

AOC Strategy Team
Conference call
March 23, 2005

Personnel

Steve Chester, director of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, has joined us as our third co-chair. He expressed his interest in getting up to speed and being an active member of the group.

U.S. EPA has hired Industrial Economics as a contractor to assist the members of the Regional Collaboration. Tom Looby was introduced as the sub-contractor (from Environmental Management Associates) who will be assisting the AOC team. Ross and Associates and Cadmus are the other subcontractors who will be assisting the GLRC.

Schedule

The drafting teams have needed some extra time to complete their work, so our schedule has been revised. Joe Koncelik reviewed the schedule for distribution of our draft chapter to the full AOC team and for comments on the draft:

- April 4 By this date, the draft AOC chapter will be posted to the team's discussion forum.
- April 11 Comments from AOC Strategy Team members are due
- April 15 Comments will be incorporated and a revised chapter provided to the co-chairs for final review
- April 19 Comments are due from the co-chairs
- April 21 Draft chapter is due to the Executive Committee
- April 28 Executive Committee will provide feedback in Traverse City

Discussion forum

The new discussion forum is at:

http://www.great-lakes.net/forum/index.php?bn=strategyteams_aoc

The first message is Read Me, which includes instructions on how to use the site.

We will post the draft chapter here. Members will receive an email when the chapter is posted. To comment, download the draft chapter from the forum. If possible, open the document in Microsoft Word and make your comments using the "track changes" function. Save your changes. Go back to the forum and

reply to the message containing the draft chapter. Attach your Word document containing your comments to your reply.

Overlapping Issues

Dave Cowgill noted that there are some issues that fall under the purview of more than one team. At Maumee Bay, the point was raised that we need to coordinate among teams so that we don't (1) duplicate efforts or (2) let an issue slip through the cracks. Gary Gulezian from GLNPO agreed to make a chart of these overlapping issues to help co-chairs coordinate better among themselves. The contractors are assisting in this effort.

There was general discussion about issues that have been identified as "belonging" to our team and at least one other:

Contaminated sediments -- AOC and PBT
Air deposition – AOC and PBT
Habitat-related beneficial use impairments – AOC and Habitat
Wet weather impacts – AOC and Coastal Health
Sedimentation – AOC, NPS and Habitat
Drinking Water – AOC and Coastal Health

The group agreed that our team should concentrate on legacy issues, and defer issues that involve current loadings to other teams. There may be some exceptions, as in cases where sediment loadings serve to seal off contaminated sediments and make them less available for uptake by aquatic organisms.

Traverse City

The next full Collaboration meeting is April 28-29 in Traverse City. We will receive feedback on our chapter from the Executive Committee, discuss any issues on which we don't have consensus, possibly work with other teams on overlapping issues, and continue work on our chapter. Flights are filling up, so those who plan to attend should make reservations soon. The Grand Traverse Band Ottawa and Chippewa Indians is hosting this meeting, and has agreed to make hotel rooms at the resort available for \$78 a night. There will not be a meal package. The meeting is expected to begin at 1:00 pm Eastern on April 28 and conclude at 3:00 pm Eastern on April 29. The resort's web site is: www.grandtraverseresort.com/home/index.cfm. To make reservations, call: 800-236-1577.