

Ohio EPA

Maumee RAP Coordinator Report

US EPA Supports Maumee AOC with three GLRI fund projects

- At the request of Ohio EPA, US EPA is conducting three projects in the Maumee AOC. US EPA contractor, Tetra Tech, is working on the following:
 - o Lower Maumee Tributaries and Lake Erie Tributaries TMDL
 - Bruce Cleland is presenting on this at the Summit
 - o Eastern Maumee AOC Wetland & Riparian Inventory and Restoration Plans
 - See below for update
 - o SUSTAIN model for Swan Creek

Eastern Maumee AOC Wetland & Riparian Inventory and Restoration Plans

- The Project Management Team is comprised of 20-25 people with diverse backgrounds and expertise working to develop a plan similar to the Swan Creek and Ottawa River Plan that PCS created last year.
- At this point, data sets have been collected and are being weighted and modeled to determine potential project areas.
- At the Spring Summit, we will present the findings of the models and discuss how the sites were categorized and determined.

Ohio EPA moves Ottawa River up on TMDL schedule

- Ohio EPA has decided to move the Ottawa River biological, chemical and sediment sampling for the TSD (Technical Support Document) up to 2011. This data is the basis for the TMDL Report that will follow.
- An effort is also underway to secure resources to concurrently conduct additional sampling in the Ottawa River to evaluate the ability to reduce and/or remove the contact and consumption advisories. There should be more to report on this at the Spring Summit.

Additional Data Collection in Maumee ACO

- Ohio EPA has also been working with US EPA GLNPO to identify reaches of streams in the AOC that need to be characterized as to the conditions of the sediment with respect to contamination. This includes portions of the lower Maumee River, Lower Swan Creek, and Maumee Bay near the mouths of Duck & Otter Creeks.
- Brenda Jones is presenting more on these GLLA funded activities at the Summit.

Ottawa River Dredging is Complete

- The GLLA remediation project to dredge a 5½-mile stretch of the Ottawa River and Sibley Creek is completed.
- The completion of this project marks further progress in the cleanup of the Maumee AOC.
- A celebratory Press Conference will be held at the Ottawa River Yacht Club (5844 Edgewater Drive, Toledo, Ohio) on Monday, Dec 13, 2010 at 11:30am. Please consider joining us.
- Brenda Jones is presenting more on this project at the Summit.

Updating Stage 2 Watershed Restoration Plan

- Ohio EPA has been working with a consultant to develop a proposal for an analytical data, delisting target, and project management database with 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. I should have more information at the Spring Summit.
- Volume 1 of the plan will be undergoing an update this winter/spring to explain the current environmental organizations of our region as well as updating the maps and tables to reflect the new boundaries of the AOC and the Coastal Management Measures needed for full state endorsement of this plan.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative *(info based on a regional conference call that was held 12/8/10)*

- The federal agencies are working on a presumed authorization of \$300 million for FFY11 GLRI
- US EPA GLNPO has an RFP prepared, but doesn't intend to release it until their FFY11 budget is finalized
 - o US EPA will not fund any habitat projects this cycle; habitat funds are being directed to USFWS
 - o Projects that will delist or can show a step-by-step path to delisting will be given priority.
 - US EPA has identified 3 main paths to delisting:
 - 1) Problem/impact is state/lakewide condition and not specific to one AOC
 - 2) All projects have been implemented and need to wait for natural attenuation to restore (Area of Recovery designation)
 - 3) Problem/impact has been mitigated/removed and AOC is restored
 - o The main driver for US EPA GLNPO's RAP program is helping them to achieve their goals as outlined in the Great Lakes Restoration Action Plan (specifically page 19-per John Perrecone)
- NOAA expects to be issuing two anticipatory RFPs in late December or early January with a deadline of early February 2011 for 1) Planning, design, and implementation of habitat restoration projects in AOCs, and 2) AOC land acquisition and conservation habitat.
 - o NOAA's Habitat RFP will be very similar to last year however it will be exclusively available to AOCs. The focus will be on Habitat (#10), Population (#3) and Benthos (#6) BUIs.
 - All proposals must have a letter of support from the local or state RAP coordinating organization (PCS or Ohio EPA).
 - Projects need to make ties to a RAP Stage 2 Report or similar planning document.
 - They must show measurable gains towards delisting. AND . . .
 - In order to limit the amount of proposals received, each AOC will be limited to the submission of TWO proposals.
 - o NOAA's Acquisition RFP will follow the Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELP) guidance, and like the Habitat RFP will be exclusively for AOCs.
 - Proposal must be endorsed by a local or state RAP coordinating organization.
 - Projects need to make ties to a RAP Stage 2 Report or similar planning document.
 - These proposals will be limited as well, and are to be submitted to NOAA through the State Coastal Zone Management Agency (ODNR in Ohio)
 - No match is required for this grant
 - They prefer "ready to acquire" property that must have conservation or restorability value. Contaminated sites are NOT eligible
- ACE does not have grants to issue, but does have money to cost-share projects as at 35% non-fed/65% fed rate. Match can be completely in-kind. They primarily have worked in AOCs under WRDA 401-Technical Assistance to RAP and Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER)
 - o RAP Technical Assistance Projects can be just about anything (planning, project development, field studies, etc) except for construction. Money is currently available from FFY10 funds, so projects can begin as quickly as an agreement can be put together.
 - o GLFER Projects can be used for projects like, fish passage, invasive species control (plant and aquatics), dam removal, etc.
- USFWS will be using several existing authorities to distribute grant funds. These projects will not be limited to AOCs. Details on their many program is available on-line at www.fws.gov/glri
 - o Funding for Toxics will be used to support the GLLA process/projects
 - o Aquatic Invasive Species funding will be directed to Asian Carp issues
 - o Habitat funding will be handled much the same as FFY10; pre-proposals under Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration are being accepted through Dec 13 with a 25% match
 - o Wetland Conservation for Migratory Birds expect to be funded with a 1 to 1 match
 - o Partners for Wildlife and Endangered Species projects will also be funded
- Sustain our Great Lakes and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation expect to be issuing anticipatory RFPs in January. These programs are where US EPA's habitat funds are being directed.