

## **COUNCIL OF GREAT LAKES GOVERNORS' PRIORITIES**

### **AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES**

Council of Great Lakes Governors' Priority: Stop the introduction and spread of nonnative aquatic invasive species.

### **Proposed projects Appendix B**

#### **Items needing more detail – not currently included**

A way to educate small boat owners as they move from Lake Superior to inland lakes – also potential decontamination site w/ chemicals or equipment

St Louis River/Allouez Bay – coastal wetland invasives species program

Education outreach

Support ballast water program in Superior

## **HABITAT AND SPECIES**

Council of Great Lakes Governors' Priority: Enhance fish and wildlife by restoring and protecting coastal wetlands, fish and wildlife habitats.

Complete and expand the Invasive Free Zone (IFZ).

**LAKE SUPERIOR BASIN PROJECTS** (there is only one WMU in Lake Superior Basin)

### **Projects**

Brule River  
Bark River  
Saxine Creek  
Flag River  
Sioux River  
Cranberry River  
Iron River  
Onion River  
St Louis River  
Fish Creek  
Bad River

Influence Coastal \$ availability for Conservation Easement and fee simple acquisition for properties within the Superior Basin...to the TOP of sub-watersheds.

Watershed projects that address water runoff quantities and hydrological degradation in L. Superior watersheds (peak runoff reduction? Need to quantify peak runoff and overland surface flow contribution to this runoff).

**Reduce sediment inputs into priority Lake Superior streams.** Several Lake Superior tributaries have sediment loading information (Fish Creek, Nemadji River) or are in the process of obtaining such information (Bad River, Whittlesey Creek, Bark River). In these streams, implement strategies to reduce sediments into these streams. Strategies will include watershed BMPs and stream restoration projects. In other priority tributaries, conduct assessments to quantify sediment loads.

## **Proposed projects Appendix B**

12. Complete and expand the Invasive Free Zone (IFZ).

This current project combines two federal agencies' lands, private lands, and state education programs, to inventory, plan, control, demonstrate, and educate within a designated 720 acre invasive free zone. The project site includes the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge, the lands, facilities and partners of the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, and private landowners within the national wildlife refuge boundary. The goal is to eliminate non-native invasive terrestrial and emergent aquatic plants on the entire area. This proposal would complete the planned treatments in the existing area and expand the IFZ to adjacent state & private lands. New IFZ start-ups would also be pursued.

**18. Improve fish habitat in Lake Superior tributary streams from fair/poor to good/excellent.** Use "Simonson, T.D., J. Lyons and P.D. Kanehl. 1993. Guidelines for evaluating fish habitat in Wisconsin streams. General Technical Report NC-164. North Central Forest Experiment Station, U.S. Department of Agriculture" to measure improvements. Integrate habitat projects within watersheds that reduce sediment loads and improve instream habitat . Priority projects should focus on Lake Superior tributary watersheds that have initiated watershed planning and improvement projects, to include Bad River, Fish Creek, Whittlesey Creek, Sioux River, Bark River and Nemadji River.

19. 1)Habitat and Species" Council of Great lakes Governors' Priority : Enhance fish and wildlife by restoring and protecting coastal wetlands, fish, and wildlife habitats

20. Protect Wisconsin Point through dedication as a State Natural Area or Conservation Easement with the City and the County . (via matching federal \$ with State Stewardship, or CE donation, Actively participating in the City of Superior plan update , supporting the City in their SAMP protection of Moccisan Mike Property.)

21. Complete 3 CREP contracts in the Nemadji Basin / St. Louis Basin by Dec 31st, 2008

22. Migratory and/or breeding bird survey and plant survey for West Wisconsin Land Trust property on Bluff Creek(90 acres-Twn of Parkland/city of Superior)

23. Understand the future management/ development intentions of Wausau Paper in the Nemadji River Valley .

24. Brule River Headwaters- Support efforts of the Friends of the St Croix Headwaters and the River Alliance in developing an "eco-tourism" conference for 2008 focusing on the natural, cultural and historic attributes of the headwaters (ST. Croix and Brule).

