

Coastal Health Strategy Team
Conference Call Notes
March 29, 2005

1. The second Great Lakes Collaboration meeting will be held in Traverse City, MI, April 28-29.
 - Co-chairs will meet the morning of 4/28 to identify gaps in reports.
 - Working sessions will be held the evening of 4/28 and day of 4/29.
 - Dial-in access will be available for the working sessions.
 - Hotel information: Grand Traverse Resort and Spa 800-968-7352 (\$78.00++)
 - Email Joyce Coffee if planning to attend. (jcoffee@cityofchicago.org)
 - Email Joyce Coffee if interested in participating on 1.5 hr Conference Call to listen in on work session (jcoffee@cityofchicago.org)

2. Volunteer Advisors have been working over the past few weeks and have provided drafts of Alternative Approaches, their work based on feedback received from the team (*refer to documents distributed with conference call agenda*).
 - Margaret Wooster – CSO/SSO Abatement:
 - Margaret gathered comments on CSO/SSO abatement; organized three alternatives.
 - Comment topics included technology decisions, funding, and regulation.
 - Margaret generated a hypothetical goal of CSO/SSO elimination by 2015.
 - Dale Bryson is working on a “carrot” (i.e., funding) and “stick” (i.e., regulation) alternative. Also looked at mix of “soft path” and “hard path” approaches.
 - The estimated cost of CSO remediation in the GL basin is \$8.6 billion
 - Of 150 CSO communities in the GL basin, 70 have long-term control plans.
 - Joyce Coffee explained that a brief analysis of alternatives for each category of goals will be included in the final chapter of the report document.
 - Julie Kinzelman and Holly Wirick – Dry Weather Events and Public Education:
 - Julie reviewed EPA beach studies and recommended revising monitoring guidelines.
 - Alternatives focus on improved monitoring and public education (*see document*).
 - Julie commented that cost estimates are not available currently; to be determined.
 - EPA Region 5 reviewed Julie’s alternatives and provided positive feedback.
 - Jeff Reutter – Algal Blooms (not available; draft of alternatives will be distributed by email).
 - Follow-up on Volunteer Advisors’ drafts:
 - Joyce Coffee requested explicit comments on drafts; direct them to Volunteer Advisors.
 - Dale Bryson is going to revise dates in goal statements.
 - David Rockwell is providing research on how much states spend on CSO/SSO work.
 - Don Zelazny recommended creating a list of research requirements; may ask the Indicators Team to request research.
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 - Joyce Coffee noted that recommending “further studies” should not be included in alternatives.

3. Recommended Actions (*refer to document distributed with conference call agenda*).
 - Work over next two weeks will focus on developing and prioritizing Recommended Actions.
 - Goals, alternative approaches and recommended actions should be organized by category.
 - Volunteer Advisors will select (with team input) their highest-priority action within their category to write up a recommended action.
 - Joyce Coffee distributed the format for write-ups of actions.

- Volunteer Advisors are needed for two new topics: Drinking Water Quality and Improved Beach Management Techniques.
 - Email Joyce Coffee if interested.
 - Identify water suppliers outside of group.
- Margaret Wooster suggested addressing basin needs beyond remediation, i.e., enhanced wastewater treatment, sewerage treatment upgrades.
- Marcia Jimenez suggested that new technologies could be identified as a wastewater treatment need.
 - Recommend move to advanced treatment, beyond secondary treatment for the whole basin.
 - Recommend an additional section on advanced wastewater treatment
 - Which team addresses storm water run-off as opposed to piped discharges?
- Julie Kinzelman noted that algal blooms should be included under dry weather.
- Discussion of how to quantify costs/benefits:
 - Mike asked whether benefits must always outweigh costs (as noted in the actions format); benefits may not always be quantifiable (only able to describe qualitatively).
 - Marcia Jimenez recommended acknowledging long-term benefits, even if they can't be quantified, and trying to calculate them later.
 - Don Zelazny noted that the Executive Committee asked for indicators of benefits even if they can't be quantified today; recommend indicators to collect in order to quantify benefits.
 - Julie Kinzelman noted that not all benefits have been well-documented (e.g., tourism).
 - Joyce Coffee noted that Jeff Reutter has benefit data from the Ohio Sea Grant and will share with the team (*see <http://www.glin.net/chstrategyteam> discussion forum*);
 - Shaili Pfeiffer will post data from the Milwaukee crypto outbreak.

4. Group will receive drafts by April 11; provide comments to prepare for April 21 draft.

5. Next conference call is on April 18.

- Topic is Coastal Health Strategy Priorities.
- For April 21 draft to Executive Committee, categories of alternatives and recommended actions should be prioritized.
- There will be an opportunity to revise the document before distribution to the public for comment in the summer.

Discussion of prioritizing recommended actions based on urgency:

- Margaret Wooster asked how the team should address the urgency of specific actions and whether references are available for information on urgency of CSO trends.
- Joyce Coffee will post available information including NRDC document with trend data on <http://www.glin.net/chstrategyteam>.

Continued discussion of how to quantify costs/benefits:

- Margaret Wooster suggested referencing Walkerton trial info for cost/benefit calculation.
- Dale Bryson noted that CWA mandates CSO/SSO control, so no need to dwell on quantifying benefits.

Continued discussion of division of topics by Great Lakes Collaboration team:

- David Rockwell asked which team is responsible for covering urban and rural run-off.

- Joyce Coffee will follow up with the Nonpoint Source Team to see how they are covering these. If is CH team's priority, she will inform team and seek volunteer advisor to craft alternative approaches.

Discussion of airfare and travel costs for Grand Traverse meeting, April 28-29:

- Joyce Coffee will check with the Executive Committee about assistance in funding travel and get back to individual asking for this.
- Bill Ward of the Cadmus Group (EPA contractor) will find out whether government airfare discounts are available for team members.