



## **Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative**

### *Planning Grant Recipients—2007*

### *External Evaluation Expectations*



Those receiving Planning Grants will be expected to participate in evaluation activities as described below. The purpose of the evaluation is to learn about the strengths and limitations of the planning process; identify best ways to provide assistance to Planning Grant recipients; and determine resource needs of effective planning efforts. Consistent with the Great Lakes Fishery Trust's (GLFT) collaborative approach to grant-making in the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (GLSI), the information gathered through the evaluation will be used by staff, the GLSI Funders' Collaborative, the GLSI Advisory Group, the GLFT Board, and other partners to assess the planning process and to guide future funding efforts.

Science and Math Program Improvement (SAMPI) at Western Michigan University has been contracted by the GLFT to evaluate the entire GLSI. SAMPI will be conducting the evaluation at the Initiative level across all sites receiving Planning Grants. These sites will be contacted by SAMPI to make specific arrangements for interviews, site visits, surveys, and other data collection procedures. While efforts will be made to gather information in ways that minimize the burden of evaluation on grant recipients, they will be asked to do the following during the planning period as part of their Planning Grant-funded work:

- Document Planning Grant activities (meetings, events, etc.)
- Document how Planning Grant funds are used to support planning activities
- Ensure that key partners (community organizations, schools, etc.) participate in mid-point and end-of-grant debriefing interviews
- Help arrange and facilitate evaluator visits to observe a sample of planning sessions/project events
- Share information about educational resources and other sources of information used in planning and preparing Implementation Grant proposals
- Help facilitate administration of a survey of those directly involved in the planning process

### **Key Evaluation Questions**

The following questions will be addressed by SAMPI through the Initiative-wide evaluation:

1. Who is involved in the planning process and how are they recruited?
2. What are the most effective ways of engaging all partners in the planning process?
3. How are the needs, assets, and expectations of the various partners identified and addressed/ incorporated in the planning process and implementation plan/program?
4. How is a common vision about stewardship—using the strategies of place-based education, sustained professional development for K–12 teachers, and K–12 school-community partnerships—developed among partners?
5. What are the “value-added” aspects of the planning process for partners and the community?
6. How are Planning Grant resources used to develop a plan/program for implementation?
7. What kinds of technical assistance are most useful in helping Planning Grant recipients develop their plan/program for implementation?
8. What are the major challenges related to the planning process?