

**** DRAFT ****

Michigan Statewide Public Advisory Council

Spring Business Meeting

April 30-May 1, 2013

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Mary Bohling, Detroit River AOC
Anne Vaara, Clinton River AOC
Patty Troy, St. Clair River AOC
Bill Craig, Rouge River AOC
Dennis Zimmerman, Saginaw River/Bay
AOC
Pete Nault, Deer Lake AOC
Greg Zimmerman, St. Marys River AOC
Jamie McCarthy, Kalamazoo River AOC
Robert Whitesides, Kalamazoo River
AOC
John Riley, Office of the Great Lakes
Matt Doss, Great Lakes Commission
Sharon Baker, Office of the Great Lakes
Roger Eberhardt, Office of the Great
Lakes
Mathew Child, International Joint
Commission
Richard Micka, River Raisin AOC

Stephanie Swart, Office of the Great
Lakes
Bob Burns, Detroit River AOC (phone)
Tanya Cabala, White Lake AOC
Lynelle Marolf, Office of the Great Lakes
Brian Sweeney, Office of the Great Lakes
Matt Preisser, Office of the Great Lakes
Bretton Joldersma, Office of the Great
Lakes
Michelle Selzer, Office of the Great Lakes
Erika Jensen, Great Lakes Commission
(phone)
Mike Alexander, Michigan DEQ
Mark Tuchman U.S. EPA (phone)
John Perrecone, U.S. EPA (phone)
Dave Cowgill, U.S. EPA (phone)
Rick Hobrla, Office of the Great Lakes
Bill Keiper, Michigan DEQ
Sam Noffke, Michigan DEQ

Tuesday, April 30

Welcome, introductions and housekeeping items

Mary Bohling, SPAC chair, welcomed participants, led a round of introductions, and reviewed the agenda. Rick Hobrla reviewed logistical items and gave an overview of the location. Mary expressed thanks to the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes for hosting and to Matt Doss and the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) for meeting coordination.

Status Reports from SPAC members

- Detroit River AOC: They are finishing a sediment mapping project supported by a PAC support grant. Through this work they have identified five areas in the river to concentrate their sediment remediation research for future actions. Also doing a careful assessment of each BUI. They are revising the Fish and Wildlife Plan and narrowing the list of potential projects. Looking at collaboration with Canadian counterparts. Working to remove Fish Tainting BUI together. Fish habitat project going forward at Ft. Wayne this year.

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

- River Raisin AOC: We've completed two GLRI projects and one Great Lakes Legacy Act project is ongoing; there is also a dam removal project, as well as a habitat restoration project in Sterling State Park which has been completed. Remediation is ongoing in the channel: much of the pollution is trapped in a glacial deposit in the navigation channel. We need to design a way to remove material from the bottom of the river. Life after delisting: River Raisin has been adopted by the Resilient Monroe initiative, supported by a \$100,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation. We will begin a perception survey soon.
- Kalamazoo River AOC: Matt welcomed Jamie as the newest SPAC member. We removed the aesthetics BUI in 2012. Evaluation is underway for the deformities BUI, but that will remain in place for the river at this time. We have PCB contaminated sediments in 80 miles of the river. EPA is in the second year of a time-critical removal action in a smaller stream. They take 50-70 inches of sediment out of the creek bed to remove PCB. Working with state and federal agencies to get analysis of river biology done before and after removal of sediments in Portage Creek. GLRI project by U.S. FWS looking at dam removal potential on Portage Creek. Dam removal and maintenance project near the City of Otsego funded by MI DNR. Superfund site: completed secondary RIF for the first two phases, and draft of feasibility study for much of the river. As an AOC our biggest concern is fish consumption, which mostly revolves around PCBs. We're looking at 50-70 years for delisting. Asked to represent watershed interests on the water council. We were also asked to be on the statewide Water Users Council. Looking at ground water use. Look for an email from Robert Whitesides for more information
- St. Marys River AOC: Wrapping up feasibility study on the Little Rapids Restoration this summer. We will be looking for funding later this summer. Fish tumors studies will wrap up this spring, assessments will be available soon. Bird and other animal deformities, getting close to removal, looking for Canadian reports.
- Deer Lake AOC: We have removed two BUIs: bird and animal deformities or reproduction problems, and eutrophication, and we are working on fish consumption removal. This requires removal of the last source of mercury to the lake, which is from Partridge Creek. There is an \$8.5 million GLRI project to divert the creek away from an old mine and through a new storm sewer. Stage 1 of this project was completed in 2012 and stage 2 will be completed in 2013. When that's done, we can be delisted!
- White Lake AOC: There have been four BUIs removed since fall 2011. We have four remaining: aesthetics (working on that this year) finalized by the end of 2013, loss of fish and wildlife habitat and degraded fish and wildlife populations will be removed when habitat restoration project is completed (nine sites taken care of in the lake). The drinking water BUI is the biggest obstacle, because we have such a history of ground water contamination we adopted local criteria. These were not accepted by the state because they went outside of the bounds of the program. We're performing a lot of education and outreach. We're looking at 2014 for delisting now. This year we're doing a student essay, video, and art competition to increase public awareness of delisting as part of the Clean White

