

**SUMMARY OF KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
AREAS OF CONCERN (AOCs) STRATEGY TEAM MEETING
IN TRAVERSE CITY, MI - APRIL 28-29, 2005**

Draft- 5/6/05

NOTE: If you attended the meeting and have any comments or suggestions about revising or adding to this summary of highlights please send them to Tom Looby at tomlooby@colorado.net by COB, Friday ,May 13, 2005.

1. AOC Strategy Team Meeting and Participants- AOC Strategy Team (ST) Co-Chairs Joe Koncelik (OH), Dave Cowgill (EPA-GLNPO) and Rick Hobrle, representing Steve Chester (MI) convened the meeting. A list of participants is attached.
2. Executive Committee (EC) Feedback- Joe Koncelik and Pat Madigan (OH) summarized both the general and specific feedback that was provided by the Executive Committee and Staff sub-committee. The key guidance that was provided by the EC was that each Strategy Team (ST) should prioritize their top 5 recommendations in priority order while at the Traverse City (TC) meetings. Additional recommendations beyond the top 5 can be placed in an Appendix. Legitimate combinations of selected recommendations could be considered but simply lumping items to get the numbers down was not acceptable. The EC also indicated that the recommendations should be more specific (particularly in the 3-5 year timeframe), should link the desired end state with problem statements, and should describe milestones toward achieving ultimate goals.
3. Desired State- Participants discussed the Desired State section of the AOC ST report and noted the following:
 - A more compelling description of an AOC Desired State is needed and it should use less jargon.
 - The Desired State should describe the ultimate goal of restoring the quality of Great Lakes by reducing AOC contaminated sediments as a source of toxic chemical contamination.
 - It was agreed to strive for cleanup of all of the AOCs by 2025*, to refer to the Great Lakes Strategy of 2002 for some interim milestones and to focus on addressing selected beneficial use impairments in particular AOCs.
 - It was suggested that de-listing guidelines could be used to help measure progress toward the ultimate cleanup and restoration goals.

* Note- Later in the recommendations discussion a 15-year time frame was established for funding. This is a potential minor inconsistency of 3 years that the Chairs may want to address in the final report.

4. Problem Statement- It was noted that the AOC Problem Statement should convey a greater sense of urgency about the public health, environmental and economic impacts that are associated with the AOCs. In particular, it was agreed that it should:
- Include a more substantive summary of the magnitude of the contaminated sediment problem- # of AOCs [75 sites-?], volumes of contaminated sediments [75M cy-?], nature and impact of contaminants, # of BUIs, costs to correct [\$1.5- \$4.5 B], etc. This can be illustrated with pertinent examples such as the health impacts of eating fish w/ excess levels of Hg contamination, etc.
 - Note that other sources contribute to the contaminated sediments and that other Strategy Teams [e.g. Coastal Health for CSOs, etc.] are charged with addressing these sources.
 - Describe that the AOC Strategy Team is focused on Legacy sources and is depending upon other teams to address ongoing contamination issues.
 - Be a connection made in the problem statement with the need to address de-listing targets.
5. Over-lapping and Cross-Cutting Issues- Several items were identified in the Overlapping and Cross-cutting issues matrix that were discussed. Liaisons were dispatched to several teams to determine how to best coordinate the overlapping issues. Following is a recap:
- Coastal Health (CH) ST- They are addressing CSOs in their report. There is a discrepancy in the estimated costs to fix CSOs. The AOCs ST indicated a need for \$1.3B and CH indicated \$10B. This will need to be resolved.
 - Habitat/Species (H/S) ST- The H/S ST will address habitat issues w/in the AOCs, including urban habitat issues.
 - Non Point Source (NPS) ST- The NPS ST is addressing atmospheric deposition of Hg as one of the sources of contamination to the contaminated sediments in the AOCs and beyond. This was confirmed w/ the NPS ST.
 - Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics (PBTs) ST- To the extent that PBTs are in the Contaminated Sediments of the AOCs the AOC ST will address them. To the extent that ongoing releases of PBTs may be occurring the PBT will need to address them. The AOC ST will stay focused on addressing Legacy Act issues. This was confirmed with the PBT ST.
 - Information and Indicators- It was agreed that coordination of AOC information and monitoring issues still needs to be done w/ the I/I ST, particularly for monitoring the progress and results of AOC cleanups.

