

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
TO THE**

CUPPER COUNTRY VERTICAL FILE
Lakes - Torch Lake
(1997)

**TORCH LAKE AREA OF CONCERN
PUBLIC ACTION COUNCIL**

The Formation Committee for the Torch Lake Area of Concern (AOC) is calling for nominations to establish a Public Action Council (PAC). The mission of the PAC will be to work towards the completion of a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) that will guide the remediation efforts necessary for the delisting of the region as an AOC.

The PAC will consist of representatives from stakeholder groups within the AOC (see the attached map). A description of the stakeholder groups, the member selection process, and a brief summary of the problem will be found in the attached Information Packet. The PAC members representing the various stakeholder groups will be expected to:

Represent the needs and concerns of their stakeholder group.

Help establish an organizational structure that is capable of sustaining itself and effectively carrying out the mission of the organization.

Create and maintain significant, broad based, community involvement in the RAP (i.e. increase local community awareness by providing opportunities for involvement in remediation activities).

Revise the outdated 1987 RAP to include an evaluation of potential use impairments within the AOC and objective criteria for the remediation of those impairments found to be present.

Search for resources and develop mechanisms that will complete the remediation of the impaired uses found in the AOC.

Your involvement in this nomination process is important to the successful remediation of impacted sites within our Keweenaw community and its eventual delisting as an Area of Concern. If you, or someone you have spoken with, are willing to fulfill the responsibilities of this position and wish to be nominated, please fill in the attached Nomination Form (you may nominate yourself). Completed forms should be mailed to:

PAC Nomination
c/o The Houghton-Keweenaw County Soil and
Water Conservation District
300 Dunstan Street
Hancock, MI 49930

**This nomination form must be received before the end of the business day, 5:00 P.M.,
Friday, April 18, 1997**

NOMINATION FORM FOR THE TORCH LAKE PUBLIC ACTION COUNCIL

I nominate the following person for membership in the Torch Lake Public Action Council as a representative of the stakeholder group and from the area shown below for a term of up to two (2) years. Please complete (print) all of the following information:

NAME: _____ DAYTIME PHONE: _____

P.O. BOX: _____ STREET: _____ CITY: _____
If a P.O. Box No., also give street) ZIP: _____

CHECK (✓) STAKEHOLDER GROUP NOMINEE WISHES TO REPRESENT (MARK ONLY ONE GROUP):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Public | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline Land Owners |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government (elected officials) | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Americans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental/Human Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Industry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sportsman's Groups/Recreationalists | |

CHECK (✓) NOMINEE'S AREA OF RESIDENCE OR PLACE OF BUSINESS TO BE REPRESENTED (see map). (MARK ONLY ONE AREA):

AREA: _____ A _____ B

The above person is myself _____ or nominated by:

Name: _____ Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Signature _____

Fold in thirds on dotted line with ballot side in, tape closed, add postage, and return to address below

From:

Place
Stamp
Here

PAC Nomination
c/o Houghton County Soil and
Water Conservation District
300 Dunstan Street
Hancock, Michigan 49930

The Torch Lake Area of Concern Public Action Council

The AOC Institutional Setting

Torch Lake is one of 14 Areas of Concern (AOC) in Michigan and one of 5 in the Upper Peninsula. Historically these AOCs have been managed through the state's Remedial Action Plan (RAP) program as administered by the Department of Environmental Quality, Surface Water Quality Division. However, unlike 12 of the other AOCs, Torch Lake's RAP, written in 1987, does not incorporate commonly accepted use-impairment criteria utilized by both the EPA and International Joint Commission (IJC).

Consequently, the RAP has been found in need of substantial revision if it is to provide the guidance necessary for successful remediation of the AOC. In addition, and also unlike the other 12 AOCs, Torch Lake does not have a formal mechanism in place for local, grass roots, stakeholder involvement in RAP revision and remedial action planning. Usually called Public Action Committees (PACs), or watershed councils, these groups assure that all stakeholder groups have the opportunity to participate in the development of their AOC's RAP.

The Remedial Action Plan (RAP)

The RAP takes a site-specific, ecosystem approach (including the air, land, water, and all life therein) to restoring the environment in an AOC. The RAP guides the remediation efforts by identifying environmental problems, establishing water use goals, and providing cleanup solutions that will restore the AOC's impacted beneficial uses. The RAP is periodically revised to reflect current conditions and to update needed actions. The RAP is designed to involve many agencies which work in cooperation with the local PAC toward the RAP goals.

The RAP Process

Integral to the RAP is the incorporation of broad based local stakeholder involvement in the remediation process (through the PAC). This locally-based approach not only can accelerate regulatory programs which address the larger problems of the AOC, but also provides broad based local support for non-regulatory programs of protection and prevention essential in dealing with small pollution sources, the impacts of land use, and habitat destruction.

