

#### Updates

1. Lake Erie Millennium Network conference on latest science.
  - Increase focus on nutrient contamination and the significant threat to plant and animal communities.
  - Food web shifting towards bottom feeders.
  - Correlation between increase Phosphorus loading and increases in cyanobacteria.
  - Increase in fish advisories related to Canada lowering acceptable levels in fish.
  - Bioaccumulating chemicals such as PCB's, mercury, and dioxin are down but levels in fish tissues are increasing.

#### Great Lakes Legislative update

1. Ballast water legislation and impact of invasive species.
2. Great Lakes Compact.
3. Great Lakes Legacy Act.

#### Focus groups and survey outcomes from July 2007 and February 2008 Public Forum

1. Public Forum identified the following goals.
  - Educating communities, funders and legislators on the importance of funding projects in watersheds which will improve the health of Lake Erie.
  - Unified voice for Lake Erie.

#### Table Discussions at breakfast- Identify needs and objectives to meet goals.

- Lack of ability to communicate with regional planning bodies, county and city commissioners, township trustees.
- Need regional communication and coordination.
- Need unified voice and messaging.
- Need assistance on how to sell projects to funders.
- Difficult to attend meetings around the lake. Should look into video conferencing or webfeed.
- What are municipalities to do with toxic chemicals to prevent them from going into the lake. What is the role of Municipalities?
- Invasive species education information
- Engage corporations- interest in a "corporate" package that can tell corporations that want to be green what to spend their money on. For example, the Home Depot River Clean Up Day, or having big stores (Wal-Mart) host demonstrations from local watershed groups on how the residence actions effect the watershed (i.e. over fertilizing the lawn, reducing shower time to conserve water, etc). One angle on this is to give

template packets to local groups who then can contact the local chain store.

- Engage media-those at the table voiced concern that the media doesn't get it. Two ideas: media training for our folks and a media packet we could send reporters on the issues.