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Michigan Statewide Public Advisory Council

Fall Business Meeting

Friday, October 26, 2012
Four Points Sheraton Hotel
3600 East Cork Street Court, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Meeting Summary

Meeting Participants

AOCs Represented:

Clinton River AOC: Anne Vaara, member
Detroit River AOC: Mary Bohling, member and SPAC chair, Bob Burns, Friends of the Detroit River
Kalamazoo River AOC: Robert Whitesides, Gary Wager
Muskegon Lake AOC: Kathy Evans, member, Theresa Bernhardt
Saginaw River/Bay AOC: Dennis Zimmerman, member
St. Clair River AOC: Patty Troy, member, Paulette Duhaime, alternate
White Lake: Tanya Cabala, member, Tom Tisue
Rouge River: Bill Craig, member
Manistique River: Corey Barr, member
Torch Lake: Judith Perlinger
River Raisin: Richard Micka, member

AOCs Not Represented:

St. Marys River
Deer Lake
Menominee River

Staff Present:

Jon Allan, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Office of the Great Lakes
Sharon Baker, MDEQ
Roger Eberhardt, MDEQ
Rick Hobrla, MDEQ
Jen Tewkesbury, MDEQ
Melanie Foose, MDEQ
Stephanie Swart, MDEQ
Brian Sweeney, MDEQ
Dave Cowgill, U.S. EPA, Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO)
John Perrecone, U.S. EPA, GLNPO
Matt Doss, Great Lakes Commission (GLC)

Meeting Summary

Please note these minutes have been reformatted to meet accessibility requirements. The original content has not been changed. 7/2022

Welcome Introductions

Rick Hobrla, Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Office of the Great Lakes, introduced new AOC program staff: Lynelle Marolf [not present at the meeting] as the new deputy director of the Office of the Great Lakes (OGL); Melanie Foose is the RAP coordinator for the St. Clair, Detroit and Raisin AOCs; Brian Sweeney is the new communications coordinator for OGL; and Jon Allan, is the new director of OGL. He comes from Consumers Energy via the Executives On Loan program.

Jon Allan: Pleased to meet you. I realize the AOC program has been a very long process. Has some background with AOCs via work at Consumers Energy. Is an aquatic biologist by training, so has some experience with the science. Look forward to learning and helping where we can. OGL is deeply committed to the process and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) has helped immeasurably and we are now seeing incredible progress. Exciting to be in the cusp of delisting in some areas. We are discussing how “we” – all of us – can continue to tell the great stories being done in communities. Problem is that much of the work is somewhat opaque to outsiders. So how can we push stories about resurgence and revitalization of our communities, and replace the old story with a new story about what’s being done in communities. How do we tell our stories, integrate with placemaking, integrate with a parks, healthy communities, parks and trails vision. Jon just finish co-chairing panel on state parks. One issue was to connect parks to trails. There is much interest in helping communities re-connect with their waterfronts. We remain committed to being partners and advocates, but recognize that much work is in your hands.

The other meeting participants introduced themselves.

The summary of the May SPAC meeting was approved as submitted.

Feedback from Thursday’s Workshop and Next Steps

Rick Hobrla, Office of the Great Lakes: Was excited about what he heard; very positive. Wants it to be clear that the DEQ position is that the material was presented as information or an opportunity; we’re not trying to push you to do this. If you’re not interested, that’s fine. PACs will have to consider what to do after delisting. Some will close up and that’s fine. Some others may want to morph into something else. We encourage you to think about what direction you go, but it’s up to you and we’re not trying to push you in a particular direction.

Mary Bohling, Detroit River: We want to think about what we can do as a group to help AOCs figure out what direction they want to go.

Gary Wager, Kalamazoo River: Had board meeting last night. At first was a tough sell on this, but eventually they became to realize it would be better if we had more people interested in the PCB cleanup in the river, and we help people recognize the benefits of the river.

