

Michigan Statewide Public Advisory Council

Fall Business Meeting

November 16-17, 2015
Bengel Wildlife Center
Bath, Michigan

Meeting Attendees

Anne Vaara, Clinton River AOC	Rick Hobrla, Michigan Department of
Lynne Seymour, Clinton River AOC	Environmental Quality (MDEQ)-Office of the
Mary Bohling, Detroit River AOC (Nov. 17 only)	Great Lakes (OGL)
Donna Strang, St. Clair River AOC	Jon Allan, MDEQ-OGL
Paulette Duhaime, St. Clair River AOC	John Riley, MDEQ-OGL
Robert Burns, Detroit River AOC	Jen Tewkesbury, MDEQ-OGL
Richard Micka, River Raisin AOC	Alisa Gonzales-Pennington, MDEQ-OGL
Jamie McCarthy, Kalamazoo River AOC	Melanie Foose, MDEQ-OGL
Kathy Evans, Muskegon Lake AOC	Sharon Baker, MDEQ-OGL (Nov. 17 only)
Bill Craig, Rouge River AOC	Matt Tomlinson, MDEQ Office of
Dan Ballnik, Rouge River AOC	Environmental Assistance (Nov. 16 only)
Bill Wright, Saginaw River/Bay AOC	Ginny Berry, MDEQ-OGL (Nov. 16 only)
Laura Ogar, Saginaw River/Bay AOC	Jon Doyle, MDEQ Administration Division
Dennis Zimmerman, Saginaw River/Bay AOC	(Nov. 16 only)
Emily Martin, St. Marys River AOC	Michelle Bruneau, Michigan Dept. of Health
Tanya Cabala, White Lake	and Human Services
Greg Mund, White Lake	Matt Doss, Great Lakes Commission (GLC)
	Rebecca Pearson, GLC
	Ankita Mandelia, International Joint
	Commission
	Jan Urban-Lurain, Spectra Data and
	Research

Attendees on the Phone

Patty Troy, St. Clair River AOC
Marc Tuchman, U.S. EPA-Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) (Nov. 16 only)
John Perrecone, U.S. EPA-GLNPO (Nov. 16 only)
Ted Smith, U.S. EPA-GLNPO (Nov. 16 only)
Julie Sims, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Heather Braun, GLC

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

Meeting Summary

Monday, November 16

Welcome, Introduction and Review of Agenda

Anne Vaara, SPAC Vice Chair, Clinton River AOC, convened the meeting and went into introductions. She reviewed the agenda for the day. The SPAC members adopted the meeting minutes of the June 2015 SPAC business meeting.

Report from Michigan DEC

Rick Hobrla, MDEQ introduced *Alisa Gonzales-Pennington, MDEQ*, who will be handling the PAC support grants. *Jon Doyle, MDEQ-Administrative Office* will handle travel assistance. *Matt Tomlinson, MDEQ* will be handling meetings logistics. *Ginny Berry, MDEQ* will be responsible for meeting minutes.

Rick Hobrla reported that MDEQ received U.S. EPA feedback which approved all the changes to the BUI criteria. MDEQ updated the steps in the delisting process. The U.S. EPA has yet to provide concurrence on the delisting process. MDEQ hopes and expects that their concurrence will come soon. Their responsibility to notify the states and the PACs within the delisting process was a concern for them.

Bill Craig, Rouge River AOC, noted that the Rouge River accepted the state delisting criteria, and asked if the AOCs will have to approve those revisions after U.S. EPA's approval. Rick Hobrla said that MDEQ will come back to the local PACs for formal acceptance for the changed criteria after U.S. EPA concurrence.

Rick Hobrla continued to report that the Michigan AOC meeting with federal agencies (USFWS, USACE,

U.S. EPA, and USGS) will be held December 14-16, 2015. It is not a decision-making meeting. U.S. EPA and other federal agencies receive state input and then decide what to fund. MDEQ expects the PACs to update their respective AOC coordinator who, will participate in this December meeting. Similar meetings will convene with all the Great Lakes states.

Matt Doss, GLC, noted that Dave Cowgill, U.S. EPA Branch Chief has retired. Marc Tuchman will cover Dave Cowgill's responsibilities at U.S. EPA including the AOCs.

Laura Ogar, Saginaw River/Bay AOC, asked what kinds of projects are covered during the meeting. Rick Hobrla said that the meeting will cover the top priorities for each AOC.

