

PROGRESS REPORT

USEPA-Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Projects

Grant: GL-00E00876-0

Project Title: Sheboygan River Area of Concern: Pathway to Delisting Beneficial Use Impairments

Reporting Period Covered: 1/01/2012 to 6/30/2012

Principal Investigator: Steve Galarneau

1. What work was accomplished for this reporting period? Report should quantify results as measurable products, i.e. numbers, acres, contacts, improvements in water quality, habitat, etc.

Following is a list of work accomplished organized by sub-project:

- **Kiwanis Park Shoreline Restoration:** This work is being completed in partnership with the City of Sheboygan and Sheboygan County under a sub-award aid agreement. The agreement with these partners was updated for the construction and maintenance phases of the project. The design contractor completed project design, permitting and the QAPP. The project was put out for construction bids and was subsequently re-bid (see question 3 for details on rebid). A contract is being negotiated with the construction contractor and an oversight contract is being negotiated with the design engineer at this time. The USGS has been retained to collect and analyze hydrology and hydraulic data to support these restoration projects. Their field work is complete and their QAPP is fully approved.
- **Taylor Dr. and Indiana Ave. Riparian Area and Wetland Restoration:** This work is being completed in partnership with the City of Sheboygan and Sheboygan County under a sub-award aid agreement. The agreement with these partners was updated for the construction and maintenance phases of the project. The design contractor completed project design, permitting and the QAPP. During the design phase of the project it was determined excavation of floodplain areas would be necessary. Due to possible PCB contamination present soil sampling was performed (see question 3 for details on sampling). The project was put out for construction bids and was subsequently re-bid (see question 3 for details on rebid). A contract is being negotiated with the construction contractor and an oversight contract is being negotiated with the design engineer at this time. The USGS has been retained to collect and analyze hydrology and hydraulic data to support these restoration projects. Their field work is complete and their QAPP is fully approved.
- **Wildwood Island Area Restoration:** This work is being completed in partnership with the City of Sheboygan and Sheboygan County under a sub-award aid agreement. The agreement with these partners was updated for the construction and maintenance phases of the project. The design contractor completed project design, permitting and the QAPP. During the design phase of the project it was determined excavation of floodplain areas would be necessary. Due to possible PCB contamination present soil sampling was performed (see question 3 for details on sampling). The project was put out for

construction bids and was subsequently re-bid (see question 3 for details on re-bid). A contract is being negotiated with the construction contractor and an oversight contract is being negotiated with the design engineer at this time. The USGS has been retained to collect and analyze hydrology and hydraulic data to support these restoration projects. Their field work is complete and their QAPP is fully approved.

- **Shoreline Stabilization in Problem Areas:** This work is being completed under a sub-award with Sheboygan County and the City of Sheboygan. This project has changed several of the implementation locations since the last semi-annual report, as an agreement with Kohler Company could not be reached for sites on their property. The previous aid agreement for this project with the county was nullified and the aid agreement with the city and county was amended to reflect the change of location adjacent to the other habitat restoration sites (please see question 3 for details on the location change). Work at the Esslingen Park/Taylor Drive sites has continued uninterrupted. The design contractor completed project design, permitting and the QAPP. The project was put out for construction bids and was subsequently re-bid (see question 3 for details on re-bid). A contract is being negotiated with the construction contractor and an oversight contract is being negotiated with the design engineer at this time.
- **In-Stream Habitat Improvements:** Field work for mapping of the existing river habitat is complete and the data analysis and map production is underway. The QAPP for habitat mapping has contingent approval. An engineering contractor has been hired and they are in the preliminary design process. A QAPP for this phase of the project is also being completed. WDNR fisheries operations staff will complete the construction of the habitat improvements.
- **Targeted Invasive Species Control:** A contractor has been retained to complete invasive species management of the prioritized sites. Landowner contact and property access agreements were developed. Working with local municipalities, the process of contacting private landowners and securing access for treatment is underway. The contractor is preparing a QAPP and a work plan.
- **Evaluation of Waterfowl Consumption Advisories within the AOC:** Collection of 10 more Canada geese was completed in June and traps for mallards are being constructed. Sample processing and analysis are underway. A QAPP has been prepared and has contingent approval.
- **Evaluation of Fish Tumors and Other Deformities:** Fish Tumor sampling was completed in late March/early April. Tumor analysis is in progress by USGS/University of West Virginia. A QAPP was prepared and has partial approval.
- **Benthos and Plankton BUIs Evaluation in WI's Lake Michigan AOCs:** This project is being completed under contract with the USGS. A QAPP is has been approved.
- **UW-Extension Education and Outreach:** Education and outreach for the January-March quarter included: planning, coordinating and facilitating an inter-agency public information meeting which was held on Jan 25; producing and distributing the first issue of the Sheboygan River Explorer a quarterly newsletter for the CAC and greater public; facilitating 3 Fish and Wildlife TAC meetings; assisting our CAC partner Camp Y-Koda; planning for and collaborating with partner agencies on public education, information and outreach efforts

