

TO: Great Lakes Regional Collaboration
AOC Strategy Team

FROM: Joe Koncelik, Co-chair
Director, Ohio EPA

DATE: January 19, 2005

Our next conference call is scheduled for January 26 at 2:00 pm.
We'll be sending out an agenda shortly. Here is the call-in information:

North American Dial-In Number: 866-299-3188
Conference Code: 60604

Participants should also access the web at
<http://www2.teleconferencingcenter.com/> and log in as a participant.

Prior to the call, I wanted to send you an update and take care of some housekeeping matters.

Co-Chairs

First, let me introduce myself. I have recently been appointed to replace Chris Jones as both co-chair of this strategy team and as director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. I share Governor Taft's strong commitment to restoration of the Great Lakes and look forward to working with all of you in this collaborative effort to prepare a Great Lakes Protection and Restoration Plan. I will be assisted by Patricia Madigan (pat.madigan@epa.state.oh.us) and Julie Letterhos (julie.letterhos@epa.state.oh.us) of my staff, and encourage you to contact them with questions or concerns.

As you may know, our other co-chair, Dennis Schornack, has stepped out of that role, although he remains a member of the AOC Strategy Team. The Executive Committee of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration made an effort to recruit balanced representation from among the federal agencies, states, cities and tribes to co-chair the strategy teams. To help maintain that balance, they are currently surveying the federal agencies to identify a replacement for Dennis. I am hopeful that person will be named soon.

Admittedly, with the resignation of both our original co-chairs, our group has been a little bit slow in getting started. I am committed to moving forward with your help, and am confident that the wealth of information already available about the AOCs will help us make good progress.

Web Page

Matt Doss of the Great Lakes Commission created a web page for the AOC Strategy Team. It is: <http://www.great-lakes.net/aocstrategyteam/>. Many thanks to Matt for providing this valuable tool and to the Great Lakes Commission for hosting the web page for us. Over time, draft documents, meeting minutes, resource materials and other information will be available to you via the web page.

Administrative Support

To facilitate our work, US EPA has agreed to provide administrative support to all eight of the strategy teams through an administrative support contractor. Once that contractor is chosen, they will keep meeting minutes, assist the co-chairs in arranging conference calls, maintain the membership list, distribute draft documents, and otherwise handle logistical details. We expected the contractor to be on board by now, but it appears that it will be about a month before that happens. Please bear with us as we try to keep up with the administrative workload until then.

Team Membership

In the meantime, the co-chairs have not received updated lists of those who signed up to participate on the strategy teams. That means that some people who registered in December or January, either on the Collaboration web page or at the Chicago event, have not been identified to me as members of this team. We are adding those people to our notification list as we become aware of them. We know that the list on the AOC Strategy Team web page is not complete. If you know of someone who should be on the list, please have them send their contact information to Pat Madigan. Once the contractor is hired, bringing the membership list current will be a top priority.

Overarching Issues

On the first conference call, volunteers were solicited to be the team's point person for each of the three overarching issues: human health, tribal perspectives, and research and monitoring. I believe we have a volunteer for the tribal perspectives issue, but we still need two volunteers, one for each of the other issues. The role of the point person will be to remind the team when necessary that our work needs to take into account these three issues, which were deemed by the Executive Committee to be broadly applicable to all the teams. I envision the point person for each issue raising pertinent questions and comments, and reviewing documents with their assigned issue in mind. With regard to research and monitoring, the Indicators and Information Strategy Team has asked to be kept apprised by our point person of any discussions we have that are relevant to their work. If you can volunteer to be the point person for human health or for research and monitoring, please contact Pat Madigan.

Meeting dates

We will have the opportunity to meet in person on February 22 and 23. The meeting will be held at Maumee Bay State Park near Toledo, Ohio. The meeting will begin at 1:30 pm on the first day to allow time for travel, and conclude at 3:00 pm on the second day. All the strategy teams and the Executive Committee will attend, so we will have the opportunity to see what the other teams are doing and coordinate our work as needed. We are trying to arrange conference call lines in to the facility, but I encourage your attendance if at all possible.

Registration for this meeting will begin on Monday, January 27. To register to attend, please email Nancy Guiden at US EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office at: guiden.nancy@epa.gov.

To reserve a room, please contact Maumee Bay State Park at 1.800.282.7275. You will need to specify that you are with the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration to get the special room rate of \$135, which includes meals. (Vegetarian options will be available.) If you have any difficulty making your reservation, please call Dianna Rom at 330-723-5977. Directions to the park are available at www.maumeebayresort.com. If you will be flying, the recommended route is through Detroit Metro airport.

Phone Call Protocol

Finally, just a few words about our conference calls. Please do the following if at all possible:

- Log on to the Teleconferencing web site to follow along on the call. When there is a Power Point presentation as part of the agenda, this enables you to see what other team members are seeing and makes the discussion flow more smoothly. The log-in information will always be provided along with the call-in number.
- Mute your phone when you are not talking. Some strategy team calls have had up to 100 participants. The background noise can be quite distracting.
- Avoid putting the conference call on hold. If your phone system has "hold-music," it will disrupt the call.
- Use a land line as opposed to a cell phone if you can. Cell phones sometimes cause static on the line that makes it hard for everyone to hear.
- Identify yourself when you speak.

Thank you for your interest in the AOC Strategy Team. I look forward to speaking with you next week.