The RAP process relies heavily on the input from citizens who have a stake in the outcome of remediation efforts. These "stakeholders" identify themselves by the way their lives are most connected to the AOC, through recreation, business, land ownership, environmental or health concerns. For example, the Village of Lake Linden's successful efforts to remediate portions of the stumpsand bank and adjoining shoreline into a recreation complex has assured public access to the lake and encouraged adjoining real estate development. This, in turn, has enhanced the Village's tax base, increased the support of local business, and helped improve the overall quality of life in the community. All local stakeholder groups have been positively affected by the Village's actions. Similarly, more can be done throughout the AOC if more stakeholders get involved in the RAP process.

The RAP process, and PAC involvement, has proven successful throughout the Great Lakes. For example, the Collingwood Harbor AOC in Ontario, identified after Torch Lake, saw a strong local citizen involvement and has already been delisted. Here in the Upper Peninsula, PAC involvement has been particularly effective in both Manistique and Menominee River AOCs where stakeholder groups have come together to work toward the remediation of their impacted sites. Through their PACs, they have been able to find ways to bring private, local, State, and Federal resources to bear in creating remediation solutions which have brought them much closer to delisting as AOCs.

Public Action Council Composition

The Formation Committee has identified 7 stakeholder groups for the initial Torch Lake PAC. They are:

General Public	Shoreline Land Owners
Government (elected officials)	Native Americans
Environmental/Human Health	Business/Industry
Sportsman's Groups/Recreationalists	

Each stakeholder group will be represented by 4 individuals. Once formed, if representation is incomplete, the PAC may alter the compositional structure in order to achieve better representational balance. Governmental and nongovernmental agencies will be invited to participate at the *ex officio* level (representatives of the "Government" stakeholder group will represent local government in the generic sense, not specific governmental units). Council decisions will be made through a consensus decision making process.

PAC Member Selection Process

An election, open to all AOC residents (stakeholders) will be held on Thursday, April 24, 1997, at 7:30 P.M. in the Lake Linden High School Gymnasium (barrier free access). After a few brief introductory remarks, those present will be directed to their respective stakeholder group meeting rooms and those nominees previously submitted for that group will be announced. Each stakeholder group will then elect a total of 4 representatives. The 4 nominees receiving the most votes in the Area A and B categories will become the new PAC members (a minimum of 2 from Area A and a minimum of 1 from Area B). The remaining nominees will be eligible to serve as alternates. Initially, terms will be for up to 2 years (the PAC may choose to stagger these terms in order to assure continuity over several years).

The AOC Geographic Boundaries.

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1978 and its 1987 Protocol Addendum states that "RAPs shall embody a systematic and comprehensive ecosystem approach to restoring and protecting beneficial uses in AOCs or in open lake waters." Under this definition, the Torch Lake AOC includes, not only Torch Lake, but also the surrounding watershed, the confluent Keweenaw Waterway and the adjoining Torch Lake Superfund Sites.

The EPA has divided these areas into three Operational Units (OU). OU I is the western shore of Torch Lake. OU II includes those areas of contamination *in* the Keweenaw Waterway, Torch Lake, Lake Superior, Boston Pond, and Calumet Lake, including ground water, submerged stamp sands (sediments) and surface water. OU III includes impacted areas above water in Portage Lake, North Entry, Beacon Hill, Freda, Red Ridge, Boston Pond, Coles Creek, and Calumet Lake.

For purposes of PAC representation then, the PAC Formation Committee has designated two areas within the AOC from which stakeholder representatives will be drawn. Area A is the watershed bordering Torch Lake and its tributaries (Superfund Operable Unit I). Area B is the remaining watersheds bordering both the Keweenaw Waterway and the adjacent Superfund Sites: Calumet Lake, Boston Pond, North Entry, and the stampmill sites on Lake Superior at Beacon Hill, Freda, and Red Ridge (Superfund Operable Unit III). See map.

