

WESTERN LAKE ERIE BASIN BULLETIN

November 2009

Healthy Land ~ Healthy Lake

Volume 2 Issue 2

State of the Basin Released



On October 26th the *State of the Basin* report was released online by the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership. The document provides an outline of projects necessary to improve the Western Basin.

An investment in the restoration, protection and sustainable use of the Western Lake Erie Basin will yield dividends in the form of enhanced environmental health, economic well being and quality of life. A federally-authorized assessment identified 810 potential actions, totaling over \$2.41 Billion in public funding needs, within the three state (OH, MI, IN), 12 county study area. Categories include Flood Risk Management, Water Supply, Sedimentation, and Bank Erosion (238 projects, \$510.2M); Water Quality (374 projects, \$1.7B); Resource-based Recreation (35 projects, \$45.8M); Fish and Wildlife Habitat (135 projects, \$111.1M); and Recreational and Commercial Navigation (28 projects, \$53.8M). (See Tables S-1 and S-2).

Read the full report online at: <http://www.wleb.org/documents/stateofthebasin.html>

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

The President's 2010 Budget provides \$475 million in U.S. EPA's budget for a new EPA-led, interagency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), which will target the most significant problems in the region, including invasive aquatic species, non-point source pollution, and contaminated sediment.

This initiative will use outcome-oriented performance goals and measures to target the most significant problems and track progress in addressing them. EPA and its Federal partners will coordinate State, tribal, local, and industry actions to protect, maintain, and restore the chemical, biological, and physical integrity of the Great Lakes.

The Request for Proposals from U.S. EPA, followed by funding opportunities from fifteen other federal agencies, are expected to be released in late 2009. Local groups interested in applying for funding should visit US EPA's webpage on the GLRI. Approximately half of the anticipated funding will be retained by federal agencies for tasks that they will be completing over the coming year. Details on these activities and the Multi-Year Restoration Action Plan are also available online.

To learn more visit: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/glri/>

Sediment Plumes May Impact Microcystis bloom in W. Lake Erie

Pea soup. Green Kool-Aid™. Spinach soufflé. No matter which food item comes to mind when you see harmful algal blooms (HABs) in Lake Erie's Western Basin or washed up along its shorelines, their existence is certainly unwelcomed. Blooms of blue-green algae called Microcystis—a common species of cyanobacteria that can produce toxins harmful to animals and people—have shut down beaches, negatively affected sport fishing and boating, and created a headache for water treatment companies. Some scientists believe that the blooms also contribute to the Dead Zone,

floating out to the Central Basin where they sink and decompose, consuming the limited oxygen near the lake bottom. The blooms had disappeared in the 1980s, when Lake Erie seemed to be on the road to recovery, but the last 10 years have seen their resurgence. In his work at the Lake Erie Center at the University of Toledo, Ohio Sea Grant researcher Dr. Tom Bridgeman was on the scene to witness one of the first large *Microcystis* blooms that formed in Maumee Bay in 2003. In the next few years, he began to see a pattern...

To read the full article, log on to Ohio Sea Grant's website:
<http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/publications/twineline/> Article by: Stacy Brannan, Ohio Sea Grant Communications. Article Reprinted from TwineLine Summer/Fall 2009 with permission.

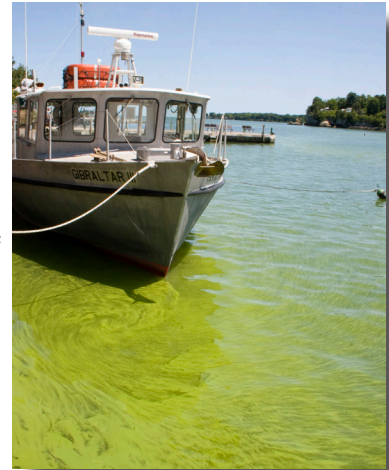


Photo: *Microcystis* bloom at Gibraltar Island. Melinda Hunley, OSU Sea Grant

Michigan DNR & DEQ become DNRE

On October 8th Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm issued Executive Order 2009-45, creating a new Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) to protect and conserve Michigan's air, water and other natural resources. The new department will assume the powers and functions of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), which are abolished by the executive order. The order takes effect January 17, 2010.

To read more about this change visit: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153--225370--,00.html>

Michigan AOC's Conference Outcomes

The Maumee River is a designated Area of Concern in Ohio. Three AOCs in Michigan drain to Western Lake Erie. The River Raisin, Rouge River, and Detroit River and three of Michigan's 14 AOCs. As a part of planning efforts for the GLRI, state agencies in Ohio and Michigan have been working with their local AOC partners to prepare for funding and implementation opportunities. In Michigan, a formal two-day workshop was held in August 2009.

To read about the workshop's outcomes visit: <http://glc.org/spac/workshop-aug09recap.html>.

To learn more about Ohio's efforts in the Maumee AOC & beyond, visit: <http://lakeerie.ohio.gov/glri.aspx>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12/2 - *In The Park After Dark- Swan Creek Metropark* - 7:30pm Metroparks of the Toledo Area - www.metroparksprograms.com

12/3 - *Green Grants Workshop* - Register by 11/27 - BGSU Firelands - www.coastaltrainingohio.net

12/5 - *Helping Hands at Wildwood Preserve* - 1-4pm Metroparks of Toledo Area - www.metroparksprograms.com