

***Michigan Department of
Environmental Quality's Near-
term, Top Management
Priorities and Information
Needs for 2013-2023***

***Michelle Selzer, Lake Coordinator
St. Clair-Detroit River System Initiative Meeting
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Department of
Environmental Quality
PURE MICHIGAN

Presentation Outline

What You May Know

- Background on Key Programs
- Current Management Priorities & Information Needs

What You May Not Know

- Purposed Management Priorities & Information Needs



What You May Know – Background on Programs

Key MDEQ Programs working in the Corridor:

- Water Resources Division
- Areas Of Concern Program
- Lake Management Program
- Coastal Management Program
- Among many others



What You May Know – Background on Programs

Key MDEQ Water Resources Division Activities:

- Permitting & Compliance
- Great Lakes dredging (2013)
- Great Lakes Beach Monitoring Program
- Industrial and Municipal Stormwater
- Oversight of Wastewater Treatment and Collection



What You May Know – Background on Programs

Key Areas of Concern (AOC) Activities:

- Five AOCs: St. Clair, Clinton, Detroit, Rouge, and River Raisin
- Develop & Implement Remedial Action Plans
- Seek funding to implement Management Actions to address Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs)
- “Remove” BUIs & ultimately “Delist” AOCs



What You May Know – Background on Programs

Key Lake Management Activities:

- Facilitate coordination among Lake Erie Basin stakeholders
- Track funding opportunities & projects
- Coordinate with federal, state, & regional partners to achieve Lake Erie priorities
- Participate & add value to federal, state, and regional planning efforts



What You May Know – Background on Programs

Key Coastal Management Activities:

- Provide funding to coastal communities
 - Coastal planning & restoration
 - Public access (e.g., ADA, blueways, greenways)
 - Hazards (e.g., high risk erosion, rip currents)
 - Off-shore wind assessments & design support tools
 - Land acquisition grants through NOAA's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program



What You May Know – Current Management Priorities & Needs

Water Resources Division:

- Address Michigan's water quality regulatory needs that are not currently being met.
- Assess & identify proportional nutrient loading in the Corridor contributing to HABs & nuisance algal/macrophytic conditions in WLEB.
- Evaluate scientific remedies to address occurrences of human pollutants (e.g., CSOs) in the Corridor.



What You May Know – Current Management Priorities & Needs

Detroit River Area of Concern:

- Restore soft edges/wetlands/channel complexity throughout the corridor, as they apply to achieving habitat-related BUI restoration criteria.
- Initiate a study to identify source(s) that continue to impact the Deformities, Fish Consumption, Aesthetics BUIs
- Help develop Management Action Strategies to address the Benthos, Dredging & Beach Closing BUIs.
- Serve as Technical Committee members to formally assess the Tainting & Tumors BUIs.



What You May Know – Current Management Priorities & Needs

St. Clair River Area of Concern:

- Assist in completing all Management Actions in the AOC by 2014!
- Restore soft edges/wetlands/channel complexity throughout the corridor, as they apply to achieving habitat-related BUI restoration criteria.
- Help develop consensus on restoration criteria for Drinking Water BUI, including spills planning & notification.
- Serve as Technical Committee members to formally assess the Deformities, Benthos, Beach Closings, Consumption BUIs.



What You May Know – Current Management Priorities & Needs

Lake Management:

- Protect biodiversity - Identify landscape-scale features that could contribute to establishment of “Biodiversity Investment Areas.”
- Water Strategy - Better understand ecosystem services (current and potential) and the human values surrounding them.
- Better understand importance of rivermouth areas.
- Provide science to support blue economies (Coastal focus).



What You May Not Know – Proposed Management Priorities & Needs

Water Resources Division Mission:

Information Sharing - Make MIs waters safe and clean for recreating, fishing, drinking and healthy aquatic ecosystems. DEQ's Measures of Success' 5 major goals:

- 1) Enhance Recreational Waters (e.g., Nuisance algae conditions)
- (2) Ensure Consumable Fish (e.g., MDCH studies & messaging)
- (3) Protect and Restore Aquatic Ecosystems (e.g., Permitting GLRI habitat projects)
- (4) Ensure Safe Drinking Water (e.g., HEC Drinking Water System engagement)
- (5) Protect Public Safety (e.g., Dam failures, 100-yr floodplain management)



What You May Not Know – Proposed Management Priorities & Needs

Areas of Concern:

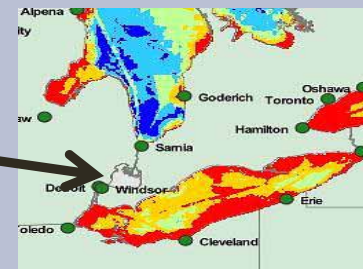
- Consideration given to the importance of the adjacent Areas of Concern, including:
 - River Raisin
 - Rouge River Watershed
 - Clinton River Watershed
- Others identified by AOC coordinators
 - The Devil's in the Details
 - Need to meet EPA's short-list AOC Delisting needs into the future.



What You May Not Know – Proposed Management Priorities & Needs

Lake Management:

- Continue to engage in federal, state, & regional planning efforts beyond the Partnership to better inform the decision making process of other Corridor & basin initiatives.
 - Other organizations need to know about the Management Priorities & Needs of the Partnership.
 - Participate in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Workgroups.
- Develop a data management system
- Put me to work in the Corridor!
 - Like Lake Erie, though: Use me, but don't abuse me!



*No data,
GLEAM, '12*



MDEQ Contact Information:

Lake Management:

Michelle Selzer; selzerm@michigan.gov; (517) 241-3731

St. Clair River, Detroit River, River Raisin AOCs:

Melanie Foose; foosem@michigan.gov; (586) 753-3866

Clinton River and Rouge River AOCs:

Jen Tewkesbury; tewkesburyj@michigan.gov; (586) 753-3863

Water Resources Division:

Andy Hartz; hartza@michigan.gov; (586) 753-3867

Coastal Management Program:

Lynda Krupansky; krupanskyl@michigan.gov; (517) 373-2343

