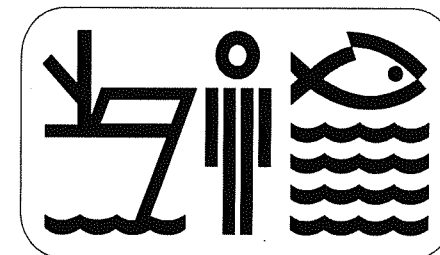


St. Marys River Remedial Action Plan (RAP)

Pamela Booker
Environment Canada
BPAC Environmental Summit
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

November 20, 2003

ST.MARYS RIVER



REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN

Summary

- What's A RAP?
 - Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement
 - Four Agency Agreement
 - Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Ecosystem
- Lake Superior Binational Program
- St. Marys River Remedial Action Plan
- Stage 2 Report
- IJC review
- Next steps
- What you can do

What's A RAP?

- RAP Program was created in 1987 through an amendment to the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA)
- RAPs require support and cooperation from all levels of government, industry and the public
- In Canada, RAPs are developed in partnership with the Province, under the Canada-Ontario Agreement
- Binational RAPs are developed in partnership with Canada, USA, Ontario and Michigan through the Four Agency Agreement



Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

- U.S.-Canada Bilateral Agreement to “Restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem”
- Establishes binational priorities
- Organizing principles for binational cooperation
- Requires preparation of Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) and Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs)



Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

- IJC Identified 42 Areas of Concern in 1987, and one was added later
- Currently there are 10 AOCs entirely within Canada, and 5 are shared binationally
- All take the ecosystem approach
- All aim to restore impaired beneficial uses
- Progress is monitored by the International Joint Commission

Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin



The Remedial Action Plan Process

STAGE 1

Problem Definition

- Identify Beneficial use impairments
- Describe degree and extent of impairment
- Identify possible causes of each impairment

STAGE 2

Remedial Action Plan

- Inventory remedial measures already in place
- Evaluate alternatives and select additional remedial measures
- Produce a schedule for implementation
- Set delisting criteria

STAGE 3

Restoration and Delisting

- Evaluate progress and effectiveness of remedial measures
- Conduct surveillance and monitoring to confirm restoration of BUIs
- Delist

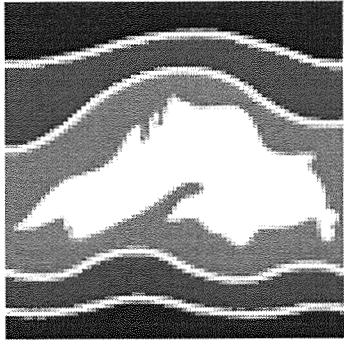
A Four Agency Framework for Binational RAPs

- Four Agencies: EC, OMOE, USEPA, MDEQ
- Three Shared Areas of Concern:
 - St. Marys River
 - St. Clair River
 - Detroit River
- 1998 Commitment, 2000 Position Papers:
 - Administration, Delisting, Public Involvement, Reporting



Canada-Ontario Agreement

- First COA signed in 1971, the 2002 COA is the sixth of its kind
- Agreement
 - Vision
 - Purpose
 - Principles
- Annexes
 - Areas of Concern
 - Harmful Pollutants
 - Lakewide Management
 - Monitoring and Information Management



Lake Superior Binational Program

- Program announced in 1991 to restore and protect the Lake Superior basin
- a partnership of federal, state, provincial, First Nation and Tribal governments and citizens
- Zero Discharge Demonstration and broader ecosystem programs