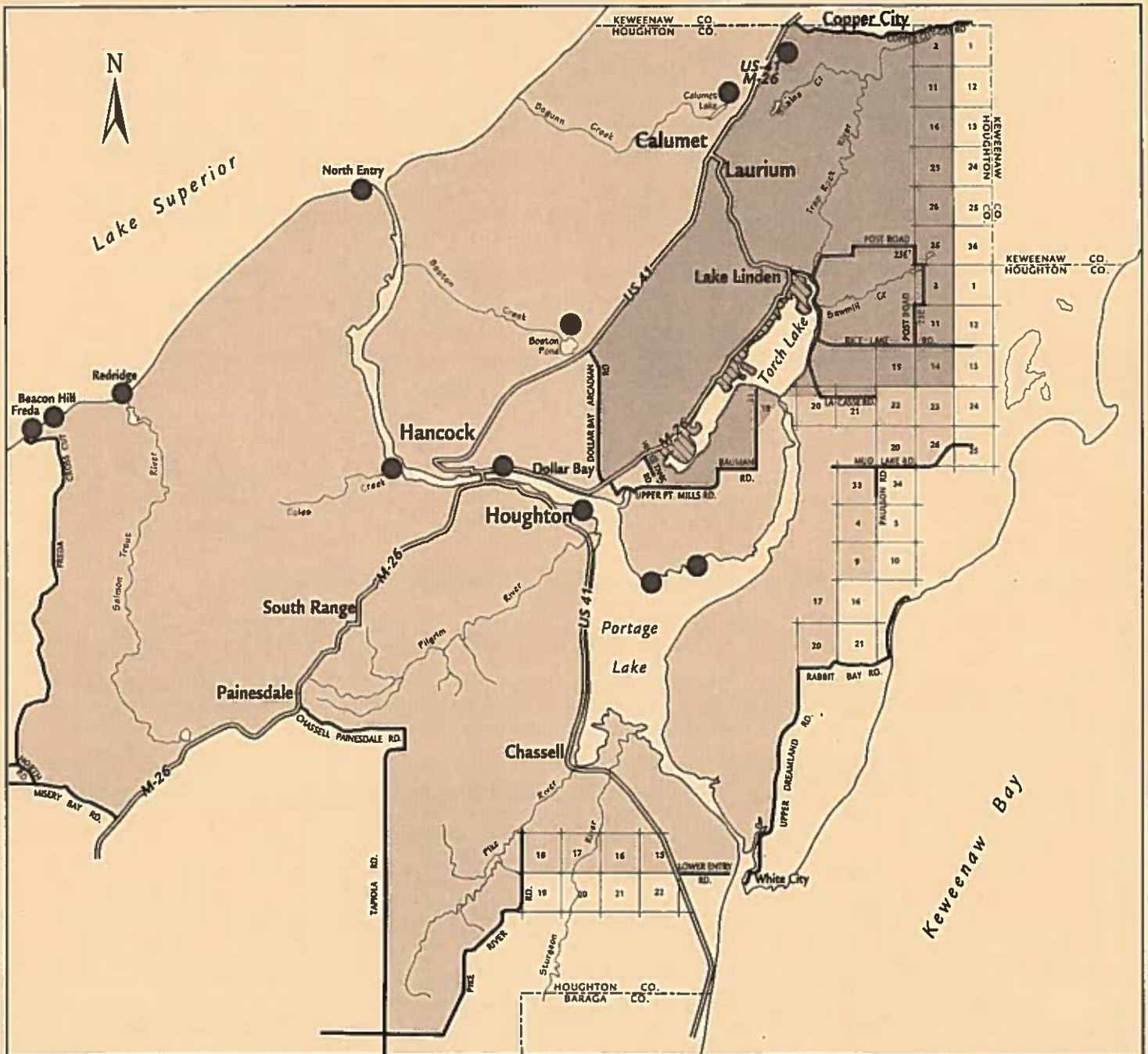
The EPA's workplan is to first concentrate on OU I because Torch Lake has been so heavily impacted. Solutions found to work there will probably be directly applicable to the sites in OU III. The "No Action" remediation plan for OU II assumes that remediation of OU I and III will promote natural remediation of OU II. Initial PAC representation is weighted accordingly.

Torch Lake Area of Concern

Area A
 Area B

Superfund Operable Units

I ● III



Source: Torch Lake PAC Formation Committee

PAC Nomination
c/o The Houghton-Keweenaw County
Conservation District
300 Dunstan Street
Hancock, MI 49930

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Hancock, MI
49930
Permit No. 162

THERESA SANDERSON SPENCE
UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST
M I C H I G A N T E C H
UNIV
HOUGHTON MI 49931

***** DATED MATERIAL *****

PLEASE OPEN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT:

THE BOUNDARIES OF THE TORCH LAKE AREA OF CONCERN

WHAT A RAP (REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN) IS AND HOW IT CAN HELP GUIDE LOCAL
EFFORTS TOWARD REMEDIATION

THE FORMATION OF A LOCAL, GRASS ROOTS GROUP,
THE TORCH LAKE AOC PUBLIC ACTION COUNCIL
WHICH WILL ADDRESS PROBLEMS
WITHIN THE AREA OF CONCERN

WHICH LOCAL STAKEHOLDER GROUP *YOU* BELONG TO

HOW, AS A STAKEHOLDER, YOU CAN HELP WORK TOWARDS THE DELISTING OF THE
TORCH LAKE AREA OF CONCERN