Bill Craig, Rouge River: Value of the discussion was on issues of perceptions. We’re insiders with tunnel vision; we need to look at perceptions of the general public. That

was good to hear. Understanding perceptions will give us information to communicate and focus in on perceptions.

Tom Tisue, White Lake: Need to do homework before we can capitalize on branding, but it will be valuable to do that homework.

Tanya Cabala, White Lake: We've had our PAC for 20 years and we are realizing that we're close to delisting, but perceptions are a problem. It would be worthwhile to help move beyond current perceptions to the next steps. SPAC support has been instrumental to our success, so this next step is important and we'd like to take advantage of it.

Paulette Duhaime, St. Clair River: Highlights were to connect waterfronts to communities; if you build it they will come. Need to continue doing our job so this is integrated into our local plans. Recognize past and show progress and hard work that brought us to where we are today. Word of mouth and how important that is; perhaps have a workshop on using modern technologies to get our story out and building a descriptive language and away from the AOC language to make the story more positive and open to the public. Also likes notion of building a more regional approach.

Richard Micka, River Raisin: Local communities are already branded, so we need to be careful about bringing in another brand. Also, the International Joint Commission got us into this, so they should help us get out of it. Some sort of stamp of approval. That way we don't do this to ourselves. Perrecone notes bureaucratic process with EPA. Matt noted importance of local communities being the driver of the process. Mary notes when a community already has a story or brand, the AOC can help tell that story in the context of the AOC and water issues. Richard: Important to work with the harbor to avoid resistance. The harbor is a commercial harbor and is concerned about that and doesn't want to be concerned with the AOC. When we talk with them all they see is trouble. Will become a hassle if we try to extricate ourselves from something that they never agreed to in the first place.

Anne Vaara, Clinton River: Workshop was great. Don't need to worry about forcing branding on communities, since they are already doing this and we will be supporting them. Notes that most people aren't aware of AOCs and PACs. The people who will be excited are the ones that have been involved since the beginning. Much excitement about notion of delisting being possible within 6-8 years. Many communities are already doing branding, since the river is pretty clean and we've made great progress over the years. Notes the work of Macomb County to showcase water resources. This really helps.

Corey Barr, Manistique River: Not sure about branding, but the issue of perceptions is important. If you ask our community what an AOC, PAC, and RAP are, only a few would know what they are. Much interest during the superfund cleanup, but since there hasn't been much publicity.

Jon Allan, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes, asked about differences between what's being done under the AOCs vs. what communities feel generally about progress in achieving a clean environment?

Corey Barr: Notes issue of percentage of college educated population. Many retirees and people just working, so this just isn't a major issue for them. It's hard for our local group, staying focused and having adequate participation. Usually it's just a small group.

Bob Burns, Detroit River: Depends on connectivity of people to the river. Some people in Detroit live just a few blocks from the river that never go there, while others live on the water and recreate on it. Notes that the River Raisin AOC is focused on the City of Monroe, so there's an easier link with work being done. Notes that Macomb Co. has a county executive that can focus attention and resources. In Detroit you have the city and many communities, so it's harder to focus attention and identity. So the challenge of branding will vary based on nature of communities, their ability to come together, etc.

Mary Bohling notes that communities in the downriver area are working on branding that recognizes value of water. We can support and partake in this process, but not lead a new initiative of our own.

Bob Burns: Common thread is to show how branding or other things will benefit the economic viability of the waterfront and the communities.

Mary Bohling: economics isn't usually our specialty, but if we can help people view water as an economic resource would be valuable.

Judith Perlinger, Torch Lake: Economic benefit can come from improvements in quality of life. Measuring this is difficult. But we need to be able to communicate in economic terms the value of environmental restoration, water resources.

Jon Allan, Office of the Great Lakes: Do we tell this in economic terms or by telling the story?

Paulette Duhaime: we use the Brookings Institution report to tell our story about economic benefits from restoration benefits, and this is very effective. It would be helpful to collect stories about successes and benefits from environmental cleanups. Communities may not know about AOCs, RAPs, etc., but they know about the pollution problems, but may not be aware that progress has been made. If you ask if they care about the quality of the environment, they universally will say yes.

