

**Ohio Lake Erie Phosphorus Task Force Meeting**  
**April 25, 2008**  
**Ohio Department of Natural Resources**  
**Columbus, Ohio**

Attendance: Larry Antosch, Jack Kramer, Gail Hesse, Seth Hothem, Steve Davis, Libby Dayton, Julie Weatherington-Rice, Eric Partee, Dan Button, John Crumrine, Roger Knight, Greg Nageotte, Kevin Elder, Dave Baker, Rick Wilson, Tod Hestermann, Peter Richards, Robert Mullen, Julie Letterhos, Jeff Reutter. Invited presenters: Chris Wible and Rick Martinez (Scotts)

Updates: Gail began the meeting with introductions and welcoming the presenters from Scotts. A proposed Introduction piece for the recommendations report was passed out by Gail. Dave Baker, Robert Mullen and Libby Dayton passed out a piece they had prepared on research needs. Jeff Reutter brought up the issue of how to determine P targets for Lake Erie. Should we be concerned about phosphorus causing the dead zone or just about the levels needed to eliminate HABs. How would we connect the two and what decrease would be needed? Both issues were originally considered as goals to eliminate under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

In the final report, add documentation for everything that we have looked at or done. Also address how far back we went to look at data and changes. The impact of the P detergent ban did not do that much for Ohio because most of the loading came from Michigan and the Detroit River which had instituted a ban years before Ohio. The dishwasher detergent ban will likely pass, but will show little impact. The legislative perception suggests that it will solve the P problem.

Industrial point sources for Ohio account for about 32.5 MT/year, which totals about 0.3% of the TP load to Lake Erie. Still looking to see if there are industries contributing new loads since 1995, but any impacts would likely be localized.

Chris Wible and Richard Martinez from Scotts provided a presentation on home fertilizer use. The average percent of homes using lawn fertilizers is only 2%. There are different ways to characterize the amount of P fertilizer used. Tax is paid by tonnage, so you could determine that amount of P used by the amount of taxes paid. Fertilizer use is reported statewide in Ohio. In Florida it is reported by county. DIY numbers include potting soil and golf courses (see slide 6 of handouts). Minnesota instituted a statewide ban on P in lawn fertilizers in 2004. Scotts does not produce fertilizers for golf courses, but most lines produce fertilizers with little to no P. See handout of the presentation.

A special session on the P task force was held at the Ohio Academy of Science. Lyngbya was worse this year than last. The Luna Pier power plant had intake blocked last year due to Lyngbya and they have been dredging to remove it. Biologists are looking for Microcystis in the summer only. They are looking at ways to better sample HABs year round. Can algae potentially be used as a green energy source? Still have not been able to positively identify the Lyngbya species.

We deferred review of the ODH handout until the next meeting.

Steve Davis, Dave Baker and Todd Hesterman reported on observations in the Lost Creek watershed. This is a small watershed in Defiance County where P fertilizer applications are being closely controlled in order to better track the effects. There was astronomical runoff of DRP this year. The Environmental Defense Fund, NRCS and Heidelberg are monitoring this area. Joe Nestor told his producers not to apply P in the fall. The watershed is largely agricultural. A number of social factors caused fertilizers to be applied on frozen ground right before a storm event. Stormwater and CAP are putting together a proposal to address application protocols for fertilizer. They are looking at economical and educational incentives. A social infrastructure is needed to educate and advise applicants.

Randy Bournique from Ohio EPA provided a presentation on Toledo Harbor and Open Lake Disposal. Dredging is being done only in critical areas to keep the harbor open and not to the extent of total federal navigation channel maintenance. Over the years, sediment has been gradually getting cleaner (less contaminated). In the last year, the Corps of Engineers found only one site they think needs to be put in the CDF and want to dispose of approximately 1.4 million cubic yards of dredged sediment in the open lake. Ohio EPA is trying to focus on removing the sediment as part of the cost already borne by the Corps, but need to find a partner to pick up the cost to fund reuse. It is likely that very little of the P in the sediment is bioavailable. Is there a potential to spread Lyngbya by doing OLD?

Comments by the Task Force included:

Is removal of the dredged sediment material considered a net removal of P

What is the bioavailability of P in sediment? Stirring up sediment could potentially make P more bioavailable. A load of 1830 MT of P per year is measured at the Waterville gauge, so removal of 1212 MT of P from the lake per year would be significant.

Need about \$10 million a year to find another use for sediment rather than OLD.