
GREAT LAKES COMMISSION

SEMIANNUAL MEETING

MAY 14-15, 2007

RADISSON CITY CENTRE

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

1-317-635-2000



PROGRAM SECTION

MAY 14-15, 2007
RADISSON CITY CENTRE
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204
(317) 635-2000

PRELIMINARY MEETING PROGRAM

THEME: *From Many Views, One Vision*

Monday, May 14

Business Session

10:00 a.m.	Registration and Continental Breakfast	Room Location TBA
11:00	Call to order and opening remarks	Michigan Lt. Gov. John D. Cherry Jr. , Chair, Great Lakes Commission
11:05	Welcome to Indiana	Kari Evans , Chair, Indiana Delegation Robert Carter, Jr. , Director, Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources
11:20	Roll Call	Tim Eder , Executive Director, Great Lakes Commission
11:25	“New Directions for the Great Lakes Commission”	Lt. Gov. Cherry
	Presentation of the Commission’s Strategic Plan	Tim Eder
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the Chair • Report of the Executive Director 	
Noon	Luncheon	Lifetime Achievement Award: Lee Botts
1:15 p.m.	Highlighting Program and Issue Priorities for Indiana	<i>Moderator:</i> Thomas Easterly , Commissioner, Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipping / Ports • Coastal Zone Management • Aquatic Invasive Species 	<u>Speakers:</u> Jody Peacock , Ports of Indiana Mike Molnar , Indiana DNR Doug Keller , Indiana DNR
2:15	Working Together to Solve the Problem of Aquatic Invasive Species	<i>Moderator:</i> Tim Eder
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Ships Initiative • Federal Legislative Remedies: NAISA and Ballast Water Legislation 	<u>Speakers:</u> Steve Fisher , American Great Lakes Ports Association Jennifer Nalbone , Great Lakes United Collister (Terry) Johnson, Jr. , Administrator, St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation Congressional representatives (invited)
3:45	Break	
4:00	Great Lakes Commission Action Update	Lt. Gov. Cherry, Tim Eder
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the Great Lakes Commission Resolution Process • Review of Resolutions to be acted upon at the Semiannual Meeting 	
4:10	Observer and Participant Comments	
5:00	Adjourn for the Day	

6:00 **Reception at Indiana State Museum**
Rapp Reception Hall

The museum is short walking distance from the hotel; a small shuttle van will be available to accommodate those with special needs.

Dinner on your own

Tuesday, May 15

Business Session (cont'd.)

7:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:00 Call to Order and Recap of Day 1

Lt. Gov. Cherry, Chair

8:05 **Special Presentation**

Gary Mast, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment

8:20 **Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy: Implementation and Appropriations**

Moderator: **Todd Ambbs**, Administrator, Division of Water, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

- Reauthorization of the Farm Bill
- Reauthorization of WRDA; carp barrier, appropriations
- Developments in the 110th Congress

Speakers:

Gildo Tori, Ducks Unlimited

Marc Gaden, Great Lakes Fishery Commission

Greg Carter, Great Lakes Senate Task Force (invited)

9:25 **Sustainable Water Management in the Great Lakes:**

Moderator: **David Naftzger**, Council of Great Lakes Governors

Update on Developments to Implement the Great Lakes Compact Agreements

Speakers:

Mike McCabe, Council of State Governments

Dan Injerd, Illinois DNR

Kevin Wilson, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

10:30 Break

10:45 **Business of the Great Lakes Commission**

- a. Consideration of Resolutions
- b. Approve Strategic Plan
- c. Approve FY2008 Budget
- d. Other Business

Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn, Vice Chair

11:30 **Presentation**

John Clark, Director, Indiana Office of Energy and Defense Development

11:55 **Invitation to 2007 Annual Meeting**

Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn

Noon Wrap Up and Adjourn

Lt. Gov. Cherry

1:30 Special post-meeting events

Tour of Indianapolis Speedway

\$3 admission includes a self-guided tour of the museum, a short film and limited views of the track. May 15 is not indicated as a practice day so track tours are not guaranteed. A small shuttle van will be available to transport people from the Radisson to/from the Speedway. The tour will last approx. 90 minutes. No credit cards or personal checks accepted.

Golf Outing

Coffin Golf Club, www.coffingolf.com; 2401 Cold Spring Rd., Indianapolis, 46222; phone: 317-327-7845. Conveniently located 5 miles from Radisson.

Meeting Minutes

2006 Annual Meeting – Duluth, Minnesota (October 3-5, 2006)
Board of Directors Meeting – Conference Call (November 17, 2006)
Board of Directors Meeting – GLC Office – Ann Arbor, MI (December 14-15, 2006)
Board of Directors Meeting – Conference Call (January 19, 2007)
Board of Directors Meeting – Conference Call (February 16, 2007)
Board of Directors Meeting – Jurys Hotel, Washington, D.C. (March 6, 2007)
Board of Directors Meeting – Conference Call (April 10, 2007)

**Great Lakes Commission
2006 Annual Meeting
Holiday Inn
Duluth, Minnesota
Oct. 3-5, 2006**

Summary of Actions

1. Approved the minutes of the 2006 Semiannual Meeting and Board of Directors meetings and conference calls that took place during the period May 2006-September 2006.
2. The following resolutions were passed:
 - Support for Reauthorization of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill)
 - Support for Lacey Act Listing of the Silver, Largescale Silver, Bighead and Black Carp As Injurious Species
 - Great Lakes Commission Support for the Great Ships Initiative
 - Support for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact
3. A strategic planning session allowed for Commissioners, Observers and other attendees to share and discuss their ideas on strategic directions for the Commission. All comments will be summarized and a draft plan posted for additional comment from Commissioners in December 2006. After this input is received, the forum will be opened to Observers and others for additional feedback.
4. Lt. Gov. John Cherry (MI) was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Commission.
Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn (IL) was unanimously elected as Vice Chair of the Commission.

Minutes

*An asterisk denotes Great Lakes Commission action.

1. Chairman Tom Huntley (MN) called the meeting to order on Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 8:25 a.m., welcomed all present to the Great Lakes Commission's Annual Meeting and reviewed the schedule of events.

2. Executive Director Tim Eder called the roll. Those in attendance were as follows:

Illinois	Katie McClain, Alternate Commissioner for Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn
Indiana	Tom Easterly, Commissioner Steve Mosher, Commissioner
Michigan	Ken DeBeaussaert, Commissioner and Delegation Chair Mike Leffler, Alternate Commissioner for Attorney Gen. Mike Cox
Minnesota	Tom Huntley, Commissioner and Delegation Chair Dick Lambert, Alternate Commissioner Cal Larson, Commissioner Ed Oliver, Commissioner Ann Rest, Commissioner
New York	Don Zelazny, Alternate Commissioner for Denise Sheehan
Ohio	Ed Hammett, Alternate Commissioner for Joe Koncelik Sam Speck, Commissioner and Delegation Chair Jim Weakley, Commissioner
Ontario	Bill Carr, Associate Commissioner
Pennsylvania	John Booser, Alternate Commissioner Lori Boughton, Alternate Commissioner Cathy Curran Myers, Commissioner and Delegation Chair
Québec	Michel Lafleur, Associate Commissioner and Delegation Chair Louise Lapierre, Alternate Associate Commissioner for Marcel Gaucher
Wisconsin	Dave Hansen, Commissioner Fred Schnook, Commissioner

3. Chairman Huntley welcomed everyone to Minnesota. He then introduced Herb Bergson, mayor of Duluth, who welcomed everyone to the city and highlighted its many attributes including the Port of Duluth-Superior, the Great Lakes Aquarium and Canal Park.

4. In the Chair's Report, Huntley offered a tribute to the late Tom McAuslan, executive director of the Port of Oswego and Commissioner from New York; and longtime friend of

the Commission Hugues Morrissette, retired director general of the St. Lawrence Development Secretariat. Morrissette died on July 15, 2006; McAuslan died in August 2006.

- *5. Chairman Huntley called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Semiannual Meeting held in Sheboygan, Wis., in May 2006 and all Board of Directors meetings and conference calls held over the last six months. The motion was made by Easterly (IN), seconded by Myers (PA). The minutes were approved as presented by unanimous vote.
6. Chairman Huntley introduced the Commission's new director, Tim Eder, who began his duties with the Commission in July 2006. Huntley thanked the Board and staff for their hard work over the 18-month transition period, and Tom Crane for his work as interim director.
7. Tim Eder delivered the report of the Executive Director. Eder spoke of the need for the Commission to re-examine its mission in serving the states. The strategic plan must result in a clear resolution of the focus of the Commission, its mission and vision. This must be aligned with the priorities of the Members. The GLC will be working to advance the priorities identified by the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC). The GLRC provides a framework – a blueprint – that will drive funding, advocacy and all activities in the region for years to come. The GLC should support the GLRC through federal advocacy and by building on strengths such as coordinating information, and collection and assembly of data. The GLC should also focus on bringing together its constituents, including those in the maritime industry, to find common ground to resolve the critical issue of invasive species. Eder concluded by citing the enthusiasm and dedication of the GLC staff.
8. Session I was titled “Toward a Cleaner, Smarter Great Lakes Shipping Industry,” moderated by Dave Knight, GLC program manager for Transportation and Sustainable Development. Presentations were by Dr. Richard Stewart, director of the Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute; Allegra Cangelosi, senior policy analyst at the Northeast-Midwest Institute who discussed the Great Ships Initiative; and Adolph Ojard, executive director of the Duluth Seaway Port Authority. The Great Ships Initiative will facilitate fleet-wide installation of ballast treatment alternatives/technologies to prevent the introduction and spread aquatic invasive species to the Great Lakes. A Stepwise Technology Education Program (STEP) will be employed. The Great Lakes will be one of six potential IMO-compatible testing facilities, globally.
9. Session II was titled “Aquatic Nuisance Species: Science, Strategies and Progress Toward Solutions.” Presentations focused on the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration strategy, food web impacts of zebra mussels, asian carp and other invaders. Speakers included Charles Wooley, deputy director, Midwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Marc Gaden, communications officer, Great Lakes Fishery Commission; and Tom Nalepa, biologist at the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab.

10. The meeting adjourned for a lunch and awards ceremony at noon. The keynote speaker was Joe Comuzzi, member of parliament, Thunder Bay-Superior North.
Dave Cowgill, U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office, was recognized for his efforts in implementing the Great Lakes Legacy Act and cleaning up contaminated sediment. Presenting his award was Alternate Commissioner Lori Boughton of Pennsylvania.
Tom Crane, who served as interim executive director prior to Tim Eder's hiring, was also honored for his service in that capacity and the rest of his 21 years with the Commission to date. Crane is manager of the Commission's Resource Management Program.
11. Session III titled "Implementing the Great Lakes Regional Collaborative: Next Steps," was moderated by Dave Ullrich, director of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. Presentations were made by Jeffrey Skelding, director of the Healing Our Waters - Great Lakes Coalition; Kelly McKnight, policy analyst with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission; George Kuper, executive director of the Council of Great Lakes Industries and Tim Eder.

