

DRAFT

CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY

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

May 20, 2005

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. EST

Participants

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

Shaw Group: Bill Abolt

Policy Solutions: Henry Henderson

King & Associates: Dennis King

Environmental Banc and Exchange: George Kelly

Sixteenth Street Community Health Center: Ben Gramling

GLPF Evanston Conference

Mark, George, Steve, and Dennis will be attending this GLPF invite-only conference on projects funded through the “Growing Water” RFP. Mark speculated that the Fund would like to have this opportunity to promote communication between the Fund and the project teams and among project teams. Mark also expressed his hope to obtain some direction and clarity from the Fund on the project.

Project Website

Mark indicated that our project has a website setup by K&A under ETN’s webpage at www.envtn.org/growingwater.htm. This is a simple website with general information on the project and project related documents, including quarterly reports and meeting/conference summaries that are simplified for public viewing. Mark has asked Dave Rankin at the Fund to inspect the website.

Project Progress

St Joe River

Mark, George, Andrew, and Dave Urban from Land and Water Resources, Inc. met with Jane Loomis, Executive Director of the St Joseph River Initiative on May 11 in Fort Wayne. George and Dave Urban also met with some local county and conservation district officials on May 12. The trip was to get acquainted with the Initiative and examining potential restoration/resource improvement projects. Specifically, George and Dave Urban were looking for opportunities for stream restoration.

George explained the difference between our project and the project led by Dave Urban, i.e., our project is more transaction platform oriented and their project is more on-the-ground project oriented. George indicated that there was lots of education done during the meetings. Potential project partners in the St. Joseph River did not know much about market-based mechanisms in restoring ecosystems. George believed that the biggest impediment to stream restoration projects in the watershed was the drainage districts, which are run by county surveyors. George also mentioned that the Maumee River Basin Commission had bought easement in the watershed that includes the St. Joe. However, funding for this activity is drying up. Mark commented that the St. Joe River watershed, especially the places the team visited, is intensively cultivated and drained with ditches. The team hardly saw any natural streams.

There were several sites in the St. Joe visited by the project team during the trip. One of them is De Kalb County Airport, which is expected to expand. However, mitigation/restoration potential is limited due to FAA's restriction on mitigation sites that will attract wildlife within a 2-mile radius of the runway. Fort Wayne has decided to spend \$250M in 30 years to upgrade its waste water treatment system. The city also concluded that upstream in the watershed there was not enough flood storage land to reduce flood risks in the city. Another impediment to flood storage projects is the concern that drain districts have with the potential of upstream flooding if flood water is retained. This points out the importance of modeling water needed to assess flood storage capacity of the watershed.

George also briefed on another potential project site in the watershed: an abandoned landfill site by a foundry in De Kalb County near the confluence of Garrett Ditch* and the St. Joe. This is an interesting site but more information on the background of the site is needed.

George also mentioned that the Corps of Engineers is working on a stream restoration guideline and the state of Ohio is doing the same thing on the state level. However, Indianan, where 2/3 of the St. Joe River is located, does not have anything going on.

*Note: There are photos of sites visited by the team on May 11 on http://www.envtn.org/growingwater.htm#case_stjoe.

Upper/Middle Cuyahoga River

Andrew briefed on a proposal that AES (with input from K&A) is working on in cooperation with local partners in the Cuyahoga. The proposal is for the RFP issued by the Ohio Lake Erie Commission on landuse planning in Lake Erie watersheds. The focus of the RFP is to engage local governments and organizations in delineating Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) and Priority Development Areas (PDAs) in a watershed and agreeing to incorporating these areas into zoning decisions. The funding for the projects will come from the state.

Miami Conservancy District (MCD)

Mark reported that Ohio EPA is trying to get into a trading rule making process that may change the trading procedures agreed upon by MCD, point sources, and OEPA for the MCD water

quality trading program. The point sources in the MCD program do not like this and MCD is trying to steer the state away from the process.

Menomonee Valley Resource Inventory

Bill and Henry reported that the team has been populating matrix set up for funding opportunities for city brownfield redevelopment, particularly in places like railroad work yards. A discussion with 16th Street and other local partners on funding opportunities will be held in June in Milwaukee. A framework for populating matrices is near completion and will be available for team review in about 2 weeks. Dave Ulrich of the Great Lakes Cities and some of the cities will be invited to test/advise on the Inventory as municipalities are one of the main targeted customers of the Inventory.

Henry indicated that CH2M Hill also has Growing Water project near Milwaukee. He pointed out the main difference between their and our projects. The CH2M project is more related to withdrawal/retention outside the urban core in order to reduce flow into the river while our Inventory focuses on urban brownfield redevelopment in the context of water resources improvement.

Next Conference Call

2 pm, EDT, Friday, June 24th.