Lake Project. We're looking at life beyond delisting, setting up community groups to assess public opinion. Working on the White Lake Environmental History (restoringwhitelake.com) Project, working with the public library. It is a digital resource on the environmental history of the area, photos, videos, documents. This will include oral history accounts from members of the community (minimum of 30 interviews on the website).

- Saginaw River and Bay AOC: BUI removal: working on wildlife habitat BUI currently. Came up with measures of success document in 2000: 60% of what was pre-settlement wildlife and fisheries habitat. Set up technical committee a few years ago, and with help of Ducks Unlimited and their staff we think we have exceeded that goal. We will be taking public comment this spring. Internally, we have revised bylaws and changed membership categories to attract a larger body of people to us. The six people on the board have been there since the 1980s
- Rouge River AOC: No BUI removals. The 2013 PAC grant allows us to meet and have an organization, we are working on the Lower Rouge delisting strategy, and BUI report card to show that we are reducing red lines even if we can't remove BUIs. ECT is gathering data to establish primary projects for delisting; we continue to add members (up to 10 members); have a new U.S. EPA liaison (Rose Ellison) who updated us on a potential Great Lakes Legacy Act project. Friends of the Rouge has an initiative to establish a water trail on the Lower Rouge; SEMCOG is doing a green infrastructure Visioning Project over six counties. May 31st we're having a celebration for the completion of the Wayne Rd. Dam Removal project! Many little pieces are moving along.
- St. Clair River AOC: There are six remaining BUIs. Fish consumption: analyses should be coming soon and hoping for removal. Benthos: we have provided studies to DEQ. The Canadian side has developed a sediment management report to describe preferred options for managing contaminated areas. The drinking water consumption BUI is difficult for us as we are very concerned with spills on the St. Clair River. Beach closings: the St. Clair County Health Department has evidence of illicit sewage connections that may be impacting the Chrysler Beach area. Still problems with E. coli on the Canadian side. Bird and Animal deformities: received DEQ assessment at the last BPAC meeting, but there were concerns with that analysis so it is under review. Fish and Wildlife Habitat BUI: there have been a lot of projects going on (e.g., spawning reef installation). Sturgeon Festival on June 2nd. Allow people to see the spawning grounds with divers with video. Also, City of Marysville has completed living-shoreline project. Another shoreline project along Port Huron (8/10th of a mile) RFPs have come out for that project. A memorial bench is being established for the late Janice Littlefield (**Matt will send info on this**).
- Clinton River AOC: We are currently working on many GLRI projects, including the Paint Creek dam removal and several stormwater projects. The City of Troy is working on a fish passage project through improved culverts. Rochester Hills is on the third phase of the Avon Creek project. City of Rochester has received funding for 3,500 ft. of shoreline restoration along Paint Creek. Paint Creek Dam project has won four awards. This has been important to improve relations with a

few neighbors. Paint Creek is the last cold water creek in southern Michigan. No BUI removals at this time. We are looking at Fish and Wildlife Habitat soon. Finishing up a comparative analysis between our watershed and a non-AOC watershed to help with delisting. We've used a PAC grant to develop education and outreach materials. Clinton River AOC Symposium will be held in September 2013.

