

Report of the Interim Executive Director

Sustainable Land Use: Using Natural Assets to Promote Economic Prosperity

2006 Semiannual Meeting
Sheboygan, Wisconsin
May 3, 2006



Presentation Objectives

- Welcome!
- Recognition of Staff
- Update on Current Initiatives and Recent Accomplishments
- New Meeting Format – Opportunities for Commission Involvement in Emerging Issues
- Concluding Remarks



Staff Attending 2006 Semiannual Meeting

Tom Crane

Lisa Butch, 2005/06 Sea Grant Fellow

Matt Doss

Pat Gable

Roger Gauthier

Kirk Haverkamp

Dave Knight

Jon MacDonagh-Dumler

Christine Manninen

Gary Overmier

Victoria Pebbles

Elaine Sterrett Isely, 2005/06 Sea Grant Fellow

Supporting Great Lakes Restoration

Great Lakes Commission Legislative Priorities for FY2007



Presented to the 109th Congress, second session: February 2006

The Great Lakes Commission has represented the Great Lakes states for 50 years. The Commission's legislative priorities are focused on protecting and restoring the Great Lakes and ensuring their vital natural resources to the citizens' well-being and ecological health of the region.

The Great Lakes – A National Treasure

The Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River system is the lifeblood of the eight states and two provinces that border their immense bodies of water. This system encompasses 20 percent of the world's supply of fresh surface water and is an irreplaceable part of the region's history, economy and quality of life. The Great Lakes region supports one-fifth of the manufacturing activity in the United States and provides drinking water to more than 30 million U.S. citizens. The lakes also provide prime beaches and sand dunes, world-class fishing, boating and diving, and many other recreational activities that contribute significantly to the region's tourist economy. In many ways the Great Lakes define the social, economic and cultural values of the region.

Sadly, a legacy of mismanagement has compromised the health of the Great Lakes and reduced the many benefits they provide. The state of the resource, coupled with aging infrastructure, limits our ability to derive social, cultural and economic benefits from water-based recreation, commercial navigation and many other water-dependent activities. While some progress has been made, serious challenges remain.

Restoring the Great Lakes – A Time For Action

Understanding the challenges facing the Great Lakes ecosystem and making the commitment to address them has never been more important. In response to a May 2004 Presidential Executive Order, governors, members of Congress, mayors, First Nations, environmental groups, business and industry leaders – more than 1,500 in all – came together in a collective effort to define a strategy for restoring and



protecting the Great Lakes. Thus, the Great Lakes Regional Collaborators (GLRC) was launched in December 2004.

The GLRC, organized around restoration priorities previously developed by the Great Lakes governors, produced a Strategy Report in December 2005 with goals, recommendations and actions. The following legislative priorities are consistent with those adopted by the governors, our region's mayors and other GLRC partners. The highest priority items, supported by the Commission and outlined on the following pages, identify actions for the Congress to consider regarding appropriations and authorizations. These priorities reinforce the near-term Great Lakes restoration action requests communicated to the President in a December 2005 letter from the Great Lakes governors and mayors. In addition to

the identified legislative needs, this letter also included requests for administrative actions and regulatory reforms which the Commission fully supports.

The Great Lakes Commission is proud to be part of this unified regional voice and urges the Congress to act now on these critically important priorities to help achieve the common vision of a restored and sustainable Great Lakes ecosystem.