for the cleanup and habitat projects this spring and summer. The education and outreach efforts for the April-June quarter focused on developing information materials for the public and connecting with target audiences directly impacted by the dredging and construction this summer, especially the community of boaters and businesses along the lower river. UWEX planned and developed five exhibit panels; presented three programs to community classes and groups; oriented program partners to the AOC; hosted an activity/information station at two special events; coordinated the filming of one AOC live program, recorded nine slide programs, and served as spokesperson on a video; developed the second issue of the "Sheboygan River Explorer" newsletter and wrote articles for two other newsletters; developed "Boat Safely" cards to inform Sheboygan River boaters about contacts for dredging updates; facilitated the monthly TAC meetings; participated in a dredging work group meeting; assisted with distribution of the new Sheboygan River FAQs; and organized AOC contact lists and photo collections.

2. *What, if any, changes were made from the Object Class Categories listed in Sec. B of the SF 424A or Box 29 of the IA, as applicable?*

No changes have been made.

3. *If a problem was encountered, what action was taken to correct it?*

Several issues arose during the reporting period including the need to sample soil and the habitat restoration sites for PCBs, the subsequent impact of the contaminated soil found on the budget, the need to re-bid the project and a change in sites for the Shoreline Stabilization in Problem Areas Project.

PCB Soil Sampling

During the preliminary design process for the habitat restoration projects at Kiwanis Park, Wildwood Island and Taylor Drive & Indiana Avenue, removal of invasive species from the project areas via excavation was determined to be the best option for long term success. This removal is necessary both to improve the habitat and allow new vegetation to be planted within this construction season. Due to historical contamination issues and the need to dispose of this material offsite, sampling was determined to be necessary in the invasive species removal excavation areas as well as an area of excavation for shoreline stabilization work near known PCB deposits in the river.

Sampling was planned, coordinated and performed by WDNR staff. A total of 28 composited core samples were collected from the soils and two ponar grab samples were collected from sediments at the habitat restoration sites. WDNR submitted a quality assurance plan to EPA for this work which was approved. Analyses indicated that PCBs were detectable in every sample with a range of concentration from 9.3 to 0.044 mg/kg. These concentrations are below the Sheboygan River & Harbor Superfund project action level for floodplains. As the soil contains a level of PCBs which requires and also contains

invasive plant material the material will need to be disposed of at a licensed landfill. A memo detailing the budget impacts of this PCB contaminated material as well as QA documentation were submitted to EPA.

Re-bid and Contaminated Soil Impact on the Project Budget

At the time the habitat restoration project budgets were formulated, the Great Lakes Legacy Act project was in early planning stages. It was anticipated that contaminated sediment removal necessary outside of the Superfund actions would be accomplished through this program. Large scale excavation at the habitat restoration sites or the presence of such contaminant-impacted sediments was also not anticipated. Thus, the budget did not include funds necessary to dispose of approximately 15,500 cubic yards of sediments at a licensed landfill.

During the first round of bidding on the Kiwanis/Taylor/Wildwood/Shoreline projects there was significant interest from contractors in bidding on the projects. However, only one bid was received, which was about \$1.3 million over the project budget. Some contractors indicated that time to bid as well as time to construct may have been an issue that led them to not bid. The City of Sheboygan, the entity contracting for the work indicated that one bid, especially for such a large project would likely not pass the City Council. All parties on the project team agreed that it was preferable to rebid, especially given that the bid was over budget. The results of the bid process, our options and preferred path were shared with EPA. EPA allowed an extension of the substantial completion date to November 30, 2012 and the four projects were let out for rebid.