Patty Troy, St. Clair River: PACs and AOCs likely won't be involved in a branding process, but we can help address perceptions.

Dennis Zimmerman, Saginaw River/Bay: Liked the concept of the workshop. But some of the presentations created a conflict in his mind. Much talk about how people don't understand our terms so we should get rid of them. I disagree. We put the terms out there, and what's important is the answer not the question. Another thing is that, for purpose of economic gain, there's a tradeoff with science. Notes redevelopment of old coal dump in Marquette. Where do you draw the line for economic development vs. scientific development. Also, educational process. All of us eventually will need some sort of branding program, but will vary from one AOC to another. In Saginaw we may need a different branding process for different segments of river based on different land uses.

Tanya Cabala, White Lake: We've had endless discussions about terms and how to convey issues. We try to use terms the public will understand. Cautions that people need to come in and get familiar with AOCs and the local community. Feels outside consultants often try to impose a program. They need to understand the "flavor" of the AOC and community.

Kathy Evans, Muskegon Lake: They had representatives from their Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau at the workshop. They are on the PAC so are represented, although they are non-traditional players on PACs. We're active and have done a lot of work on sediment cleanups, habitat restoration, etc. and have a lakeshore trail. Much development needs to occur in these areas. In the past Muskegon was known as a dirty foundry town, but it isn't anymore, so we need to change that perception. They are excited about that prospect. Also, there's the importance of unifying people to craft a new brand and use this to advance continued stewardship in the future in a way that might not happen. Look at branding to advance positive efforts far into the future that will work for everyone and we can still work together after delisting.

Jon Allan, Office of the Great Lakes: We all have stories to tell; how do we identify those stories, understand the context, and use these stories toward the governor's aim of "relentless, positive action." Another theme: As we return to our resources, and others return to Michigan, we need to be ready for that as effective stewards of our resources. So, within our communities, driving toward what the stories tell about the revitalization of our resources.

Roger Eberhardt, Office of the Great Lakes: Tell stories to make progress concrete and help us move beyond our internal language and terms. Roger mentions case studies of coastal program projects. Likes the idea of developing stories, both small and big stories.

Dave Cowgill, U.S. EPA: Likes the common thread of telling stories of good things that are happening. With so many projects happening under the GLRI, there are many good stories that need to be told. This would be very positive. He fears that, as we're so busy doing our work, we'll risk missing the good stories that are out there. Notes the story of the Kinnickinnic River in Wisconsin and the tremendous economic development and revitalization that followed the sediment cleanup there. This can stimulate public interest by hearing these stories.

Theresa Bernhardt, Muskegon Lake: Let's not lose sight of communicating with children. Notes that children latch onto words and bring these words home to the dinner table, and this can generate a discussion among change makers. Don't get too involved in dogma of the process that we forget the change makers. Notes that there's a MA student at GVSU who wrote a paper on Ruddiman Creek in 8th grade. She's now making the change. Emphasizes that values are drivers of change. Didn't see issue of protecting the environment in the branding case studies yesterday, and this concerns her. Branding should be a vehicle to advance values and make the case, but make sure it's what you value and advances the change that you want to see.

Rick Hobrla, Office of the Great Lakes: Emphasizes the need for SPAC members to take this information back to their PACs and to assess their interest in pursuing

something further. Three general options: 1) we presented this and do nothing further; 2) if there's interest we can devote resources and time as a SPAC to do more; and 3) if there's interest from just a few PACs, we could work individually with them.

