

DRAFT

CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY

Restoring Flow Regimes through Growing Water Transaction: Basin-wide Case Studies #755

March 18, 2005

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. EST

Participants

Kieser & Associates (K&A): Mark Kieser and Andrew Fang

Shaw Group: Bill Abolt and Erin Daughton

Applied Ecological Services (AES): Steve Apfelbaum

Policy Solutions: Henry Henderson

King & Associates: Dennis King

First Quarterly Report to the Fund

Mark reminded everyone of the first quarterly report for the project is due to the Fund on April 4th. We will report to the Fund what has been done to date and project the work for the next quarter.

Menomonee River Valley Case Update

Erin indicated that she is in the process of constructing the Resource Inventory for the Menomonee River Valley. Erin is comparing and combining different categories and sub-categories of resources. The case study project team is discussing level of details for each category. They expect to finalize the categories by next week.

Major categories can be the media for funding resources, e.g., air, water, waste, and energy. Subcategories can be, for example, sewer, watersheds, and stormwater under the water category. Resources can also be non-monetary, such as technical assistance. For funding resources, items such as grant sources, eligibility requirements, cost-sharing requirements, and grant history in the Valley will be provided in the Inventory.

Erin noted that a spreadsheet format is being used to develop the Inventory. Basic database functions such as search and sorting will be incorporated. The team also plans to incorporate data from Steve's other GLPF project into the Inventory.

Mark commented that it would be beneficial to keep a potential Phase II implementation project in mind when the current Inventory is being developed. Bill and Henry concurred. They pointed out that the current Inventory will be a sustainable development planning tool. This tool can be applied in other settings/places to identify transactions that can readily be implemented. Bill and Henry have also started discussion with Dave Ullrich of the Great Lakes Cities Initiative for

application of the Inventory. Candidate cities may include Green Bay and Racine. (Mark noted that Dave Ullrich is on our list of external reviewers for the project.) Bill further commented that the Resource Inventory tools make it possible for users to go beyond landuse plans to incorporate other ecological and economical value creation in development activities (e.g., water resources, green infrastructure, and water front development).

Mark asked the case study team to provide the project team a written summary on the design of Inventory when they feel it is appropriate.

Upper/Middle Cuyahoga River Case Study Update

Steve provided a written and oral update on the various elements of this case study. In addition to the memo, Steve highlighted the following efforts:

- Established a protection matrix for six parcels of land around the conservation development setting including fee title purchase and application for the State Revolving Fund to purchase easements.
- Wetland restoration will be performed according the Wetland Banking Rule that the State of Ohio is currently modifying. Steve wants the restoration to serve as a showcase/model for the new rule. He believes this will be valuable to elevate the level of performance for all who are involved with wetland mitigation.
- The case study team will be in contact with municipal representatives in the next few weeks to discuss water-for-park-access ideas.
- Steve will talk to the aggregate industry from the area soon to further discuss issues such as buffer easement between quarries and the river/lake, protection for quarry pit lakes (generally 100 ft deep with 80-200 ac surface area), and the industry's commitment to this case study project.

St. Joseph River Watershed Case Update

Mark indicated that he has met with the St. Joseph River Initiative, the primary non-profit watershed organization working in the watershed. The Initiative has a fairly strong presence in the watershed. It is the organization that we should go with for any coordination work. However, operations of the Initiative are mostly supported by grants and they would welcome opportunities to have stable financial resources for activities.

Mark noted that many cities in the watershed, including Fort Wayne, IN, are in their 20-year planning process. Flood prevention, sanitary sewer capacity and water supply (e.g., reservoir capacity and water withdrawal) are all important items in the process. Fort Wayne is also considering expanding water supply to surrounding communities located outside the Great Lakes Basin. There are opportunities in the watershed for growing water/ecological improvement projects. The St. Joseph River Initiative is ready to participate in demonstration wetland and stream restoration projects. George commented that these demonstration projects can be incorporated into his other Growing Water project with GLPF for investment and improvement assessment. Mark invited George to join him in April to meet partners in the watershed. Steve

noted that GIS models are available from AES for assessing restoration opportunities in the St. Joseph River watershed and AES is also willing to contribute to projects in the watershed.

Brooklyn Heights Proposal

Mark indicated that the Brooklyn Height project was one of original case studies that was dropped during the proposal review process. This project involves landfill closure, redevelopment, and river corridor restoration at four sites along the Cuyahoga River in the Village of Brooklyn Heights, OH. K&A and AES, in cooperation of Wade Trim, restructured the proposal and submitted a pre-proposal to the Lake Erie Protection Fund. It is expected that request for full proposals will be issued on April 26.

The landowners and the mayor of Brooklyn Heights are very excited about the project and the potential development opportunities presented in the proposal. Representatives from the City of Cleveland, are interested in partnering as well given similar debris dumps in their jurisdiction which lie immediately north of those in Brooklyn Heights. Steve is working with municipal contacts in these regards. For the Lake Erie Protection Fund proposal, the Village promised a 100% match.

Wetland Mitigation Scoring Program

Dennis briefly introduced this scoring program that he co-developed for setting mitigation ratios for the NOAA coastal wetland mitigation policy. A spreadsheet calculator and the accompanying report of the scoring program have been sent to team members.

This scoring program uses eight parameters to determine the mitigation ratio for a specific project. These parameters include location, expected function losses, potential for success, years taken to mature, and a failure factor, etc. Dennis noted that he had presented the scoring program in Seattle and Washington D.C. and NOAA wanted to incorporate it into its wetland mitigation policy.

Dennis noted that most scoring exercises would result in mitigation ratios greater than 1:1, while 1:1 is possible. Steve commented that in the Midwest, mitigation ratios are usually 1.5 to 2:1. This is mostly due to the non-linear recovery rate of restored wetlands (an exponential, then level, and then regressing stage [due to sedimentation and invasion of exotic species]). Dennis answered that the scoring program can be modified to adapt to non-linear recovery.

Dennis further indicated that the scoring program has potential application areas including fish habitat applications in the east and wetland habitat (salt marsh) in the west. Mark commented that the scoring system could be used to calculate trading ratios in water quality trading. Bill noted that the scoring system could be applied in energy and wastewater crediting.

Project Logistics

Mark asked project team members to provide him invoices by March 29, 2005.

Mark also mentioned that he was invited by the Fund to present our project in May in Chicago during a gathering of the leaders of the Growing Water round of projects.

For the project external reviewers, Mark suggested to invite them to participate in our next conference call. The project team will provide each reviewer a brief description of the case studies. A formal invitation will be sent to each reviewer as well.

For the next conference call, Henry will invite Dave Ulrich to participate. Other invitees may be Ed Glatfelter and Bill Testa .

Next Scheduled Conference Call

2 p.m. EST, April 15, 2005