**Outreach and Education Efforts towards then Delisting of the**

 **St. Louis River Area of Concern**

**Second Quarter Activity Report**

**(July –September 2011)**

**Aesthetics BUI**

* SLRA staff developed and printed an informational card on the Degradation of Aesthetics fact sheet for Lake Superior Day handout. These cards have been distributed to the public by SLRA staff at outreach efforts, including Lake Superior Day activities on July 15 and 16, the annual canoe tour on August 16, 2011, and two public meetings held September 21 & 22, 2011. (copy of card is attached)
* SLRA staff organized and facilitated a meeting with AOC coordinators on August 24 to discuss the Stage II and Aesthetics BUI. Staff developed the meeting agenda, recorded meeting notes. The minutes were sent out to participants for review and then finalized. (Attached)
* SLRA staff developed a questionnaire that would be used to gather public input regarding the Aesthetics BUI. The AOC coordinators were asked to review this document and provided comments for the final version. This public input will be used to help guide the process that will be necessary to remove this BUI. (Questionnaire is attached)
* SLRA organized and facilitated two public meetings for the purpose of providing information to the public about the Aesthetics BUI and to gather public input on this issue. These meetings were held on September 21 in Superior and September 22. A total of four people attended these meetings. However, there was good media coverage of these meetings Two TV station interviewed SLRA staff. (Newspaper article is attached. A list of attendees and summary of the public input from these meeting is attached.)
* SLRA staff and college interns spent time at several boat landings in Duluth and Superior on September 10 and 17 surveying boaters about the aesthetics of the St Louis River. These landings include Rice’s Point, Clyde Ave, Arrowhead Pier, and Loon's Foot Landing. SLRA staff provided boaters with information about the aesthetics problem and then asked questions about what they saw or did not see when there were last on the river. Six volunteers signed up to complete a log of their river experiences for rest of the season. (List of volunteers is attached. Survey attached. A summary of the volunteer input will be submitted with the next report)

**Fish Tumors and Deformities BUI**

* SLRA staff developed and printed an informational card for the Fish Tumor & Deformities BUI. These cards have been distributed to the public by SLRA staff at outreach efforts, including Lake Superior Day activities on July 15 and 16, and the annual canoe tour on August 16, 2011. (Attached)

**Stage II RAP**

* SLRA staff created a chart of Stage II RAP List of 43 Recommendations by the nine BUIs which included the 2001 status and listed agencies that may have information that would be helpful in determining the current status of these recommendations. (Attached)
* SLRA staff developed a list of questions and contact people to ask regarding the 43 recommendations for status update purposes. (Attached)
* SLRA staff participated at AOC coordinators meetings on Sept 6 and Sept 20. Marie record meeting minutes distributed these for review and provided final notes. (Attached)
* SLRA staff attended the Habitat Work group meeting to September 15. Much of the agenda of this meeting involved the Framework Implementation efforts. Marie recorded minutes of this meeting. (Attached)

**Other SLRA Outreach Activity**

* SLRA staff planned and organized a boat tour of the St Louis River that was held on August 16, 2011 and highlighted current GLRI-funded projects as well as potential future projects.
* The SLRA contracted with Vista Fleet to provide a suitable boat and crew. There were 127 attendees, which included key local community and business leaders from both the MN and WI side of the river, legislative staff representing several members of Congress, members of the MN Clean Water Council, administrators and staff from a number of partnering governmental and nonprofit agencies. (A list of attendees is attached.) The SLRA had a number of partners that participated in the planning of this boat tour, including the WI Dept of Natural Resources, MN Pollution Control Agency, Duluth Port Authority, MN Land Trust and MN Environmental Partnerships. (Tour itinerary is attached)
* SLRA staff assisted in updating the informational handout that was developed and printed for this tour. The UW Ext revised and printed 2000 copies of the brochure. (Attached)
* The SLRA staff updated the St Louis River Alliance website and added a new page about the St Louis River AOC.

 <http://www.stlouisriver.org/AOC%20Issues.html>

* and the Degradation of Aesthetics and Fish Tumors BUI’s. <http://www.stlouisriver.org/degredation%20of%20aesthetics.html>
* <http://www.stlouisriver.org/fish_tumors_deformaties.html>
* SLRA staff provided information about the work on the BUI and the Stage 2 RAP to the 50 participants of the August 20 Canoe Tour.

**Project Outcomes during this period**

* Informational Card for the Aesthetic and Fish Tumor and Deformities BUI.
* Questionnaire for Public Input on Degradation of Aesthetics
* Summary of Public input gathered from boat landings and public meetings
* Newspaper article on public meetings for Degradation of Aesthetics
* Agenda for Public meeting
* List of attendees at public meeting.
* List of volunteers who signed up to log information on the river aesthetics.
* Minutes from the AOC coordinator meting held Sept 6 and September 20.
* Agenda and minutes from the Degradation of Aesthetics BUI meeting held August 24, 2011.
* List of 129 attendees of the St Louis River Estuary tour held August 16, 2011.
* Itinerary of the St Louis River Estuary tour held August 16, 2011.
* Update version of the St Louis River Restoration Initiative brochure.
* Agenda and minutes of the St Louis River Alliance Habitat Work Group meeting of September 15, 2011.
* Stage II Remedial Action Plan -Excel chart of the 43 Recommendations, listing their status in 2001 and agencies to contact for information to help determine the status for 2011.
* Stage II Remedial Action BUI Progress Since 2011 –List of contact people and questions.
* Website site updates. Available at url addresses given below

 <http://www.stlouisriver.org/AOC%20Issues.html>

<http://www.stlouisriver.org/degredation%20of%20aesthetics.html>

* <http://www.stlouisriver.org/fish_tumors_deformaties.html>

**List of Attached Documents**

1. Informational Cards for the Aesthetic and Fish Tumor and Deformities BUI (2).
2. Questionnaire for Public Input on Degradation of Aesthetics
3. Summary of Public input gathered from boat landings and public meetings
4. Newspaper article on public meetings for Degradation of Aesthetics
5. Agenda for Public meeting
6. List of attendees at public meeting & Summary of Public input gathered from public meeting.
7. List of volunteers who signed up to log information on the river aesthetics, letter to volunteers, Volunteer Instructions and Log sheet.
8. Minutes from the AOC coordinator meting held Sept 6 and September 20.
9. Agenda and minutes from the Degradation of Aesthetics BUI meeting held August 24, 2011
10. List of attendees of the St Louis River Estuary tour held August 16, 2011.
11. Itinerary of the St Louis River Estuary tour held August 16, 2011.
12. Update version of the St Louis River Restoration Initiative brochure.
13. Agenda and minutes of the St Louis River Alliance Habitat Work Group meeting of September 15, 2011.
14. Stage II Remedial Action Plan -Excel chart of the 43 Recommendations, listing their status in 2001 and agencies to contact for information to help determine the status for 2011.
15. Stage II Remedial Action BUI Progress Since 2011 –List of contact people and questions.