Reports from SPAC members

St. Clair River: Two BUIs have been officially removed, so we have removed four BUIs on the U.S. side. There was a public celebration on Sept. 28th for the announcement of the removal of the Aesthetics and Added Costs to Agriculture and Industry BUIs, with the Added Costs BUI being removed in both the U.S. and Canada. There was a symposium in June with about 100 people, presented technical information. It was very well received. A large habitat project is underway that received \$2 million GLRI grant, and other habitat projects and a habitat plan are in progress. Spill prevention, response and communication are also a big issue in AOC. Habitat report is being finalized, will list habitat projects that need to be completed to remove those BUIs. The BPAC recently presented four Partnership Awards: City of Port Huron for CSO reductions and completion of a habitat restoration project; Clay Township Phragmites Board for public education and phragmites control efforts; Dave Dortman for work founding St. Clair-Detroit River Sturgeon for Tomorrow nonprofit and for stream monitoring work; and Gregory AD, a local company providing diving services and underwater videography in the St. Clair River, for documentation of underwater habitat conditions and direct discharge problems, and for public education.

Detroit River: In late spring submitted final report on re. fish tainting; awaiting response and will have report from Canadian side. Hope this will lead to removal of fish/wildlife tainting BUI. Have another grant from GLC to look at remaining contaminated sediment sites and prepare list, leading to future cleanups. Preparing work plan outlining route to eventual delisting and projects and funding needed. Determine projects that are needed. Moving from stage I to stage II. Re. habitat, we have list of 21 projects needed to remove fish and wildlife BUIs. Have contractor support to refine list. Have three GLRI habitat projects: south fishing pier and Blue Heron Lagoon on Belle Isle, and US Steel. Construction is moving forward on first two; there are issues with contaminated sediments at US Steel site. A more detailed updated was handed out and is included at the end of this meeting summary.

Saginaw River/Bay: We have a technical committee that's studying habitat/populations BUI and upcoming report. We believe we're ready to remove the habitat BUI. The populations BUI is not ready to be removed. Before the population BUI can be removed the following is required; 1) a rock ramp needs to be construction at the Frankenmuth dam; 2) rock ramps at the Frankenmuth and Chesaning dams must be successfully passing fish; and 3) the bird or animal deformities or reproductive problems BUI must be ready to be removed.

Muskegon Lake: The NOAA ARRA fish and wildlife habitat restoration project will continue through Sept. 2013. More habitat progress has been made toward the BUI targets than originally envisioned because of project cost savings and willing landowners. Two Great lakes Legacy Act cleanups have been completed (Ruddiman Creek and Division Street Outfall) for the Benthos BUI. Investigations at Ryerson Creek and Zephyr were completed in 2012. A public-private partnership has formed to review investigation results and to generate non-federal cost share for the Ryerson Creek site.

Legacy Act works well to allow investigation and feasibility work steps to happen without the commitment of full scale cleanup costs by non-federal partners. Ecological Canine Services sampled Ruddiman Creek storm drain system to help pin point human sources of E. Coli in Ruddiman Creek for the E. Coli TMDL and Beach Closings BUI. GVSU is completing a GLRI Ruddiman Creek Implementation-Ready Biota TMDL project. Two BUIs will be removed in 2013 – drinking water and fish consumption. The MLWP and WMSRDC continue to work with DEQ to define and refine priority projects for more BUI removals.

Manistique River: 3 of 5 BUIs have been removed; still have dredging and fish consumption BUIs. NOAA and EPA will be doing another round of sediment sampling to further delineate PCB contamination. Still looking at full delisting in 2015.

Torch Lake: Judith Perlinger – we've been focused much on superfund process and the AOC process isn't far along. But many of pieces are in place. Two BUIs: benthos and fish contamination. Notes that discussion of generating and telling stories is really important. Suggests that there be a website for AOC members and community members to tell their stories. Could be any kind of stories. Someone would have to oversee the site.

Rouge River: PAC grant has helped keep the PAC going. Working on BUI update report and Lower Rouge subwatershed plan. Have two dam removals underway; controlled burns for native species; moving forward on Legacy Act sediment clean up on lower channel.