25. Facilitate the efforts of the organizations working to permanently protect the Brule River watershed headwaters. (WDNR, TNC, Counties, WWLT, Sharptail Grouse Society...)

### **Items needing more detail – not currently included**

Protect transitional soils at headwaters of tributary streams from intensive development & intensive cutting

Partnership/incentives for landowners to keep wetlands flowing to tributaries

Fish Passage on Iron River

Funding for education on the values and protected status of wetlands

Preservation of Wisconsin Point/Allouez Bay/SLR migratory corridor

Resources to manage and monitor state natural areas & other coastal wetlands

## **COASTAL HEALTH**

Council of Great Lakes Governors Priority: "Promote programs to protect human health against adverse effects of pollution in the Great Lakes ecosystem."

### **Proposed projects Appendix B**

#### **8. Duluth-Superior Harbor Corrosion Study**

In the last few years, the Port of Duluth-Superior has seen a unique problem of accelerated corrosion of steel pilings within the harbor. Over the last 30 years, corrosion has accelerated to rates resembling those of saltwater environments in parts of the port. With over 12 miles of pilings, there's a lot to lose here. Underwater inspections reveal that steel put in before 1970 corroded within the norms of fresh water. Then something changed; younger steel began looking worn, pitting fast, deep, and in disproportion to age. Pilings evolve from factory-smooth to the texture of soda cans squashed on a gravelly road, pitted to 3/8 inches.

The cause of the problem is still under investigation. Monies have been received to study the issue and narrow the cause. However, monies have not been set aside with the idea of testing solutions to the problem. The primary solution is protecting the pilings with paint, so that the corrosion can be slowed.

The project here would be to fund various demonstration projects throughout the Port of Duluth-Superior or Wisconsin Sea Grant to test numerous products that could be candidates to slow the corrosion. For example, four different products would be tested at one facility in one location of the port and the same four products would be tested at another facility in another location of the port. It would be a scientific process that would determine a solution to the excessive acceleration of the corrosion.

#### **9. BNSF Ore Dock**

The BNSF ore dock is 2,400-foot long super structure that served a loading point for ships bringing iron ore from the Minnesota Iron Range to the steel mills in the lower Great Lakes. Numerous years ago, it was abandoned due to the reduction in iron ore production. Most recently, a private party who has done next to the nothing with the property has acquired it. The dock is currently up for sale.

The project here would be to put monies toward the acquisition and dismantling of the dock in order to enhance the recreational opportunities of the area by redeveloping a brownfield area. Although unknown, it is anticipated that this site will have some level of contamination, which may increase the project costs. With the securing of the property, it would be assured that the public would have expanded access to St. Louis River and Lake Superior.

The location of this dock property is very valuable. The dock sits next to the City's most utilized boat launch (Loon's Foot Landing) and Hog Island, a

preserved man made Island that will be seeing more use due to a massive cleanup funded by the Great Lakes Legacy Fund.

### **10. Globe Elevator**

Globe Elevator's story is very similar to the BNSF Ore dock saga. It was abandoned and now is owned by a private party who is currently dismantling the elevator structures in order to market the property as a marina/recreational vehicle park. This property sits between a large active grain elevator company and the largest coal exporter within the Great Lakes. The highest and best use for this property would be a port related commercial facility.

In this case, the project would be to acquire the property, clean-up the property due to known contamination, and redevelop. The dock would need a new dock wall, new surface, and infrastructure to make it usable. The end result of this project would be to have a dock that could function as a port related commercial facility.

11. \* Request a re-evaluation of Douglas County's goals for POWTS working with Department of Commerce and Douglas County to bring the county to state standards in a managed time frame. (ps- I would appreciate serving on this committee)

### **Items needing more detail – not currently included**

87% failing of septics in Ashland Co.

Douglas Co. POWTS committee hasn't gotten any progress for >5 years

Douglas County Does not have a way or staff to check to see if septics have been tested every 3 years

Provide funding for low income households with leaking systems

## **AREAS OF CONCERN/CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS**

Council of Great Lakes Governors' Priority: "Restore to environmental health the Areas of Concern (AOC) identified by the International Joint Commission as needing remediation."