Rick Hobrla reported that filling the MDEQ-OGL Deputy Director position will be postponed. It will be filled temporarily on an acting basis. He will be acting Deputy Director for six months followed by Ronda Wuycheck and then Emily Finnell. The communications position within MDEQ-OGL will be filled by the beginning of 2016 and will support AOC, water strategy and the coastal management program.

Kathy Evans asked if invasive species was a core program of OGL. Rick Hobrla responded that the OGL was not a lead within the state agency, but OGL is part of the invasive species steering committee. He added that the MDEQ, MDNR and MDARD run an aquatic invasive species grant program.

Tanya Cabala, White Lake, wanted to know how the OGL is funded so that SPAC is informed

when talking to state legislators.

Laura Ogar thought that the implementation of the water strategy will cause realignment of the OGL.

Matt Doss noted that the GLC, on behalf of the states, has been involved in the discussion with U.S. EPA on reduced capacity funding for state Great Lakes programs. For most states, federal funds support the AOC and LAMP programs. The states really rely on this money. U.S. EPA still is going ahead with this change despite state protests.

Rick Hobrla indicated that the MDEQ is working with U.S. EPA to change the perception of funds going toward capacity building rather than specific on-the-ground projects. Matt thought that the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding will stay at \$300 million for the current fiscal year, and U.S. EPA will apply the funds to on-the-ground projects. Matt urged SPAC members to communicate the importance of supporting capacity (which includes PAC support grants and state staffing) to their legislators. Anne Vaara would like to see administration roll into the projects.

Rick Hobrla further reported that the current capacity grant for the state has been extended to the end of March. All state and tribal capacity grants will be renegotiated to run from April 1 – March 31. By late January or early February, the PAC support grant RFPs will come out. The MDEQ anticipates the annual PAC grants will be back on cycle. He mentioned the March 2-3, 2016 AOC conference and recommended that the SPAC consider meeting March 1 in Dearborn, Michigan. The meeting agenda can be restructured so that the SPAC member reports are longer and allow for discussion.

Report from USEPA

Ted Smith, U.S. EPA-GLNPO, noted that U.S. EPA is operating on the assumption that GLRI will be funded at \$250 million. The AOC program will have a little less than \$80 million. If the GLRI total were \$300 million, then AOC program funding will increase to approximately \$100 million, which can be easily spent on shovel-ready projects. He pointed out the “Sustain our Great Lakes” program managed by the USFWS, may support AOC and, specifically, coastal riparian/wetland habitat projects. *Julie Sims* talked about the NOAA funding which is targeted for regional partnerships. These are three-year partnerships and can be extended to five years. Proposals are due by the end of January. Regional partnerships identify specific projects/partners. Julie will be releasing an RFP via GLIN-announce.

The draft AOC in recovery guidance document was discussed. *John Perrecone, U.S. EPA-GLNPO*, asked if anyone has seen this document. About half the SPAC members have seen it. The document spells out procedures for designating an AOC as being in a recovery status; SPAC members were encouraged to read it. Please give U.S. EPA feedback related to this. Comments are due by this Friday.

Dick Micka, River Raisin AOC, asked if a Michigan representative can participate on the AOC recovery task team. John Perrecone responded that the task team is dated.

John Perrecone further discussed the AOC Conference that will take place in Dearborn, Michigan, at University of Michigan’s Dearborn campus. Matt Doss will be working on related conference events. SPAC members are welcome to forward ideas for breakout sessions to the U.S. EPA. Topics at the conference will include funding, management projects, procedures to get more money. Additionally, the conference will address the technical

support, analysis and information gathering needed to move AOCs toward delisting.

Rick Hobrla, MDEQ, noted that the next SPAC meeting will tentatively be March 1 in Dearborn. The meeting will be open to observers from other state AOCs.

Anne Vaara said that the Clinton River AOC received \$20 million for 11 projects. She asked if it is worth writing grants for more funding for projects that didn't make the list. Ted Smith responded that there is nothing to stop you from applying funding under the Sustain our Great Lakes program. It will be evaluated based on its own merits. Increasing wetlands and increasing fish passage are funding priorities.

Alisa Gonzales-Pennington mentioned that the state coastal program administers the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) program. This federal funding opportunity will come out soon with funding up to \$1.5 million. NOAA has yet to provide specific language about AOCs. It is an equal match grant.