Project "success stories" are currently being solicited by Healing Our Waters to illustrate ongoing on-the-ground restoration efforts. Ohio's Lake Erie Action Plan should be a model for other states. Wisconsin is developing a similar plan outlining their state plans. The tribes view the GLRC as a "blueprint" for restoring the lakes, though they emphasize that we should be careful not to focus on change only for the sake of change. Programs should be streamlined but a diversity of programs is still needed to address a diversity of needs/issues. A mechanism needs to be set up to track GLRC progress. The Great Lakes are not a disaster area but care and tending is needed. The GLC can and should make the GLRC an item for the regional agenda.

12. The Regional Roundtable included Observer comments from the following:

Jan Miller, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: The demonstration barrier in the Chicago Ship Canal is still working but is beyond its life expectancy. Funding for the backup (i.e., permanent) barrier is needed.

Doris Bautch, USDOT Maritime Administration (MARAD): The GLC should support the navigation community in its concerns over steadily declining water levels.

Kim Butler, Canadian Consulate/Minneapolis: Thanked the GLC for its ongoing support of the Devil's Lake diversion issue, and Canada's fears of invasive species transfers between the two basins. The U.S. Government has agreed to pay for a permanent filtration system for the North Dakota outlet.

Geraline Thompson, National Park Service: Terrestrial invasive species are largely missing from the GLRC recommendations. Legislation is pending that would allow NPS to spend dollars outside of park boundaries. Coastal assessments are ongoing in the Great Lakes' National Parks.

Dave Cowgill, U.S. EPA-Great Lakes National Program Office: Three completed projects are part of the Great Lakes Legacy Act. An annual report of the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force will be published but the schedule is uncertain.

Mark Burrows, International Joint Commission: The 2003-05 Great Lakes Priorities Report has recently been published. Seven priorities are covered; responses of the IJC's various boards are included.

Randy Helland, U.S. Coast Guard, Ninth District: USCG Cutter *Alder* is currently sampling the Great Lakes to evaluate the quantity of carbon residue in shipping channels to determine if any new regulatory guidance is necessary for cargo sweeping. Voluntary Ballast checks on vessels are ongoing. NOBOB inspections indicate that 60 percent of ships are complying without any training; with some training, 80 percent compliance. Public hearings are being held on the issue of open range firing of light automatic weapons on the Great Lakes (training exercises to comply with new Homeland Security regulations). This training is necessary for USCG staff to learn how to comfortably field these new weapons. 24 "safety zones" (totaling 70 square miles) have been set up on the Great Lakes. The exercises would only be conduct 2x/year. Mike Hudson will be interim director of the USCG Ninth District when Helland retires in December 2006.

*13. Chairman Huntley moderated a session titled, "Great Lakes Commission Resolutions/Policy Action Items." Resolutions presented to the Commission for consideration included the following:

- Support for Reauthorization of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill)
 - passed as presented.
- Support for Lacey Act Listing of the Silver, Largescale Silver, Bighead and Black Carp As Injurious Species
 - passed as amended (grammatical edits).
- Support for the Great Ships Initiative
 - passed as presented.
- Support for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact

- Title changed to reflect “Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources” compact.
- passed as amended.

A fifth resolution titled “Support for the Great Lakes Regional Research Information Network” was tabled indefinitely.

14. Commissioner Jim Weakley (OH), Lake Carriers’ Association, delivered a report on Great Lakes Dredging Team activities. Prior to the meeting, many attendees took part in a tour of a pair of environmental/maritime projects in the Duluth area, in conjunction with the Great Lakes Dredging Team. Visits were made to the Erie Pier Confined Disposal Facility, where new technologies for cleaning and recycling contaminated dredged materials are being tested. The group also visited the Stryker Bay Superfund site, where cleanup and capping operations are helping to remedy the legacy of nearly a century of toxic pollution.

Steve Colman, director of the Large Lakes Observatory at the Univ. of Minnesota-Duluth, presented an overview of his organization and its current research activities.

15. The meeting adjourned for the day at approximately 5:30 p.m. The group reconvened for a dinner cruise on the Vista King at 6:30 p.m., which featured a port/harbor tour and various award presentations. Outstanding Service Awards were presented to Tom Huntley, concluding his two-year tenure as chair of the Great Lakes Commission; and Sam Speck, director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Huntley’s immediate predecessor as chair of the Great Lakes Commission from 2002-2004.
16. Chairman Huntley called the meeting to order on Thursday, Oct. 5, at 8:15 a.m. and gave a brief summary of the previous day’s discussions.
17. Congressman James Oberstar (MN) produced a 16 minute video address which was presented at the meeting. The Congressman tanks the Commission for its leadership and spoke of his commitment to continue his efforts to ensure protection and enhancement of the Great Lakes environment and economy
- *18. Chairman Huntley and Executive Director Eder introduced the session titled “The Future of the Great Lakes Commission: Strategic Planning.” The discussions and visioning exercises were facilitated by Joe Laur of SEED Systems, whom the Commission has contracted to assist in the strategic planning process. Breakout sessions followed, which allowed for Commissioners, Observers and other attendees to share and discuss their ideas on strategic directions for the Commission. All comments will be summarized and a draft plan posted for additional comment from Commissioners in December 2006. After this input is received,

the forum will be opened to Observers and others for additional feedback.

- *19. Lt. Gov. John Cherry (MI) was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Commission. The meeting marked the conclusion of Tom Huntley's two-year tenure as Chair; the Minnesota state representative now holds the official post of Immediate Past Chair.
Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn (IL) was unanimously elected as Vice Chair of the Commission.
- 20. Commissioner Tom Easterly (IN) delivered a formal invitation to attend the Commission's 2007 Semiannual Meeting, May 14-16, in Indianapolis.
- 21. Chairman Huntley adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Great Lakes Commission
Board of Directors Conference Call Minutes
November 17, 2006

SUMMARY MINUTES

- 1) The conference call began on Friday, 11/17/06 at approx. noon (EST). The following members were present on the call:

K. McClain	Illinois
R. McAhron	Indiana
J. Cherry	Michigan
K. DeBeaussaert -	“
T. Huntley -	Minnesota
D. Zelazny	New York
M. Hoffer -	Ohio
----	Ontario
C. Curran Myers	Pennsylvania
J. Booser -	“
—	Québec
T. Ambs -	Wisconsin

Staff present on the call: T. Eder, T. Crane, R. Straith, R. Hasselbring, M. Doss, C. Manninen, J. MacDonagh-Dumler. Also present were J. Laur, Seed Systems.

- 2) J. Laur reviewed the 11/11/2006 draft Strategic Plan. The Board discussed the draft section by section. The draft will be put on an online, password protected site for all Commissioners to comment by December. After December Board meeting it will be sent out for public review. At the October meeting T. Huntley suggested that T. Eder meet with each state delegation in person. Chair J. Cherry suggested discussion of that topic be on the agenda for the December meeting. Board agreed.
- 3) Duluth Annual meeting evaluation discussion was deferred to the December Board meeting or a later time due to time constraints.
- 4) T. Eder asked for a volunteer to work with him and the staff on the agenda for the December Board Meeting. K. DeBeaussaert volunteered.

Respectfully submitted,



Tim A. Eder
Executive Director

/tjs

Great Lakes Commission
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Dec 14-15, 2006
Commission Office - Ann Arbor, MI.

SUMMARY MINUTES

1) Day 1 was spent discussing the draft Strategic Plan

Day 2 Board Meeting began at 8:45 am on Friday, 12/15/06. The following members were present

K. McClain (by phone)	Illinois
K. Evans	Indiana
J. Cherry	Michigan
K. DeBeaussaert -	“
–	Minnesota
D. Zelazny	New York
M. Hoffer (by phone)	Ohio
P. Madigan (by phone)	“
B. Carr (by phone)	Ontario
C. Curran Myers	Pennsylvania
M. LeFleur –	Québec
T. Ambs -	Wisconsin

2) The Board met privately with Executive Director Eder and agreed with the Director’s proposed goals and objectives through June 2007. Senior Staff joined the meeting at 9:00 AM: T. Crane, R. Straith, R. Hasselbring, M. Doss, C. Manninen, J. MacDonagh-Dumler, R. Gauthier, and D. Knight.

3) Discussion of Great Lakes Day and Legislative Program. The Board reviewed a draft agenda of events for Great Lakes Day, a draft of legislative priorities and a proposed timetable for developing the priorities. Board discussed whether to hold a board meeting before Great Lakes Day in Washington. It was tentatively agreed to meet from 10 AM to Noon on March 6 in Washington. The Board concurred with the staff’s draft agenda of events.

Legislative priorities were discussed. T. Eder presented the “Tiered” approach for the priorities of the Great Lakes Commission for 2007. There was agreement that the legislative priorities would be presented following the general outline below.

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Winter-Spring 2007 Priorities Great Lakes Day Theme	2007 Great Lakes Program (Top Priority Requests)	Great Lakes Commission additional requests
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop Invasive Species • Fund and Implement Great Lakes restoration 	1 – 9 in coordination with Council, plus one on maritime commerce.	Others specific requests.

Board agreed that the top GLC priority themes for Great Lakes day would be Invasive Species and funding/implementation of the Great Lakes restoration program. Board decision was to package the 9 priorities in Tier 2 in close coordination with the priorities of the Council of Great Lakes Governors and add maritime commerce/navigation. T. Eder will review the draft at the next conf call in January.

- 4) Discussion followed regarding coordination with other organizations including the Council of Great Lakes Governors. It was noted that a number of positive steps have taken place over the last months, demonstrating a closer working relationship with the Council, the Cities Initiative, The Protection Fund and the Fishery Commission. Joint letters and communications were discussed. It was recognized that Governors don't want to diminish their clout by signing on to group letters with other organizations. However, coordination of joint letters is a valuable role for the Commission. Also, there may be occasions where just the Council and the Commission communicate on one letter/communication.

It was agreed that no formal action such as a by-law amendment need be taken now. However, in the spirit of ensuring that coordination and cooperation continues to occur over the long term as personnel changes may take place in the future, it was agreed that the Chair would use the discretion provided in the by-laws (Article III, Section 8) to create a position of liaison with the Council of Great Lakes Governors. The person appointed to this position would be the delegation chair of the state where the chair of the Council of Great Lakes Governors sits. This person would serve as liaison between the two organizations to work together on issues of importance to both and ensure coordination and timely communication. The Board agreed that staff and the Chair would prepare a motion for consideration by the Board at an upcoming meeting.

- 5) The Audit Committee presented the audit and remarked that the auditors found the financial records of the Commission in good order. Steps have been taken to improve accountability and record keeping. The audit firm provided an unqualified report for the first time. K. DeBeaussaert moved that the audit/budget be accepted and C. Myers seconded. Motion approved.
- 6) Discussion followed on Board Committees. It was agreed that Committee participation should rotate among Board members, and that all Board members would serve on at least one Committee. It was agreed that the Committees should be made up of a Board member as chair and could involve Commissioners not on the Board. The Chairman and Executive Director Eder will develop a proposal for membership and the charge to 4 committees to be presented to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

Finance Committee – charged with developing the budget. This committee will be asked to work with the staff in 2007 to formulate investment policy for reserve funds. This policy would be finalized along with the FY 08 budget at the spring meeting in Indianapolis.

Audit Committee – work with auditor and staff on annual Commission audit.

Personnel Committee – update and oversight of personnel policies.

Nominating Committee – present slate of nominations for Board Chair and Vice Chair.