Clinton River: Getting close to removing? BUIs. Have PAC grant to compare land use impacts on fish and wildlife and benthos, comparing with non-AOC area. Are managing GLRI grants for dam removal, coastal wetland restoration and stormwater runoff. Macomb Co. public works has GLRI grant for work on Clinton River spillway—two miles, great opportunity. Notes other grants, including restoration of Paint Creek cold water stream. GLNPO finished sediment characterization, and results don't warrant a cleanup.

Menominee: GLNPO's Sediment Team is doing sediment characterization between the Park Mill (Upper Scott) and Menominee (Lower Scott) dams. Lake Sturgeon passage work has begun at the Menominee Dam, with work on Park Mill Dam to take place next year. The arsenic and coal tar sediment cleanup work has begun.

Kalamazoo River: On Portage Creek superfund project, \$7 million project, restored creek and removed last vestiges of paper mills. Another emergency cleanup action underway. Beach closing BUI has been removed. Emphasis on size of superfund site. Their board president, Steve Hamilton, has been spending much time advising EPA on the Kalamazoo River oil spill. Have been some good meetings between EPA and State of MI on dam removal issues, but better coordination is needed at EPA Region 5.

River Raisin: Much progress being made and several projects underway. Changing the face of their waterfront. Amazing progress. Seven dams and two are now gone. Three are being modified, and two will be bypassed. Michigan DNR is conducting a marsh restoration project at Sterling State Park. Major federal presence: Corps, USF&WS, NPS, EPA, etc. Discovered new site with DNAPL (dense non-aqueous phase liquid).

White Lake: Three BUIs removed since last year (dredging, benthos and eutrophication, with fish consumption pending approval by MDEQ and EPA) and working on aesthetics and drinking water BUIs. Almost finished with \$2.1 million habitat restoration project, with nine sites being restored - was able to address some aspects of the aesthetics BUI at several sites. Very interesting and very visible project in AOC. Now the public can finally see evidence of the restoration work. Interesting to see public perceptions and increased awareness of the AOC cleanup effort, per a post project survey. Will continue electronic newsletter and start school essay contest, website enhancements, a new Facebook page, online videos with FAQs, and talking with community leaders about life after delisting, conducting follow-up survey and report, as initial next steps. The PAC will hold joint meeting with the White River Watershed Partnership. A new project led by the library is focused on creating a website to house written accounts, photos and oral history videos of the industrial past plus restoration work. Next phase may be a book.

Miscellaneous Updates

PAC grants: Matt Doss, SPAC support staff with the Great Lakes Commission (GLC), noted that PAC grant reports are due to the GLC next month. Rick reported that the intention is to provide the next round of PAC grants next spring so there is no break in funding. The next RFP for PAC grants likely will be distributed during the winter.

Renewal of SPAC representation: Matt noted that half of the AOCs are asked to re-new their SPAC member and alternate each year. The current representatives can continue in this role or new individuals can be appointed. The GLC will send letters within the next month to the PAC chairs of the seven AOCs asking them to renew their representation. These include the Detroit River, Deer Lake, Saginaw River/Bay, St. Clair River, St. Marys River, Muskegon Lake, and Rouge River.

Updates from Michigan DEQ

This was deferred to the end.

Report from U.S. EPA

Mary notes letter that SPAC sent and EPA's response, distributed to the SPAC previously.

Dave Cowgill, U.S. EPA, Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO), noted that they have been in a "tornado of change" recently, but the good thing is that the AOCs are getting tremendous attention under the GLRI and are a poster child for what the Initiative can accomplish. But this comes with expectations of progress for all the funding that is being provided under the GLRI. AOC delistings and BUI removals are what leaders in Washington want to see. Thus, we had to do some triage to determine which AOCs are in a position to generate this progress. This process is a work in progress as events and the situation on the ground in the AOCs evolve. We will be looking to the DEQ AOC coordinators to gather information on what needs to be done in the AOCs to achieve progress.

Regarding the new Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, there continues to be emphasis on the AOCs. It adds the status of Area in Recovery. U.S. EPA will be doing reporting under the agreement; this and other details are being worked out.

