

# Ohio EPA

## Maumee RAP Coordinator Report

### PLANNING

#### US EPA projects in the Maumee AOC

- At the request of Ohio EPA, US EPA is conducting three projects in the Maumee AOC that are scheduled to be complete by July 31, 2012. US EPA contractor, Tetra Tech, is working on the following:
  - o Lower Maumee Tributaries and Lake Erie Tributaries TMDL
    - Document is currently in development, with public notice in late May/June 2012
    - Details of the draft report are expected to be presented at the Spring Summit 2012
  - o Eastern Maumee AOC Wetland & Riparian Inventory and Restoration Plans
    - See below for update
  - o SUSTAIN model for Swan Creek
    - Some modeling has been done in other area that hopes to be utilized for the Swan program
    - Looking to simplify the program to make it more user friendly

#### Eastern Maumee AOC Wetland & Riparian Inventory and Restoration Plans

- Site were selected last spring and field work/sampling was done late summer
- The Project Management Team has narrowed the list of site based on the sampling results
- Approximately 20 sites (several with various phases/parts) will have concept plans, maps, and cost estimates developed over the winter. A full draft report is expected in March, with the final available in August 2012

#### Updating Stage 2 Watershed Restoration Plan

- Ohio EPA has been working with a US EPA consultant (ECT-presenting today at the Summit) to develop an analytical data, delisting target, and project management database. We had a BETA showing of the system at the Maumee AOC Project Forums in July. This Phase of the project is expected to be done by Dec 31, 2011. It hopefully that another of this will be funded that may include a mapping component that could be made available online. This system would take the place of the current Volume 2 of the Stage 2 Report and allow our regional watershed plan to always be current.

### SAMPLING

#### Ohio EPA moves Maumee River up on TMDL sampling schedule

- The Maumee River was scheduled for sampling in 2016, however it has been moved up to next summer
- Ohio EPA will be conducting biological, chemical and sediment sampling the Large River Unit (mainstem) of the Maumee River watershed for the TSD
- Ohio EPA is working with U.S. EPA to ensure that any needed TMDLs are completed in a timely manner

#### Ottawa River sampled for TMDL and fish consumption advisory

- Ohio EPA sampled sites in the Ottawa River/Tenmile Creek watershed for biology, chemistry, and sediment.
- Some of the results from this study are available on our agency mapping website
- Sample were also collected related to 319 projects and the fish consumption advisory. These fish are being analyzed now and we hope to have a determination of the status of the advisory early this spring.

#### Additional Data Collection in Maumee AOC

- US EPA GLNPO collected sediment samples under the GLLA Site Characterization authority in the Maumee River (~RM 8.5-3.5), Swan Creek (~RM 2.75-mouth) and at the confluence of Duck and Otter Creeks with the Maumee River/Bay.

- Results should be available in spring 2012 for Maumee River and Swan Creek. Brenda Jones is presenting more on the Duck and Otter Creeks confluence study today at the Summit.
- Additional sampling in the Maumee River is expected next summer from ~RM 3.5 to the Duck/Otter/Bay confluence study area. It is hoped at additional sampling will be conducted in Maumee Bay during the summer of 2013.