- Torch Lake AOC: Fish tumor BUI was removed in 2008 and there is funding for fish contaminant BUI removal research this summer. There is an integrated assessment through Sea Grant to Michigan Tech to look at the problems in the area. Looking at source ID, project suggestions, and public involvement.
- Menominee River AOC: Beach closings BUI was removed in 2011. There were 12,000 yards of sediment removed. The arsenic site is being worked on, and must be completed this year. Fish passage for sturgeon, infrastructure improvements have been started and will be finished this summer and fish guidance work will be done next summer. Fish population assessments going on in the Menominee River and comparison research being done in other rivers.
- Manistique River AOC: We are working with state and federal partners, a lot work will be going on this year to meet 2014 delisting targets. Working on feasibility studies for contaminated sediment. We have two BUIs remaining.
- Muskegon Lake AOC: There are a lot of habitat projects going on with the NOAA partnership and land acquisition grants. We're also looking to target a leaking oil well. We have removed two BUIs (fish consumption and restrictions on drinking water).

Additional note from Robert Whitesides: Statewide TMDLs of PCB and mercury are in process.

Matt Doss: The Great Lakes Commission is negotiating another three-year regional partnership with NOAA to do habitat restoration in the AOCs. NOAA and the states will use that partnership to facilitate high-priority habitat projects in AOCs. Our proposal highlighted the Little Rapids Project in the St. Marys River, shoreline restoration in the Buffalo River AOC and wetland restoration on Muskegon Lake. We're hoping that there will be other projects in the future. This work will be funded with GLRI.

Approval of Oct. 26, 2012 SPAC meeting summary

There was a motion and second to approve the summary of the October 2012 SPAC meeting. It passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous Updates

- **Renewal of SPAC representation:** Matt has heard formally from Muskegon Lake, Saginaw River/Bay, Deer Lake and Rouge River. These areas will continue representation. Mary Bohling indicated that she and Bob Burns would continue to represent the Detroit River on the SPAC.

- **Status of new PAC grants:** Erika Jensen gave short update: from the 2012 round of grants, there are 10 grants that are currently underway and should be completed by Oct of this year. For the 2013 round of grants, a RFP was issued and proposals were due March 8th. There were 12 proposals requesting in total more money than is available, so the GLC is working with applicants. Contracts and awards will be sent out this month. These grants will go through July of 2014. Another RFP will go out 2014, late winter and early spring. If you have questions on individual grants, please email or call Erika separately. PAC funding comes from GLRI. Mary Bohling says that it has made a big difference to have access to those funds. River Raisin also uses it for a lot of great education and outreach.

- **AOC perceptions research project:** Matt Doss gave a short update on this project and reviewed the fall 2012 meeting in Kalamazoo. There were initially six AOCs that expressed interest in participating in a perceptions research project. Matt asked members of those AOCs to provide an update on their interest in participating:
 - **Muskegon Lake:** they are moving forward
 - **White Lake:** haven't had a huge interest from PAC members, and there are concerns about raising funds. There's a thought to work with Muskegon on this. Requested more time to make a decision.
 - **Deer Lake:** not going to be able to secure local funding
 - **Clinton River:** Anne hasn't done follow up with PAC. The biggest problem they have is that the whole watershed is an AOC. Who will benefit, who will pay for it, etc.? The overall theme of the group was that they were interested in help. In Macomb County there is the Blue Economy Initiative, which is helping. The watershed council is putting together a program called Water Towns – this will assist with marketing tools. May 1st came around too quickly. But the big issue is finding the matching funding.
 - **River Raisin:** Thanks to the Kresge and Americana foundations, the River Raisin is working with the Resilient Monroe project. This will take the place of this work.
 - **Detroit River:** Will not be participating because it is ahead of where they feel they are. There is an initiative that will also be looking at branding and marketing. So, we're just not ready to jump in.
 - **St. Marys River:** They have extra money, and have been in discussions to do a perception survey.