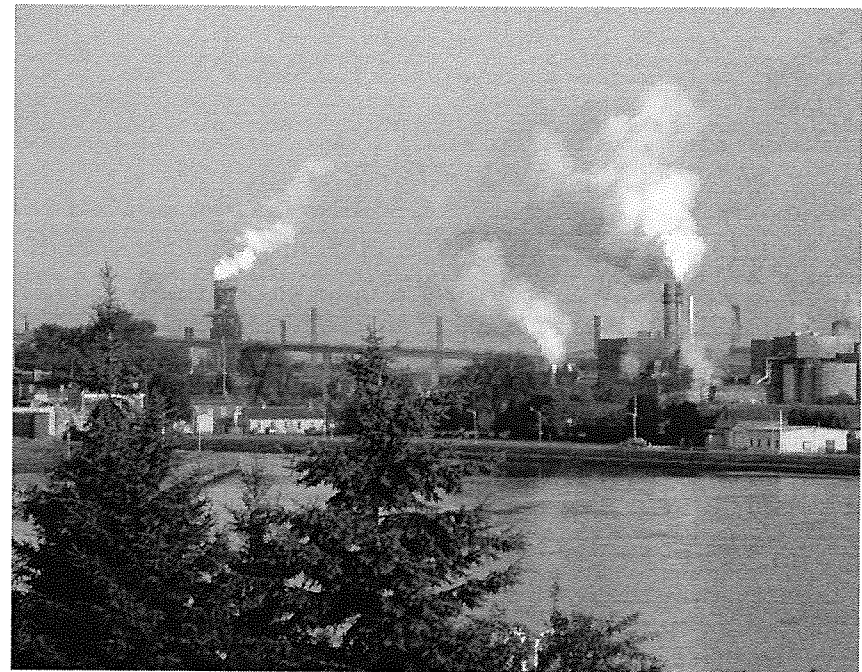
Lake Superior Watershed



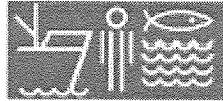
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St. Marys River Binational Area of Concern

- One of three binational RAPs
- Stage 1 Report published in 1992
- Nine of fourteen beneficial uses are impaired



ST. MARYS RIVER



REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN

The St. Marys River Area of Concern

Remedial Strategies
for
Ecosystem Restoration

STAGE 2 REPORT



Environnement
Canada



Ontario
Ministry of the Environment



St. Mary's River Stage 2 Report

Released
April 2003

November 20, 2003

Reporting and Education

- Revitalize Public Understanding and Involvement in Remediation Activities
- Identify, Track, and Publicize Implementation Activities Within the AOC
- Raise Public Awareness of Environmental Health Concerns
- Quantify the Economic Benefits of a Healthy Natural Ecosystem

IJC Review of Stage 2 Report (October 2003)

STRENGTHS

- the actions required are clear
- ecosystem approach has been demonstrated
- most delisting criteria are concise and defensible

WEAKNESSES

- commitment for monitoring is unclear
- contribution of completed actions not described
- additional info is needed
- agencies should consider additional public consultation measures

The Path Forward

- Development of an Implementation Annex is the next step forward
 - Identifies stakeholders that are committed to or responsible for implementing Stage 2 recommendations
 - Provides a schedule of activities, timelines and projected costs
 - Guides the formation of an effective implementation framework to direct, monitor and report on progress

St. Marys River Next Steps (Canada-Ontario joint lead)

- \$ Coordination of RAP implementation
- \$ Wastewater Characterization Study
- \$ Support municipal stormwater/CSO strategy
- \$ Development of a River-wide Sediment Management Strategy
- \$ Sanitary Sewer Survey for Pine Island
- \$ Ducks Unlimited wetland assessment and protection

St. Marys River Next Steps (Canada-Ontario joint lead)

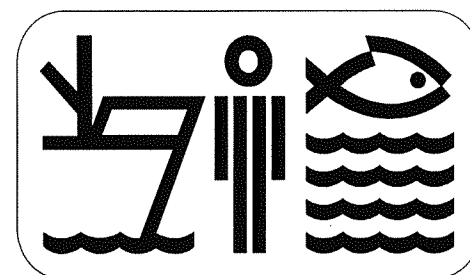
- \$ Binalational Fish Population Survey
- \$ Near Shore Fish Community Assessment
- \$ Wood Turtle Recovery Plan

Thank you!

Questions and Discussion

- What you can do - opportunities for citizen involvement in RAP projects
- Funding opportunities

ST.MARYS RIVER



REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN

For more information about Great Lakes Programs,
visit the EC Ontario Region Green Lane Web Site

<http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/>

**Options Paper:
Public Involvement in St. Marys River RAP**

Prepared by Pamela Booker, Environment Canada

Goals and Objectives

The key goals that we want to accomplish at this early stage are awareness and participation. The main messages at this point seem to be:

- 1) The RAP is alive and well in the community; and
- 2) Cooperation is vital to achieving RAP goals, and there are lots of opportunities for participation.

Note: Right now the goal is implementing recommendations in Stage 2, achieving including a review of delisting criteria.

The objective is to re-introduce the program with a higher profile among stakeholders, and promote the opportunities for action, cooperation and support (financial and otherwise).

