

**Great Lakes Restoration and Protection Plan: Coastal Health Strategy Team
January 20, 2005
Conference Call**

1. Welcome
2. Review of Working Definition (document)
3. Review of Format for CH Strategy Chapter (document)
4. Invited participants to share input e.g. area of interest, bibliography, participate in habitat or nonpoint source teams. (via email to jcoffee@cityofchicago.org)
5. Website for Team: <http://www.glin.net/chstrategyteam>
6. Schedule for Future Calls
 - Feb 16, 2005 - 12 noon CT (CH Goals by Key Concept)
 - Mar 10, 2005 - 12 noon CT (CH Strategy Alternative Approaches by Key Concept)
 - April (CH Recommended Actions by Key Concept)
 - May
 - June 6, 2005 (Draft CH Strategy Completed)

7. Discussion:

Margaret Wooster, Friends of the Buffalo Niagara Rivers: Bibliography include beach closing data for the basin

David Rockwell, GLNPO-MIRB: Considerable Beach Act info available on EPA website. Will provide info 1980-2003. Beach closing constraints and vectors are well beyond CSOs and SSOs, e.g. stormwater runoff, bird populations, wildlife, Cladophora, Botulism. Stormwater run-off becoming a major contributor to beach closings. Need to include toxic and nuisance algae and Botulism issues

Julie Kinzelman, City of Racine, Wisconsin: EPA has site of beach advisories and closings – states report in specific beaches in real time. Is there overlap between the nonpoint source group and this group, since our research shows nonpoint pollution such an important part of beach closures. Need to address non-point and wildlife sources since not all municipalities have CSO/SSOs.

Mike Shriberg, Public Interest Research Group (PIRG): The Key Concepts should be sorted into cause and effect as an organizing tool for the problem statement. CSOs and SSOs cause Beach Closings, for example.

Jeff Reutter, Ohio Sea Grant: Microsystems and harmful ecological blooms are caused by nutrients associated with overflows.

ACTION: Co-Chairs restructure Key Concepts with additional and different topics and issues. Participants add their input

ACTION: Co-Chairs work with Executive Committee to confirm what strategy team is dealing with drinking water (quality).

Julie Kinzelman: Relate to adverse health outcomes? Relate to epidemiology? Relate to how to decrease beach closures annually? Need to determine what scale to focus on (i.e., adverse health effects of CSO or human toxicological effects of specific pathogens)

Gerry Mikol, NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation: Team relates to the indicator (e.g. number of closed or open beaches annually)

Jeff Reutter: Ohio has data on the economic impact of closed beaches. This could be helpful for the Cost/Benefit section of the writing and is another parameter the group needs to consider. Botulism does relate to human health issue.

David Rockwell, Non-point source runoff: Increase in soluble phosphorus. Masses of Cladophora: Issue is controlling nutrients entering near shore waters.

Jeff Reutter: Nutrients entering near shore waters is tied to harmful algal blooms.

Steve Corsi, USGS: NPS impacts on beaches can be categorized as urban vs. tributary run-off. Need to look at controlling nutrients in near-shore waters and impact on nuisance algae blooms/microcystis. Resolve how CH & NPS teams will address human health impacts from algae vs. contributors to algae growth. We should interact with non-point group. We should ensure that these two strategies are complementary in the final paper.

ACTION: Co-Chairs check non-point source group's work as it relates to coastal health.

Margaret Wooster: Will there be a chance to be evaluative in the final paper – e.g. alternative policies to blending?

Gerry Mikol: If not in the 4 page strategy chapter, may be included in reference documents or attachments