- **Report on Congressional Priorities for the Great Lakes:** Matt reviewed GLC activities in Washington DC about legislative priorities. He reviewed the one-page document that covers regional priorities of many organizations. One of the top priorities is continued funding for the GLRI. Continued funding for the GLRI over the past four years represents a huge accomplishment for the region. They got 38 members of Congress to sign onto a letter to the Appropriations Committee to support level funding for GLRI in 2014. This was a bipartisan effort that garnered a lot of support. Matt urged the Council members to continue reaching out to Members of Congress. He reminded attendees that their actions make a big difference and strongly encouraged them to thank their Congressional Members for taking action on this topic (see the letter from the Alliance of Rouge Communities).

Updates on Michigan's AOC Program

- **Status of Contaminated Sediment Remediation Efforts in Michigan's AOCs:**
Mike Alexander and his staff gave an update on contaminated sediment work:
 - There is very little money left in the Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) account. There is approximately \$1 million remaining.
 - Bill Keiper:
 - River Raisin project and the Manistique River project (providing technical support right now). Ideally, we would like to have a project on the ground and moving in the Manistique River.
 - Muskegon Lake, Division St. Outfall, completed in spring 2012. There is follow up in the next few years.
 - Sam Noffke:
 - GLNPO and Rose Ellison on a Detroit River project to identify the next sampling areas.
 - US Steel Project, this will be moving forward for a site characterization.
 - St. Clair River project: working on site characterization and benthos BUI. It's looking good for the American side.
 - Clinton River: trying to get site characterization project done under the Great Lakes Legacy Act. Not sure if this will be completed this year, but we are working with folks in GLNPO to get this moving forward.
 - Rouge River: Proposal will be submitted soon for RI-FS for the main branch; the State has committed to being a partner and committing limited CMI funds to this work.

Matt Doss asked about the amount of money in the CMI and about how much federal money had been leveraged due to Michigan's investment:

- Answer: CMI had \$25 million with \$40-50 million of federal money leveraged.
- Matt noted that this it is important to say to legislators that because there was the CMI money, we've been able to leverage a lot of federal money. For every one dollar we've put in, we have received about \$2 in federal funding.

Matt asked, as the CMI runs out, what additional cleanups may not happen without these funds? Mike: anything on the Detroit River that has been identified will not get done, unless other partners are identified. The Rouge River, if that partnership falls through, that project will probably not get done. The remaining funds are being targeted at projects that will identify priorities and identify other partners.

Matt: it's worth noting that in recent years GLNPO has been successful in getting responsible parties to commit to cost share. More than half of the cost share has come from responsible parties; this is a recent phenomenon. Matt expressed thanks to the department for leveraging federal dollars and for their accomplishments. Mary expressed thanks especially for the sediment mapping project on the Detroit River.

- **DEQ budget update (Rick Hobrla)**
 - The department may take some cuts due to sequester. Not anticipating significant changes to staffing as a result of this.

- We have enough funding from U.S. EPA to continue funding through the end of the calendar year for our program.
- Roger Eberhardt has been working to submit the request to U.S. EPA for level funding. U.S. EPA says to expect to receive that.
- Also requesting support for PAC support, this will be similar to the one that just occurred in 2013. We hope to continue this as long as the GLRI continues.
- **BUI delisting and strategies:** Overall we have removed a total of 25 impairments, three of those in the last year. Most active, we are looking at the fish tainting in the Detroit River. Final paperwork will be assembled to U.S. EPA by the end of May. Our AOC coordinators are working with each of you on other BUIs. We have already met the U.S. EPA goal for BUI removals. However, our internal goal was for 10 BUIs removed; we're not sure how this will turn out. Our strategy is to focus on the ones we think we will best be able to address.
- **Statewide BUI assessments status update**

John Riley provided an update on the statewide aesthetics and bird and animal BUI assessments:

- **Aesthetics:** There have been two rounds of assessments in all impaired areas. River Raisin, Kalamazoo River and St. Clair River have had the BUI removed, and we have made recommendations for the St. Marys River. White Lake has some work (one project). John will send report on areas that remain impaired to Mary Bohling and Anne Vaara. Saginaw River/Bay decided that they needed local criteria. Also pursuing integrated assessment in the Saginaw River/Bay area.
- **Bird and Animal deformities:** We are working with staff to identify which types of bird or animal data need to be collected to further inform the process. This is a tiered approach so each AOC has unique needs. We want to have priorities for data collection. There is a detailed workplan that is nearly complete for data collection in 2013 and '14. Expect a report in 2015.

