

Special Issue:

Great Lakes Basin Program 2003 Annual Report

Report of the chair, Great Lakes Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Task Force

The Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control is all about making a difference – in water quality, land use and agricultural productivity. Initiated in 1991 and authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill, this federal/state partnership has supported over 250 demonstration and technical assistance projects throughout the Great Lakes region.

The Basin Program is coordinated by the Great Lakes Commission in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (National Resources Conservation

Service), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Great Lakes Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Task Force oversees the program and ensures that goals and objectives are met. Task Force members include representatives from the eight Great Lakes states, the partner agencies, and other federal and regional interests.

In 2003, Congress appropriated \$2.5 million for the program. On the advice of the Task Force, the Great Lakes Commission developed a program to support both small- and large-scale projects, ranging from approximately \$5,000–\$100,000.

In November 2002, the Task Force approved a request for proposals (RFP) outlining this funding opportunity.

The Commission mailed the RFP to more than 1,200 potential applicants that included state agencies, tribal governments, municipalities, soil and water conservation districts, drain commissioners, watershed councils, resource conservation and development councils, col-

leges and universities, and conservation and environmental groups.

The Commission received proposals for small-scale projects totaling \$1.81 million and large-scale projects totaling \$2.31 million, or a request of \$4.12 million in total. Approximately \$1.8 million was avail-

able to support both type of projects. Task Force members reviewed the submitted proposals and selected 31 small-scale and 11 large-scale projects, totaling \$1.9 million, to fund in 2003.

The Great Lakes Commission uses Basin Program resources to gather technical information that helps evaluate soil erosion and sediment problems, demonstrates various best management practices for controlling soil erosion and sedimentation, and educates the public on both the impacts of soil erosion and solutions for controlling it. Results from over 10 years and more than 250 projects are reported in this document.



“The goal of the Great Lakes Basin Program is to protect and improve water quality in the Great Lakes by reducing soil erosion and sedimentation through financial incentives, information and education, and professional assistance.”

– Jim Bredin, chair, Great Lakes Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Task Force

Reports

2003 Information/Education and Technical Transfer

by Gary Overmeir, project manager, Great Lakes Commission

The Great Lakes Basin Program provides technology transfer opportunities for projects funded by the program, as well as other innovative technologies, to the basin's soil erosion control community. We use

a variety of mechanisms, including information meetings, a program website, brochures and newsletters (e.g., *Advisor*, *Keeping it on the Land*) to carry out this function.

In late 2002, Great Lakes Commission staff initiated meetings with various organizations to explain and promote the Great Lakes Basin Program. Among others, these included presentations to

the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts, the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance, an organization of New York counties involved with water quality improvements. Commission staff also met with various potential applicants to explain the program.

The Basin Program web site (www.glc.org/basin) was redesigned in 2003. The site has several new features, including a tools page with links to useful models, education opportunities and agency contacts. There is a special page for the managers of Basin Program-supported projects. In addition to these new elements, existing features have been enhanced, such as two-page synopsis of all completed projects. These are now searchable through a database that makes it much easier for users to identify relevant projects.

Over the course of the year, two new, full-color brochures were developed. The first informs legislators, resource managers, potential applicants and other interested individuals about the program. This brochure is used by staff when meeting with organizations and potential applicants.

The second brochure focuses on the impacts of soil erosion and sedimentation at the watershed level. It is directed toward educators, conservation districts, watershed councils, environmental nonprofits and others with an interest in watershed education. The brochure explains how various land-use activities can impact watershed health and describes best manage-

ment practices to address these impacts. A series of fact sheets for each state was also developed, introducing the Basin Program and outlining benefits realized from Basin Program projects in that state.

