

Adaptive Management Advisory Group

Webinar Meeting - November 30, 2012

Agenda

Welcome and overview of Task Team mandate – Debbie Lee
Proposed AM Plan (to date) – Wendy Leger
Expectations of the Advisory Group – Jen Read
Questions, Comments and Discussion – Bill Werick to facilitate

Roll call: Please see attached list of participants and agencies

Agenda Item: Proposed AM Plan

- Debbie and Wendy provided an overview of the adaptive management plan
- Please see attached presentation

Agenda Item: Expectations of the Advisory Group

- Jen outlined the expectations of the Advisory Group
- It was noted that the contribution and collaboration of all agencies is key to the adaptive management plan's success

Agenda Item: Questions, Comments and Discussion

Overall, the group voiced enthusiastic support for the Adaptive Management plan presented. The group was supportive of working collaboratively toward building resiliency and prudent planning. There was a fulsome discussion for clarification and considerations for the plan. It was generally agreed that the proposed adaptive management plan as presented was on the right track and only positive feedback was offered.

Administrative

Part of the Advisory Group's advice to the IJC will be to consider which parts of the plan are already being supported by existing agency work and budgets and to identify new funding requirements. Funding will be opportunistic.

Links to university partners may also provide opportunities to capitalize on other research mechanisms to address issues. Through the networking opportunities, both the Levels Advisory Board and Universities would benefit. For example, the University of Michigan Institute for Sustainable Communities is working with municipalities to address climate change adaptation.

In addition to ensuring there is funding for this work, we need to ensure there is support within agencies for coordination of networks and that staff are allocated time to work on these activities.

The Science Advisory Board, Water Quality Board and Council of Great Lakes Research Managers of the IJC are aware of this work and the Task Team will continue to work on making linkages through the Advisory Group and through the IJC Great Lakes Regional Office (GLRO) in Windsor. The Task Team met

with the GLRO on Wednesday, Nov 28th and they are supportive.

Networks

Intent is for networks to be an organic collaboration rather than a rigid structure; similar to communities of practice. Members have personal access to experts. Gentle leadership and administration will be required to keep the networks moving forward.

Indicators

Ecological and socioeconomic indicators have been identified under the lake regulation plans.

Considerations for the Adaptive Management Plan

The plan needs to consider urban and suburban density, as well as rural and environmental factors. This could link to FEMA's Risk MAP program, which is a flood study. Demographics will also be shifting over the next 50 years as will development and redevelopment of the coast line. Projections regarding demographics should underpin the plan. We will need to consider the uncertainty related to demographics and climate change taking a scenario, rather than deterministic, approach.

The plan should be about humans adapting to the variability of natural processes, rather than the adaptation of natural processes for humans.

Outreach and communication with municipalities and the public to reframe issues and understand the variability of natural systems is very important.

We need to consider the endpoint that we want to achieve. When considering resiliency, we need to recognize that things cannot always go back to the way they were before.

Regulatory

Our regulatory programs are often deterministic and we need innovative ways to regulate. We need to consider sustainability, resiliency and longer term thinking. An example is adaptive conditional permitting. Ohio is examining how their coastal regulatory programs can be restructured to become more adaptive.

Examples of Current Work

Ohio is working on a second edition of their coastal design manual.

Ohio may be able to reallocate some resources to undertake pilot projects on certain reaches of the Ohio coast line. Cleveland is undertaking a major waterfront redevelopment that could benefit from adaptive management.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has a project for their small craft harbours looking at researching the impacts of climate change and pilot projects for adaptive management, primarily engineering and modifications to existing structures.

The Great Lakes Commission is willing to collaborate on information needs and communication and outreach initiatives.

Next Steps

The draft Adaptive Management Plan will be distributed to the Advisory Group shortly. A webinar/conference call will be scheduled for mid-December to discuss comments.

Meetings will be scheduled in January to further refine the plan before public engagement begins.

The Advisory Group's assistance will be needed to engage key stakeholders in February.

The final Adaptive Management Plan will be submitted to the IJC by March 31, 2013.

While the official mandate of the Advisory Group extends through to the submission of the Task Team's final report to the IJC by March 31, 2013, it should be recognized that the services of the Advisory Group members may very well extend considerably beyond that, should the IJC decide to transition to the new Levels Advisory Group.