Transition to DEQ Support for the SPAC

Alisa Gonzales-Pennington, grants coordinator for OGL, went through the provisions for the PAC grants that are different from the provisions developed by the GLC. The format is different. The AOC coordinators will be the primary state contacts. John Doyle will process the PAC financial paperwork. All of the existing grant agreements end March 31, 2016.

- Under changes (section 3), the language changed that revisions under 10 percent of the total grant do not need a change request.
- Previously grant recipients were required to submit semiannual progress reports and quarterly financial reports. Now, everything will be quarterly.
- The financial and progress report templates are new. All reports should go to the state AOC contact.
- Draft final reports will be required 15 days prior to the end date of the agreement.
- If you spent 15 percent or more of the grant amount, you are able to submit monthly payment requests during that quarter.
- Under Compensation (18), you need to sign up with the state as a vendor so that the state can pay you.
- The state holds 25 percent of the final amount until approval of the final report.
- Disregard the submission EPA form 5700-52A. It isn't required.
- The progress report is based on task.

Jon Doyle walked through the financial and travel expense forms. For travel reimbursements, you have to register online with the state as a vendor. For the next SPAC meeting, MDEQ will provide registration information and additional instructions.

Reports from SPAC Members

Robert Burns, Detroit River AOC, reported that the Detroit River AOC is working on the engineering and design of the connecting waterways. The Stoney Island project design is completed. NOAA is funding the first phase, starting in the spring 2016. The PAC support was helpful in catalyzing GLRI projects.

Jamie McCarthy, Kalamazoo River AOC, reported that many remedial actions have been completed within the past 2-4 months. U.S. EPA selected a cleanup plan. They will be in the Kalamazoo River removing contaminated sediments over the next two years. The old dam is

holding back contaminated sediment. The watershed council with help from volunteers is doing a river cleanup and a watershed festival, and with community groups is doing outreach on eating contaminated fish from the river.

Bill Craig, Rouge River AOC, reported that the Rouge River AOC was awarded a GLRI grant to control invasive species (grantee is Wayne County and Friends of Detroit River) focused on phragmites. We have grants to control the eutrophication BUI. There is interest in a water trail and rain gardens in the lower Rouge. The old channel Great Lakes Legacy Act project in the lower Rouge is in the design process.

MDEQ is studying the impoundments related to eutrophication. The fish passage project on the Henry Ford estate is moving forward.

Dennis Zimmerman, Saginaw River/Bay AOC, reported that nothing has changed since June 2015. He suggested introducing state environmental bond program to continue what is being done under the Clean Michigan Initiative program. What money is left in the current CMI program is already allocated.

Laura Ogar, Saginaw River/Bay AOC, reported the pre-construction and pre-assessments have been completed in two spawning areas. While we have large numbers of walleye, we have spawning area concerns. We are applying for grants to support reef restoration.

Anne Vaara, SPAC Vice Chair, Clinton River AOC, reported on a celebration last Monday on Lake St. Clair with 60 people related to new funding for the fish populations and benthos BUIs. We formed a beach closing BUI subcommittee, looking to remove this BUI from the watershed. OGL is working with U.S. EPA on the aesthetics BUI. We are planning a video capturing the work being done on the Clinton River. We did the eutrophication assessment on the Clinton River.

Paulette Duhaime, St. Clair River AOC, reported on their five remaining BUIs. The bird and animal deformities BUI removal recommendation should be finalized by the end of the year. There is quite an amount of contamination in the food web. We may be removing that BUI by the end of 2016. Spill response activity was conducted. Next spring, a full spill response exercise will be conducted. The beach closings BUI removal recommendation will be approved by U.S. EPA and removed by 2016. In the Bunce Creek watershed there is a really cool drone video of the power plant being imploded. Our sturgeon festival is our main public education event, which attracted 4,000 people last year. Big goals for the AOC are sustainability and forming a friends group after delisting.

Richard Micka, River Raisin AOC, reported that the PAC will keep going after delisting, because the PAC is a part of the City of Monroe's Committee on the Environment. We met the 40 percent phosphorus reduction in the Western Lake Erie Nutrient Reduction Strategy. An I-75 mitigation project is underway. The dam projects are done, including two modified and two bypass projects. We are down to four BUIs from nine. We are planning a strategic planning session for delisting in January.