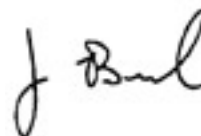
The Great Lakes Commission staff uses its bimonthly newsletter, the *Advisor*, to promote the Basin Program. Also, 2003 marked the fourth year of publication for the regional soil erosion newsletter, *Keeping it on the Land*. Articles this past year featured various erosion control and watershed management programs developed by federal, state and local partners; updates on state and local activities related to soil erosion and sediment control; and features on recently completed projects. With a circulation of approximately 2,300, *Keeping it on the Land* continues to be a valuable information and education tool for the Great Lakes Basin Program. For more information, please contact me at 734-971-9135 or garyo@glc.org.



Gary L. Overmeir, project manager
Great Lakes Commission

Task force report (continued from page one)

The RFP for 2004 funding is now available on the Great Lakes Commission web site at www.glc.org/basin/funding.html. For further information, please contact me at 517-335-4232 or bredinj@michigan.gov.

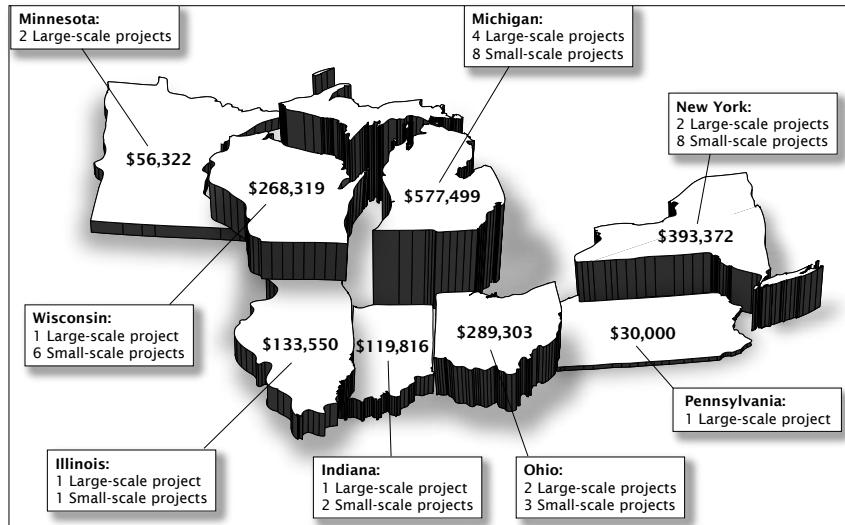


Jim Bredin, chair
Great Lakes Soil Erosion and Sedimentation
Task Force



Gary Overmeir

2003 Funding and projects by state



For a list of all new 2003 projects, please see Keeping it on the Land v.5, n.2 (July 2003) at www.glc.org/basin/pubs/keeping/pdf/0502.pdf.

For state-by-state totals of all Great Lakes Basin Program grant funding over the lifetime of the program (1991-present), see page 6.

Program Benefits, 1991-2002*

	1991-1998	1999-2002
Soil	480,449 tons **	218,978 tons
Phosphorus	648,037 pounds **	787,543 pounds
Nitrogen	699,552 pounds **	298,169 pounds
Leveraged Funds	\$1.6 million (state and local match)	\$1.55 million (state and local match)
Acreage	111,700 + acres	5,377 acres
Audience	*** Direct - 7,963 *** Indirect - 987,104	10,427 780, 196

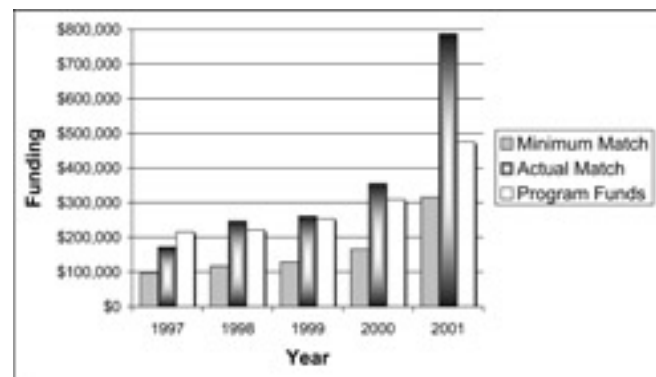
*Totals are for all projects completed at the end of the project year, September 30, 2002.

