

Lake Erie Synthesis Team

A Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Project

Restoration: An act of bringing back to a former condition of being unimpaired



What Will Be Done: A focus on improving the link between research and management action will be central to this effort. This project will allow the Ohio Lake Erie Commission and the Lake Erie Millennium Collaboration to work towards this purpose by meeting a series of project goals over a three-year period. These goals include:

- Organize a strategic Synthesis Team for all management and research projects;
- Provide the Synthesis Team with a simple way to track and synthesize/summarize management, implementation, and research projects by placing project results from the Great Lakes Accounting System into Ohio Sea Grant's Electronic Reporting system;
- Produce a clear and concise annual summary and synthesis report (10 pages or less) of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative activities for managers, decision makers, elected officials, and the public;
- Track progress against the Lake Erie Protection & Restoration Plan 2008 and integrate the results into the next update of the Plan;
- Develop and maintain a simple, user friendly, web-based outreach platform to help laypeople understand and track the progress of projects in Ohio by watershed, county, and state/federal house and senate jurisdiction;
- Conduct two forums for managers and research scientists, one for priority setting and proposal planning and one to discuss project results and the implications of those results;
- Produce, for public consumption, newsletter articles, press releases, fact sheets, and/or other appropriate materials which will be shared with and distributed by a variety of organizations, agencies, and media outlets to inform managers, elected officials, citizens and decision makers of the progress made toward restoration of Lake Erie and specifically with Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding;
- Invite all states bordering Lake Erie and Ontario to participate in the planning and synthesis activities to produce products that are of even greater value to the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan;
- Share results with other Great Lakes states so that an integrated network of synthesis teams can provide a greater strategic direction to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative as well as other funding sources, including federal, state, and local, which are working towards restoration of the Great Lakes and their watersheds.

About the Lake Erie Synthesis Team

Strategic implementation of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funded projects and the development of restoration plans for subsequent years will be essential to realizing the full potential of the initiative to restore the largest source of fresh water in the world. A multi-organization Synthesis Team will facilitate interactions between research scientists participating in the Lake Erie Millennium Collaboration and resource managers from Ohio state agencies to enhance the value of research projects, improve management decisions, identify new research priorities, and clearly and concisely summarize and synthesize the results of initiative projects. Ultimately we hope to include projects from other states and Ontario and serve as a model for linking management and research on all of the Great Lakes. It is our goal to ensure cooperation within Ohio and with our neighbors who share in the responsibility and privilege of being a Great Lakes state while realizing efficiencies achievable with a coordinated effort in place.

State Commitment

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission is made up of six State of Ohio agencies as set forth in

the Ohio Revised Code. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Departments of Agriculture, Development, Health, Natural Resources, and Transportation work together through the Commission to address critical Lake Erie issues. The Commission agencies produced the Lake Erie Protection & Restoration Plan 2008. This project will continue the spirit of the Plan through coordination among state agencies and improve our ability to link research and management. Through the collaborative efforts of the Commission and its member agencies this project will reach interested stakeholders with opportunities to provide input on the future direction of restoration efforts in Ohio.

Lake Erie Millennium Collaboration

The Lake Erie Millennium Collaboration consists of scientists researching critical Lake Erie issues. The goals of the Collaboration are to enhance the value of research projects by bringing researchers and managers together, to reduce project costs through resource sharing and economies of scale, and to help decision makers understand the impact of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative on Lake Erie, thereby encouraging added investment in future years.