## **OTHER**

### **Great Lakes Week Notables** *(info based on presentations at Great Lakes Week in Detroit, MI (Oct 11-14))*

#### Notes from Joint Session with HOW, GLC, and US&CA governments regarding GLRI and IJC:

1. Lisa Jackson discussed 3 priorities for the coming year:
  - Preventing invasive species
  - Reducing phosphorus (specifically mentioned the Maumee River and need for HAB response)
  - Eliminating toxic hot spots in AOCs
2. Susan Hedman's (R5 Admin) address was mostly taken from the GLRI Action Plan.
  - GLRI funds are distributed to 11 agencies to fund all/part of 140 Programs
  - Spoke about the 4 targeted (Tier 1) AOCs (Ashtabula, Raisin, Sheboygan, White Lake) where all remaining management actions needed will be completed by 2012. After describing each one she repeated "when all remaining management actions, EPA will continue to monitor environmental conditions until all BUIs are removed."
    - Tier 1 – Delist in 0-3 years
    - Tier 2 – Delist in 3-5 years
    - Tier 3 – Delist in 5+ years
  - Revealed new list of Priority/Tier 2 AOCs for 2013, no Ohio AOCs
  - Will be 5 focus areas based on GLRI Action Plan [Maumee watershed (not just AOC) is 1 of the 5]
  - CSO-SSOs – USEPA escalating efforts for funding and enforcement
3. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Negotiation Status (Hedman & Goffin)
  - No changes have been made to agreement since 1987 (when RAP/LaMP was added)
  - New GLWQA negotiations underway. A number of proposed changes affect RAPs and the LaMPs. ([http://binational.net/home\\_e.html](http://binational.net/home_e.html))
  - LAMPs/RAPs focus on reporting progress and implementing fixes (see [http://binational.net/glwqa/v2\\_glwqareview\\_en.pdf](http://binational.net/glwqa/v2_glwqareview_en.pdf))
  - Expect agreement to retain: purpose, geographic scope, commitment to AOC/LaMPs
  - Expect to streamline: LaMP/RAP process (more frequent and detailed reporting), definitions streamlined, and consolidated annexes and references organized into 5 sections
  - Expect to improved/enhance: annexes, AOC (add recovery stage and BUI explanation, accountability, binational management framework (with annex specific subcommittees), and comprehensive reporting to governments every 3<sup>rd</sup> year
  - Expect to be added: new annexes on invasive species, climate change, habitats & species, and notification component (i.e. pipelines, drilling, nuclear plant sitings)

#### Notes from 2011 AOC Conference, Detroit, Oct 13-14, 2011

1. Accomplishments under the AOC Program
  - a. Wendy Carney (GLNPO-Deputy Director)
    - 261 BUIs = so far 26 removed in 9 AOCs and 5 states
    - 4 step plan
      - Planning (Stage 2)
      - Action
      - Verify (Monitoring & Assessment)
      - Delist
    - Stage 2's are maps to the Finish Line
      - Some BUIs/watersheds are so far out they can't see how to get to the finish line
      - These AOCs need to take interim steps and re-write/re-chart path as progress made

- b. John Perrecone (GLNPO)
  - EPA tracking database underway; eventually will be prime source for reports and management tracking
  - Critical State roles:
    - AOC delisting targets
    - BUI removal targets
    - Stage 2 RAPs (needed by end of 2011)
    - Prioritize and implement projects
    - Report progress
    - Provide input to tracking database
- c. Marc Tuchman (GLNPO-GLLA)
  - Have done work in 18 of 30 US AOCs with 10 projects completed for 1.3 mil cu yds
  - Have leveraged \$119 million in match for \$169 million of GLLA money spent
  - NRD settlements have results in \$27 million
- d. Karen Rodriguez (USEPA & SOGL)
  - US EPA grants
    - Expect 2012 RFP will be similar but not identical to 2011
    - Pay attention to details
    - Expect a focus on AOCs
    - Not much habitat work from U.S. EPA; habitat money to USFWS & Sustain Our Great Lakes again
    - If GLRI is funded same as last year, then money to AOCs is expected to increase
  - SOGL grants
    - Expect RFP in Early Jan 2012
    - Grants in 2 sizes: \$25K – \$150K, \$150K – \$1.5 M.
    - SOGL runs on a calendar year schedule
    - Online submissions ONLY – no hard copies will be accepted
    - Want more AOC proposals
    - VERY important to include
      - Tell how project will delist/help to delist habitat BUIs
      - Tell how project will help reach GLRI action plan measures
      - Tell how project will lead to removing BUIs; relate back to plans: LAMPs, biodiversity plans (TNC's Blueprint for Lake Erie)
  - Should include monitoring for effectiveness
- e. Julie Sims (NOAA)
  - 2011 funding restricted to AOCs, including 4 land acquisition projects.
  - In 2012, expect to focus on AOC land acquisition, habitat restoration implementation (minimal engineering and design); include monitoring for effectiveness; consider climate change; new Partnerships; Marine Debris grants
- f. Amy McGovern (US FWS)
  - Soliciting projects through field offices
  - Funding lots of fish passage projects
- g. Jan Miller (US ACE)
  - Strategic nav. dredging, how to use GLRI funding to augment base funding in some cases;
  - Invasive species;
  - Habitat and wildlife: dams and fish passage;
  - Nearshore restoration projects include dredging and removing structures; need to link projects to BUI removal.
  - Look to maximize 3 piece combo: USACE Navigational dredging, GLRI Strategic Navigational Dredging, and GLLA.