** Reductions from pre-project levels

***Audiences are reached directly via workshops, field trips, project tours, curriculum, presentations and other activities where a one-on-one connection with project information is established. Indirect activities include mass media stories, newsletters, information signage and other similar activities.

Five-year overview of leveraged funds

Another indicator of the Basin Program's success is the contribution made to projects from local, state and private funds. The program requires that a minimum of 25 percent of total project costs be met by nonfederal matching funds. Over the latest five years for which all projects are complete, more than \$3.8 million in Basin Program and match funds have been spent on projects, with Basin Program funds of \$1.45 million leveraging an additional \$1.8 million, 22 percent more than the minimum requirement.



Great Lakes Basin Program: Active Projects 2003



Project Year 2000

1 - Forestry BMP Implementation in Great Lakes Basin; \$24,300; Indiana DNR, Div. of Forestry; Brownstown, IN

2 - Urban Stormwater Wetland Sampling Demonstration; \$21,225; Summit Co. SWCD; Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Project Year 2001

3 - Bull Creek Restoration and Ravine Stabilization; \$25,000; Lake Co. Stormwater Management Commission; Libertyville, IL

4 - Sediment Reduction Through Coastal Wetland Construction; \$37,850; Foss Park District, North Chicago, IL

5 - Erosion/Sediment Control Demonstration Project - Nichols Arboretum; \$25,000; University of Michigan; Ann Arbor, MI

6 - Soft Engineering and Natural Methods Control of Streambank Erosion; \$17,663; Osceola-Lake SWCD; Reed City, MI

7 - Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Reduction in the St. Joseph River Basin; \$23,440; St. Joseph Co. SWCD; Centerville, MI

8 - Urban Erosion Control Project for Loop Park; \$25,000; Shiawassee Co. SWCD; Owosso, MI

9 - Applying Natural Restoration Techniques to Slope Restoration; \$25,000; Minnesota Erosion Control Association; St. Paul, MN

10 - Erosion and Sedimentation Education for Lake Erie Schools; \$17,475; Chautauqua Co. SWCD; Jamestown, NY

11 - Natural Stream Restoration in the Seneca Lake Watershed; \$19,755; Schuyler Co. SWCD; Montour Falls, NY

Continued on next page

Active Projects

12 – **Stormwater Phase II Initiative in the Seneca and Keuka Lake Watersheds**; \$17,000; Yates Co. SWCD; Penn Yan, NY

13 – **A Watershed Approach to the NPDES Phase II Rule**; \$23,000; Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments; Toledo, OH

14 – **Estimating TMDL Background Loading From Existing Data**; \$22,374; Case Western Reserve University; Cleveland, OH

15 – **Ohio CREP, Water Quality, and Minimum Detectable Change**; \$25,750; Water Quality Lab, Heidelberg College, Tiffin, OH

16 – **Residue Management and Erosion Control Demonstration Project**; \$25,000; Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments; Toledo, OH

17 – **Cascade Creek Hydrological Modeling and Floodplain Restoration**; \$25,000; Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority; Erie, PA

18 – **Design and Performance of Rootwads in Streambank Restoration**; \$23,479; Pennsylvania State University; University Park, PA

19 – **Buffer Installation on Low Order Streams – Oconto Co. WI**; \$25,000; Oconto Co. LCD; Oconto, WI

20 – **Demonstration of Streambank Stabilization for Submerged Vanes**; \$25,000; Wisconsin DNR; Madison, WI

Project Year 2002

21 – **Farmer-to-Farmer Buffer Strip Initiative**; \$18,750; St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative; Ft. Wayne, IN

22 – **Building Detroit's Capacity to Implement Soft Engineering**; \$25,000; Detroit/Wayne Co. Port Authority; Detroit, MI

23 – **Gratiot Co. Soil Erosion Control Program Development and Integration with County-Wide GIS**; \$15,000; Gratiot Co.; Ithaca, MI

