

In November of 2008, more than 30 people from a wide variety of organizations met to generate possible answers to these two questions. Below is a summary of their work.

Do you have any comments? What do you think the answers to these questions are?

## **WHAT DO YOU THINK THE YAHARA LAKES SHOULD LOOK LIKE**

### **30 YEARS FROM NOW?**

- Nutrients and sediments are at a level that achieves desired water quality
- Land uses sustain healthy lakes and other water resources
- The waters are safe for community and recreational uses
- Sustainable funding is in place
- Leaders champion collaboratively developed plans, programs, and policies
- People understand how their lives are linked to the watershed and its lakes
- Agricultural practices and systems are economically and ecologically sustainable
- All partners share responsibility and accountability for actions and results
- Aquatic and riparian terrestrial ecosystems are healthy
- Other?

### **WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS FOR THE YAHARA LAKES?**

Prevent waste, trash, and pollution from entering lakes

Eliminate urban sources of Phosphorus flowing into the lakes

Reduce human consumption of toxins from fish

Conduct education plan

Clean up beaches so people swim there

Enforce existing erosion control regulations

Reduce erosion/runoff

Protect public and private wetlands

Engage local watershed groups in wetland restoration activities

Provide sufficient incentives and funding to purchase and restore wetlands

Restore wetlands

Organize individuals and organizations to advocate for watershed improvement

Deliver key messages to defined audiences

Create a sense of ownership and empower useful actions

Organize governmental and non-governmental leaders and groups to work towards watershed goals

Leverage public and private funding to achieve watershed goals

Take pride in, and celebrate, progress

Protect the unique biodiversity of each water body

Strengthen diverse fisheries

Strengthen wildlife populations in and around the lakes

Communicate with rural communities re: problems, solutions, regulations, costs

Communicate the idea of shared responsibility to both rural and urban communities

Engage with rural community partners around watershed goals

Change the "us vs. them" rural-urban mentality

Forge coalitions across the rural/urban divide in the watershed

Help urban and rural people work together toward the same goals

Create cost-effective and sustainable agricultural practices for water quality

Provide funds for Ag best management practices

Employ Strategies and approaches that are fair, workable, and make sense to farmers

Build a long-term private-public water protection partnership

Install/maintain vegetated buffers to reduce Phosphorus flow to waterways

Reduce nutrient loading to surface and groundwater to achieve Phosphorus and sediment targets

Other?