Stephanie Swart gave a quick overview of the dredging and beach closings statewide BUI assessments.

- **Dredging:** This assessment has been ongoing for quite some time. Tiers 1 and 2 have been completed. The results from Tier 2 were not as conclusive as we hoped they would be. We are working with U.S. EPA to compile non-parametric statistics to perform further assessments. Using this method the Detroit, Kalamazoo, and St. Marys rivers came out as non-significant for PCBs. Further analyses are in the process. Kalamazoo River was on the list because they were left out initially.

- Beach Closing: Stephanie has reviewed areas per the Tier 2. Only River Raisin is ready to remove this BUI. Many areas went back to Tier 1, several went to tier 3. This report is available.

Other notes:

- There are discussions of doing a statewide assessment of the eutrophication BUI. This may not be necessary.
- The Dept. of Community Health is doing a statewide assessment of fish consumption. This work is continuing for another year.

Other DEQ updates: The department will be moving to new offices. Note that telephone numbers will also be changing. The new phone numbers have been updated, and are on the back of the FAQ document.

- The IAGLR conference will be the first week of June at Purdue University. Rick will be talking about the history of Michigan's AOC program. Mary Bohling will be presenting about education/outreach on fish spawning habitat.
- Saginaw Bay will be sharing information in the Multiple Stressors sessions.

Update from U.S. EPA-Great Lakes National Program Office

Via conference call Marc Tuchman, John Perrecone, and Dave Cowgill provided a quick update from U.S. EPA.

Budget update: Dave Cowgill: It took half of this year for the FY 2013 appropriation to be completed. Each agency has to get operation plans approved and these have not been completed. The final numbers will not come through until those plans are approved. Dollar amounts will be confirmed in the very near future. The good news is that the President requested \$300 million for GLRI in FY 2014. As we all know, 2014 is the last year of the current GLRI action plan. However, Nancy Sutley, director of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, announced that there will be another five year GLRI plan. Cameron Davis is planning a series of sessions around the basin to get public input on what people think needs to be modified in the next round of the GLRI. The general sense is that we are making a lot of really good things happen with these funds and we hope this enthusiasm will continue and we will be able to continue this important work. We haven't nailed down the final plans for annual AOC conference. We decided not to piggyback onto Great Lakes Week. We are hopeful that we can get approved to hold conference in Sheboygan, WI, where there has been a lot of recent progress. We have assigned staff to each of the U.S. AOCs to increase communication.

John Perrecone: Our workplan calls for 41 BUIs to be removed by September 2013. We are currently at 37. Please continue to working closely with the U.S. EPA liaisons to get packets in sooner rather than later to help meet that deadline.

Questions:

Tanya asked John what the best way is to update the webpages, especially those close to delisting.

Answer: John will be taking a look at this problem and he needs to work with his contractor. John committed to working with people to update AOC webpages with content they think will be useful.

Michelle Selzer asked when the request for applications (RFA) will be put out from U.S. EPA?

Answer: We're not sure. But, for projects in AOCs that are really close to delisting we are trying to work closely with state leads to fund those projects in a non-competitive manner. For the larger AOCs we will rely on the competitive pots from Sustain Our Great Lakes, NOAA, and U.S. EPA for projects in those areas.

Matt clarified that you are not using the RFA process for much of the AOC work. What can you tell us on decision-making on AOC projects in Michigan?

Answer: The focal point is with the state RAP leads to be the most knowledgeable about funding negotiations with U.S. EPA.

Mary asked U.S. EPA to facilitate information exchange and work with Matt toward this end.