Kathy Evans, Muskegon Lake AOC, reported that the beach closings BUI was removed. Eutrophication, fish and wildlife populations and habitat, and the aesthetics BUIs are being worked on. All the management actions were sent to DEQ and U.S. EPA. Two Great Lakes Legacy Act projects were completed and two are underway. Three habitat projects are underway. We are transitioning into life after delisting. Several other projects were discussed.

John Riley, MDEQ, reported on the St. Marys River AOC. A \$9 million project to replace a

road causeway with a bridge and restore the flow at the Little Rapids is underway and will be completed by the fall of 2016. He reported that a contaminated sediment project is on track for the Manistique River.

Tanya Cabala, White Lake, reported on a strategic planning process for which three options were explored for “life after delisting.” The group chose to keep going, meeting once a month. We are finalizing the group’s objectives. We had a shoreline management workshop. We applied for a grant with Freshwater Future related to un-sewered properties.

Discussion ensued about the GLC’s role in SPAC. Matt Doss would like to continue to support the group, where possible. AOCs are big part of the GLC work plan. The latest edition of the GLC Advisor has an AOC focus and AOCs are the focus of about a third of the GLRI funding. Congress is finishing FY 2016 appropriations with level funding of \$300 million expected for the GLRI. He encouraged SPAC members to contact congressional members to support this. There is legislation in the House and Senate to formally authorize the GLRI, which would make it easier for Congress to sustain funding for the program if it’s not supported by the next administration.

Implementation of Michigan’s Water Strategy and the AOCs

Jon Allan, DEQ-OGL, talked about the water strategy. There is nothing new to it. The DEQ collected stories along with other conversations and identified how the state will act on them. Other communities not represented on the SPAC also have priorities rolled into the state’s water strategy. Jon Allan doesn’t think GLRI will be there forever. How are we moving from GLRI to a Michigan Great Lakes concept as part of the water strategy?

The strategy is a systems approach to water. MDEQ developed nine chapters for the strategy and conducted 18 public hearings on the draft strategy. Now, MDEQ will review the 60 recommendations and determine which ones make sense for communities to adopt.

He noted that the strategy will not change too much in its final form and may be finalized by January, 2016.

Tuesday, November 17

Recap of the November 16 Discussion

Anne Vaara, Clinton River AOC, recapped yesterday’s discussion. She expressed gratitude to Rick Hobrla for explaining how the SPAC will be run under MDEQ. There was a good conversation with the U.S. EPA staff, John Perrecone and Ted Smith. Jon Allan, MDEQ-OGL, spoke about the draft water strategy. The next AOC conference will convene March 2-3, 2016 in Dearborn, Michigan. The spring SPAC meeting will take place the day before the start of the conference on March 1, 2016.

The spring SPAC meeting agenda should have ample time for the AOCs to discuss projects. Paulette Duhaime, St. Clair River AOC, suggested that the program include in-depth presentations of projects for two or three AOCs.

Mary Bohling, Detroit River AOC, outlined the day's agenda. Matt received recognition for his service to the SPAC.

Introduction to Strategic Planning

Jan Urban-Lurain, Spectra Data and Research, challenged the group to think about: 1) where you have been; 2) where you are now; and 3) what the future of SPAC will be. She passed out notes for strategic planning based on the planning calls leading up to this meeting. Key items include:

- Who are we and what are we trying to accomplish? (e.g., the value proposition)
- How can SPAC bring value to AOC work?
- Moving from the present to the future.
 - What is unique about SPAC?
 - What changes in our new roles?
 - What is the role of the delisted AOCs?
- Operationalizing to move forward.
 - What support will be needed from DEQ?
 - What relationship will we have with the GLC?
 - What other organizations should we connect with?
 - What is sustainability for SPAC?

The history of the SPAC was presented in the front of the meeting room in blocks of 5 years starting with 1991 and ending in the present year, 2015. SPAC members commented on these phases in its history, picking out key activities or events that shaped how the SPAC functioned, its failures and its successes. Bulleted below are those comments by those 5-year time blocks.

1991-1995

- The AOC framework, e.g., the forming of the PACs, was developed.
- Small grants were key for projects within the AOCs. For example, 5,000 dollars helped establish the White Lake PAC.
- Lack of direction within the AOC program.
- Regional NGOs were involved.

1995-2000, The “Dark Years”

- The value of SPAC was the knowledge transfer among AOCs.
- Financial support for the AOC program did not exist. Therefore, the participation and capacity was declining.
- Primary activity was planning.
- Matt and Rick coached and mentored SPAC members.
- Rouge River PAC was borne.
- The relationship between the PACs and the states was rocky.

