

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: 7/01/2012 to 12/31/2012

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, Taylor Dr. and Indiana Ave. Riparian Area and Wetland Restoration, Wildwood Island Area Restoration, Shoreline Stabilization in Problem Areas:** A QAPP for the construction phase was completed and approved. Construction of the habitat work commenced August 15 and was completed by November 30. The City of Sheboygan and the design engineer provided on-site construction oversight during the project. Dry conditions due to the drought provided easy access for construction adjacent to and in the river. While most of the construction went as planned several minor adjustments were made due to field conditions. The USGS continued their analysis and reporting for the hydrologic assessment.
- **In-Stream Habitat Improvements:** Data analysis and map production for the habitat mapping was completed. The QAPP for habitat mapping was approved and final documentation for the UWGB mapping has been submitted to EPA. The designs for the in-stream habitat were completed for two sites, one on Village of Kohler property adjacent to Blackwolf Run golf course and the other at Rochester Park in Sheboygan Falls. WDNR fisheries operations staff constructed the habitat improvements under the oversight of the design engineer, Interfluve.
- **Targeted Invasive Species Control:** The contractor prepared a QAPP and a work plan for year 1 of invasive species management. Securing access for treatment is still underway, with just a few outstanding agreements to return. Approximately 60 sites will be included in this project. The contractor completed a first round of treatment at the sites with *Phragmites australis* in the fall.
- **Evaluation of Waterfowl Consumption Advisories within the AOC:** Walk in duck traps and a drop net were constructed in early July. A total of 10 mallard ducks were collected from July 24 to August 2. Sample processing and analysis are underway. A QAPP has been prepared and has contingent approval.
- **Evaluation of Fish Tumors and Other Deformities:** Tumor analysis is in progress by USGS/University of West Virginia as well as isotope analysis by UW-Madison. A QAPP was prepared and has partial approval. Preparations for a sampling at a reference site in 2013 were initiated.

- **Benthos and Plankton BUIs Evaluation in WI's Lake Michigan AOCs:** All fields work was completed and analysis of the samples is underway. Some preliminary data was received. A QAPP is has been approved.
- **UW-Extension Education and Outreach:** The following education and outreach activities were completed in July-December through our contract with UW-Extension. The project to develop and install 12 sets of three exhibit panels along the river project sites was completed and more than 15 additional sets of exhibits were printed for indoor use at public sites throughout the area. The July 26 Fish and Wildlife Technical Advisory Committee meeting was coordinated and facilitated. Planning and collaboration with Camp Y-Koda and IL/IN Sea Grant to develop and coordinate the "Testing the Waters" high school education program and the Sheboygan River billboard contest continued throughout the quarter, with implementation in October. The August 15 EPA kick-off media event was hosted. Three meetings were attended for the dredging work group and boater coordination/information. Updates were made periodically to the UWEX AOC FYI website and the photo collection. Interviews were provided for two video projects. Roving interpretation services were provided along the river in September. Eleven programs and tours were provided for the public and special requests from UW-Sheboygan, Warriner Middle School and Sheboygan North High School, reaching 251 people. Indoor programs and outdoor field days for 335 high school students from nine high schools throughout Sheboygan County were completed through the "Testing the Waters" program. The fall issue of "The Sheboygan River Explorer" newsletter was developed and mailed out. The UWEX AOC FYI website was updated regularly and the on-line photo collection was greatly expanded.

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?*

No issues arose during the reporting period.

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

The following activities are projected for the next reporting period (01/01/2013 to 6/30/2013):

- **Kiwanis Park Shoreline Restoration, Taylor Dr. and Indiana Ave. Riparian Area and Wetland Restoration, Wildwood Island Area Restoration, Shoreline Stabilization in Problem Areas:** Limited landscaping will take place in the spring. This includes live stake plantings as well as a few polygons that were not completed before November 30. Due to the timing of the award of the construction contract, the contractor was not able to get the

multiple herbicide applications necessary for adequate removal in some areas with invasive species management or preparatory application. These areas will be addressed along with the live stake planting. The contractor will also monitor the landscape plantings and invasive species removal and perform follow up maintenance and treatments. USGS reporting will be completed.

- **In-Stream Habitat Improvements:** Follow up landscape repair will occur in spring including shrub and/or tree planting and any necessary repair to seeded areas.
- **Targeted Invasive Species Control:** The contractor will continue invasive plant treatment and site monitoring.
- **Evaluation of Waterfowl Consumption Advisories within the AOC:** DNR will continue with waterfowl sampling and data analysis.
- **Evaluation of Fish Tumors and Other Deformities:** Sampling at the reference site will be completed and samples will be submitted for analysis.
- **Evaluation of Benthos and Plankton BUIs in WI's Lake Michigan AOCs:** Reporting will be completed.
- **UW-Extension Education and Outreach:** Continue with community outreach and education efforts 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.*

Work is on schedule for this reporting period and for the project.

- **Kiwanis Park Shoreline Restoration:**
 - Approx. 75% complete
 - Design QAPP: Approved
 - Construction QAPP: Approved
 - Still remaining: Maintain and monitor project sites for three growing seasons.
- **Taylor Dr. and Indiana Ave. Riparian Area and Wetland Restoration:**
 - Approx. 75% complete
 - Design QAPP: Approved
 - Construction QAPP: Approved
 - Still remaining: Maintain and monitor project sites for three growing seasons.
- **Wildwood Island Area Restoration:**
 - Approx. 75% complete
 - Design QAPP: Approved
 - Construction QAPP: Approved
 - Still remaining: Maintain and monitor project sites for three growing seasons.
- **Shoreline Stabilization in Problem Areas:**

- Approx. 75% complete
- Design QAPP: Approved
- Construction QAPP: Approved
- Still remaining: Maintain and monitor project sites for three growing seasons.
- **In-Stream Habitat Improvements:**
 - Approx. 90% complete
 - UWGB QAPP: Partial Approval
 - Design/Construction QAPP: Approved
 - Still remaining: Follow up landscape repair as necessary, obtain full UWGB QAPP approval.
- **Targeted Invasive Species Control:**
 - Approx. 20% complete.
 - QAPP: Approved
 - Still remaining: Implement invasive species treatment and monitoring through 2015.
- **Evaluation of Waterfowl Consumption Advisories within the AOC:**
 - Approx. 60% complete.
 - QAPP: Partially Approved
 - Still remaining: Collect year 2 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. 50% complete
 - QAPP: Partially Approved
 - Still remaining: Complete data and reporting; second year of sampling at reference site.
- **Benthos and Plankton BUIs Evaluation in WI's Lake Michigan AOCs:**
 - Approx. 80% complete.
 - QAPP: Approved
 - Still remaining: Complete data analysis and reporting.
- **UW-Extension Education and Outreach:**
 - Approx. 75% 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 44% of the total federal funding for this project (\$6,408,712) has been drawn for project work. However, 94% of the federal funding has been expended or encumbered for work to be performed. There is always a delay between contractor billing and funding drawdown. Final invoices should be received in the next reporting period for construction activities.

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.

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 12/06/12 for \$1,703,836. Total drawn to date for the grant is \$2,837,864.

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 the end of the last quarter as well as this quarter.