

**Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative (SBCI)
Program Update
June, 2009**

	Action	Status	Contacts	Next Steps
SBCI General Information	SBCI web site	A SBCI web site has been created: http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-7251_30353_42900---,00.html	For additional information contact Jim Bredin, DEQ, at bredinj@michigan.gov (517-335-4232)	Web site is being updated as needed
	Executive Committee Development	An Executive Committee of the SBCI is being established to direct the efforts of the SBCI and to develop the organizational structure of the effort. Local members of the SBCI met March 23, 2007, to discuss future priority recommendations for future efforts of the SBCI.	For additional information contact Jim Bredin, DEQ, at bredinj@michigan.gov (517-335-4232) or Tom Hickner, Bay County Executive, at hicknert@baycounty.net (989-895-4130)	Discussion at next SBCI meeting
Tourism and Recreation	Saginaw Bay Tourism Enhancement Effort	As a result of the SBCI work group effort, the MI Great Bay, Inc. has been formed with the purpose to provide enhancement and coordination of state and local tourism efforts. MI Great Bay, Inc. has passed bylaws and is currently working on receiving a 501(c)(3) designation . MI Great Bay, Inc. is also working a development of a web site and exploring way to further develop regional tourism efforts.	If you would like to be involved in this effort contact Shirley Roberts, President, MI Great Bay, Inc. and Executive Director, Bay Area Convention and Visitor Bureau at shirley@tourbaycitymi.org , (989-893-1222) or Jim Bredin, DEQ, at bredinj@michigan.gov (517-335-4232)	Effort currently underway.
Beach and Wetlands	Saginaw Bay Algae (Muck)	A work group has been formed to review alternative algae control options at the Bay City State Recreation Area.	If you would like to be involved in this effort or want information regarding the next speaker presentation contact Charles Bauer, DEQ, at bauerc@michigan.gov , (989-686-8025, Ext. 8261)	
	Protection of High Quality Coastal Wetlands	In an effort to preserve important high quality wetlands, an effort has been completed to identify wetlands that are the top priority for protection efforts in Saginaw Bay, and to inform local authorities of the various methods that may be used to preserve these areas. The report may be used by local municipalities, townships, and conservation groups to identify locations to focus protection efforts. The rank of each wetland is displayed on a	If you would like information regarding the results of this effort contact Tracy Collin, DEQ, at collint@michigan.gov (517-241-4506) For copies of the final maps and manual, please contact the Environmental Assistance Center at 1-800-662-9278 or	Completed

		map, which is available in paper form or on a CD in ArcReader format. The workgroup also produced a manual that describes how to use these maps, issues local protection programs should consider, and the various mechanisms that may be used to protect these wetland resources.	deq-ead-env-assist@michigan.gov .	
	Increasing Access to Saginaw Bay	SBCI is working with the Small Harbors Coalition to find ways to improve access to the Saginaw Bay. Finding a cost effective means to dredge existing access points will be a key focal point of this work group.	Laura Ogar, Bay County Environmental Affairs & Community Development, at ogarl@baycounty.net (989-895-4135)	Effort currently underway.
	Phragmites Control in the Saginaw Bay Coastal Area	A work group has been formed to conduct a <i>Phragmites</i> control and restoration demonstration project in the Saginaw Bay area. The DEQ through a grant from US EPA-GLNPO is currently in Year 2 of the <i>Phragmites</i> control efforts on public and private lands. In addition, this work has prepared a Landowner's Guide to <i>Phragmites</i> Control that can be found at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/deq-ogl-Guide-Phragmites_204659_7.pdf	If you would like information regarding this effort contact Julie Sims, DEQ, at simsj@michigan.gov , (517-373-2732), Emily Finnell, DEQ, at finnelle@michigan.gov , (517-241-7927)	Effort currently underway.
Regulatory Improvement	Evaluation of Human Health Risks Associated with the Algae (muck).	On May 2, 2007, in Bay City the Saginaw Bay Science Committee finalized their report and presented their findings. The report can be found at: http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-ogl-sbci-SBReport-Final-HumanHealthRisks.pdf	If you would like to receive the results of the evaluation contact Christine Alexander, DEQ, at alexandc@michigan.gov , (517-373-6794) or Jim Bredin, DEQ, at bredinj@michigan.gov (517-335-4232)	Completed
	Saginaw Bay CSO Committee	Under SBCI, a committee has been developed to look at the impacts of and possible improvements to CSO discharges in the Saginaw Bay area.	Laura Ogar, Bay County Environmental Affairs & Community Development, at ogarl@baycounty.net (989-895-4135)	Effort currently underway.
	Evaluate Current Procedures and Processes, and Identification of Opportunities for Improvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Septic Systems • Animal Feeding Operations 	The DEQ is in the process of reviewing the concerns presented at the SBCI meeting and will be seeking external input to ensure that these issues are adequately addressed.	If you would like to be involved in this effort or want information regarding the meeting contact Charles Bauer, DEQ, at bauerc@michigan.gov , (989-686-8025, Ext. 8261)	Effort currently underway.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of State/Federal/Local Programs 			
Projects	Kawkawlin River Watershed Initiative	Spearheaded by the Bay County Drain Commissioner and DEQ, a work group has been formed to develop and implement a Kawkawlin River restoration plan.	If you would like to be involved in or want information on this project contact Joseph Rivet, Bay County Drain Commissioner at rivetj@baycounty.net (989-895-4290) or Charles Bauer, DEQ, at bauerc@michigan.gov , (989-686-8025, Ext. 8261)	Effort currently underway.
	Brownfields Redevelopment within the Saginaw Bay Coastal Area	The DEQ will provide assistance to communities to help them achieve their Brownfield Clean up and Redevelopment goals. Staff are available to help interested communities understand the applicable Brownfield laws and regulations as well as providing information regarding the limited Brownfield Grant and Loan money. DEQ staff have been working with the Arenac County Brownfield Assessment Team. One of the goals of the Arenac County Team is to prioritize contamination sites that have the potential to affect the Saginaw Bay.	If you have Brownfield questions or would like more information contact Brenda Brouillet, DEQ, at brouillb@michigan.gov , (989-686-8025, Ext. 8300) or Rhonda Klann, DEQ, at klannr@michigan.gov (989-686-8025, Ext 8302) For information on Grants and Loans contact Susan Sandell , DEQ, at sandells@michigan.gov (231-775-3960)	DEQ staff are currently available to provide assistance as requested.
	Cass River Restoration	Local interests are beginning the development of this effort.	If you would like to be involved in this effort or want information regarding the meeting contact Charles Bauer, DEQ, at bauerc@michigan.gov , (989-686-8025, Ext. 8261)	Effort currently underway.
	Saginaw River Corridor Enhancement	The Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed has agreed to be the sponsor for this effort. They are currently working with DEQ and will be officially initiating this effort in the near future.	If you would like to be involved in or would like information on this project contact Joe Toft, Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed at jtothks@aol.com (989-652-9725) or Charles Bauer, DEQ, at bauerc@michigan.gov , (989-686-8025, Ext. 8261)	DEQ is working with the Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed to develop a process for moving this project forward.