

Upcoming Initiatives – 2004

Administration

- Complete strategic plan and associated work plan to showcase and coordinate initiatives
- Enhance Ontario and Québec roles and membership status
- Secure multiple large-scale, multiyear funding commitments for member priorities
- Raise the profile and impact of the Commission among regional leadership, elected officials and broader constituency
- Direct additional resources and priority focus to sustainability initiatives and associated environment/economy linkages
- Finalize plans and strategy for a co-location facility to house the Commission and other Great Lakes agencies

Resource Management

- Assess state aquatic nuisance species management plans and identify actions needed to advance regional prevention and control goals
- Finalize biohydrologic report with recommendations for a federal role in supporting science-based decisions on Great Lakes water withdrawals
- Complete water resources management plan for Isle Royale National Park
- Distribute approximately \$1.9 million in grants for local soil erosion and sedimentation control in the Great Lakes states
- Boost information and education activities to increase soil conservation and reduce sedimentation in the Great Lakes basin
- Identify research and management tools to help local practitioners reach sediment reduction goals
- Publish briefing paper on the off-site costs of sedimentation and benefits of erosion control

Environmental Quality

- Complete a comprehensive inventory and assessment of Great Lakes monitoring programs and make the inventory available online in a geographically searchable format
- Complete the development of a suite of indicators for coastal wetlands and prepare a plan for monitoring them
- Support cleanup efforts in Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs) by assisting in the implementation of the Great Lakes Legacy Act and leveraging other resources available for planning and restoration activities.
- Facilitate the development of scientifically sound, measurable restoration targets that enable Remedial Action Plan (RAP) participants to objectively assess progress in restoring beneficial uses in the AOCs
- Assist in implementing a comprehensive management plan for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River

Transportation and Sustainable Development

- Conduct additional brownfields-greenfields policy roundtables in Great Lakes states
- Complete environmental windows project, establishing a regional process for conducting dredging with minimal risk to biologic resources

- Publish report on the benefits of maritime transportation compared to rail and highway modes
- Assist in binational study of environmental and economic baseline conditions of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence navigation system
- Coordinate and provide secretariat services for the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors and its annual conference
- Publish report on the economic benefits of recreational boating in the Great Lakes

Regional Coordination

- Advocate for legislative and appropriations priorities presented in the *Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity*
- Facilitate review and public comment on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Strategic Plan and prepare a final report
- Advocate for reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act and passage of the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act, among other legislation
- Facilitate Great Lakes restoration priorities workshops and work with governors and congressional leaders to advance priorities

Data and Information Management

- Promote Regional Data Exchange Agreement and expand Internet-based Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping to all of the Great Lakes
- Expand the catalog of regional data holdings in the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) Metadata Clearinghouse, in accordance with binational standards
- Publish the 2001 Great Lakes Air Toxic Emissions Inventory report and implement the Centralized Air emission Repository On-Line (CAROL) project
- Complete updates to area contingency planning maps and expand database to include locations of extremely hazardous substances
- Finalize a business plan for the Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS) and endorse membership in its regional association

Communications and Internet Technology

- Develop and promote a vision and five-year strategic plan for GLIN
- Host a GLIN regional conference to address unmet e-communication needs of the Great Lakes community
- Publish a brochure to promote the Great Lakes Commission: who we are, and our role in Great Lakes policy and management
- Develop a multifunctional GLIN Daily News headline “tracker” to promote awareness of Great Lakes issues
- Provide communication tools for the Great Lakes Observing System initiative

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Funders and Endowment

American Great Lakes Ports Association
Canadian Consulate General
Canadian Shipowners Association
D.J. Case and Associates
Fisher Consulting
J.F. New and Associates, Inc.
The GLOBE Foundation of Canada
Great Lakes Fishery Commission
Great Lakes Protection Fund
Great Lakes Radio Consortium
International Association of Great Lakes and
St. Lawrence Mayors
International Joint Commission
The Johnson Foundation
The Joyce Foundation
Lake Carriers' Association
LakeNet (Global Environment Facility, The World Bank,
International Lake Environment Committee)
Limno-Tech, Inc.
Macomb, St. Clair and Oakland counties, Michigan
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Michigan Great Lakes Protection Fund

National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Park Service
Coastal Services Center (NOAA)
Michigan Sea Grant College Program
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Ocean Service, Center for Operational
Oceanographic Products and Services (NOAA)
National Sea Grant College Program
Ohio EPA - Division of Surface Water
St. Lawrence Seaway Development Association
St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources
Conservation Service
U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office
U.S. EPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
U.S. EPA Office of International Activities
U.S. EPA Region 5
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
University of Michigan
Westrec Marinas

Friends of the Great Lakes

It's always a great time to become a Friend of the Great Lakes! Your tax-deductible contribution to the Great Lakes Endowment will help the Great Lakes Commission "Restore the Greatness!" The Commission will match your gift dollar-for-dollar, and direct the entire amount to programs that result in a cleaner environment, a prosperous economy and a better quality of life. Visit www.friendsofthegreatlakes.org now to view a list of donors to date and to make your own contribution online! It only takes a minute and you'll receive a complimentary certificate and decal (for auto or boat) to acknowledge your gift.

Endowment Web Site:
www.friendsofthegreatlakes.org

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