The results of the re-bid were not much more favorable than the original bids. Two bids were received, both for an amount over the project budget. Again there was significant interest in the re-bidding process from contractors but only two bids were received. Again the project team shared the result and the options with EPA immediately. In order to keep the projects on schedule for completion this year, EPA committed additional funding to the projects. The grant amendment process is in progress. We are able to absorb some of the unanticipated costs of the PCB contaminated material within our budget due to cost-savings associated with relocating the shoreline stabilization projects to the same locations as the other habitat restoration projects and modifying some of the originally planned habitat improvements.

Shoreline Stabilization in Problem Areas Site Change

At the time the grant application was prepared and funds received, a variety of sites had been identified as possible areas for work under the Shoreline Stabilization in Problem Areas project. As was explained in the grant, more work was necessary before final sites could be chosen. A series of sites for project implementation had been identified by our TAC during a field trip in the fall of 2010 and was refined by a subgroup of the TAC in 2011. The sites that were chosen for implementation were on Kohler Company property and in the areas of our other habitat restoration projects. We partnered with Sheboygan County to implement the project through their existing shoreline stabilization program.

The County made initial contact Kohler Co. regarding the projects during 2011. We had a series of meetings with Kohler Co. throughout 2011 and early 2012 to work on project details and cost share agreements. While Kohler Company was cooperative and supportive of the projects, we could not reach an agreement to implement the project within our respective timeframes. Kohler will still be implementing the majority of the shoreline stabilization projects that we had discussed without the cost share from the County.

Since we were not able to come to an agreement with Kohler we allocated the entire Shoreline Stabilization project funding to the sites near our other habitat restoration projects. With the limited time left to implement these projects we do not have time to seek additional sites, design and construct improvements. This change does not affect our ability to complete the Shoreline Stabilization in Problem Areas project nor the completion of one of our "Tier I" habitat restoration projects.

4. What work is projected for the new reporting period activity?

The following activities are projected for the next reporting period (7/01/2012 to 12/31/2012):

- **Kiwanis Park Shoreline Restoration:** The sub-award aid agreement with the City of Sheboygan and Sheboygan County will be amended to reflect the additional funding for habitat project construction. A construction QAPP will be prepared and contracts with the construction and oversight contractors will be completed. Implementation of the habitat restoration will take place with construction substantially completed by November 30, 2012.
- **Taylor Dr. and Indiana Ave. Riparian Area and Wetland Restoration:** The sub-award aid agreement with the City of Sheboygan and Sheboygan County will be amended to reflect the additional funding for habitat project construction. A construction QAPP will be prepared and contracts with the construction and oversight contractors will be completed. Implementation of the habitat restoration will take place with construction substantially completed by November 30, 2012.
- **Wildwood Island Area Restoration:** The sub-award aid agreement with the City of Sheboygan and Sheboygan County will be amended to reflect the additional funding for habitat project construction. A construction QAPP will be prepared and contracts with the construction and oversight contractors will be completed. Implementation of the habitat restoration will take place with construction substantially completed by November 30, 2012.
- **Shoreline Stabilization in Problem Areas:** The sub-award aid agreement with the City of Sheboygan and Sheboygan County will be amended to reflect the additional funding for habitat project construction. A construction QAPP will be prepared and contracts with the construction and oversight contractors will be completed. Implementation of the habitat restoration will take place with construction substantially completed by November 30, 2012.

- **In-Stream Habitat Improvements:** The habitat mapping contractor will complete data analysis and mapping and obtain full QAPP approval. The design contractor will complete the plans, permitting and oversight. Construction of the improvements will be completed by WDNR fisheries operations crews in September 2012.
- **Targeted Invasive Species Control:** The contractor will complete a QAPP, work plan and permitting and begin to implement invasive species treatment.
- **Evaluation of Waterfowl Consumption Advisories within the AOC:** DNR will obtain full QAPP approval, collect 10 mallards and submit the samples to laboratory.
- **Evaluation of Fish Tumors and Other Deformities:** Samples will be analyzed planning for a second year of sampling (if necessary) will begin.
- **Evaluation of Benthos and Plankton BUIs in WI's Lake Michigan AOCs:** Field sample collection will be completed.
- **UW-Extension Education and Outreach:** The anticipated focus is to continue to build community awareness and sense of cooperation regarding the dredging and habitat restoration projects; and to continue to facilitate the TAC. This will be done through our own efforts and through teamwork with partner agencies working on the Sheboygan River projects.