24 – **Kalamazoo River Watershed Erosion/Sedimentation Control Project**; \$23,746; Calhoun Co. SWCD; Marshall, MI

25 – **Macomb Buffer Initiative**; \$15,500; Macomb Co. SWCD; Richmond, MI

26 – **Stream channel restoration through dam removal: A Huron pilot project**; \$20,549; Huron River Watershed Council; Ann Arbor, MI

27 – **Using “Soft” Engineering To Control Erosion On The Lower Boardman**; \$20,686; Grand Traverse Co. SWCD; Traverse City, MI

28 – **White River's Burying Ground Point Sediment Control at Hilt's Landing**; \$25,000; Muskegon Co. SWCD; Muskegon, MI

29 – **Lincoln Park Miller Creek Bed Restoration Project**; \$24,000; City of Duluth; Duluth, MN

30 – **Low Impact Development Demonstration Project**; \$25,000; Lake Superior Association of SWCDs; Duluth, MN

31 – **Low-Cost Shoreline Erosion Control Demonstration Project**; \$25,000; Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources; Duluth, MN

32 – **Western Lake Superior NEMO Project – Community Program**; \$22,500; Regents of the University of Minnesota; Duluth, MN

33 – **Assessment of Modeling Tools and Data Needs for Developing Sediment Portion of TMDL Plan for Mixed Land Use Watershed**; \$25,028; SUNY College at Buffalo; Buffalo, NY

34 – **Cazenovia Creek Streambank Stabilization – Joint Board 18R**; \$25,000; Erie Co. SWCD; East Aurora, NY

35 – **Cazenovia Creek Streambank Stabilization – Joint Board 27R**; \$25,000; Erie Co. SWCD; East Aurora, NY

36 – **Erie County Phase II Stormwater Education Program**; \$18,000; Erie Co. Department of Environment and Planning; Buffalo, NY

37 – **Franklin-St. Lawrence Soil Protection and Stabilization Program**; \$28,500; Franklin Co. SWCD; Malone, NY

38 – **Owasco Lake Tributary Assessment and Management Plan Development**; \$15,015; Cayuga Co. Dept. of Planning and Development; Auburn, NY

Continued on page 6

Active Projects

Project Year 2002 *(cont'd from page 5)*

39 – **Prescribed Grazing Management Project**; \$24,976; Seneca Trail RC&D Council; Franklinville, NY

40 – **Riparian Erosion Control Education Project**; \$16,725; Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cayuga Co., Auburn, NY

41 – **Roadway Stormwater Management and Training Program Development**; \$36,050; Monroe Co. Health Department / Monroe Co. Stormwater Coalition; Rochester, NY

42 – **Scajaquada Creek Streambank Restoration for Erosion Control**; \$24,829; Erie Co. SWCD; East Aurora, NY

43 – **Stabilizing High, Steep Stream Banks: A Natural Approach**; \$24,200; Schuyler Co. SWCD; Montour Falls, NY

44 – **Best Management Practices for Rural Roadside Runoff Control**; \$15,000; Portage Co. SWCD/Upper Cuyahoga River Watershed Taskforce; Painesville, OH

45 – **Lake Erie Buffer Program GIS Development Project**; \$12,080; Erie Basin RC&D Council/Lake Erie Buffer Project Team; Norwalk, OH

46 – **Partnership Implementation of NPDES Phase II Minimum Control Measures**; \$14,747; Geauga Co. SWCD; Burton, OH

47 – **Rockin' and Rollin': School & Community NE Ohio Watershed Investigations**; \$6,500; James H. Porter Center for Science and Mathematics; Painesville, OH

48 – **Streamside Landowner Fact Sheets**; \$22,500; Cuyahoga Co. SWCD; Valley View, OH

49 – **Green Roofs Can Detain and Remove Pollutants from Stormwater Runoff**; \$16,563; The Pennsylvania State University; University Park, PA

50 – **Lake Erie Cliff Erosion Prevention Demonstration Project**; \$25,000; Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority; Erie, PA