- 7) T. Eder brought to the Board a proposed initiative on ballast water. Proposal included work in 3 areas: a) advocacy on federal legislation, including a process for the states to address key strategic and policy questions, and efforts to coordinate cooperative advocacy activities with maritime industry representatives; b) state coordination on ballast water legislation and regulations; and 3) early action on additional initiatives, such as rapid response, harbor monitoring. The Board was

asked for general support for the proposal and for approval to convene a first meeting in early 2007. Chairman Cherry asked for consensus. M. Hoffer made a motion for Commission staff to continue to work on the proposed ballast water initiatives and convene a meeting in early 2007. D. Zelazny seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- 8) Discussion followed on federal wetlands and habitat restoration initiatives. Staff presented background on the Corps' Habitat Initiative and the EPA-led Wetlands Subcommittee. Staff and Board discussed the importance of ensuring that the two efforts are closely coordinated and that the interests and involvement of the states is included. Staff and Board discussed Commission involvement in the projects as a contractor. The GLC has been included as a potential subcontractor in a proposal submitted to the Corps by Public Sector Consultants of Lansing. The GLC has been asked to submit a proposal to EPA to support the work of the Wetlands Subcommittee. A fundraising proposal prospectus describing this proposal was reviewed. Chairman Cherry asked if there was consensus that GLC should pursue both initiatives. The Board agreed. (Since then, the Corps awarded the contract to Public Sector Consultants and the GLC will be a subcontractor.)
- 9) Discussion followed regarding holding the spring meeting of the GLC in Washington D.C. in 2008. It was agreed that the spring meeting of the GLC would be held in Washington in conjunction with Great Lakes Day.
- 10) The next meetings of the Board will be conference calls on Friday, January 19 at 10 AM and Friday February 16 at 10 AM (Eastern).
- 11) Meeting was adjourned by J. Cherry at 12:25 pm.

Great Lakes Commission
Board of Directors Conference Call Minutes
January 19, 2007

SUMMARY MINUTES

- 1) The conference call was chaired by Pat Quinn, Vice-Chair. The call began at approx. 10:00 am (EST). The following members were present on the call:

Lt. Gov. P. Quinn -	Illinois
K. McClain -	“
K. Evans -	Indiana
K. DeBeaussaert -	Michigan
D. Eichinger	“
T. Huntley -	Minnesota
S. Logan -	Ohio
P. Madigan -	“
R. Samah	Ontario
J. Booser -	Pennsylvania
I. Gutierrez-Pils -	Wisconsin

Staff present: T. Eder, M. Doss, J. MacDonagh-Dumler, C. Manninen, T. Crane, V. Pebbles.
J. Laur (strategic plan consultant).

Strategic Plan

- 1) Joe Laur provided an overview of the strategic planning process since the Dec. 14-15 Board meeting. All edits from the Board and Commissioners have been incorporated. The staff has met and drafted strategic actions under each goal. Tim provided a timetable for conclusion of the plan. The next draft will be provided to the Board by Feb 9. Metrics for measuring progress are being drafted but will not be part of the formal document. The Board is requested to share this draft of the plan with their fellow Commissioners, staff, etc. Comments on this draft are welcome by Feb 2; however, the February 9 version will be more refined. The Board meeting in Washington, D.C., on March 6 will include further discussion/review of the Operating Principles and the draft plan, prior to the complete package being sent to all Commissioners. The draft plan (minus the strategic actions) has been sent to all Commissioners, Observers and attendees at the 2006 Annual Meeting.

Legislation and Great Lakes Day

- 2) The GLC's draft legislative priorities were presented. These were prepared with preliminary consultation with the Council of Great Lakes Governors. Tim recommends that we hone our message to 1-2 Tier One priorities: 1) invasive species, and 2) priorities of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC). The GLC will endorse whatever Great Lakes Regional Collaborative implementation bill emerges as the consensus of the Congressional leaders drafting it. We will endeavor to and ensure it contains an emphasis on invasive species.

The Tier 2 priorities are intended to track closely with the Council's near-term priorities. The Council's list

is largely unchanged from FY07; our message is that “we’re being consistent with last year” and we still need action on these items. Ken DeBeaussaert noted the urgency to work closely with the Council/Governors. There are some additions made by the GLC, e.g., reauthorization of WRDA. The GLC is coordinating AOC/RAP participants from around the region in carrying the message of the urgent need for remedial action cleanups. Tom Huntley emphasized that the GLC should continue to work on maritime infrastructure issues; these are in line with Rep. Oberstar’s priorities (harbor maintenance, dredging, Soo Locks, plus invasive species).

Tim asked what level of involvement the Board would like on the drafting and review of the legislative priorities between now and Feb. 16. The view of Congressmen such as Oberstar and Emanuel should be fully considered. A roundtable will be held Jan. 23 in Chicago and will involve the GLC, CGLG, Healing our Waters, etc. The meeting is hosted by the Alliance for the Great Lakes. The question was raised if the GLC should encourage the Council to add some maritime infrastructure priorities to the governors’ list of priorities. Ken DeBeaussaert noted that we should probably not recommend changes to the governors but he encouraged further discussions between the GLC and CGLG. Point of clarification: the tier 1-3 distinctions are for GLC internal use only. Tom Huntley offered to discuss the maritime priorities with Dave Naftzger.

- 3) Great Lakes Day is March 7. Board members are encouraged to reserve their rooms at the Jurys Washington hotel; a special rate is available under the “Great Lakes Commission” block until Feb. 10. A March 6 Board meeting is planned at 10 A.M., followed by a legislative briefing and prep for Hill visits in the afternoon. All who will be involved in the Hill visits on March 7 are highly encouraged to attend the information sessions on March 6. The congressional breakfast will be held 8-9:30 a.m. on March 7. Speakers are being finalized. A hearing (coordinated by Rep. Oberstar) is tentatively planned for 10 a.m.-noon on March 7, followed by visits to congressional offices.

Program and Administrative Updates

- 4) The auditor’s letter includes recommendations for improvements, including some revisions to timesheet preparation and suggestions for managing funds within the Friends of the Great Lakes endowment account. This information has been mailed to the Board.
- 5) Committee assignments were discussed. Committees include: liaison to CGLG, Finance, Personnel, Audit, and Nominating. The Nominating Committee will likely not be appointed until later in the year, since their primary duties involve nomination of officers for election at the fall Annual Meeting. All Board members will be encouraged to serve on at least one of the committee, with a good balance of states/provinces and tenure experience.
- 6) The carp barrier legislation may move independently from WRDA. The new bill introduced by Sen. Durbin and Rep. Biggert is encouraging. The bill introduced will solve the authorization for both barriers. It will not solve the funding problem but it’s a step in that direction. There will also be state reimbursement for funds expended to date. Another bill is expected that will provide an institutional mechanism to move forward the priorities of the GLRC. Rahm Emanuel (IL) has been instrumental in this legislation.
- 7) Tim provided an update on aquatic nuisance species activities, including a meeting with the GLC Board and representatives of the maritime industry on February 23. An Aquatic Nuisance Special Coalition of States has been formed by Michigan. Tim attended the annual meeting of the American Great Lakes Ports Association this week in Toronto. He received an enthusiastic response from the AGLP Board regarding working together on a solution to ballast water discharges of invasive species. A Feb. 23 meeting is planned in Detroit to discuss ballast water issues. Discussing where there is consensus on ballast issues, proposed federal legislation and the role of the Commission will be the chief topics at the 2/23 meeting priority. The states will also be discussing their positions and their desire to work together on ballast legislation and a federal approach. There needs to be consensus on what the minimal standards should be for controlling ballast water. The issue of state pre-emption will be a critical item for consideration in the

federal legislation.

- 8) Victoria Pebbles reported on a new Habitat Restoration project that the GLC is partnering on with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This project will involve a comprehensive inventory of past, current and planned efforts to restore acreage of habitat in the Great Lakes basin. Setting up meetings with all the states to discuss their regulatory and habitat/wetlands restoration projects is a near-term priority. This is a one-year project. Pat Madigan noted that the staff should refer to the Ohio Lake Erie Action List, published in fall 2006. This document will provide an excellent start for this inventory for the state of Ohio. The Healing Our Waters habitat restoration inventory results will also be incorporated into the GLC's project database so this information will not need to be re-compiled.
- 9) Ken DeBeaussaert reported that an IMAX film is being produced on the Great Lakes. The states are not in a position to support the film financially. The GLC staff is assisting with publicity of the film via GLIN and associated email lists. Christine Manninen is also serving on the review team for the film to edit the script and associated video.
- 10) The next Board call will be Friday, Feb. 16, 10 a.m. EDT.
- 11) The next in-person Board meeting will be Tuesday, March 6, 10 a.m. EDT in Washington, D.C.
- 12) Motion to adjourn by Ken DeBeaussaert. The call adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim A. Eder
Executive Director

/cm

Great Lakes Commission
Board of Directors Conference Call Minutes
February 16, 2007

SUMMARY MINUTES

- 1) The conference call began on Friday, 02/16/07 at approx. 10:00 am (EST). The following members were present on the call:

Lt. Gov. P. Quinn	-	Illinois
K. McClain	-	“
K. Evans	-	Indiana
J. Cherry	-	Michigan
D. Eichinger	-	“
T. Huntley	-	Minnesota
D. Zelazny	-	New York
S. Logan	-	Ohio
P. Madigan	-	“
-	-	Ontario
J. Booser	-	Pennsylvania
C. Curran-Myers	-	“
T. Ambs	-	Wisconsin
C. Ledin	-	

Staff present: T. Eder, M. Doss, J. MacDonagh-Dumler, C. Manninen, T. Crane, R. Gauthier, and R. Straith

- 1) Chair J. Cherry called the conference call to order at approx. 10:00 AM (EST)
- 2) Minutes of January 19, 2007 stand approved.
- 3) Ex. Director, T. Eder presented the latest draft of the Strategic Plan and proposed a process to send the draft to Commissioners, Observers and participants of the Duluth meeting for comments and to set up a conference call two weeks following each mailing. The schedule consisted of the following
- 1st) Commissioners
 - 2nd) Observers
 - 3rd) Duluth meeting participants

The Board approved the draft and agreed to the process.

- 4) T. Eder asked to hear from each delegation on specific substantive issues for the Commission to focus on pertaining to Goal #4 of the Strategic Plan.
- 4) Discussion followed on Great Lakes Day in Washington. There will be a hearing on Wednesday, 7th and the theme is Great Lakes Protection and Restoration with emphasis on invasive species. Board members will have a list of which offices to visit and will have a one-pager of overlapping priorities for all organizations.

- 5) J. MacDonagh-Dumler provided a final draft of the Great Lakes Commission Legislative Priorities for Board approval. T. Eder asked that each state let him know how much your states wants under section 319 and that amount will be added to the brochure, Board members agreed to do that

J. Cherry called for any objections to the draft Priorities as presented for Great Lakes Day. Hearing none, he declared they stand approved.

- 6) Budget analysis was presented by R. Hassesbring. There is a budget deficit and steps have taken to cut and hold down costs, mainly in travel, to reduce the deficit. We project we will still have a deficit.

T. Eder and R. Hasselbring put a suggestion forward for Board consideration. That we consider selling our investment profits and put those profits in the cash side of our ledger to help offset the deficit.

P. Quinn moved that the Board approve selling the value of the reserve funds that would put us back to the value of the reserve funds where we started in July, approximately \$150,000.00. C. Curran-Myers seconded the motion.

