

Cuyahoga River RAP-Up

To the Cuyahoga River RAP Coordinating Committee

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May 2007



GREAT LAKES AREAS OF CONCERN: ACHIEVING RESTORATION TARGETS AND SUSTAINING STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE

June 28-29, 2007
 Hilton Garden Inn
 Cleveland, Ohio

Overview

This conference will convene participants from the 30 U.S. Areas of Concern to review recent developments affecting the AOC program; assess the status of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's AOC recommendations; identify opportunities to expedite progress on key AOC tasks; improve linkages between the AOCs, Lakewide Management Plans and other programs; and consider actions that will strengthen the regional U.S. AOC program.

Agenda Highlights

The following are key topics that will be addressed at the conference:

- * Current status and the future direction of the U.S. AOC program
- * Great Lakes Legacy Act and contaminated sediment cleanups in the AOCs
- * Progress in establishing restoration targets and delisting the AOCs
- * Fish and wildlife restoration efforts in the AOCs
- * Fundraising and capacity building for local RAP groups
- * Public involvement, communications and advocacy

Who Should Attend

The conference is intended for all stakeholders working to restore environmental quality in the U.S. Areas of Concern, including federal, state and local agency staff; members of local stakeholder groups; elected officials; citizens organizations; contractors and consultants involved in restoration activities; and other parties.

Registration

Registration materials will be distributed in May to members of local stakeholder groups in the U.S. AOCs. They also will be posted online at www.glc.org/rap/aocconference.

Travel Funding

Funding is available to support participation in the conference from representatives from the U.S. Areas of Concern. The chair of each stakeholder group will be invited to designate one representative who will be eligible for travel funding.

Lodging

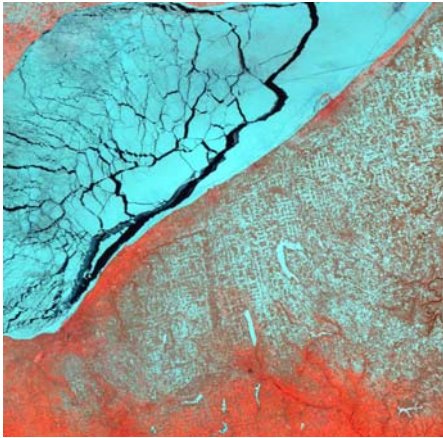
Lodging for conference participants is available at the Hilton Garden Inn located at 1100 Carnegie Ave. in downtown Cleveland. Contact the hotel at 216-658-6400 and request a room in the block reserved for the Great Lakes Commission. Rooms are available at a rate of \$98.

Sponsors

The conference is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office; the Great Lakes Commission; the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan.

Contacts

For more information, contact Matt Doss, Great Lakes Commission, 734-971-9135, mdoss@glc.org



Satellite photo of Lake Erie icepack on March 9, 2007

Ohio EPA Proposes Changes to Ohio Water Quality Certifications

Both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ohio EPA are revising the terms for nationwide permits and the related water quality certifications that regulate activities that can affect Ohio's water quality. Public input is being requested through May 21, 2007.

Ohio EPA will hold a public information session and hearing on Monday, May 21, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ohio Department of Transportation Auditorium, 1980 East Broad Street, Columbus. The public hearing will end when all interested parties have had a chance to testify on information related to the conditions for state certification.

Examples of the types of activities these permits affect include construction, dewatering, boat ramps, cleaning up hazardous and toxic waste, commercial and industrial development, reshaping drainage

ditches, mining activities and several others. There are 50 nationwide permits altogether. A complete list can be found in the public notice at the bottom of Ohio EPA's nationwide permit page (clickable Web address below).

Approved activities would result in lowering of water quality of surface waters of the state, including lakes, wetlands and streams. In order to receive a nationwide permit, the applicant must demonstrate activities will not violate Ohio's water quality standards or create adverse impacts to water quality as required in the federal Clean Water Act. Anyone who discharges dredged or fill material into Ohio waters is required to obtain a Section 401 water quality certification from Ohio EPA and then a Section 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers.