51 – **LaCount Parkway Stream Corridor Restoration Demonstration Project**; \$25,000; City of Green Bay; Green Bay, WI

52 – **Plum Creek Erosion Control and Sediment Reduction Project**; \$25,000; Brown Co. LCD; Green Bay, WI

53 – **Stream Crossing Installation Videos and Powerpoint Presentations**; \$24,200; FISTA; Rhinelander, WI

54 – **Water & Sediment Control Basin in Fond du Lac County, WI**; \$4,542; Fond du Lac Co. LCD; Fond du Lac, WI

55 – **Western Lake Erie Sediment Reduction & Environmental Restoration Project**; \$200,000; Ohio DNR; Columbus, OH

Cumulative Summary of Basin Program Projects by State, 1991-2003

TOTAL GRANTS OVER 13 YEARS, 1991-2003

State	Number of Grants	Total Funding
Illinois	6	\$ 255,900
Indiana	16	\$ 331,019
Michigan	78	\$3,483,868 ¹
Minnesota	30	\$ 667,795
New York	54	\$1,318,196
Ohio	33	\$ 996,195
Pennsylvania	16	\$ 323,340
Wisconsin	26	\$ 630,785
TOTAL	259	\$7,977,098

While competition for Basin Program funds is intense, the program has successfully supported projects in every Great Lake state over its 13-year history.

¹ Includes three \$600,000 appropriations (FY 91-93) to the MI DNR for the Saginaw Bay.

2003 Regional Coordination

Great Lakes Committee: New leadership, continuing efforts

by Scott Hoese, chair, Great Lakes Committee, National Association of Conservation Districts

The Great Lakes Committee of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is a special advisory committee that represents the 209 conservation districts in the Great Lakes basin.

Each Great Lake state association of conservation districts appoints a delegate to the committee, and representatives of national and regional agencies serve as advisors.



Prof. Mike Campbell, left, of Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa., discusses his work in studying water quality in Mill Creek, a tributary of Lake Erie, during a tour of Headwaters Conservation Park, where the creek originates. The tour preceded an October meeting of the NACD Great Lakes Committee at the Erie County SWCD headquarters in the park. With him are Great Lakes Committee chair Scott Hoese, center, and Edgar Corns, the committee's Indiana representative.

The committee addresses unmet needs in regional soil conservation and water quality policy and acts as an information conduit from the national and regional levels to state associations and district offices. The committee also conveys local concerns to regional and federal agencies with mandates in water quality, soil erosion and sediment control, as well as to members of Congress.

The Great Lakes Committee is funded through partnership arrangements and benefits from staff support for some of its information/education and coordination activities from the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control.

This past year marked a significant transition for

the Great Lakes Committee. After many years of service, the past six as chairman, Joe Newberg (MN) stepped down from the committee. Joe provided strong leadership through challenging times and his enthusiastic pursuit of Great Lakes issues will be missed. In March 2003, NACD President Gary Mast appointed me as committee chair.

In 2003 the Great Lakes Committee advised the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation of its legislative and appropriations priorities. We completed a business planning process at the first two meetings of the year (March and July) and since then have been actively implementing the resulting guidance.

Committee goals for 2003-04 include: securing new partnerships and strengthening existing arrangements with Great Lakes entities that have shared interests in regional soil conservation and water quality policy; increasing conservation district involvement in Great Lakes restoration activities/programs; assisting conservation districts in their efforts to access and secure funding; strengthening district capabilities to support local land use decision-makers managing urban and suburban growth; and improving conservation district services available to forest and woodland managers/owners.

We're looking forward to an exciting 2004. In the works is an experts' workshop in Ann Arbor designed to provide the committee guidance on its goal to see the amount of sediment delivered to the Great Lakes reduced 40 percent by 2013.

Should you have any questions about the Great Lakes Committee and its activities, please contact me at 952-657-2223 or sfhoese@aol.com.

Scott Hoese, chair
Great Lakes Committee
National Association of Conservation Districts

