

## WDNR Office of the Great Lakes AOC Capacity Grants 2013

**Project Title:** Lower Green Bay & Fox River AOC Citizen Monitoring of Degraded Aesthetics 2013

**Project Applicant:** Laurel Last, WDNR, [laurel.last@wisconsin.gov](mailto:laurel.last@wisconsin.gov), (920) 662-5103.

**Fiscal Agent (if different from Applicant):** (same)

**Project Implementation Leader (if different from Applicant):** (same)

**Person responsible for quarterly reporting:** Laurel Last

**Project Location:** Lower Green Bay and Fox River AOC

**Problem Statement:** The "Degraded Aesthetics" BUI delisting targets reference monitoring data and/or surveys within the AOC for any five year period. Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District's (GBMSD) ambient monitoring program collects water quality data at several stations in the AOC. Because the aesthetic parameters, including "floating or submerged debris, oil, scum" or "materials producing color, odor, taste, or unsightliness," detailed in the delisting target are subjective in nature and involve personal interpretation of what is an "unacceptable level" or an "objectionable" amount that would interfere with public rights or impair use, an intensive program distributing wide-spread surveys to gain public perception was needed.

In 2011, a pilot monitoring program was launched with local residents to monitor degraded aesthetics in the AOC. This program was then expanded in 2012 to include more dedicated volunteers, more sites, and a longer monitoring season. We are asking for funding to continue and expand this program in 2013, in order to collect another year of citizens' opinions in the evaluation of this BUI. According to the BUI delisting target, we will need to continue this monitoring program in order to collect at least 5 years of favorable results.

Benefits of this approach include expanding public participation in AOC activities, generating needed data at minimal cost, and incorporating public perceptions in evaluation of this BUI. Results will be used to evaluate the status of the impairment and to identify improvement opportunities.

**Proposed Work:** Funds are requested to continue and expand the Lower Green Bay and Fox River AOC Citizen Aesthetics Monitoring Program in 2013. The majority of grant funds would be used to pay a student/intern to support the AOC Coordinator in surveying citizens at local events and/or monitoring stations and entering the data from those surveys into the WDNR SWIMS database. In addition to the long, detailed survey completed by the dedicated volunteers, a shortened version of the survey will be used to gather opinions from the broader public. The "Aesthetics Monitoring Program Surveyor" will use this shortened survey to collect citizen opinions at local events and/or monitoring stations. Note that this grant will cover work from March 2013 through February of 2014.

### **Collaboration with partners:**

This program has been developed based on input received from the AOC Social Uses Workgroup

and AOC Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). These groups will continue to be consulted on project changes and updated on project progress and results.

***Timetable (entire project):***

**March 2013 (or before)**

- 1) Aesthetics Monitoring Program Data Support LTE (separate Scope of Work), in consultation with AOC Coordinator, will finalize 2013 methods, sites, and monitoring forms for dedicated volunteers.
- 2) AOC Coordinator will contact 2012 dedicated volunteers to confirm their participation in 2013.
- 3) AOC Coordinator will recruit new volunteers, asking AOC committee members and others to spread the word.
- 4) AOC Coordinator will prepare training materials and monitoring kits and advertise and host a volunteer training workshop.
- 5) AOC Coordinator will distribute survey forms and monitoring kits to volunteers.

**April through October 2013**

- 1) Dedicated volunteers will conduct seasonal aesthetics surveys at designated sites.
- 2) AOC Coordinator will coordinate dedicated volunteers and provide ongoing support.
- 3) Aesthetics Monitoring Program Surveyor will conduct shorter surveys to the wider public during local events and at established monitoring sites.
- 4) Aesthetics Monitoring Program Surveyor will begin to upload survey data from short surveys to SWIMS database.
- 5) Aesthetics Monitoring Program Data Support LTE (separate Scope of Work) will begin to upload survey data & photos from dedicated volunteers to SWIMS database.
- 6) AOC Coordinator will compile and upload quarterly reports SWIMS.

**November 2013 through February 2014**

- 1) Aesthetics Monitoring Program Surveyor will enter remaining data from short surveys to SWIMS database.
- 2) Aesthetics Monitoring Program Data Support LTE (separate Scope of Work) will upload remaining survey data & photos to SWIMS database.
- 3) AOC Coordinator will meet with dedicated volunteers to collect monitoring kits and discuss positives and negatives of program and possible improvements for 2014.
- 4) AOC Coordinator and Aesthetics Monitoring Program Data Support LTE (separate Scope of Work) will analyze and interpret survey data and develop a Final Report for the project. Aesthetics Monitoring Program Surveyor, dedicated volunteers, and AOC groups will also be consulted. Final report and results will be shared with the AOC groups and other interested stakeholders.

***Deliverables:***

All survey data and quarterly and final reports will be submitted and entered/uploaded into the SWIMS database.

***Project Budget:***

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Staff salaries	Aesthetics Monitoring Program Surveyor (UWEX) (200 hours @ \$12/hour plus fringe & indirect costs)	\$2,900
Supplies	Monitoring kit supplies for volunteers	\$43
	Aesthetics Monitoring Program Surveyor supplies (UWEX)	\$100
Other	Postage-paid envelopes (30) for returning surveys	\$14
<b>Project Total</b>		<b>\$3,057</b>