2000-2005

- Within SPAC there a sense of shared responsibilities and relationship building among the PACs grew. The GLC played a big role in fostering this and bringing together the collaboration.
- SPAC had a lot of educational workshops related fundraising, communication, etc. These workshops supported the work of the PACs.
- SPAC started to meet in the spring and fall in specific AOCs in conjunction with an educational workshop.
- Lack of interest and funding.
- Detroit River PAC dissolved.
- Inactive period.
- SPAC guided the PACs to alternative funding. Developed a fiduciary and started fundraising.

2005-2010

- There was still frustration and arguing, uncertainty and suspicion.
- These underlining negative themes led to increased advocacy for program funding.
- With the money, the SPAC meetings brought together about 25-30 attendees, bringing a lot of hope.
- Planning and development of project lists.
- Resources increased communication with U.S. EPA.

2010-2015

- During this period, progress was made in the AOCs.
- Projects were implemented.
- With a continuity of funding over five years, two AOCs are now delisted.
- SPAC is now in a transitional phase where we need to figure out what life after delisting means. (remediation, restoration, revitalization)
- The Brookings Institute released a report on the economic impact of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The report highlighted that these investments are valuable.
- Who are we and what are we trying to accomplish? (e.g., the value proposition)
- How can SPAC bring value to AOC work?
- Moving from the present to the future.
 - What is unique about SPAC
 - What changes in our new roles?
 - What is the role of the delisted AOCs?
- Operationalizing to move forward.
 - What support will be needed from DEQ?
 - What relationship will we have with the GLC?
 - What other organizations should we connect with?
 - What is sustainability for SPAC?

Additional Timeline Themes

Sharon Baker, MDEQ-OGL, touched on the overall timeline theme - the U.S. EPA reorganized how they worked in the AOCs over time. It started within the U.S. EPA Water Branch then migrated to Great Lakes National Program Office.

A report on the AOC program from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reaffirmed the importance of PACs to engage the local stakeholders. If the public isn't brought along in the delisting, the AOC loses credibility.

Other parallel programs and activities have helped the AOCs:

- National Resources Damage Assessment program
- Superfund program
- At the local level, infrastructure was developing, such as the land conservancy movement. Buying and preserving habitat that benefits the habitat BUIs.
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program

The discussion of SPAC's history provided context for moving forward with the SPAC into the future. In small groups, the SPAC members discussed the following question: **"If SPAC was no longer here, how would this impact my AOC and my PAC? What gaps would exist or would be created?"**

After small group discussions, representatives reported out to the larger group. The purpose was to help identify the unique value of the SPAC.

Group 1 Answers:

1. Less proactive positioning among PAC members. We are often at the forefront of the next thing. We lose brainstorming, advocacy, networking and connecting in the local communities.
2. Provided continuity for the PACs to stay the course. Helps inspire and motivates PACs. During the "dark years," the SPAC didn't go away and was responsible for connections among the PACs. Without the SPAC, we lose the support group and shared narrative.
3. MDEQ and U.S. EPA would lose the direct input from local communities. Conversely, the state and federal government inspire PACs. This link would be lost, and critical information would be missing.
4. Advocacy at state and federal levels would suffer.

Group 2 Answers:

1. Successful project implementation would be lost.
2. NIMBY mentality would rise, which SPAC counters.
3. Loss of political strength and clout.
4. Loss of regional perspective.

Group 3 Answers:

1. Problem solving would suffer.
2. The learning curve would be broken.
3. Direct connection between the state and the PACs would be lost.
4. Loss of efficiency such as the ability of the state to talk to all the PACs.

What is the SPAC's unique value?

- Direct communication with everyone, MDEQ and U.S. EPA. Everyone hears the same message at once.
- Having the collective knowledge.
- Longevity.
- Public education, implementation, advocacy aspects of AOC. No other advisory group in the state has made that impact.
- Priority focused. We are different because the AOC is a large ecosystem plan and our PACs are diverse.
- Shared sense of inspiration and the feeling of collaboration. When White Lake and Deer Lake got delisted, the SPAC owned a piece of that.
- SPAC puts the pieces of the AOC puzzle together.
- Not being in the litigation space.
- It is grassroots, citizens based.
- Partnership based at the federal, state and local levels.