Chair Cherry asked for objections and hearing none stated that the motion passed and Tim is authorized to make that decision.

- 6) T. Eder and R. Gauthier presented the GLOS (Great Lakes Observing System) MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) between the GLOS Board of Directors and the Great Lakes Commission to the Board for approval.

C. Curran-Myers made the motion to accept with the addition of “in consultation with the Board,” to the last sentence of the agreement, S. Logan seconded the motion.

Chair Cherry asked for any objections, hearing none the stated motion carried.

- 7) The following names were put forward for appointment to the following Committees

Finance Committee: T. Ambbs, K. McClain, K. Debeausaert, Ed. Oliver. This committee would help with the budget and help develop a financial investment policy for reserve funds and the Friends of the Great Lakes Endowment.

Personnel Committee: D. Zelazney, K. Evans, M. Lefleur, T. Huntley,

Audit Committee: C. Curran Myers, S. Logan, B. Carr

Chair Cherry asked for objections and hearing none the Committees are approved and Tim will contact the members of the new Committees as we move forward.

- 8) T. Eder presented an update on the Ballast Water meeting on February 23 in Detroit. Plans are coming together nicely. We have signed a contract with S. Speck to facilitate the meeting. Purpose is to try for consensus on controls on Ballast water for the region.
- 9) The date for the next Board Meeting (in person) will be in Washington, D.C., March 6 at 10 am the morning before Great Lakes Day. The next Board conference calls will be Monday, April 9 and Friday, April 27 at 10:00 am. Chairman Cherry is unavailable on April 9 but agreed that Vice Chair P.

Quinn chair that meeting.

Board approved those dates.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim A. Eder
Executive Director

/rjs

Great Lakes Commission
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Jurys Hotel, Washington DC
March 6, 2007

SUMMARY MINUTES

- 1) The conference call began on Friday, 02/16/07 at approx. 10:00 am (EST). The following members were present on the call:

Lt. Gov. P. Quinn -	Illinois
K. McClain -	“
K. DeBeussaert -	Michigan
T. Huntley -	Minnesota
D. Zelazny -	New York
S. Logan -	Ohio
J. Booser -	Pennsylvania
M. LaFleur -	Quebec
B. Carr -	Ontario

Staff present: T. Eder, M. Doss, J. MacDonagh-Dumler, C. Manninen, T. Crane.
Joe Laur, strategic planning consultant,
Ed Oliver, MN. Commissioner

- 2) Vice Chair P. Quinn called the meeting to order at approx. 10:00 AM (EST)
- 3) Ex. Director, T. Eder presented an initial draft of the budget. Staff explained that the budget numbers were preliminary and would be updated when we get refined estimates for health care premiums. Health care costs are projected to rise 20%. The Board agreed that the Finance Committee would meet, review the draft, and consider the next draft at the April meeting.
- 4) Discussion followed on Strategic Planning. The strategic plan has been distributed to all Commissioners for review; no additional comments have been received. The plan will be sent to Observers, attendees at fall 2006 annual meeting. Final approval of the plan is expected at the 2007 Semiannual Meeting in Indianapolis.

A new draft of the Guiding Principles is being presented to the Board today. The Principles have been revised since December 2006, based on input from staff and Joe Laur. John Booser presented ideas from the PA Delegation regarding changes to the “Vision for the Region.” The changes would substitute “basin” for “region”; this is a substantial change in thought and orientation for the GLC. Only a small portion of some states are actually in the Great Lakes Basin watershed boundary. This needs to be considered. Would the GLC’s work then only apply to the basin rather than other areas of the states/provinces? The term “region” seems to better cut across political boundaries.

Minnesota does not differentiate a “basin” view; they take a “state/regional” view. The Brookings Report (released in October 2006) is actually trying to broaden the view of the Great Lakes as a “region.” Suggestion: when we refer to the waters of the Great Lakes Basin, use basin to reinforce this concept. The broader view of “region” may work to our advantage in a lot of cases, regarding

advocacy. There should be a clarification in plan defining what we mean by “basin” vs. “region.” The notion of sustainable development goes to integrating environment and economy. We have to be careful not to separate the concepts.

The Compact speaks to the waters of the Great Lakes basin. The term “water belt” was a suggestion from the Council of Great Lakes Governors. We are trying to brand ourselves to shed the Rust Belt image. “Our Region” can be deleted in many of the bullets, repetitive. Water Belt should be further defined before it is accepted for broad use by the Commission; this is a new concept.

Guiding Principles: The GLC should strive for consensus. The sixth bullet could contradict this concept. Diversity is also listed twice within this bullet. Inclusiveness may be a better concept to include. The Commission has to be good listeners as well as bringing people to the table. All input would be “considered” was an important concept to include. The second and third bullets apply to Commissioners and Board. All additional comments will be incorporated before the plan is sent out for its final review.

- 5) Tim provided a brief overview of the ballast workshop that was held Feb. 23 at the Detroit Metro Airport. Crux issues were presented to attempt to reach consensus on next steps. Open dialogue helped to generate the bullets included in the meeting summary. Urgency was a recurring theme. Several of the states are going forward with their own state legislation if federal legislation is not passed in the near-term. There was discussion of whether AIS is primarily an environmental or an economic issue. The economic issues have never been fully researched and documented.

Vice Chair Quinn noted the importance of funding for the Asian carp barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. The ballast meeting can be built on. Sen. Levin’s S.725 bill (NAISA), which was introduced March 1. If we can build consensus and include enough representation from the maritime community, we can build a strong case for passing legislation to deal with the ballast problem and the larger AIS issues. Numeric standards for ballast water discharge are of high priority. The IMO standard x 2 is what is being debated. Will it preempt the states? S.725 requires ballast water management but not the same treatment needs for lakers (non-salties). Tim is interested in seeking support from funders to build on these activities. Creating a national AIS network (strength in numbers) is one of the ideas proposed. Tim will submit an abstract outlining these ideas to the Board prior to developing proposals.

- 6) The next Board conference calls will be Monday, April 9 and Friday, April 27 at 10:00 am. The April 9 meeting may be moved due to the Easter holiday. Vice Chair P. Quinn chair that meeting. The Board approved those dates. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim A. Eder
Executive Director

Great Lakes Commission
Board of Directors Conference Call Minutes
April 10, 2007

SUMMARY MINUTES

- 1) The conference call began on Friday, 04/10/07 at approx. 10:00 am (EST). The following members were present on the call:

Lt. Gov. P. Quinn	-	Illinois
K. McClain	-	“
M. Miller	-	“
K. Evans	-	Indiana
K. DeBeaussaert	-	Michigan
K. Profit		“
—		Minnesota
D. Zelazny	-	New York
V. Deisner	-	Ohio
R. Samah		Ontario
C. Curran-Myers.	-	Pennsylvania
J. Booser		“
M. Lefleur	-	Québec
I. Guteriz-Pills	-	Wisconsin

Staff present: T. Eder, M. Doss, T. Crane, and R. Strait.

- 1) Vice Chair Pat Quinn called the conference call to order at approx. 10:00 AM (EST)
- 2) Minutes of February 16, and March 6 were approved.
- 3) T. Eder, R. Hasselbring and the Finance Committee gave a brief overview of the budget. A narrative explaining the budget will be prepared for the April 27 Board conf. call and subsequently the budget and narrative will be provided to all Commissioners at the Semiannual Meeting in Indianapolis in May.
- 4) T. Eder gave an update on the ballast water initiative and asked for Board direction on how to communicate Commission views on the legislation being developed in Congress. The Board advised developing a resolution for the Indianapolis meeting, which, once approved, would be conveyed to Congress by letter. Staff will draft a resolution for the April 27 meeting for review by the Board before distribution to Commissioners, for consideration at the May meeting in Indianapolis. Tim will continue coordination with Governors’ representatives and the CGLG.
- 5) Discussion followed on the Indianapolis meeting. The Board agreed that staff should draft resolutions on the wetlands habitat project and send out to the Board for review.

J. Booser suggested striking out “equal partners” in the 2nd bullet of the abstract resolution for Habitat protection.

- 6) Program Development: Staff reported that proposals were being prepared for the Joyce Foundation and NOAA (for GLOS), and that a number of pre-proposals were being developed for the G.L. Protection Fund RFP. Board agreed with proposed GLOS abstract. Board agreed that staff develop and submit 4 “Tier 1” proposals for review. Don Zelazny requested a copy of the proposal being developed in collaboration with Univ of Buffalo.
- 7) Great Lakes Day: Staff reported on follow-up debriefing discussions and internal valuation, and that the general consensus was that the events were very successful. A number of improvements are under consideration. Suggestions included having small café-type tables at the Breakfast so participants could sit and that there be an effort to allocate space so that Members from respective states could easily find GLC representatives. The delegations for each Hill visit could be planned farther in advance and in closer coordination with Observers and partners.

Dates were discussed for GL Day 2008, which will be held in conjunction with the Commission’s Semi-Annual Meeting. Preferred dates are March 3 with GL Day following on the 5th. Staff will check to rule-out conflicts with primary elections, NGA, NLGA and ECOS meetings.

- 9) Updates: T. Eder advised the Board that he has been invited to join the Executive Board of the Great Ships Initiative. Eder advised that the Strategic Plan is being reviewed by Commissioners and Observers through online forum, and conference calls. It will be ready for adoption in Indianapolis in May. V. Deisner asked about June conference in Cleveland on Remedial Action Plans. Matt Doss provided information and will follow-up.
- 11) The next Board conference call is scheduled for April 27 at 10 AM Eastern.
- 12) Vice Chair Quinn moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:25

Respectfully submitted,

Tim A. Eder
Executive Director

/tjs

ACTION SECTION



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Lansing, Michigan

VICE CHAIR

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Governor's Appointee
Chicago, Illinois

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William Carr

Team Leader
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Government of Québec
Chicago, Illinois

Todd Ambbs

Administrator
Division of Water
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
Madison, Wisconsin

*Ensuring environmental and economic
prosperity for the Great Lakes-St.
Lawrence region through
communications, policy research and
development, and advocacy.*

MEMORANDUM

To: Great Lakes Commissioners and Alternates

From: Tim Eder, Executive Director

Date: May 4, 2007

Re: **Ballast Water Resolution**

When you arrive in Indianapolis, you will receive in your packets a proposed resolution concerning federal legislation to address the problem of ballast water and aquatic invasive species (AIS). The Commission's Board of Directors is conducting its final review of the resolution at this time. This memo is to provide background as you consider the resolution, which will be discussed and voted on at the meeting in Indianapolis May 15.

Background

The severity of the problem of invasive species in the Great Lakes continues to escalate. It is clear that the Great Lakes ecosystem has already suffered permanent changes as a result of AIS. The costs of AIS continue to mount to municipalities, power generators, tourism, fisheries and other segments of the economy. Governments are increasingly concerned about health risks in light of recent evidence of the connection between invasive species and pathogens like VHS. Ballast water is not the only vector for release and movement of non-native organisms. But, it is the most significant.

There are promising initiatives that will help address the problem. The Great Ships Initiative is developing and testing technologies to reduce the risk of introductions of AIS from ballast water. There is renewed hope that the 110th Congress will make comprehensive federal legislation such as the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA) a higher priority. Congressman James Oberstar (MN) has indicated that he is determined to address the problem through legislation.