A nationwide permit is generalized to authorize specific categories of dredge or fill activities without reviewing individually. Once authorized, the permit is valid throughout the country. Ohio EPA evaluates nationwide permits to determine if they meet state water quality standards. The nationwide permit remains in effect for 5 years.

Ohio EPA inspectors will be authorized through the certification to oversee activities to ensure they are progressing according to terms and conditions in the water quality certification. A draft of the proposed terms and conditions is available for review by linking to the main nationwide Web page (link below).

Ohio EPA will accept written comments on the draft section 401 certifications through close of

business May 25. Written comments can be sent to Ohio EPA-DSW, Attention: Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049. Comments can be e-mailed to: randy.bournique@epa.state.oh.us, or faxed to: (614) 644-2745.

Copies of the Corps of Engineers proposals outlined in the Federal Register are available at the Web site listed below or from Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, 50 West Town Street, Suite 700, Columbus. The same information can be made available at any district office by calling the same number. An appointment or document request can be made by calling (614) 644-2001.

OHIO LAKE ERIE COMMISSION AWARDS MORE THAN \$38,000 IN GRANTS

A total of \$38,674 has been awarded to four research projects that will benefit Lake Erie and its environmental and economic resources, according to the Ohio Lake Erie Commission.

The **Lake County General Health District** will receive \$8,700 to design and install a drip distribution sewage treatment system on county-owned property that will serve as a host site for training installers; sanitarians; and others associated with home sewage disposal systems. New system technologies will be used to show how local organizations can meet the new regulations recently adopted by the Ohio Department of Health.

The **Cuyahoga River Community Planning**

Organization will receive \$9,974 for a project to inventory the land use ordinances of the Cuyahoga River watershed. The project will catalogue land use ordinances and related stormwater measures in the region into a central database. This database will help the partnership more effectively project watershed protection in the area.

The **U.S. Geological Survey** will receive \$10,000 for a project to improve the predictability of E.coli levels in lakefront beaches, using Huntington Beach in Bay Village as a model. Results of the project will provide for more accurate and timely water quality advisories along the lake for swimmers.

Bowling Green State University will receive \$10,000 to research the possible detoxification of heavy metals in Lake Erie sediment, using microbial communities as a new tool.

These quarterly grants are limited to \$10,000 or less each and are generally awarded for one year unless the specific nature of the project warrants a longer time period. Small grants may be used as seed money to test the feasibility of larger research projects or to support other small projects. Small grant proposals are reviewed and selected at each quarterly meeting of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission.

The Commission was created to preserve Lake Erie's natural resources, enhance its water quality and promote economic development in the region. The director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources serves as the commission's chairman. Additional members include the

directors of the departments of transportation, development, health, agriculture and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The commission oversees the Ohio Lake Erie Protection Fund, which is the source of grant funding. This fund is supported by Ohioans each time they purchase a Lake Erie license plate displaying the Marblehead Lighthouse as designed by Ohio artist Ben Richmond.



DELISTING IMPAIRMENTS TO CUYAHOGA FISH COMMUNITIES

AN UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE BRECKSVILLE STATION ROAD (S.R. 82) CANAL DIVERSION DAM

At the April RAP Coordinating Committee meeting it was reported that progress is being made towards modification/removal of the Station Road (S.R. 82) Dam. This dam is the first one located upstream of the mouth of the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland. It impacts aquatic communities by restricting fish passage to the southern portion of the area of concern.

The dam is located within the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and provides water to the Ohio and Erie Canal that runs through Cleveland Metroparks. The actual dam owner is the Ohio

Department of Natural Resources. Ohio EPA is taking the lead in facilitating the project and in preparing documents.

Public meetings held in 2005 identified three possible actions for the dam – no action; remove dam/provide water to canal; modify or keep dam while maintaining water in the canal/add recreational/fish passage structures.

The Friends of the Crooked River received \$120,000 from an environmental fine from a USEPA enforcement case to pay for background studies of the dam that will allow the drafting of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the project.