The mission statement from Statewide PAC handbook from 1995 was shared among the SPAC members. Moving forward, which goals/objectives from 1995 continue as is?

- Networking (discussion time during and after meetings)
- Education for the SPAC members
- Public advisory role at the local and state level
- Working with the GLC
- Advocate for the AOC program
- Serve as an advisory role for the state and feds
- Legislative outreach
- Visiting other AOCs
- Funding
- Retain the activities identified in the 1985 handbook
- Nonpartisan

What would you like to do more of?

- Advocacy at the state and federal levels
- Advise state and federal partners
- Transition planning
- Educational workshops
- Public stewardship of restored sites
- SPAC role
- Emphasize the economics of the delisting and recovery process
- More mining of the lessons learned from meetings and repackaging them to messages that go back to the PACs
- Sharing of experiences and stories within meetings
- Self-promotion of SPAC model to areas across the Great Lakes
- Record keeping of the activities that have occurred that provide continuity during transition periods.
- Capture the history of SPAC, which will help feed the promotion of the SPAC model. What would you like to do less of?
- No comments were given.

What would you like to do differently?

- Peer-to-peer presentations.
- Electronic storage of communications of peer-to-peer interactions.
- Address needs beyond delisting.
- Recognizing ecological services and putting an economic value on them. Could be tied to delisted AOCs.
- Become a water resources commission.

SPAC could be a model of civil discourse that is not found in federal and state politics. It is nonpolitical and nonpartisan.

Jan Urban-Lurain will take the timeline and the notes developed today and summarize the SPAC value proposition. These elements may become a mission statement, purpose, objectives, etc.

Rick Hobrla, MDEQ-OGL, was pleased with the strategic planning process. He liked how the group wanted to continue doing the work that they have done in the past. There is a lot of knowledge in the room. He sensed a lot of pride in what the group has done. He would like to duplicate the model for running the group that the GLC has set. He did not see any drastic changes in group operations. We will continue to have GLC as a partner.

Jan Urban-Lurain asked SPAC members if they had any fears or concern with the change of secretariat from the GLC to the MDEQ. Most SPAC members were concerned about losing the advocacy role of the group. Listed below are additional questions or concerns.

Tanya Cabala, White Lake, recognized the role of the MDEQ and GLC to the success of SPAC. She is concerned that losing the third-party perspective that the GLC brought to the group.

Matt Doss, GLC, was pleased in the group's interest in advocacy. He noted that the local PACs and their local partners should be doing advocacy as well.

Dennis Zimmerman, Saginaw River/Bay AOC, was concerned that MDEQ decisions may lean toward the science without taking account the concerns of stakeholders.

Kathy Evans, Muskegon Lake AOC, was concerned that as the administration of SPAC transitions to MDEQ staff, somehow the U.S. EPA misconstrues that we are not as valuable to them. In other words, she is worried that there will be a perception that the SPAC has lost its independence once it is managed MDEQ.

Bill Wright, Saginaw River/Bay AOC, comments that the absent SPAC members have missed something important today. We need to figure how to get those members back into the collective. It is important to discuss what happened here at the spring meeting.

Jan Urban-Lurain asked Rick Hobrla if he had any concerns or fears about MDEQ moving forward. Rick responded that the MDEQ has big shoes to fill. We have to be more politically cautious as a state entity, especially in dealing with the state legislature. I am pleased with the positive atmosphere of the SPAC strategic planning decisions.

John Riley, MDEQ-OGL, shared the same concerns about the advocacy piece. He challenged the PACs to take a more active role in advocacy.

Anne Vaara, Clinton River AOC noted that Matt did a good job of hand holding the advocacy area.

Bill Wright asked if the GLC can commit some resources to ensure that Matt can help in the advocacy role. Matt stated that being part of the SPAC helps him do his job. He has some limited flexibility to use general operation funds to participate in this group. The GLC has a clear mandate to advocate at the federal level, and does not typically advocate at the state level. The state legislative breakfast was more informational and is something the GLC can assist with.

Jan wrapped up the discussion with a few parting thoughts:

1. Need to work on the how to sustain the group's advocacy function.
2. How could the changing roles of MDEQ and the GLC affect the evolution of the SPAC?
3. How do we build partnerships to support our work?
4. What do we need to do to sustain the SPAC and our local efforts?

A separate summary of the strategic planning sessions was provided to complement the meeting summary.