



National Beach Conference San Diego, California October 13-15, 2004 Summary

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The Planning Process



- Planning committee including state and local members, EPA regions and HQ
- Bi-weekly conference calls
- Contractor help
- Call for abstracts
- Selecting speakers and making program decisions



Goals of the conference

- Provide opportunities for:
 - Exchange of information at all levels through presentations, posters, and informal discussions
 - Networking at state and local beach manager level
 - Networking between beach managers and researchers



EPA Specific Goals

- Communicate BEACH Act requirements
 - Put into place data base and a system for electronic data submission,
 - Report to congress,
 - New Criteria development,
 - Promulgation of WQ Standards,
 - Epi studies,
 - Monitoring guidance and Bacteria criteria implementation guidance

EPA Specific Goals (cont)

- Ask for help from BEACH Act States
 - Success stories,
 - Feedback on guidance,
 - Information on research that you are participating in,
 - Meet grant requirements including submitting beach miles and water quality data
- Feedback from States and researchers to EPA
 - What is working and what is not working?
 - Feedback on guidance (monitoring and bacteria criteria implementation).

Networking



Seeing old friends...



Highlights of the Beach Conference

- Conference Program
- Recognition of Progress
- Panel discussion

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore



Program Summary

- Beach Monitoring programs (design and implementation)
- Public perception of beach issues, and communicating risk to the public
- Source identification
- TMDLs, Remediation
- Making warning systems more rapid (modeling and rapid methods)
- Rapid methods and new health risk indicators
- Quantifying swimmer risk
- Data management

Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Progress since the BEACH Act...

- During the conference, there was wide recognition of significant progress in several areas
 - Beach program development in all states
 - Progress toward a use-able “rapid method”
 - Increased monitoring
 - Innovative projects and clean up of pollution sources
 - Progress in microbial source tracking methods and use
 - Greater awareness of beach issues throughout the nation

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Greater awareness of beach issues throughout the nation



*Are there
beaches in
the Great
Lakes?*

Panel discussion

- Panel members were:
 - Denise Keehner, Division Director for the Standard and Health Protection Division at the US EPA ,
 - Dr. Shannon Briggs, beach manager for the state of Michigan,
 - Monica Mazur from the Orange County California Health Care Agency,
 - Mark Gold from Heal the Bay, and
 - Dr. Rachel Noble, faculty at the University of North Carolina Marine Science Program.



Questions posed to the panel

- After everything that you have heard here, what are the areas of the EPA beach program that need the largest improvement given existing technologies? How can federal, state, and local programs work together most effectively?
- What is the biggest technology improvement you see coming and what should the process be for adopting this change? (When does it have to be good enough to adopt it? And what is the process for adopting it?) (Such as rapid methods and microbial source tracking techniques).



Results of the Panel Discussion

- Results will be published in the proceedings document
- Many specific recommendations, suggestions, and ideas
- Overall emphasis on communication at all levels
- Each person on the panel represented their point of view



The Conference – Were Our Goals Achieved?

- High attendance, at least 250 people. All but 2 beach act states/territories in attendance, plus 3 inland states, and representatives from the UK, Canada, and Mexico
- Program was overloaded but good
- Specific feedback to EPA
- Lots of networking

Milwaukee, Wisconsin