

**BAY OF QUINTE REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN
RESTORATION COUNCIL WORK PLAN 2006-2010
A BRIEF OVERVIEW**

LOOKING BACK

In 1985 The Bay of Quinte was formally recognized as a Great Lakes Area of Concern (AOC) – one of 42 sites on an international list of pollution hotspots. The bi-national Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement required each AOC to develop a remedial action plan to restore environmental quality and the impaired beneficial uses of the water. The Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan (BQRAP) - “*The Big Cleanup*” – was implemented in 1993 and progressed through several stages with the completion of a *Five Year Work Plan, 2001-2005*.

LOOKING AHEAD

Years of dedicated effort by various agencies, municipalities, organizations, and concerned individuals have paid off. A significant clean-up of the Bay has been achieved, and sufficient gains made to warrant the drive from an ‘implementation phase’ to a ‘natural recovery phase’ in the year 2010. *Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Restoration Council Work Plan 2006-2010* is the document which will govern this process. It is the goal of the BQRAP Restoration Council to complete all remaining tasks and move the AOC to a natural recovery phase in 2010, and to support monitoring of recovery for verification of eventual delisting as an AOC. The purpose and scope of the new Work Plan is to identify the remedial measures, scientific information, and agency/stakeholder/community commitments necessary to achieve this goal.

LOOKING INSIDE

The new Work Plan is a user-friendly document of less than 40 pages with seven sections covering all aspects of the tasks necessary to reach the goal in 2010.

- SECTION A Background
- SECTION B The BQRAP Restoration Council
- SECTION C Nutrient Enrichment Issue
- SECTION D Toxic Contaminants Issue
- SECTION E Bacterial Contamination Issue
- SECTION F Fish and Wildlife Issue
- SECTION G BQRAP Implementation Office

LOOKING AT CRITERIA

The BQRAP Restoration Council has identified seven criteria which must be met to satisfy a request for natural recovery status:

1. Monitoring data reveal positive trends towards pre-determined impaired beneficial use delisting targets or that the targets have been met.
2. A scientific rationale exists to support a conclusion that natural recovery will occur over time.
3. Clearly defined processes and agency roles exist to ensure diligent, long-term management of the resource and to prevent any reversal of the accomplished restoration.
4. Commitments exist to maintain Bay of Quinte baseline monitoring programs into the natural recovery phase.
5. Funding mechanisms and sustainable agency, stakeholder, and community commitments exist to provide perpetual care of the Bay of Quinte ecosystem.
6. All reasonable and practical interventions, as identified herein, have taken place.
7. There is community concurrence that the RAP has been fully implemented and area in recovery designation is justified.

These measures are outlined in Sections B through G of the Work Plan, and a summary table is provided for each section showing the required tasks, roles, and schedules for their completion.

LOOKING AT THE IBUs

Work Plan Table A on Page 5 shows the International Joint Commission's list of fourteen Impaired Beneficial Uses (IBUs) for Areas of Concern. There are ten IBUs which apply to the Bay of Quinte and which must be satisfactorily remediated for amended status as an AOC "in Natural Recovery". Appendix B of the Work Plan lists each IBU delisting target and how the target will be measured. Further refinement and quantification of the delisting targets are tasks also identified in the new Work Plan.

LOOKING AT THE BOTTOM LINE

Appendix A on Page 29 gives estimated costs for the BQRAP Implementation Office and Restoration Council expenses for each fiscal year from 06-07 through 09-10. The recommended level of office staffing to ensure completion of the substantial workload is three persons – an Implementation Manager, a Communications & Consultations Co-ordinator, and a Technical Officer. Fiscal 06-07 has been limited, however, to a two-person Implementation Office.

LOOKING FOR A COPY

If you wish to review the document in detail, we recommend that you download it from our website at www.bqrap.ca – Publications. A very limited number of hard copies are available by contacting BQRAP's Implementation Manager at (613) 394-3915 Ext. 213.