During the last session of Congress, two bills took different paths to address the problem of ballast water and invasive species; NAISA (S.B. 770 and H.R. 1591 and 1592) and a bill produced by the Senate Commerce Committee (S.B. 363). Neither bill became law. The Great Lakes Governors in 2005 objected to several

provisions of S.B 363, including a provision that would have pre-empted states from taking action to protect their waters, a provision that would have pre-empted use of the Clean Water Act and a general sense that the standards and the timing for when those standards would take effect were not adequate.

Positions of States and Other Interests

As the Great Lakes Commission contemplates a set of recommendations for federal legislation, it is important to note the positions taken by the Great Lakes Governors, the Commission and other interests. On Feb. 23, 2007, the Great Lakes Commission convened a meeting at Detroit Metro Airport of state officials, shipping industry representatives and other stakeholders. One purpose of the meeting was to identify where there might be common ground on the elements of a policy solution, in hopes that defining the elements of a consensus might help ease the way for passage of legislation. Participants discussed a number of contentious policy issues and identified several where there was general agreement on some of the elements of a solution. Participants also identified a number of items where agreement could not be reached, at least not at that meeting. A report of the meeting is attached. Also attached are a narrative summary of various state, federal and international initiatives; legislation and litigation that could address the problem of ballast water and AIS; and a chart illustrating the standards and key provisions in several legislative and policy proposals.

The Great Lakes states – through the Council of Great Lakes Governors and the Great Lakes Commission – have consistently over the last three years identified passage of comprehensive legislation to address the problem of ballast water and AIS as a top priority in annual communications to Congress expressing the states’ priorities for federal legislation and funding. The governors and the Commission have endorsed the NAISA bills introduced in 2005 (S.B 770 and H.R. 1591 and 1592). A key letter from the governors (Sept. 12, 2005, attached), outlines concerns over provisions of S.B. 363.

The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to Protect and Restore the Great Lakes represents another definition of consensus around the elements of federal ballast water policy. In December 2005, the final draft of the strategy was released. Its recommendations on ballast water policy are attached. These recommendations were endorsed by the Great Lakes states and by some representatives of the shipping industry.

Finally, Senators Carl Levin (MI) and George Voinovich (OH) recently sent a key letter on behalf of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Commerce Committee. This letter (attached) is very significant because it acknowledges that the Great Lakes Senators want to work with their counterparts to ensure passage of legislation, and because their letter outlines several provisions important to the Great Lakes.

Collectively, the positions of these organizations and entities have been drawn upon to craft the resolution you will consider in Indianapolis.

Ballast Water and Invasive Species Dialogue

Report of a February 23, 2007 Meeting

Thirty-eight people, representing states, Ontario, the maritime industry, non-government organizations and tribal fisheries interests, gathered in Detroit on February 23, 2007 at a meeting convened by the Great Lakes Commission. The participants discussed policy issues relating to the problem of ballast water releases of invasive species.

Participants discussed a number of contentious policy issues and identified several where there was general agreement on some of the elements of a solution. Participants also identified a number of items where agreement could not be reached, at least not at this meeting.

Below is a list of points which the participants discussed and found a general level of consensus or agreement. There was also general agreement that these points could likely be refined and possibly expanded through further discussion.

The participants at the meeting gathered in the spirit of open dialogue, to discuss potential areas of agreement and the potential for further dialogue to expand the areas of consensus. It should not be assumed that the points below reflect the official positions of any of organizations or agencies represented at the meeting. The views and positions of the organizations and agencies at the meeting with respect to any specific legislation or policy proposal to address ballast water and invasive species will be judged by the individual agency or organization. It is also important to note that the views of the organizations in attendance toward any legislation or proposal will be shaped by all of the aspects of any specific proposal, not just the elements listed below.

- Participants strongly concurred that a federal solution to address the problem of ballast water and invasive species is urgently needed.
- A policy solution that addresses invasive species releases from all pathways is desirable, as opposed to an approach that addresses ballast water only. Some expressed the view that a comprehensive solution could be more politically difficult to achieve in the 110th Congress than a ballast water only approach. Those who prefer a ballast-water only approach do so from a desire to pass legislation quickly.
- There was support from the states, conservation groups, tribal representatives and some representatives of Great Lakes maritime interests for comprehensive legislation in the form of S. 770, as it was introduced in the 109th Congress. There was also support from many of the same entities for the approach outlined in the Great Lakes Regional Collaborative (GLRC) Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes. The approach in the strategy included several recommendations relating to ship and barge-mediated introductions and spread of AIS, including:
 - Immediately require, verify and enforce that ocean-going vessels in the no ballast on board condition (NOBOBs) implement practices that are an improvement over current practices,
 - Promulgate and require ocean-going vessels to treat ballast water to meet an environmentally protective standard by 2011, and

- Require, verify and enforce best-performing ship-board ballast water treatment and hull management methods for ocean-going vessels (with a set approval period), with continued ratcheting of the treatment floor as treatment technology performance improves.

The complete recommendations of the GLRC strategy can be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/collaboration/strategy.html>

- Participants generally thought that a standard such as the one in S. 363 (as introduced in the 109th Congress) might satisfy the recommendations for “an environmentally protective standard,” but agreed that further review would be required before all agreed on this point. The standard in S. 363 was more stringent than the standard of the International Maritime Organization by two orders of magnitude. There was not agreement among the participants on other elements of S. 363. Some participants supported the bill and others were strongly opposed to the timing and enforcement of the standard and the manner in which the bill addressed the Clean Water Act and the rights of states.
- There was strong consensus among participants that a solution should force early action by requiring treatment that is an improvement over the status quo, and then “ramp-up,” as technology evolves, to require treatment to an environmentally protective standard. Two approaches were discussed as possible requirements or standards that could be applied in the near term as technology evolves:
 - Treatment to meet the IMO standard,
 - Treatment to meet baseline “best performing technology,” the definition of which could be revised periodically as technology improves.
- There was some agreement that there were at least some aspects of a regional approach that might be acceptable to the participants. A regional approach might require certain management approaches or provide certain incentives for vessels in the Great Lakes region.
- Participants agreed that bills introduced in the 110th Congress would be reviewed and that the points discussed on February 23 would be useful as criteria to evaluate the bills. [Since the February 23rd meeting, a revised bill, S. 725, the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act, was introduced by Senators Levin and Collins.]
- There was agreement that we – representatives of industry, the states and other stakeholders – should work together to define the solution. There is merit in further dialogue to define the standard, the timing, the enforcement, what requirements should be applied in the interim. There was agreement that there is merit in further discussion of a Great Lakes regional approach. There was general agreement that there is merit in defining a solution that works for the Great Lakes that could be applied by any level of government, hopefully at the federal or international level.
- There is urgency in addressing this problem now.

Participants agreed that a next step would be to reconvene either in person or by conference call to evaluate proposed legislation using the points above as criteria.



Background & Status State, Federal and International Ballast Water Initiatives

This paper was prepared by Great Lakes Commission staff for a workshop held February 23, 2007. It provides information on state initiatives (pages 1-3), the International Maritime Organization's program (page 4-6), a lawsuit challenging EPA authority to regulate ballast water discharge under the Clean Water Act (page 7) and the Coast Guard's program (page 8).

State-led initiatives for ballast water management

Michigan

Michigan passed legislation in 2005 requiring all oceangoing vessels to obtain a permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) before entering a port in state waters beginning January 1, 2007. Permits will be issued if the applicant can prove that the vessel will not discharge ANS or will utilize environmentally sound technology and methods, as determined by MDEQ, to prevent the release of ANS. The general permit provides that one of several types of ballast water treatment is required for any oceangoing vessel that uses a Michigan port and which discharges ballast water, or the vessel must apply for an individual permit which will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

The MDEQ has facilitated the formation of the Great Lakes Aquatic Nuisance Species Coalition (Coalition) to "address discharges of aquatic nuisance species from oceangoing vessels that damage water quality, aquatic habitat, or fish or wildlife", mandated by Michigan Public Act Number 33 of 2005 as follows:

In order to address discharges of aquatic nuisance species from oceangoing vessels that damage water quality, aquatic habitat, or fish or wildlife, the department shall facilitate the formation of a Great Lakes aquatic nuisance species coalition. The Great Lakes aquatic nuisance species coalition shall be formed through an agreement entered into with other states in the Great Lakes basin to implement on a basin-wide basis water pollution laws that prohibit the discharge of aquatic nuisance species into the Great Lakes from oceangoing vessels. The department shall seek to enter into an agreement that will become effective not later than January 1, 2007. The department shall consult with the department of natural resources prior to entering into this agreement. Upon entering into the agreement, the department shall notify the Canadian Great Lakes provinces of the terms of the agreement. The department shall seek funding from the Great Lakes protection fund authorized under part 331 to implement the Great Lakes aquatic nuisance species coalition.

The initial conference call for the Coalition was held on December 15, 2005. Representatives from natural resource agencies in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin participated in the call. The main agenda items included a brief overview of the legislation that called for the Coalition, an overview of the progress towards implementation of Michigan's recently passed ballast water legislation, a report from each of the states on their current activities or interest in state ballast water regulation, a discussion on developing a proposal to the Great Lakes Protection fund to help implement the Coalition, and a discussion of next steps and preparations for the next call. The Coalition has since developed an Operating Principles Agreement and plans to continue meeting regularly in 2007.

Wisconsin

Early in 2006, ballast water legislation was introduced into the legislature that would require oceangoing vessels that use a state port to obtain a permit from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) by January 2007. The bill, which did not pass in 2006 but was re-introduced early in the 2007 legislative session, would require the operator of an ocean-going vessel using a Wisconsin port to obtain a permit from the Department of Natural Resources. In order to obtain that permit, the operator would have to demonstrate that the vessel was either not capable of taking on ballast water or equipped with environmentally sound technology to prevent the introduction of aquatic nuisance species. In June 2006, agency and industry representatives met in Milwaukee to discuss various options for treating the ballast water of vessels coming in from foreign ports. WDNR is seeking proposals for preparation of a feasibility study concerning the provision of onshore ballast water treatment at the Port of Milwaukee. The goal is to install a shore based storage/treatment and collection facility with sufficient capacity to prevent delaying the normal operations of any ship discharging ballast water within the port.

California

Three states on the West Coast of the U.S. (California, Oregon and Washington) have passed mandatory ballast water exchange and management laws, which are similar to the Federal law, but also include additional requirements for coastwise traffic. A summary of California's regulations from the West Coast Ballast Outreach Project follows:

California passed Assembly Bill 703 (AB 703) in October 1999 which required open ocean exchange or treatment for all vessels wanting to discharge ballast water in a California port after operating outside of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). AB 703 sunset in 2004 and was replaced by AB 433, California's Marine Invasive Species Act. AB 433 strengthened the legislation begun by AB 703. AB 433 requires all vessels arriving from outside the EEZ to perform mid-ocean ballast exchange or qualifying vessels must retain all ballast water onboard. As of March 22, 2006 all vessels must exchange ballast water when traveling between one port or place and another in the Pacific Coast Region.

On September 19, 2006, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed state legislation (SB 497) that requires ships entering California ports to treat ballast water. The new law requires the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) to adopt ballast water performance standards for both small and large vessels and calls for ballast water to be free of invasive species by 2020. Specifically, the CSLC must promulgate regulations by January 1, 2008 to implement and comply with the implementation schedule for the interim performance standards for the discharge of ballast water recommended in accordance with Table x-1 and x-2 (attached) of the *California State Lands Commission Report on Performance Standards for Ballast Water Discharges in California Waters*. The Report further recommends, and the legislation requires, the adoption of a final performance standard for the discharge of ballast water of zero detectable for all organism size classed by 2020.