First, a historical eligibility determination was conducted by a consultant that determined that the dam is not eligible. Second, a HEC-RAS model was prepared that determined that dam removal would not significantly alter river flows. Third, a preliminary estimate of pump operation costs was prepared by the University of Akron.

The next steps are to prepare a draft EIS over the next year with the process beginning in 2008. The EIS may be possibly approved in 2009. Funding for the final design and construction costs will be pursued in 2008 and 2009 with construction expected to begin in late 2009-2010.

For more information on the project, contact Bill Zawiski, Ohio EPA, at 330-963-1134 or bill.zawiski@epa.state.oh.us.



Upcoming Meetings

Several meetings and events that may be of interest include:

- **Best Local Land Use Workshop – May 8 at 8:00am** at Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District in Valley View. Register by calling Chris Riddle, Lake Erie Commission, at 419-245-2514, or by emailing lakeeriecommission@ameritech.net. Additional information is available at: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oleo/bg1/index.html>
- **RiverSweep – May 12 from 9am to noon** at numerous locations. For more information, call Tanya, Ohio Canal Corridor, at 216-520-1825 or e-mail tstella@ohiocanal.org
- **Tinkers Creek Stressor Identification Study – May 16 at 5:00pm** at Ohio EPA Northeast District Office, Twinsburg. Contact Bill Zawiski at 330-963-1134 for details.
- **Euclid Creek Watershed Council Meeting – May 17 at 7:30am** at Beachwood City Hall. Contact Lynn Garrity at 216-524-6580 ext 16 for details.
- **Summit County Storm Water PIPE Committee – May 17 at**

9:00am. Contact Cindy Fink, Summit SWCD, at 330-297-2841 for details.

- **RiverDay 2007 – May 19** – the 17th annual day of service and celebration of the Cuyahoga River. Numerous events – for details see the website at www.cuyahogariver.net/riverday
- **Yellow Creek Watershed Committee – May 21 at 7:00pm** at Bath Township Hall.
- **50th Annual IAGLR Conference on Great Lakes Research - May 28 - June 1 University Park, Pennsylvania.**
Contact: Hunter Carrick
Phone: 814-865-9219
E-mail: 07chair@iaglr.org
- **Euclid Creek Public Involvement Committee – June 1 (tentative)** at Richmond Heights City Hall. Contact Lynn Garrity at 216-524-6580 ext 16 for details.
- **2007 IJC Great Lakes Conference and Biennial Meeting – June 6-8** in Chicago, Illinois. The theme of this year's meeting will be "Sustainable Cities in Healthy Watersheds" and will focus on positive actions that urban areas can take to enhance their future growth with minimal harm to the environment.
Contact: Bruce Brown



Phone: 519-257-6733

E-mail:

BrownB@windsor.ijc.org.

- **Bio Blitz 2007 – June 8 at 3:00pm** at Cascade Valley Metro Park. For more information and to register, contact Marlo Perdicas at 330-923-0720 or mperdicas@summitmetroparks.org
- **Portage County Storm Water Task Force – June 13 at 9:00am** at the Garden Meeting Room, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna. Contact Crystal Cherry at 330-297-7633 for details.
- **Great Lakes United 25th Anniversary Meeting - June 15-17** in Toronto, Ontario
A respected and influential coalition of over 170 organizations and 700 individuals, Great Lakes United will be looking back on a quarter century of uniting the voices of grassroots activists and organizations working toward the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes.
Phone: 716-886-0142 (Buffalo) or *E-mail:* glu@glu.org
- **Great Lakes Areas of Concern: Achieving Restoration Targets and Sustaining Stewardship – June 28-29** at the Hilton Garden Inn, Cleveland. For more information contact Matt Doss, Great Lakes Commission, at 734-971-9135 or mdoss@glc.org
- **Cuyahoga River RAP Coordinating Committee – July 26.** Time and venue TBA.

*If you have any items or meeting notices for the next RAP-Up newsletter – please contact me at 330-963-1117 or email at **kelvin.rogers@epa.state.oh.us***