

Lake Erie LaMP Public Forum, February 8, 2008

On February 8th thirty participants joined the Ohio Environmental Council in London, Ontario for the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Program Public Forum.

Participants learned the in's & out's of fundraising in a four part workshop. Other major topics covered include, an update on the Lake Erie Nutrient Management Strategy, state of LaMP implementation and how watershed projects contribute to LaMP goals, success stories from the only non-profit lead clean up of a Lake Erie AOC, the Buffalo Niagara River, and first urban watershed action plan in Canada, Friends of the Coves. A delicious dinner at the Kettle Creek Inn provided the backdrop for conversation on the future direction of the public forum.

Lake Erie LaMP Public Forum Vision Suggestions

1. Council of the Lake
 - Place to network
 - Technical assistance
 - Capacity building
2. Voice of Lake Erie
 - Draft white papers on issues
 - Educate communities and legislative bodies
3. The Forum meet several times a year with one meeting in conjunction with the work group (1/2 forum; 1/2 work group).
4. US forum to educate policymakers on areas that need attention; i.e. data gap in urban settings, how data intersects and connects with lake, streams, and rivers
5. Encourage/state and federal authorities to include involvement in the LaMP Forum as part of grant funding requirements
6. Reach out to municipalities
7. List serve attendees list conference call so committee can refine vision to move forward
8. Inventory existing outreach materials; Environment Canada is in the process of reviewing and updating old materials
9. Involve different types of groups, anglers, farmers' hunters, watershed groups, NGO's
10. Core group subcommittee formed to refine vision

Evaluation results

How can we improve on future LaMP meetings?

- Don't over-schedule the meetings - squeezes out time for networking and thoughts
- Try to recruit more community groups
- More participation from groups around the lake: RAPs, etc.
- Would like to see us come to some resolution about where the Forum is going in the future; perhaps small group could put some recommendations forward to the larger group
- More AOC reps
- Longer agenda/more topics; include time for discussion; second day discussion re: LaMP met this expectation to a great extent
- Make sure participants can see/hear
- Perhaps a site visit

- Keep up the good work
- Alternate meeting conveners b/w US/Canada members
- Hold more forums

What would you like to see the LaMP cover in the future?

- Water education
- Monitoring results at the end of every monitoring session
- Current successes and obstacles to success
- Best practice models and lessons learned from unsuccessful program
- Keep the forum informed of monitoring work/research, public participation has slowed down; it is still a very useful group
- Is the Delta Institute no longer involved?
- Beach improvement
- Drinking water source quality improvement
- CSOs
- Future relationship with RAPs
- Would like to see us come to some resolution about where the Forum is going in the future; perhaps small group could put some recommendations forward to the larger group
- Like to see small groups flesh out a proposal structure/function for the forum for people to review and move ahead
- Stormwater management initiatives
- Shoreline restoration techniques
- Implementation program measures/indicators