John Perrecone, U.S. EPA, GLNPO: He noted that his presentation is similar to what was presented at the annual AOC conference in Cleveland in September. We're looking at how to advance progress in AOCs where all management actions needed for delisting can be achieved in the near term, while also continuing to support work in AOCs on a longer timeframe for delisting.

Review of program accomplishments:

- 4 AOCs for delisting (all management actions completed) in 2012 and 5 in 2014.
- Removed 33 BUIs out of total of 256 – 2 more than required in the GLRI action plan.
- Initiated delisting process at Presque Isle Bay.

He showed AOCs targeted for delisting in FY '12 and FY '13-'14. Notes that funding off the top of their GLRI AOC budget will be focused on actions needed in these AOCs.

He showed the GLRI funding chart for AOCs in FY '12. About a third of the \$300 million budget is allocated to AOC work. He noted that some funding goes to other federal agencies for AOC-related work, beyond what U.S. EPA does and the funding for state AOC programs.

Process for identifying priority AOCs. Two questions: how much is needed for contaminated sediment remediation; and how much is needed for habitat restoration. He reviewed a flow process showing issues and questions that are asked to assess whether an AOC is a priority for funding based on the potential to remove BUIs or delist the AOC.

Framework for funding AOC program. Key point is coordination with the states, and between states and the local AOCs. Next, states submit lists of projects to the Regional Working Group's AOC committee, which talks through projects and determines the budget for the AOC program within the GLRI. They usually have more projects than funding. They have a bias for action and an emphasis on the ability to get projects completed in a timely manner.

He noted AOC language in the new Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, which does not specifically reference the original stage I, II, and III Remedial Action Plan (RAP) process. The new language is more flexible (see bullets in slide). U.S. EPA still wants to see RAP documents. John emphasized the importance of getting RAP documents from the state for each AOC. They do not need to be excessively long or detailed, but provide enough information to assess the status of BUIs, projects needed to remove BUIs, timing, and related information.

Mary Bohling emphasized the importance of the PACs having a strong relationship with their MDEQ RAP coordinator to ensure there is adequate communication to ensure the PAC's priorities are carried forward in discussions with U.S. EPA on AOC projects to be funded under the GLRI.

John reviewed the framework for funding AOC program:

- Share information and knowledge: Determine if we need more information, focused conference calls, etc.

- Determine priority status: Is it a near-term delisting AOC? Has technical information been validated?
- Determine phase of activity: Planning, design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation?
- Determine funding options: Direct funding to states? Direct implementation by federal agencies? Competition?

Matt noted that priorities for the PACs are communicated to DEQ via the AOC coordinator, and DEQ communicates those to U.S. EPA. He suggested that a feedback loop is needed to inform the PACs which projects MDEQ submits to U.S. EPA and which are selected. There was discussion of using the BUI project tracking table for this purpose. Kathy Evans, Muskegon Lake, noted that in some cases projects on the tracking table may no longer be a priority, so there should be some feedback communication to the PACs to ensure that projects are not proposed to U.S. EPA that are no longer a priority for the PAC.

There was a question about the status of the U.S. EPA AOC liaisons. Dave Cowgill responded that it is their intention to have liaisons designated for each AOC. It was noted that this is not currently the case for each AOC, and this is important.

Conclusion:

- “The success story for each AOC is yours to write”
- Work with your state RAP liaison to develop your local RAP document
- Focus on removing BUIs which leads to delisting AOCs
- GLRI agencies are here to help.

Options for Advancing a New Environmental Bond Program

Mary reads letter from the Rouge River RRAC urging the SPAC to work to advance a new environmental bond program. Matt indicated that while there had been some discussion of this with MDEQ and the larger environmental community several years ago, he is not aware of any active consideration at this time.

Jen Tewkesbury, MDEQ, noted that the governor will be putting out an environmental message next month, so we may want to see what that says.

Mary asks if the SPAC wants to work on advancing this issue. There seems to be support for working on this.

Matt will explore funding options for environmental efforts, including not just a bond program, but also fees, tax initiatives, etc. He will also look into status of the Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) program.