Suggested Approaches

Strategy #1: Targeted Stakeholder Approach

A targeted stakeholder approach could be an effective and efficient way of achieving the goals with relatively low investment. The idea of "getting on other people's agenda" seems to be a good way of doing things in a low key but targeted fashion and at a low cost. One benefit of this approach is that smaller meetings may encourage dialogue about the information presented, and could potentially lead to the formation of more formal cooperative relationships and active involvement in implementing projects. It is also an effective way of engaging people in leadership positions who could influence involvement in future projects.

Strategy #2: Single Event Approach

In order to reach all stakeholders and the general public an Open House could be arranged, like a BPAC Summit for the Canadian side. This would also include a presentation to local media through a briefing and they would then make the info public in order to encourage participation and raise awareness about the RAP. Attendees could also view trade show style exhibits from various stakeholders. A large Open House event would be an effective way to re-introduce the RAP if we position our event well to improve the RAP profile.

Strategy #3: Combination Approach

This approach involves meeting some stakeholders individually or in small groups, and reaching the rest through a single Open House event. This could ensure that our efforts and attention could be tailored in accordance with the participation required from that stakeholder. It would also help us to more effectively engage people in positions of leadership. This two-tiered approach could develop more direct relationships with key stakeholders while still keeping other stakeholders and the general public informed.

Steps Required

Strategy #1: Targeted Stakeholder Approach

The first step would to categorize and prioritize stakeholders using the mailing list of 130 stakeholders that AI already has (establish our audience). Major stakeholders who will require individual attention (municipal government, Algoma, etc.) should be identified and meetings arranged with their representatives. Stakeholders with similar interests or areas of expertise could be grouped and an open house or presentation arranged for each group highlighting the relevant recommendations that they could help with and funding sources they could apply to. This would also benefit the stakeholders themselves as a networking opportunity to encourage cooperation towards common goals.

A Power Point presentation would be designed specifically for this purpose in order to ensure some consistency in messaging. This presentation would be different from the BPAC presentation because it would be short (15 min) and its main focus would be on goals and opportunities, not historical information. A canned basic presentation could be made and tailored for specific audiences either by adding one or two additional slides or by tailoring the oral information presented with each slide.

Strategy #2: Single Event Approach

This would involve organizing an event for about 130 stakeholders (based on the contact list) and the general public. Considering the audience involves people with both professional and extracurricular interest in the project, it would be suggested to have a two-part event, with an afternoon session for professionals and an evening session for the public and other stakeholders. This event would be similar in format to the BPAC summit on the US side, in that it would have both exhibition and presentation components. Direct participation from stakeholders would be approached to provide exhibits, and also for one or two presentations in addition to the presentation about the RAP given by the consultant.

A Power Point presentation would be designed specifically for this purpose. This presentation would be different from the BPAC presentation because it would be short (15 min) and its main focus would be on goals and opportunities, not historical information. A basic presentation could be made and tailored for specific audiences either by adding one or two additional slides or by tailoring the oral information presented with each slide.

Al's role in this situation would be as Event Coordinator. He would be responsible for securing a suitable venue, arranging presenters and exhibitors, promoting the event to stakeholders and the public, and making sure logistics are taken care of on the day of the event.

Strategy #3: Combination Approach

The combination approach would involve reviewing the contact list and prioritizing stakeholders or audiences using a set of criteria. Two lists would be created – one for targeted presentations and the other for the Open House event. The two activities would be done in parallel; both arranging meetings with priority stakeholders and planning a smaller scale Open House for the rest, with a smaller audience, smaller number of exhibitors, and evening session only.

A Power Point presentation would be designed specifically for these purposes. This presentation would be different from the BPAC presentation because it would be short (15 min) and its main focus would be on goals and opportunities, not historical information. A basic presentation could be made and tailored for specific audiences either by adding one or two additional slides or by tailoring the oral information presented with each slide.

Al's role in this situation would include both of the roles already described, only on a smaller scale and at the same time.

Additional Considerations

It would also be good to have some passive resources to supplement the presentation that people could access at their leisure. The CD ROM and local web site are both good starts in that direction. It would be worthwhile supplementing that with a short print document (one page tri-fold brochure?) that could be distributed as background info in advance of meetings, through the mailing list, and as a reply to requests for information from the public or media. It may still be premature to do that at this point - in the meantime we could use the Stage 2 Exec Summary as a springboard but it may be preferable to have something that's more upbeat and action-oriented - the brochure is informative but is not ideal for our current public involvement goals.