FY 2007 Legislative Priorities



Great Lakes Day in Washington March 16, 2006

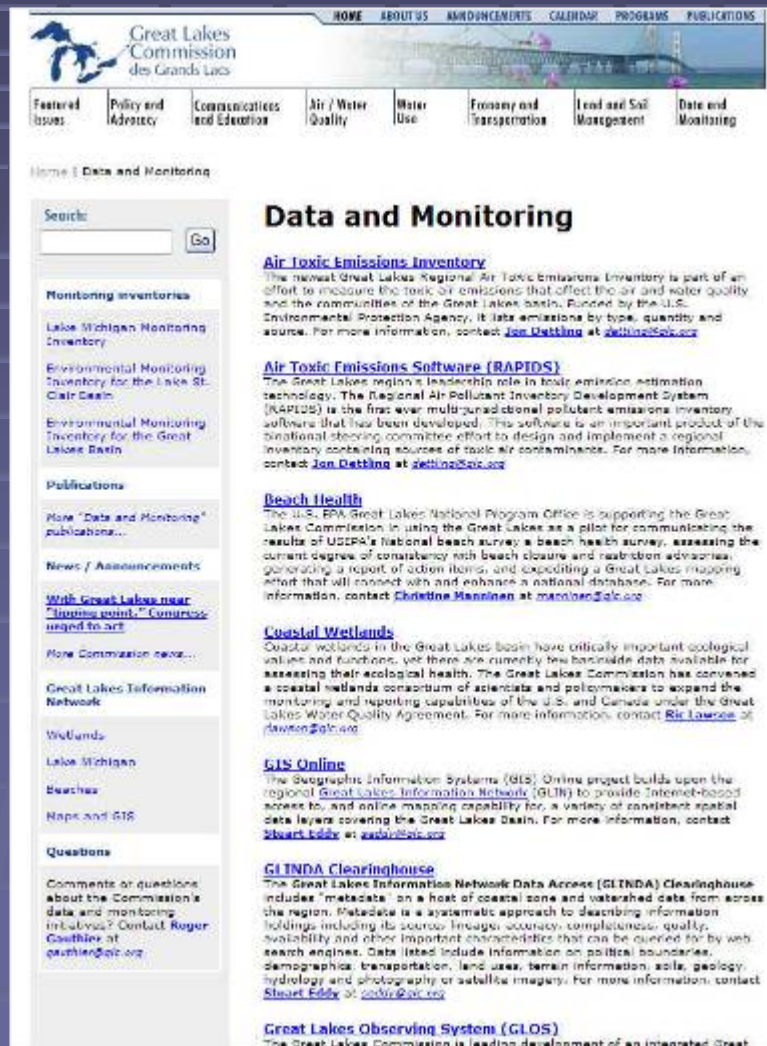






Data and Monitoring

www.glc.org/monitoring



The screenshot shows the website for the Great Lakes Commission, specifically the 'Data and Monitoring' section. The header includes the logo and navigation links for HOME, ABOUT US, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CALENDAR, PROGRAMS, and PUBLICATIONS. A secondary navigation bar lists various environmental topics: Featured Issues, Policy and Advocacy, Communications and Education, Air / Water Quality, Water Use, Forestry and Transportation, Land and Soil Management, and Data and Monitoring. The main content area is titled 'Data and Monitoring' and features several key sections:

- Air Toxic Emissions Inventory:** A section describing the latest Great Lakes Regional Air Toxic Emissions Inventory, which is part of an effort to measure toxic air emissions affecting air and water quality. It is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and lists emissions by type, quantity, and source. Contact: [Jon Dabbling](mailto:Jon.Dabbling@deltron250c.org) at deltron250c.org.
- Air Toxic Emissions Software (RAPIDS):** A section highlighting the Great Lakes region's leadership in toxic emissions estimation technology. It mentions the Regional Air Pollutant Inventory Development System (RAPIDS) as the first ever multi-jurisdictional pollutant emissions inventory software. Contact: [Jon Dabbling](mailto:Jon.Dabbling@deltron250c.org) at deltron250c.org.
- Beach Health:** A section stating that the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office is supporting the Great Lakes Commission in using the Great Lakes as a pilot for communicating the results of USEPA's National beach survey. Contact: [Christine Manninen](mailto:Christine.Manninen@deltron250c.org) at deltron250c.org.
- Coastal Wetlands:** A section discussing the ecological importance of coastal wetlands in the Great Lakes basin and the commission's role in expanding monitoring and reporting capabilities. Contact: [Ric Lawson](mailto:Ric.Lawson@deltron250c.org) at deltron250c.org.
- GIS Online:** A section describing the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Online project, which provides Internet-based access to online mapping capabilities for various spatial data layers. Contact: [Stuart Eddy](mailto:Stuart.Eddy@deltron250c.org) at deltron250c.org.
- GLINDA Clearinghouse:** A section explaining the Great Lakes Information Network Data Access (GLINDA) Clearinghouse, which includes metadata on coastal zone and watershed data. Contact: [Stuart Eddy](mailto:Stuart.Eddy@deltron250c.org) at deltron250c.org.
- Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS):** A section mentioning the commission's leading development of an integrated Great Lakes Observing System.