For More Information:

http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3682_3713-153446--,00.html

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2005/data/SB-679.pdf>

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2005/data/AB-919.pdf>

http://www.slc.ca.gov/Division_Pages/MFD/MFD_Programs/Ballast_Water/Ballast_Water_Default.htm

http://groups.ucanr.org/Ballast_Outreach/Laws_and_Regulations/

Table x-1 and x-2 of the California State Lands Commission Report on Performance Standards for Ballast Water Discharges in California Waters (2006)

Table X-1: Summary of Advisory Panel recommendations on performance standards by organism size class.

Organism Size Class (Units)	Majority Panel Recommendations	Minority Panel Recommendations	Minority Panel Position ^[3]
> 50 μm (/m ³)	No detectable living organisms	10 organisms	No detectable living organisms
10 - 50 μm (/mL)	10 ⁻² organisms	10 organisms	10 ⁻² organisms
< 10 μm (/100 mL)	10 ³ for bacteria 10 ⁴ for viruses Public health protective limits ^[1]	Public health protective limits ^[2]	10 ³ bacteria 10 ⁴ viruses Public health protective limits ^[1]
<p>^[1] 126 colony-forming-units per 100 milliliters of Escherichia coli, 33 colony-forming-units per 100 milliliters of Intestinal enterococci, 1 colony-forming-unit per 100 milliliters or 1 colony-forming-unit per gram of wet zoological samples for Toxicogenic Vibrio cholerae (serotypes 01 and 0139)</p> <p>^[2] 250 colony-forming-units per 100 milliliters of Escherichia coli, 100 colony-forming-units per 100 milliliters of Intestinal enterococci, 1 colony-forming-unit per 100 milliliters or 1 colony-forming-unit per gram of wet zoological samples for Toxicogenic Vibrio cholerae (serotypes 01 and 0139)</p> <p>^[3] The Ocean Conservancy supports the Majority Panel Report's long-term standard of zero, however advocates setting a date for achieving a zero discharge standard with benchmarks for reviewing the feasibility of zero as the date approaches.</p>			

Table X-2: Recommended implementation schedule for interim performance standards. Newly constructed vessels built by timeframes indicated in the middle column must meet standards once placed in active service. Older (existing) vessels must meet standards by deadlines indicated in the last column.

Ballast water capacity of vessel	Standards apply to new vessels in this size class constructed on or after	Standards apply to all other vessels in this size class beginning in
< 1500 metric tons	2009	2016
1500 – 5000 metric tons	2009	2014
> 5000 metric tons	2012	2016

International Maritime Organization (IMO) International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (Adopted in 2004)

The problem of harmful aquatic organisms in ballast water was first raised at IMO in 1988 and since then the MEPC, together with MSC and technical sub-committees, has been dealing with the issue. In order to help developing countries understand the problem and monitor the situation, IMO is implementing the GEF/UNDP/IMO Global Ballast Water Management Program (GloBallast) and has provided technical support and expertise.

A diplomatic conference in February 2004 adopted the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, a new international convention to prevent the potentially devastating effects of the spread of harmful aquatic organisms carried by ships' ballast water.

The Convention will require all ships to implement a Ballast Water and Sediments Management Plan. All ships will have to carry a Ballast Water Record Book and will be required to carry out ballast water management procedures to a given standard. Existing ships will be required to do the same, but after a phase-in period.

Parties to the Convention are given the option to take additional measures which are subject to criteria set out in the Convention and to IMO guidelines

At its 53rd session in July 2005, IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) adopted *Guidelines for uniform implementation of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention)*. The guidelines adopted cover ballast water management equivalent compliance; approval of ballast water management systems; ballast water management and development of ballast water management plans; ballast water exchange and the procedure for approval of ballast water management systems that make use of Active Substances.

MEPC 55 outcome

The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) at its 55th session in October 2006 adopted the following guidelines, which are part of a series developed to assist in the implementation of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention) adopted in February 2004:

- ballast water exchange design and control standards (G11);
- design and construction to facilitate sediment control on ships (G12);
- designation of areas for ballast water exchange (G14);
- sediment reception facilities (G1); and
- ballast water reception facilities (G5).

Six other guidelines in the series have already been adopted during the last two sessions of the MEPC. The Sub-Committee on Bulk Liquids and Gases (BLG) was instructed to finalize guidelines on additional measures including emergency situations (G13).

Meanwhile, following consideration of the report of the second meeting of the GESAMP¹ Ballast Water Working Group, which met in May 2006, the MEPC granted Basic Approval to two BWM systems proposed by Japan (the Special Pipe Ballast Water Management System (combined with Ozone treatment)) and Sweden (the EctoSys™ electrochemical system).

The Ballast Water Review Group met during the session to evaluate the latest information on ballast water treatment technologies and to determine whether appropriate technologies are available to achieve the

ballast water performance standard required under regulation D-2 of the BWM Convention by 2009, the first date specified in the Convention under which new ships must comply with the performance standard. Based on the Review Group's conclusions, the MEPC noted that type-approved ballast water management systems would probably be available for installation prior to the first application date of the BWM Convention. However, the installation of type-approved ballast water management systems on ships already contracted to be built in or after 2009 may not be feasible or only possible at excessive cost and/or delivery delay.

The MEPC noted two options as suggested in the report of the Review Group: (1) to amend the first application date specified in the BWM Convention; or (2) to develop an exemption procedure for the first set of vessels.

In response to the above suggested options, the Chairman of the MEPC stated that the amendment procedure of the BWM Convention (described in Article 19) could not be applied until the Convention is in force. The Committee strongly urged all Member Governments to ratify the Convention at their earliest convenience so that either amendments or exemptions could be considered by the MEPC as soon as the conditions for entry into force are satisfied.

In order to address the concerns related to the availability of appropriate technologies, the Committee invited Administrations to develop recommendations to ensure that owners allow for technology to be included in ship design; invited Administrations with land-based testing facilities to supply information to the next session of the Committee (in July 2007) on the existence, utilization, capacity, accreditation and capabilities of their facilities; and invited Member States and observers to submit information on the estimated number of vessels in the first category to which the Convention may apply.

The MEPC noted that, to date, only six countries representing 0.62% of the world tonnage had become contracting States to the BWM Convention and once again urged Member States to ratify it at the earliest possible opportunity.

MEPC 54 outcome

The MEPC at its 54th session in March 2006 adopted the *Guidelines for approval and oversight of prototype ballast water treatment technology programs (G10)*, which are part of a series of guidelines developed to assist in the implementation of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention).

Eleven sets of guidelines are referred to in the Convention. Six have already been adopted and the remainder are being developed by the Sub-Committee on Bulk Liquids and Gases (BLG) with input from the Sub-Committee on Flag State Implementation (FSI).

The MEPC agreed to give basic approval to two ballast water management systems that make use of active substances, after consideration of the report of the first session of the GESAMP Ballast Water Working Group on Active Substances, which met in January 2006.

One system involves the use of a biocide for treatment of ballast water and the other involves the disinfection of ballast water by electrolysis with the generation of free chlorine, sodium hypochlorite and hydroxyl radicals and by electrochemical oxidation through the creation of ozone and hydrogen peroxide.

Approval of ballast water management systems

The dedicated Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) -Ballast Water (GESAMP-BW) Technical Group on Active Substances has been established to review any proposals submitted for approval of Ballast Water Management systems that make use of Active Substances. This group would then report to the Organization on whether such a proposal presents unreasonable risk to the environment, human health, property or resources in accordance with the criteria

specified in the *Procedure for approval of ballast water management systems that make use of Active Substances*.

The GESAMP-BW Technical Group will be financed through a fee scheme and paid for by the body or industry requesting approval of a ballast water management system using Active Substances.

Review of Convention

The Convention requires a review to be undertaken no later than three years before the first effective date for compliance set out in the Convention in order to determine whether appropriate technologies are available to achieve the standard. A Review Group established at the session reviewed 14 different ballast water management technologies and systems which could meet the ballast water performance standard in the Convention

Regulation D-2 Ballast Water Performance Standard - states that ships conducting ballast water management shall discharge less than 10 viable organisms per cubic meter greater than or equal to 50 micrometers in minimum dimension and less than 10 viable organisms per milliliter less than 50 micrometers in minimum dimension and greater than or equal to 10 micrometers in minimum dimension; and discharge of the indicator microbes shall not exceed the specified concentrations.

The indicator microbes, as a human health standard, include, but are not be limited to:

- a. Toxicogenic *Vibrio cholerae* (O1 and O139) with less than 1 colony forming unit (cfu) per 100 milliliters or less than 1 cfu per 1 gram (wet weight) zooplankton samples;
- b. *Escherichia coli* less than 250 cfu per 100 milliliters;
- c. Intestinal Enterococci less than 100 cfu per 100 milliliters.

The technologies and systems were reviewed against criteria of safety, environmental acceptability, practicability, cost effectiveness and biological effectiveness including an assessment of socio-economic effects, specifically in relation to the developmental needs of developing countries, particularly small island developing States.

It was agreed that the information collected to date on the systems and technologies currently being tested suggested they had the potential to meet the criteria and it was, therefore, anticipated that final approval of the systems, following testing and evaluation, could be achieved during 2008.

For More Information:

<http://globallast.imo.org>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Water Act

In 1999, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received a petition from a number of concerned environmental groups to require regulation of ballast water discharges under the Clean Water Act (CWA). The petition asked the EPA to repeal a 30 year old regulation, 40 CFR § 122.3(a), which exempts effluent discharges “incidental to the normal operation of a vessel” from regulation under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), as follows:

The following discharges do not require NPDES permits:

(a) Any discharge of sewage from vessels, effluent from properly functioning marine engines, laundry, shower, and galley sink wastes, or any other discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel. This exclusion does not apply to rubbish, trash, garbage, or other such materials discharged overboard; nor to other discharges when the vessel is operating in a capacity other than as a means of transportation such as when used as an energy or mining facility, a storage facility or a seafood processing facility, or when secured to a storage facility or a seafood processing facility, or when secured to the bed of the ocean, contiguous zone or waters of the United States for the purpose of mineral or oil exploration or development.

The petition based their argument on the scope of permitting requirements under the CWA, stating that “vessels” are “point sources” requiring NPDES permits for discharges to waters of the United States (other than in the ocean and contiguous zone) and that the EPA has no authority to exclude point source discharges from vessels from the NPDES program.

The EPA denied the petition in September of 2003, citing several reasons including Congress’s apparent preference that the Coast Guard regulates routine, operational discharges, as evidenced by legislation such as the National Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act (NANPCA). In response, three of the Pacific Coast environmental groups filed suit against the EPA, hoping to force the regulation of ballast water discharges under the CWA, under two claims:

- 1) that EPA’s promulgation of 40 CFR § 122.3(a) was inconsistent with its statutory authority in the CWA and thus was unlawful and subject to review under the Administrative Procedure Act; and
- 2) that EPA’s denial of plaintiffs’ petition was arbitrary, capricious, and an abuse of discretion.

