

Sustainable Development Strategy Team  
Notes from Meeting of Executive Committee and Strategy Team Co-Chairs  
Toledo - February 22, 2005

There were about 60-70 people at the meeting in Toledo. Five Teams met for at least part of the time.

Here are my notes from the Executive Committee/Team Co-Chair meeting

1. Cross-cutting issues

\* Gary Gulezian has an action to develop a map of overlap between the issues/Teams (**need input from Workgroups for this effort**)

2. Priority setting

\* Dave Ullrich is still looking for comments on his one-pager about priority setting for Team recommendations

\* I will send him some additional comments relative to the SD issue

\* Based on discussions after the meeting, I expect the Executive Committee will do little more than compile the separate Team reports and will not try to prioritize between the eight issues

3. Recommendations

\* I asked about the target audience for the Strategy and got the following input:

> broad-based target audience of all stakeholders within the Basin

> not just Congress, although Congressional staffers have a clearer idea of their expectations and how they plan to use the Strategy

\* there is no format for the recommendations, but they should be as specific as possible

\* recommend no change to approach in the SD workplan (specific recommendations for each sector of responsibility - federal, state, local, private, NGO etc)

4. Cost estimating

\* discussion of expectations for cost estimates for recommendations (what it will cost to apply recommendations)

\* it was brought to attention of Executive Committee how little cost data is available for most issues

\* recommend SD Team put priority on using EPA's contractor to compile existing cost data for sustainable use practices

5. Schedule

\* I asked for more time after draft Team reports on 21 April to fill holes and integrate Team reports

\* Collaboration calendar:

> 21 April - draft Team reports to Exec Cmte and other Teams

> 28-29 April - meeting of Exec Cmte and Teams in Traverse City, MI (**Need all SD workgroups to be represented here**)

> 8 July - Summit I ceremony in Duluth to unveil draft Strategy

> 6-7 October - Exec Cmte and Team meeting in Rochester, NY to go over public review comments

> 12 December - Summit II ceremony in Chicago to present final Strategy

\* the above calendar was not changed at the meeting, but it was noted that the only date cast in stone is the last (12 Dec). When the Exec Cmte gets a look at the Team draft reports in late April, there is a chance the date for Summit I may get slipped a little.

#### 6. Strategy Integration

\* there was limited discussion about how the Exec Cmte was going to integrate the eight Team reports...and no real plan

\* after the meeting I encouraged Dave Ullrich to have the Exec Cmte prepare some description of the "black box" they would use for this integration

#### 7. Other discussions

\* I had a discussion with Pete Johnson of the Council of GL Governors regarding the Water Supply, Use and Return Workgroup and the concern raised by some states about this workgroup seeming in conflict with the decision not to pursue the water use issue in the Strategy due to the Annex 2001 activities. We agreed that it would be difficult to evaluate sustainable development in the Great Lakes without some consideration of water uses and trends, but would have to operate with the following cautions:

> Rename the workgroup to avoid the term "use" and perhaps highlight the infrastructure aspect

> Provide the description of existing uses and future trends

> Walk very carefully around the Annex when discussing options for sustainable development practices

> Allow the Council to prepare any language that introduces or refers to the Annex

\* I had very little opportunity to discuss a potential partnership with the Nonpoint Team to cover sustainable uses for agriculture and forestry, but I sat in on this Team's meeting for a while and concluded that we should try and get the contractor to develop existing uses and trends information

#### 8. Follow-up Actions

\* EPA's contractor is on-board and waiting for us to give them some specific direction. I want to get them working on some tasks for the SD Team right away and propose that we focus on the following items (in order of priority):

a) Compile existing information on current agriculture and forestry use within the Basin and any projected trends in the literature

b) Compile existing information in literature about the costs of implementing sustainable use practices

c) Develop a spread-sheet or matrix of information on human uses of natural resources in the Great Lakes from workgroup evaluations of existing uses, and trends from the products of Workgroups

**Request your feedback on these items, and any language you might offer to better describe the scope of these tasks for the contractor. I would also ask you and the members of your Workgroups to help identify literature sources that should be explored by the contractor.**

Jan Miller  
SD Team co-chair

PS.....we will have a conference call this week, but it will be on **Thursday, March 3 at 11 AM Eastern/10 AM Central**. At this meeting, I want to get a sense of where each Workgroup is regarding the first step of our workplan.