Request time on SLRCAC Habitat Workgroup agenda to review 3 potential projects for joint grant application (September grant deadline)

### **Proposed projects Appendix B**

4. \* Request time on SLRCAC Habitat Workgroup agenda to review 3 potential projects for joint grant application (September grant deadline)

### **Items needing more detail – not currently included**

Restore ecological functions of littoral zones in Chequamegon Bay & St Louis River – not just removal of contaminated sediments

Fish Creek

Provide funding for AOC organizations like SLRAC so we don't lose them for lack of funding

Evaluate SLR Habitat Plan for Potential Projects

## **NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Council of Great Lakes Governors' Priority: Control pollution from diffuse sources into water, land and air.

### **Proposed projects Appendix B**

#### **Items needing more detail – not currently included**

Storm Water Treatment – Regional Systems

Parking Lot Designations & Landscaping/Pervious Areas – Model Ordinances

Map pervious/impervious surfaces in sub watersheds

## **PERSISTENT BIOACCUMULATIVE TOXINS (PBT)**

Council of Great Lakes Governors' Priority: "Continue to reduce the introduction of PBTs into the Great Lakes ecosystem."

### **Proposed projects Appendix B**

4. The PBT strategy currently has no mention of burn barrel reduction, which is one of the most preventable sources of dioxin and other PBT release to the atmosphere. It is currently illegal to burn many of the things such as plastics, rubber, styrofoam, etc. in Wisconsin, but as you and I know, there are burn barrels sitting outside many homes here in northern Wisconsin. There are many things that Wisconsin could do to reduce burn barrel use (since simply enforcing the law may not be the most cost-effective action). Education and outreach are one key and providing people with a sensible alternative is another. Minnesota has had some success by doing "barrel for a barrel" swaps where people bring in their burn barrels, sign a pledge not to burn their garbage, and receive a rain barrel instead. Another idea might be to have a project where one or more "rural recycling trucks" travels to several drop-off locations at town halls or churches once a week within a certain geographic region (maybe a 2-3 county area) to pick up items that can be recycled. As an incentive to participate, people could receive something (such as a compact fluorescent lightbulb) if they turn in their burn barrel and agree to participate in the program. Maybe a pilot project could even have rural curbside pickup available (like the Schwan's truck of recycling) and the trucks could run on biodiesel. My idea here is to provide an irresistible alternative to open burning for people and since Wisconsin already prohibits burning many of the things people actually burn, maybe the state should be providing help with alternatives to burning.

### **Items needing more detail – not currently included**

Roadway salt – alternative treatments

Identify basin areas that contribute most methyl mercury to Lake Superior (high concs humic substances)

Support mercury/toxics clean sweeps

Bring Air Defenders to schools

Burn barrel education provide alternatives for rural areas where burning is a problem

Pollution Prevention should be WI's pollutant management strategy – there is a need to expand PBT goals to include chemicals of emerging concern

Promote mentoring projects where businesses/industry share information on inventory toxics such as mercury, learn about alternatives, etc.

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Council of Great Lakes Governors' Priority: "Adopt sustainable use practices that protect environmental resources and may enhance the recreational and commercial value of our Great Lakes."

### **Proposed projects Appendix B**

#### **Items needing more detail – not currently included**

Pursue and contribute to sustainable development initiatives in Lake Superior Basin

Emphasize impact of clean, healthy environment on jobs – establish connection

Should be the overarching principle for the strategy. It connects all the other strategy areas

Expand brownfields goal to support development of community sustainability initiatives. Cheq. Bay region is becoming a great model

Create local "green team" network to inventory energy use, waste disposal, etc. and implement alternatives – connect dots between, focus on energy, communities, businesses & individuals on what can be done to save energy & find alternatives

## **INFORMATION AND INDICATORS (I&I)**

Great Lakes Governors' Priority: "Standardize and enhance the methods by which information is collected, recorded and shared within the region."

### **Proposed projects Appendix B**

5. \* Support / achieve funding for county forestry departments to map the wild lakes/shorelines under their ownership with in the basin with ultimate repository the DNR's Wild Lakes Initiative.

### **Items needing more detail – not currently included**

Track areas & years since last cutting for forest lands in the tributary sub watersheds

Support L. Superior monitoring strategy