

MONTHLY REPORT – LABORATORY, JULY 2007

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Sampling began for the UW-Oshkosh/WI Sea Grant algae study on July 31st. This grant allows us to look at the association between algal blooms and surface water quality and to determine if algal mats harbor human pathogens.
- Daily beach sanitary survey data (surface water and sediment *E. coli* counts, environmental data, and river surveys) was collected for Racine, South Milwaukee, and Oak Creek. Annual sanitary surveys will take place in August.
- Sampling began for the new real-time testing PCR grant (WI DNR) on July 24th.
- Expanded Root River open water and storm water outfall sampling continues three days per week (Monday – Wednesday). A related news article appeared in the Racine Journal Times on July 7th. Elevated counts were noted in Island Park behind Lutheran High School and traced back to a nearby storm water outfall which is now being investigated/monitored weekly.
- Routine beach monitoring continues. As of July 31st there has been one advisory at North Beach and one advisory and one closure at Zoo Beach.
- The first sampling event for the Mallard Shores homeowners association took place on July 25th. Three samples were collected and processed for *E. coli* and phosphorus.
- Soft serve ice cream testing began on July 16th. As of July 31st twenty-seven samples were screened and ten (37%) have failed.
- Racine's North Beach was nominated to be a 2007 National Resource Defense Council "beach buddy" by the WI DNR for our record of good water quality and beach research/beach management initiatives.
- The US EPA conducted filming for a training video on predictive modeling at North Beach on July 9th. The video will be released in October at the Great Lakes Beach Association annual meeting.
- The Great Lakes Protection Fund has requested revisions to our original grant proposal to develop web-based tools to help Great Lakes communities achieve healthy beaches from both human health and ecological perspectives. The revisions are due August 3rd.
- Dr. Kinzelman was an invited speaker at the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative annual meeting in Grand Rapid, MI on July 11 – 13th. She was part of a panel presenting material on emerging issues and strategies of importance to U.S. and Canadian Great Lakes Mayors. The title of her talk was "Emerging Issues – Beaches."
- Four pieces of laboratory equipment have been sold and the money will be used towards the purchase of a new freezer and refrigerator for the lab.

MEETINGS & TRAININGS:

- Sampled Oak Creek and South Milwaukee river and stream sites as part of the WI DNR/EPA sponsored beach sanitary surveys (July 6, 18, 27)
- Participated in the collection of algae samples for a USGS study (July 9, 10).
- Met with Allison Werner from the River Alliance of Wisconsin (July 9)
- Attended the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative annual meeting in Grand Rapids, MI with Mayor Becker and Alderman Holding (July 11-13)
- Participated in two conference calls related to the beach sanitary survey pilot projects with the USEPA Office of Water in Washington, DC (July 9, 19).
- Attended a conference call for the Great Lakes Beach Association regarding planning for the annual conference (July 16).