Several Great Lakes states, - Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin - have joined the case. On March 31, 2005, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California agreed that the regulation in question (40 CFR § 122.3(a)) exceeded the authority of the EPA under the CWA and granted summary judgment in favor of the environmental groups to repeal the regulation. On September 18, 2006, the court issued their final ruling that the EPA regulation “is plainly contrary to the congressional intent embodied in the CWA” and directing the EPA to “set aside the challenged regulation as of September 30, 2008”. This ruling gives the EPA two years to develop a system, within the constraints of the CWA and applying the “best available technology economically achievable”, to regulate ballast and other vessel discharges under the NPDES program. In the ruling, the Court emphasized a belief that existing regulations, such as those under the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Convention, are inadequate to address the threat of invasive species. Further, that USCG regulations “do not relieve EPA of its duty to follow the mandates that Congress has established” under the CWA. The EPA has recently announced plans to appeal the ruling.

For More Information:

http://www.epa.gov/owowwtr1/invasive_species/ballast_water.html

U.S. Coast Guard Ballast Water Management Program

In response to national concern regarding ANS, the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (NISA) was enacted which reauthorized and amended the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (NANPCA). NISA required the Coast Guard to establish national voluntary ballast water management guidelines. If the guidelines were deemed inadequate, NISA directed the Coast Guard to convert them into a mandatory national program. To comply with NISA, the Coast Guard has established both regulations and guidelines to prevent the introduction of ANS.

Under the initial nationwide program which began in 1998, a self-policing program was established where ballast water management (BWM) was initially voluntary for a period of 24-30 months. However, the rate of compliance was found to be inadequate, and vessel operators often failed to submit mandatory ballast water reports to the Coast Guard during this timeframe. The voluntary program has become mandatory under the rules found in 33 CFR 151.

Penalties for Non-submittal of Ballast Water Reports

On June 14, 2004, the Coast Guard published regulations establishing penalties for ships headed to the U.S. that fail to submit a ballast water management reporting form, as well as vessels bound for the Great Lakes or portions of the Hudson River that violate mandatory ballast water management requirements. These regulations also increase the number of vessels subject to these provisions by expanding the reporting and the recordkeeping requirements on ships, increasing the Coast Guard's ability to determine the patterns of ballast water movement as required by NISA. The Coast Guard may now impose a civil penalty of up to \$27,500 per day or Class C Felony charge for non-submittal. Vessels are strongly encouraged to electronically submit ballast water management reporting forms via email and/or web-based methods available at the National Ballast Information Clearinghouse web site:

<http://invasions.si.edu/nbic/submit.html>.

Mandatory Ballast Water Management Program for U.S. Waters

On July 28, 2004, the U.S. Coast Guard published regulations establishing a national mandatory ballast water management program for all vessels equipped with ballast water tanks that enter or operate within U.S. waters. These regulations also require vessels to maintain a ballast water management plan that is specific for that vessel and assigns responsibility to the master or appropriate official to understand and execute the ballast water management strategy for that vessel.

Compliance Guidance

On October 29, 2004, the U.S. Coast Guard issued Change-1 to the Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 07-04, titled "Ballast Water Management for the Control of Aquatic Nuisance Species in the Waters of the United States." The NVIC provides guidance for USCG personnel, vessel owners and operators, masters, shipping agents, and persons-in-charge concerning compliance with and enforcement of the USCG's Ballast Water Management (BWM) Program.

Ballast Water Management Equivalent Reporting Program

The Coast Guard and the National Ballast Information Clearinghouse (NBIC) have launched the new Equivalent Reporting Program for vessels operating exclusively in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This program offers an alternative for an Owner, Operator, Master, Agent, Person-in-Charge or Charter of a vessel to submit required Ballast Water Management (BWM) Reports in a single batch report on a monthly basis, instead of on a port-to-port, pre-arrival schedule as required under 33 CFR 151.204(b).

For More Information: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mso/bwm.htm>



September 12, 2005

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
United States Senate
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ted Stevens
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

JIM DOYLE
CO-CHAIR
Governor of Wisconsin

BOB TAFT
CO-CHAIR
Governor of Ohio

ROD BLAGOJEVICH
Governor of Illinois

MITCH DANIELS
Governor of Indiana

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
Governor of Michigan

GEORGE E. PATAKI
Governor of New York

TIM PAWLENTY
Governor of Minnesota

ED RENDELL
Governor of Pennsylvania

DAVID NAFTZGER
Executive Director

35 East Wacker Drive
Suite 1850
Chicago, IL 60601

Voice: 312-407-0177
Fax: 312-407-0038
Web: www.cglg.org
e-mail: cglg@cglg.org

Dear Senator Inouye and Senator Stevens:

Thank you for your efforts to curb the introduction of aquatic invasive species (AIS) through ballast water management legislation. The future of commerce, recreation and the environment of our nation demands action. Already, some 162 species have harmed the Great Lakes. San Francisco Bay, Chesapeake Bay and other national waters have similar problems. Invasive species introductions cost the nation billions of dollars in damages each year.

As you know, the Great Lakes Governors remain deeply committed to halting the effects of AIS. One of our nine priorities for Great Lakes restoration and protection is to stop the introduction and spread of non-native aquatic invasive species. A key action toward this goal is to eliminate ship-mediated introductions of AIS, particularly via ballast water that has proven to be a well-established pathway for invasions. We strongly believe that the time has come to take decisive action to protect the nation's coastal waters, including one of the world's most outstanding natural resources, the Great Lakes.

As proposed by S. 363, ballast water management alone cannot adequately protect the Great Lakes and the rest of our nation's waters from AIS. That is why it is our strong preference to address the AIS issue comprehensively. Several critical components must be included in any Congressional action directed toward eliminating ship-mediated AIS introductions for it to be effective and have our support. The following provisions must be included in any effective Congressional bill that addresses this issue:

- Require the interim application of: 1.) best performing ship-board ballast water treatment; 2.) best residuals management practices for vessels that declare "no ballast on board;" and, 3.) best hull management methods for all ocean-going vessels. Ships should be required to meet an environmentally protective standard on a future date certain (within 5 years), but preventive measures must be taken in the interim;
- Establish incrementally tougher protective standards and require ships to meet those standards by a future date (between 2011 and 2014). The ultimate goal must be zero discharge of viable organisms;

- Maintain the possibility of using U.S. EPA's Clean Water Act authority to address ballast water discharges so that States can assure their publics that they and their resources will receive adequate protection from this threat even if the federal program fails to be implemented;
- Maintain the possibility of State action to improve on federal protections related to ships. While a uniform federal regulatory process is necessary, it should not preclude the States from strengthening these protections as needed;
- Review and implement best-performing ballast water management practices for non-ocean going vessels to address the spread of AIS already introduced into U.S. waters;
- Immediately and significantly expand the research, testing and evaluation of all treatment policies and technologies; and,
- Support information and education outreach programs to reduce the potential for AIS introductions.

Several provisions in S. 363 could significantly impede progress to provide meaningful AIS protection. Specifically, we are concerned with the following provisions:

- A State pre-emption clause that would preclude States from taking steps to protect against damage by AIS introduced through ballast water;
- A clause that the Act would supersede any provision of the Clean Water Act with respect to ballast water;
- Limited case-by-case review of treatments demonstrated to be substantially better than ballast water exchange; and,
- Locking-in the existing regulatory exemption for ships declaring no ballast on board until S. 363 standards are implemented ten years or later from the effective date of the legislation. Because these ships can be a significant vector for AIS and account for approximately 90 percent of the ships entering the Great Lakes, immediate interim steps must be taken.

The draft report of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration issued on July 7, 2005 indicates the broad-based support for addressing this important problem. While State and regional actions against AIS remain critical to establishing a complete protective framework, we believe that a coordinated national approach is the preferred long-term means of stopping new invasive species from penetrating the Great Lakes. While reserving judgment on other specific bills, we urge you to support comprehensive AIS legislation incorporating the suggestions outlined in this letter as an alternative to S. 363 as currently drafted.

Please do not hesitate to contact David Naftzger, Executive Director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, at 312-407-0177 if there are questions. We look forward to continuing to partner with you on this issue of national importance.

STRATEGY TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

I. Problem Statement

Significant progress over the previous three decades to restore the Great Lakes has been interrupted and undermined by the present crisis of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Invasive species come from outside an ecosystem, degrade habitat, kill native and naturalized species, and short-circuit food webs needed to maintain and rehabilitate biological resources. The Great Lakes region continues to face wave after wave of aquatic invasion. Sadly, even after decades of high-profile invasions like the sea lamprey and zebra mussel, the rate of new introductions has not slowed.⁴ Our Great Lakes, which are the world's greatest freshwater lakes, are succumbing to an irreversible "invasional meltdown"⁵ that may be more severe than chemical pollution, as AIS often make the Great Lakes home, they reproduce and spread, rendering eradication impossible. Existing measures to prevent the introduction of new species and to control species that are already established are woefully inadequate. The Great Lakes cannot afford even one new invader, and as invasions are irreversible, prevention is paramount.

An "invasive species" is defined as a species: 1) that is not native, and 2) whose introduction causes, or is likely to cause, economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.⁶ AIS have entered or may enter the lakes through vectors such as maritime commerce (e.g., ship ballast), aquaculture, canals and waterways, recreational activities, and the trade and use of live organisms. The AIS Strategy Team's plan addresses species invasion through these vectors. More than 160 non-native aquatic species are established in the Great Lakes, and during the last several decades established populations have been discovered at an average rate of one every 8 months.⁷ Not all of those species are invasive, but economic losses in the Great Lakes Basin from those that are were estimated in 2005 at \$5.0 billion per year.⁸ Moreover, 42 percent of threatened and endangered species in the U.S. are at risk, mainly because of invasive species.

Recommendations below apply only to the U.S. While a heightened U.S. response to AIS is welcomed and overdue, the U.S. should work closely with Canada to ensure commensurate action on both sides of the border, especially with regards to ballast water controls for ships



⁴ □
Great Lakes. [online] URL http://www.iaglr.org/scipolicy/ais/ais_iaglr02.pdf.

⁵ Ri □
Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 58: 2513-2525.

⁶ Executive Order 13112. <http://www.invasivespecies.gov/laws/eo13112.pdf>.

⁷ Mills, □
ductio □
invasive species in the North American Great Lakes accelerate? *BioScience* 55:4; Holeck KT, EL Mills, HJ MacIsaac, MR Dochoda, RI □
Lakes. *BioScience* 54:919-929; Holeck KT, EL Mills, HJ MacIsaac, MR Dochoda, and A Ricciardi. 2005. [Letter] Response from Holeck and colleagues. *BioScience* 55:4-5.

⁸ □
economic and environmental assessment. *Environ. Manage.* 35(1): 1-11.

transiting the St. Lawrence either in ballast or declaring no ballast on board. Bi-national cooperation is required to prevent introductions of AIS into the Great Lakes via maritime commerce, canals and waterways (including Long Lac and Ogoki diversions, St. Lawrence Seaway, and Welland Canal), trade of live organisms, and recreational activities.

II. Goals and Milestones

Goal: Prevent all new introductions of AIS into the Great Lakes.

Goal: Stop the spread of AIS within the basin, extirpate harmful AIS, or if impossible, then control to levels that ensure sustainable ecosystems and the social, economic and cultural uses they support.