5. *Is the project work on schedule? List activities from the Work Plan, and any required Quality System Documentation, and report as percent completed. (a) This reporting period (b) For the project.*

a) The project work is generally on schedule. There was a small delay in the Kiwanis/Taylor/Wildwood/Shoreline projects from the re-bid process. As discussed with EPA, it was necessary to extend the deadline of these projects past Sept. 30, 2012 due to other construction and budget factors anyway.

b) Some 2011 field sampling was delayed until 2012 due to the timing of the grant award as previously discussed with the EPA project officer. All of the field work for the Benthos & Plankton BUIs Evaluation and In-Stream Habitat Improvements projects will be completed this year.

- **Kiwanis Park Shoreline Restoration:**
 - Approx. 25% complete
 - Design QAPP: Approved
 - Construction QAPP: In Progress
 - Still remaining: Implementation of project; maintain and monitor for following three growing seasons.
- **Taylor Dr. and Indiana Ave. Riparian Area and Wetland Restoration:**
 - Approx. 25% complete.
 - Design QAPP: Approved
 - Construction QAPP: In Progress

- Still remaining: Implementation of project; maintain and monitor for following three growing seasons.
- **Wildwood Island Area Restoration:**
 - Approx. 25% complete.
 - Design QAPP: Approved
 - Construction QAPP: In Progress
 - Still remaining: Implementation of project; maintain and monitor for following three growing seasons.
- **Shoreline Stabilization in Problem Areas:**
 - Approx. 25% complete.
 - Design QAPP: Approved
 - Construction QAPP: In Progress
 - Still remaining: Implementation of shoreline stabilization; maintain and monitor for following three growing seasons.
- **In-Stream Habitat Improvements:**
 - Approx. 20% complete
 - Design QAPP: In Progress
 - Construction QAPP: In Progress
 - Still remaining: QAPP approval; complete design, permitting, and implementation of habitat improvements.
- **Targeted Invasive Species Control:**
 - Approx. 10% complete.
 - QAPP: In Progress
 - Still remaining: Complete permitting, implement invasive species treatment; follow up treatment for three consecutive growing seasons
- **Evaluation of Waterfowl Consumption Advisories within the AOC:**
 - Approx. 30% complete.
 - QAPP: Partially Approved
 - Still remaining: Collect year 2 mallards and scaup to and submit for analysis; collect year 3 geese, mallards and scaup and submit for analysis; data analysis and reporting.
- **Evaluation of Fish Tumors and Other Deformities:**
 - Approx. 35% complete
 - QAPP: Partially Approved
 - Still remaining: Analyze samples, and complete data analysis and reporting; possible second year of sampling at reference site.
- **Benthos and Plankton BUIs Evaluation in WI's Lake Michigan AOCs:**
 - Approx. 30% complete.
 - QAPP: Approved
 - Still remaining: Complete two remaining field sample collection cycles, analyze samples, and complete data analysis and reporting.
- **UW-Extension Education and Outreach:**
 - Approx. 50% complete

- No QA documentation necessary
- Still remaining: Facilitation of meetings month by month, planning and development of educational materials and public programs and events.

6. Does the project funding rate support the work progress? Report as percent spent of budgeted amounts for Federal and non-Federal.

Approximately 9.5% of the total federal funding for this project (\$5,088,500) has been drawn for project work. However, a total of \$3,458,175.40 or 68% of the federal funding has been encumbered for work being performed. The funding encumbered is more reflective of the actual progress of work on the projects. There is always a delay between contractor billing and funding drawdown. The majority of the funding should be drawn down for construction, as the substantial completion date for projects is either September 30 or November 30, 2012.

7. Is there a change in principal investigator?

No.

8. Will the project take longer than the approved project period? If so, have you formally requested an amendment in writing?

No. Sub-project schedules have been adjusted in consultation with EPA, but all of the projects are still on target to be completed within the approved project period.

9. What is the date and amount of your latest drawdown request? If no request has been submitted, please explain.

The last drawdown for this project was on 6/21/12 for \$19,062. The total drawn on this grant through 06/30/12 is \$482,890.

10. What is the date of your latest entry into the Great Lakes Accountability System? If no recent entry has been submitted, please explain.

The last entry into GLAS was on 7/10/2012.