well for us also. Therefore, we have established drafting teams to address RAP Program Implementation; Contaminated Sediments and Great Lakes Legacy Act Implementation; and AOC Delisting.

The chairman proposed core drafting teams of four or five people who will actually write a paper on their assigned topic. They would consult with other team members who have particular interest or expertise in that topic.

We’ve approached a few specific individuals about helping with these drafting teams, just because we know they have experience in these areas. If you are willing to participate on one of these three drafting teams, please email Pat Madigan. We’ll post on our web page the names and contact information of the people who have agreed to form our drafting teams. If you have a special interest in one of the topics, or expertise in one of these areas, please contact the drafting teams.

There was discussion about the need for the team dealing with contaminated sediment remediation to include not only the Legacy Act, but other authorities.

It was suggested that each drafting team decide what are their key messages, since the materials to be developed will be limited in length.

#### New: Schedule

The overall schedule for the Collaboration remains in draft form. However, it calls for our team to have a rough draft of our 4 to 5 page strategy submitted to the Executive Committee by April 21. Working backward from that date, the following deadlines have been established:

- March 9 Papers from the drafting teams are due. Support staff will merge these into our rough draft.
- March 23 A first version of the rough draft will be distributed to all AOC team members for comment.
- April 6 Comments from team members are due
- April 21 Draft report goes to the Executive Committee

There will then be about a month for the Executive Committee to react to our draft and for us to make any necessary changes before the full Great Lakes Protection and Restoration Strategy goes out for public comment.

#### New: Data for cost estimate portion of our report to be posted on web page

One of the items we need to include in our report is cost estimates. Julie Letterhos of Ohio EPA explained the recently completed chart of estimated sediment removal costs created by GLNPO in consultation with the States. The chart will be posted on the team's web page for review and comment (see the first item under "Contaminated Sediments" on the page for "AOC Resources and Links"). Our plan is to include it in our report to satisfy the requirement for cost estimates. Although it deals with sediment removal costs only, there is not an intent to exclude other remedial options. Specific remedial actions for each site will be chosen on a case-by-case basis.

The drafting teams may estimate administrative costs for RAP program management and Legacy Act administration separately in their reports.

We would not attempt to provide cost estimates for other environmental restoration such as habitat improvement. Some of these estimates will be

put forth by other teams, such as the nonpoint team, the habitat team, the coastal health team, and so on.

Update: February meeting

The Executive Committee has scheduled an in-person meeting for the Strategy Teams on Feb. 22 and 23. It will be in Ohio at a state park near Toledo: Maumee Bay State Park. (Instructions for registering for the meeting, overnight accommodations, and other details are provided in Co-Chair Joe Koncelik's January 19 update memo, available on the AOC Strategy Team's web site at <http://www.great-lakes.net/aocstrategyteam/>.)

Two teams have indicated to the Executive Committee that they are not at a point where they feel an in-person meeting will be useful to them. The team was solicited for opinions as to whether our team should participate in an in-person meeting. All opinions expressed were favorable.