Dennis Zimmerman, Saginaw River/Bay: Notes that nobody in the new legislature was in office when the CMI was passed. Suggests that we discuss this with the legislature as part of a legislative briefing in the winter or spring. Consider options and prepare for possibly having a bond or similar initiative on the ballot in 2014.

Upcoming SPAC Activities

Next Meeting: Matt reviewed options for doing a legislative briefing on the AOC program next year, noting that there will be many new members of the state House of Representatives. There was general support for doing this. In the context of the Rouge River RRAC's letter to the SPAC asking it to pursue a new environmental bond, he noted that in talking with legislators they usually want to hear what we want.

Matt mentioned that the SPAC has held a "GLRI summit" in recent years and the Council could consider doing this again next year. The following follow-up actions were identified:

- Have a call in mid December with the SPAC to discuss the response from PACs on their interest in pursuing branding efforts
- Post U.S. EPA's presentation on SPAC website and send out.

Adjournment

Mary thanked the meeting participants and the meeting was adjourned.

Written Update on the Detroit River AOC provided at the Fall SPAC Meeting

Fish and wildlife Tainting BUI- In late spring the Detroit PAC submitted their final report to GLC to conclude a previous year's support grant, which GLC had approved to access the status of Detroit's Fish and Wildlife Tainting BUI. As a result of this project's investigation, the Detroit PAC had concluded and forwarded to MDEQ a recommendation to approve this BUI for delisting. To date, the PAC is awaiting formal notification from MDEQ and EPA that BUI removal has been approved. Our Canadian counterparts are also completing a similar process and awaiting approval from their agencies. We hope to be able to have a joint celebration for this BUI delisting sometime in the near future.

GLC Support and Sediment Assessment Grant- Also this spring the Detroit PAC received a new grant from GLC to provide support for Detroit PAC activities and to do a contaminated sediment assessment project for the Detroit River. The purpose of the sediment assessment section of this grant is to determine if, and or where any remaining contaminated sediment areas in the Detroit River could be found with emphasis on those areas that are not currently being addressed, but still may be having an impact on the ability to remove other affected BUIs. The goal of this effort is to be able to create an agreed upon list of contaminated sediment remediation sites, which could later to be addressed in future cleanup projects. (Give meeting update).

BUI Delisting Tracking Matrix Update-The Detroit River PAC, US EPA and Michigan DEQ are currently drafting a work plan for the Detroit River as a pathway for eventual delisting of the AOC. The work plan will be a complement to the Tracking Matrix utilized by the MDEQ in order to follow the progress of on-the-ground work occurring in the AOC as well as the funding provided for this activity. The work plan will include multiple components and will be a route to delisting of the AOC. It includes background from the initial Remedial Action Plan (RAP), the current status of the BUI and the approach for

removal. It is expected that an early draft of the work plan may be available for presentation and discussion with the Detroit PAC by late November 2012.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat restoration project list update- In April 2009 the Detroit PAC completed its Delisting Targets for Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Population BUI document, containing a list of 21 proposed restoration projects for the Detroit River. Since this document was created USGS has published a subsequent report listing several additional aquatic site in the Detroit River that would be suitable for additional fish habitat structure. Due to the introduction of these new potential project sites and other sites of interest, EPA has agreed to provide contracted consulting services to help update the document and its current list of restoration projects. (Mention project near Fort Wayne).

Detroit AOC GLRI Project Update- The Detroit PAC continues to move forward with its three GLRI projects. By Late summer, the PAC had secured the necessary permits and hired a contractor to perform the work to construct the habitat restoration projects at the South Fishing Pier and the Blue Heron Lagoon on Belle Isle. On the 18th of September, a well attended kick-off press conference was held on site, at Belle Isle, promoting the projects and the start of construction. Currently, the construction of these two projects is moving along well. The third project at the USS site is still in the pre-permitting phase awaiting the outcome of discussions over contaminated sediments that exist in the in water portion of this project.