Update on the International Joint Commission's AOC-Related Work

Matthew Child introduced himself and gave a quick overview of the IJC, the Water Quality Agreement, and the IJC's work on the AOCs. The Great Lakes Basin represents more than 40% of the shared U.S. and Canadian watersheds. It is a non-regulatory agency and it looks into issues as asked to by the two governments, called references. There was a 1960s reference on Great lakes Water Quality, which led to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. It is currently in its fifth generation. The 2012 agreement includes 10 annexes, the first of which covers the Areas of Concern. How can the IJC help with individual AOCs? We can provide input to the two governments and assist with public education. According to Annex 1, the IJC will review and comment on changes to AOC status, that is prior to delisting or status change to "in recovery." He is working to more fully develop the organization's vision for working on Annex 1. We think we will work to review RAP reports and perform assessments of progress. They are looking to stay engaged in the RAP meetings and events, working on communication, and advancing science and management associated with Areas of Concern.

- Questions:
 - Bill Craig, how is the IJC funded? Matt Child: 50% by each party.
 - Tanya Cabala, should we be inviting you to our AOC as we look at delisting? What's your role? Matthew Child: I'm the AOC guy. It is my commitment to get out as often as I can. The high priority areas for delisting are of greatest interest. Please include me on mailing lists, etc. to keep me in the loop.
 - Michelle, who will be the new head of the IJC's Great Lakes Regional Office? Matthew Child: we're not sure who will be replacing Saad Jasim.

- Roger: Where are the IJC staff located? Matthew Child: In Washington, DC, Ottawa, and Windsor.

Plans for the summer SPAC Meeting and Workshop

Matt Doss provided an overview of initial plans for the SPAC's next meeting and workshop. He proposed that the focus of the training workshop be on place-making with special focus on waterfront areas. Place-making is a term that refers to the planning of public spaces to make them into areas that members of the community are interested in. This will mostly likely be a one-day workshop with the potential for a social event or field trip the day before. Challenges: how much can we accomplish in one day and how can we put the place-making idea in a waterfront context?

Greg Zimmerman suggested that Fred Kent with the Project for Public Places has many waterfront resources. Michigan Land Use Institute is another potential source.

- There was support for holding the meeting and workshop in Muskegon. There is a current discussion about what the waterfront is used for, and the paper mill and power plant are leaving. Can we keep in mind that there are rural water and river fronts? (Tanya). Mark Breederland with Michigan Sea Grant does a lot of work on working waterfronts and may be a good resource. Anne Vaara gave support. She noted that Nina Misuraca Ignaczak at the Clinton River Watershed Council would be a good resource; she is working on the "Water Towns" project (Anne volunteered her as a panel member/presenter).
- SPAC members should pencil in July 10-12 for the summer SPAC meeting and workshop.
- Matt will confirm the dates and other details as soon as possible.

SPAC Legislative Briefing

Matt Doss gave a short introduction to prepare attendees for the legislative briefing planned for the next day.

Brian Sweeney from the Office of Great Lakes and Jean Doss gave a brief overview on current issues in Michigan State Government: the most important topics being water levels and dredging.

Jean gave many pointers on the best ways to communicate with legislators and gave an update on the current state of the government. For example, budgets are moving quickly because of republican majorities in both houses. Spend some time understanding what is going on with the budget and think about what it means for you. Help the new legislators understand what it means to work with you. Tomorrow, you have localized information, which is great. Make sure to highlight how things boil down to their local constituents. Before you get into what you want, you want legislators to think of you as a positive resource for them. You need to start with positive and respectful tone with legislators.

What you want to do:

1. Share localized information
2. Make yourself a positive, informed technical resource
3. Make sure you stay at your regional table so you can be paired with your elected official.
4. Have your elevator speech (3 points). 50% of your time you should give speaking points, the other 50% should be listening to what they have to say. What you hear needs to go to Matt.
5. Remember that staff and legislators will look young, because they are, but they are the ones reading the material. They can't be experts; that is what you are for.

She emphasized a core message: We are a local group that works with many different players. What allows us to do what we do is state and federal funding. And we need money to do these boots-on-the-ground projects. We want you to become engaged, understand what and why, support local efforts, make sure DNR and DEQ can partner with us and leverage federal resources. We need to optimize federal funding; we want them to support federal programs, such as the GLRI.