Analysis of Options

The following table compares the three options according to various costs and benefits. Each option has been assigned a grade of Low, Medium or High and some of the considerations that went into assigning the grade are listed.

Comparison	Targeted Stakeholder Approach	Open House Event	Combination Approach
Time Investment	<u>Medium</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small amount of time needed to prepare presentation (15-20 slides) • Moderate amount of time needed for contacting stakeholders and arranging meetings • Small amount of time needed to attend other group meetings • Small amount of time needed to host smaller meetings of new stakeholder groups • Lots of time needed to prepare multiple meetings • May have to attend meetings outside of regular business hours 	<u>Medium</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small amount of time needed to prepare presentation (15-20 slides) • Lots of time needed for special event coordination, including planning and logistics • Lots of time needed for preparation and distribution of promotional materials 	<u>High</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small amount of time needed to prepare presentation (15-20 slides) • Minimal time needed to attend other group meetings • Moderate amount of time to prepare multiple meetings • Moderate amount of time needed for contacting stakeholders and arranging meetings • Some time needed for special event coordination, including planning and logistics • Lots of time needed for preparation and distribution of promotional materials • May have to attend meetings outside of regular business hours
Financial Investment	<u>Low</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of printed materials (optional) • Overtime or mileage are possible • Hospitality for hosted meetings (tea/coffee/cookies) • Cost (if any) to rent a small room to host meetings if needed • No cost to present at meetings of outside groups 	<u>Medium</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of printed materials (optional) • Rental and furnishing of a large venue to accommodate about 150 people and exhibits • Preparation and distribution of promotional materials 	<u>Medium</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of printed materials (optional) • Rental and furnishing of a smaller venue to accommodate people and exhibits • Preparation and distribution of promotional materials • No cost to present at meetings of outside groups • Overtime or mileage are possible

Audience Targeted (as a portion of entire contact list)	<u>Low</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only individual stakeholders or segments of stakeholders could be reached at any one meeting It may not be possible to reach entire audience before March 31, 2004 but could be continued in future Some stakeholders may be more likely to participate if info is relevant to them The general public is not included in this approach except through media coverage 	<u>Medium</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depends on success of promotion, all stakeholders would be targeted Having two sessions (afternoon and evening) would encourage public and professional segments of audience to attend Stakeholders with specific interests may not get the information they need or may send delegates to attend in their place 	<u>High</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It may not be possible to reach all priority audiences before March 31, 2004 Open house could be used to pick up the slack from any individual meetings that weren't possible before March 31, 2004 Depends on success of promotion, all stakeholders would be targeted in one way or another
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Predicted Benefits to the Audience (individual stakeholders)	<u>High</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders would receive information most relevant to them, therefore more likely to pay attention and respond Smaller groups would allow more opportunity for dialogue with presenter and within the audience group 	<u>Medium</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information would be general but could be tailored to afternoon and evening sessions Dialogue with presenters is limited to brief Q & As Dialogue between stakeholders could occur in exhibit area Stakeholders with specific interests may not get the information they need 	<u>High</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key stakeholders would receive information most relevant to them, therefore more likely to pay attention and respond Allows for inclusive dialogue and info sharing at the open house event through Q & As and exhibits
Predicted Benefits to the RAP **Note: This section continues on next page	<u>Medium-High</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smaller events would be low key, and less likely to leverage press coverage Attending other group's meetings would highlight the RAP willingness to cooperate and not compete with these groups More likely to reach decision makers and people with leadership ability 	<u>Medium</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large event is more likely to leverage greater press coverage and improve profile in the short term Open house event is inclusive to wide audience and is an excellent networking opportunity for stakeholders Could be developed in future as a regular event Accomplishes deliverable in the 	<u>High</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open house event will likely leverage more press coverage than low-key meetings Attending other group's meetings would highlight the RAP willingness to cooperate and not compete with these groups, and stress importance of their participation Open house event would be inclusive to wide audience and would be an excellent networking opportunity

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders may be more likely to speak candidly when they are in a more private situation 	<p>terms of reference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large events are not conducive to forging new relationships with individual stakeholders Decision makers may not attend a general event or may delegate to employees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accomplishes deliverable in the terms of reference Reaches all levels of stakeholders, from people in leadership positions to the general public and in between
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