6. Policy Items- Several policy level issues were identified and addressed at the meeting as follows:
- “One Stop” shopping- After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that in the interest of speeding cleanups that there should be a preference stated to channel the majority of pending and new AOC contaminated sediment cleanup work toward the Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA) process. Ongoing or current projects that are already being addressed through Superfund, RCRA or other authorities may proceed under those authorities. Improvements to the GLLA process should be identified and implemented so that it is more streamlined and efficient. Specific ideas should be identified by the contaminated sediments sub-group [Hummer lead] in the next two weeks for inclusion in the report or appendices.
 - Spreadsheet of 75 Areas- It was agreed that GLNPO would prepare this management tool outside the context of the AOC ST report.
 - Potential listing of new AOCs- It was agreed that since this was more of a hypothetical potential scenario that this would not be pursued as a recommendation at this time, but may need to be addressed later.
 - Administrative recommendations- The need to define which agency is doing what in the AOCs was discussed. It was agreed that the mechanism to address inter-agency coordination among the federal agencies was the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF).
7. Formulation of Top 5 Priority Recommendations- Extensive discussion took place about how to reorganize the AOC recommendations to address the charge from the Executive Committee to formulate no more than 5 recommendations in priority order. The following priorities resulted from the discussions. Also noted are cross references to the ten April 21 draft ST report recommendations and the entities assigned to re-write each section of the four re-framed recommendations.
- **Recommendation #1- Invigorate Implementation of the GLLA** [*AOC Co-chairs- Dave Cowgill, Joe Koncelik and Rick Hobrle to re-write. Includes recommendations from 4/21/05 draft- 4.1, 4.2 and 5*]
 - Increase GLLA funding to \$150M/year for 15 years*.
 - Identify and implement GLLA process improvements.
 - **Recommendation #2- Enhance Program Capacity to Address AOCs** [*Julie Letterhos, Matt Doss, Mark Elster, Rick Hobrle to re-write. Includes recommendations from 4/21/05 draft- 1.1, 1.2, 3 and 7.1*]
 - Increase resources for core program competencies of F/S/L governments, and RAP groups to address analysis, cleanup, de-listing targets, performance measurement and monitoring efforts.
 - Build capacity for ongoing watershed stewardship.
 - Explore viability of developing regional non-federal match funding sources.

- **Recommendation #3- Improve Inter-Agency Coordination of the Cleanup Process** [*Vicki Thomas, Matt Doss and Jim White to re-write. Includes recommendations from 4/21/05 draft-7.1, 9*]
 - Create a regional task force to explore regional funding options.
 - Use the IATF and the task force to develop better inter-governmental coordination mechanisms.

- **Recommendation #4- Promote Development of Treatment, Destruction, Beneficial Re-use and Disposal Technology to Address Contaminated Sediments Removed from the Great Lakes** [*Mark Tuchman, Reg Gilbert and Dave Bowman to re-write. Includes recommendations from the 4/21/05 draft- 7.2 and 8*]
 - Identify opportunities to develop enhanced technology for the treatment, destruction, beneficial re-use and disposal of contaminated sediments once removed from the Great Lakes.

8. Next Steps- The following dates were set to finalize the AOC ST report:

- COB Monday, May 9- The four new draft recommendations need to be drafted and sent to Pat Madigan. Each of the drafting groups should write their sections for inclusion in the 5 page ST report, and write their respective elements of the Appendix and identify any other needed attachments to include in the Appendix.
- Monday, May 16- Pat Madigan and the Co-chairs will prepare a final draft of the 5 page report incorporating the results of the Traverse City meeting and will distribute it to AOC Team members for a final review.
- Wednesday May 18, 1:00 pm CDT- The AOC Team will review the final draft on the regularly scheduled ST conference call.
- COB, Friday, May 20- All comments are due to Pat Madigan on the final draft AOC ST report.
- COB, Friday, May 27- The final AOC ST Report and Appendices are due to the GLRC Executive Committee.

Participant List for AOC Strategy Team Meeting in Traverse City
April 28-29, 2005- draft- 5/6/05

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Tom Looby, Facilitator	tomlooby@colorado.net

* DAY ONE ONLY

Conference Call Participants on Day 2- April 29, 2005

Joe Koncelik
Dave Cowgill
Rick Hobrla

Pat Madigan
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Linda Tolbot
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