Other Items

Michelle Selzer asked that everyone communicate about GLRI projects in the State of Michigan. Please share information and keep us in the loop.

Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Report on Discussions with State Legislators and Staff

SPAC members summarized which legislators they met with and key issues discussed:

Mary Bohling/Detroit River: Amy Buttery from Fred Durhal (District 5), Mary shared information and is going to try and get in touch later.

Kalamazoo River: Bob Genetski from Allegan County, Sean McCann (Kalamazoo). Sean is very up to speed on everything. Robert Whitesides said he would contact Genetski's district office on some issues (Georgia Pacific).

Bill Craig/Rouge River: Kurt Heise, he was a past PAC chair, he knows the issues and is glad that we're doing well.

Sharon Baker: Spoke with Rep. Scott Diande (Torch Lake), Senator Howard Walker (District 37) and John Moolenaar (District 36). Walker wants the AIS report. Roger Eberhardt will send it when it's final in June.

Saginaw River/Bay: Met with staff from Reps. Faris, Moolenaar, Burnner (Justin Alexander and Kyle), Terry Brown (staff - Zoe staff), Joel Johnson, and Earl Poleski. Questions around the removal of the fish and wildlife habitat BUI. Burnner's office is looking for alternative for road transportation – but they were having issues with ballast water. Talked about the difference between types of dredging monies and phosphorus. Everyone seemed well informed.

Jon Allan spoke with the Republican Majority Communications person (Anne) about the removal of the fish consumption BUI on White Lake.

Pete Nault/Deer Lake AOC: Scott Dianda and John Kivela, both freshman; neither were familiar with Deer Lake issues.

Tanya Cabala/White Lake: John Bumstead talked about how he didn't like sea walls. Really interested in the value of natural shorelines. Collene Lamonte and her staff (Anne), she's a freshman and exceptionally pro-environment. Sen. Goeff Hansen, he's been very supportive of the AOC program. He follows up on this project, very supportive, very helpful.

Kathy Evans, Muskegon Lake: Sen. Hansen, he was really interested in moving the Zephyr site forward. Wants to make sure that the Corps of Engineers moves forward with their part of the project. The Senator was responsible for getting the \$6 million in the state budget for nonfederal match for support from the Corps. Marcia Hovey-Wright, she helped with the cleanup along Muskegon Lake. She proposed that she and Sen. Hansen sponsor a bill that requires companies to take tires back because they're getting dumped.

Anne Vaara, Clinton River: Ken Goike, Bill Haines, Tony Forlini, Andrea LaFontaine, Brad Jacobsen, Lonnie (staff for Sarah Roberts), Ray Watts (Martin Howrylak). Anne needs help communicating with Harrison Twp. about the fact that they are not requiring people to connect to the sewer (a lot of people are still on septic systems).

Patty Troy, St. Clair River: Muxlow and Brian Modelski (staff) talked about agriculture impacts on the Black River and about the St. Clair River as well. She stopped at Rep. Lauwers' office – pulled him out of session. Gave him a lot of info in about 10 min. Andrea LaFontaine – spoke quickly. Dropped off info at Sen. Pavlov's office.

Greg Zimmerman, St. Marys River: Sen. Walker, Rep. Foster (dropped off info). Walker was interested in the dots on the map showing GLRI projects.

Matt asked for feedback on the meeting and briefing:

Dennis Zimmerman thought there was confusion about when we were going to start and when the catering was supposed to start. Getting into the building was difficult, and we needed to know more about the elevators.

John Riley: thought that there could have been more time to talk to people before the program.

Stephanie: fewer presentations. We lost a lot of representatives and staff during that time.

Give the example projects earlier.

Dennis: more info about positive economics of the program.

Anne Vaara: it was hard to let them know how much money has been spent in the AOC and how many projects have been accomplished. Maybe a slide with each AOC with the number of projects and the amount of money. Fact sheets as well? Give a lot of information early on! Empower the staff and legislators with information.

Brian's factsheets were very helpful.

Brian Sweeney suggested that a general AOC factsheet would be relatively easy to do. Anne suggested that he request information from the AOC coordinators a couple times a year.