On the left side of the page, there is a sidebar with a search box and several categories of links: Monitoring inventories (Lake Michigan, St. Clair-Detroit, Great Lakes Basin), Publications, News / Announcements (with a link to a recent article about a 'Copper peak'), Great Lakes Information Network (Wetlands, Beaches, Maps and GIS), and Questions (with contact information for Roger Gauthier).

Great Lakes Monitoring Coordination Efforts

- Development of web-based monitoring information exchange tools; and
- Facilitation of monitoring coordination bodies and initiatives

Great Lakes Monitoring Inventory

- Descriptive information for more than 600 active monitoring programs from all government levels and NGOs
- Gap Analysis Report released this quarter comparing inventory to a list of regional monitoring needs
- Management recommendations developed to highlight opportunities for improving monitoring effectiveness and coordination in the Great Lakes basin
- Legislative guidance document (in briefing book), highlighting relevant gaps and recommendations

Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) Data Exchange Network

- Web-based database of volunteer monitoring data from a set of high-quality stream and lake volunteer monitoring programs throughout the state of Michigan.
- Integrated with MDEQ management data, quality controlled, and open access to volunteer data via web.

BRIDGES: Sustainable Land Use Clearinghouse

www.glc.org/bridges



Great Lakes Sustainable Land Use



- Brownfields
- Greenfields
- Smart Growth
- Planning
- Publications
- News** ■

In the News:

Welcome to the Great Lakes Commission's collection of sustainable land use web resources. Links to recent relevant news stories are below and you can search the Great Lakes Information Network news archives by using the box at the bottom of the page. Follow the links on the left for issue-specific resources organized by state or province.

[Wishes meet reality on Rochester port plans](#)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (4/27)

Plans for the Port of Rochester show a mix of townhouses, villa-style apartments, park spaces and a marina.

[Plans for Rochester port's reuse taking shape](#)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (4/21)

The terminal building at the Port of Rochester that once serviced the high-speed ferry may be the future home of the proposed Great Lakes research and educational center and an aquarium, a preliminary plan of the port now shows.

[Riches could grow in recycling](#)

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (4/21)

Under a plan to promote increased household recycling in Waukesha County, recycling more newspapers, plastic bottles and other materials could translate directly into more money in the community's government coffers.

[Judge tosses lawsuit, dredging spoils site](#)

The Bay City Times (4/20)

Bay County Circuit Judge Lawrence M. Bielawski denied an injunction Wednesday that would have kept the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from building a 281-acre disposal site for Saginaw River bottom silt.

[Panel outlines NWI's brownfield redevelopment efforts](#)

The Northwest Indiana Times (4/12)

Transforming the ruins of steel's heyday into economic jewels remains a key priority for the region.

[Wily covotes in the city](#)

Great Lakes Radio Consortium (4/10)

As wildlife habitat is displaced by subdivisions, some animals are

State Land Use Roundtables

- Michigan January 2003
- Ohio January 2005
- Wisconsin April 2005
- Pennsylvania September 2005
- Indiana April 2006

“Sustainable Visions for Pennsylvania’s Communities” brochure

Published March 2006



Sustainable Visions for Pennsylvania’s Communities

Smart Growth that meets the needs
of Pennsylvania’s communities...

Opportunities for Commission Involvement in Emerging Issues

- Greater thematic emphasis throughout Commission meetings
- Effectively utilizing staff expertise in meeting planning
- Greater reliance on Program Committees to validate Commission involvement in issues
- Creating / re-establishing Commission task forces

Concluding Remarks

“Find a need and fill it.”

Ruth Stafford Peale