Interim Milestones: A complete list of all milestones developed to measure progress through 2010 toward reaching the goals is included in AIS appendix A. The most important interim milestones supporting the recommendations are to:

- Enact comprehensive federal legislation (*specifically* legislation that would incorporate all of the terms contained in S. 770, H.R. 1591 and 1592 as introduced in the 109th Congress; collectively the *National Aquatic Invasive Species Act*—NAISA; with modifications as outlined in recommendation #3) to authorize and fund AIS programs;
- Provide expanded federal support for AIS research and outreach programs; and
- Develop a binational plan of action to prevent additional species invasions, and control established populations of the most damaging AIS.

III. Recommendations

The AIS Strategy Team offers the following five recommendations. A complete list of recommendations is included as Appendix A. Dollar figures have been included in the recommendations, where available. The dollar amounts provided are often incomplete estimates; more realistic figures should be developed.

1) Ship and barge-mediated introductions and spread of AIS in the Great Lakes should be eliminated, through the immediate promulgation of environmentally protective standards for ballast water, and the implementation of effective ship-board treatments and management measures. Specifically:

- Immediately require, verify, and enforce (in the current shipping season under existing authorities) that ocean-going vessels in the no ballast on board condition (NOBOB) implement practices that are an improvement over current practices⁹;
- Immediately require, verify, and enforce best performing ship-board ballast water treatment and hull management methods for ocean-going vessels (with a set approval period), with continued upward ratcheting of the treatment floor as treatment performance improves. Approved treatment must be to an environmentally protective standard by 2011;
- Immediately require monitoring, reporting, and public dissemination of all ballasting activities, prevention practices, and outcomes such that progress toward the goal is measurable and enforcement practical;
- Review and apply best-performing ballast water management practices to non-ocean-going vessels operating exclusively within the Great Lakes (including application of ballast water treatment for new ships) to eliminate the spread of AIS already introduced into the system; and

⁹ The Steering Committee of the Collaboration has requested the Strategy Teams put forward recommendations that can be implemented even before the process is finalized in December, 2005. The AIS Strategy Team recommends this action on NOBOBs as one for immediate implementation.

- Immediately and significantly expand research, testing, and evaluation of policies and technologies as alternatives to on-board treatment. Alternatives to be investigated should include (but not be limited to) cargo transfer, shore-based treatment, use of Clean Water Act discharge permits, and state/regional actions. Programs under which these investigations can be conducted include the Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Program and the Environmental Technology Verification Program. These investigations will hasten development of effective shipboard treatment systems. If ship-board treatments are shown to be inadequate, the team recommends implementation by 2011 of effective alternatives that prohibit ballast water from ocean-going ships from being discharged into the Great Lakes.

Rationale: The failure to install meaningful and enforceable regulations for treatment of ballast water from ballasted and NOBOB ocean-going ships remains a major inhibitor for achieving the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes. Moreover, some AIS have limited means to disperse throughout the Lakes without the help of ships. Clearly, the status quo is unacceptable and does not protect the Great Lakes. Ocean-going ships are the prime vector for AIS introductions into the waters of the Great Lakes, so stopping those introductions is a top priority. Also, preventing the spread of AIS by the Great Lakes shipping industry is also a priority, so ballast water management practices for ships that operate within the Great Lakes should be reviewed and modified. Quick passage and immediate implementation of comprehensive federal legislation is required to prevent ship-mediated introductions of AIS into the Great Lakes. The government has significant authority under existing law to take immediate action, particularly in the management of NOBOB ships. Ship-board treatment actions must be fully implemented now, and evaluated well in advance of 2011. This will require immediate action by the Coast Guard to promulgate ballast water regulations. In addition, research and planning on alternatives is needed immediately so that methods may be applied by 2011, in the event best-performing ship-board treatment fails to fully protect the Great Lakes and the nation.

Cost: \$13.2 million annually for five years.

2) Federal, state, and/or local governments must enact measures that ensure the region's canals and waterways are not a vector for AIS, including full federal funding of the Chicago San-Ship Canal barrier and the sea lamprey control program. Specific recommendations are to:

- Complete construction of barrier II, make barrier I permanent, provide federal funds to operate both dispersal barriers in the Chicago Waterway system, and complete a study of options for permanent hydrological and/or biological separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River systems;
- Fully examine options and their economic benefits and costs to prevent the spread of AIS via the Lake Champlain Canal and other canal systems linking the Great Lakes with other basins;
- Close or modify, through the use of physical barriers or control structures, canals that have fallen into disuse or disrepair—if rebuilt, prevent passage of aquatic invasive species;
- Prohibit development of new cross-drainage basin connections;
- Address intermittent flood-related connections;
- Initiate measures to prevent or reduce the movement of AIS into stream segments opened up by dam/impediment removal or culvert construction, and fully consider benefits to native species and impacts from AIS when evaluating cost-benefits of proposed fish passage projects;
- Develop and implement AIS monitoring plans to provide comprehensive monitoring and reporting of AIS through the canal vector; and



THE NORTHEAST-MIDWEST SENATE COALITION

GREAT LAKES TASK FORCE

April 12, 2007

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Stevens
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member:

Aquatic invasive species threaten the waters of our entire nation, and we are particularly concerned with the damage they have done to the Great Lakes. The damage will continue to increase if Congress does not act soon. We appreciate your past interest in addressing this threat, and we are writing to urge you to move legislation this year to prevent further introductions of aquatic invasive species by ships.

There are over 180 invasive species established in the Great Lakes, and on average, a new species is introduced every 8 months. Invasive species disrupt the ecological balance within the Great Lakes in many ways. The dramatic decline of high-value fish and the appearance of a new dead zone in Lake Erie are both attributed to invasive species impacts. While the economic impact of invasive species is difficult to calculate, it is clearly high. Studies report billions to over a hundred billion per year in economic impacts. The economic impact of zebra mussels in the Great Lakes over a 10 year period is \$3 billion. Zebra mussels have spread from the Great Lakes to over 20 states and were most recently detected in Lake Meade. Imagine what the cost of zebra mussels is to all of the states that are now dealing with them.

As an initial step to combat the introduction of invasive species by ships, there is a mandatory ballast water management program in the Great Lakes as well as a national ballast water exchange program. The Great Lakes program has relied on ballast water exchange (BWE) as the primary prevention method, but we now know that BWE provides only minimal protection against new introductions. Today, most ballast experts believe that ballast water technology will ultimately provide the best protection for the Great Lakes and all of our waters.

Legislation that we have introduced this year provides a process to move to effective treatment of ballast water discharges. We urge you to move quickly to pass legislation to prevent introductions of aquatic invasive species specifically by ships through your committee and through the Senate this year.

In particular, we hope any legislation that you move will address the following issues.

Whole Ship Vector: The majority of aquatic invasive species introduced by ships are moved in ballast water. However, the entire ships, such as anchor chains and hulls, are important pathways as well. We believe that legislation must address the whole ship.

Technology: Legislation should establish an effective and environmentally protective ballast water discharge standard. The standard should be to minimize, with the goal of the eliminating, introductions of non-native, aquatic invasive species by ships' ballast water. Legislation should not delay requiring ballast treatment technology pending scientific and regulatory determinations of the perfect discharge standard. Legislation should require, as an alternative if technology cannot meet the standard, the use of the best performing ballast treatment by a date certain, provided it is more effective than ballast water exchange. As information and technology improve, the treatment performance should be subject to review and revision to stricter levels.

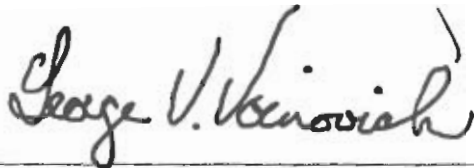
Timeframe: The longer we take to require ballast technology on ships, the longer ships will continue to release non-native species into the Great Lakes and the nation's waters, increasing the risk that more harmful non-native species will become established. We believe ballast technology should be required on ships by 2012. This is sooner than the timeframes established in the *International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediment (International Maritime Organization, 2004)*, but treatment installations made pursuant to this requirement would serve to satisfy IMO requirements for ships and would be compatible with the international framework. Additionally, we believe that ballast water technology treatment that meets or exceeds the IMO standard should be allowed now as a substitute for ballast water exchange for ships entering the Great Lakes from the high seas.

NOBOBs: Current ballast water exchange requirements are inadequate to prevent introductions of invasive species by ships into the Great Lakes because the majority of ships enter the Great Lakes with no ballast on board. These ships are referred to as NOBOBs, and they are exempt from ballast water exchange requirements due to safety concerns. However, these ships carry significant volumes of residual ballast that cannot be pumped out of the tanks, and this water carries live organisms. Once inside the Great Lakes, NOBOBs take on water when they off-load cargo and then discharge their ballast and live organisms that were carried in the residual ballast water to the lakes when the ships reload cargo prior to leaving the system. Treatment will ultimately close this pathway of introduction, but the need for some protection is immediate. We urge you to require immediately that ships entering the Great Lakes claiming no ballast on board conduct partial saltwater flushing.

Rapid Response Strategies and State Management Plans: As part of a comprehensive approach to dealing with ballast water, we support allowing states to require that ships comply with management plans to rapidly respond to aquatic invasive species that have been found in a state's waters. Such requirements should be limited to instances in which the ship is a significant potential vector of spread and should meet Coast Guard safety requirements.

Ultimately, we believe that Congress should enact a comprehensive policy to address aquatic invasive species that includes not only ballast water and ships, but also other invasive species pathways and management issues, including rapid response, screening, information and

outreach, and research. We urge your immediate action on ship-related issues, and we hope that you share our commitment to a comprehensive national policy and will support efforts in other committees to achieve it. We look forward to working with you on this important issue.



George V. Voinovich

Sincerely,



Carl Levin

BALLAST WATER POLICY INITIATIVES

Component	GLRC Strategy	IMO	S. 770 (NAISA)	S. 363	Michigan	California
Effective Date	Immediate best performing ship-board ballast water treatment and hull management methods for ocean-going vessels (with a set approval period), with continued upward ratcheting of the treatment floor as treatment performance improves. Approved treatment must be to an environmentally protective standard by 2011.	Will become effective 12 months after ratification by 30 member states Phase in of standards for various vessels (2009-2012). Allows for ships participating in a program approved by the Administration to test and evaluate treatment technologies to have a leeway of 5 years before having to comply with the requirements.	Best treatment (not BWE) by 2011 USCG, in concurrence with EPA, to set a protective discharge standard for ballast water within 24 months of enactment. After 2011 all ships operating in US waters (including coastal ships) must treat.	USCG required to establish guidelines within one year of enactment of the bill on what level of treatment would be at least as effective as ballast water exchange. Staged deadlines from 2009-2016. Allows for vessels participating in a USCG approved pilot program to conduct testing of treatment technologies, to use such technology for 10 years.	January 1, 2007	Exchange standards currently in effect for vessels coming from outside the EEZ, and, as of March 22, 2006, for all vessels coming from other West Coast ports. Discharge standards to go into effect January 1, 2008 and are to be at zero detectable for all organism size classes by 2020.
Application to ship-types	Ocean-going vessels and best-performing ballast water management practices for non-ocean going vessels operating exclusively within the Great Lakes (including application of ballast water treatment for new ships).		All vessels entering U.S. from EEZ. Vessels operating entirely within EEZ are exempt from requirements until 2011. Existing vessels that operate entirely within an enclosed aquatic ecosystem are exempt, except those included in an approved rapid response strategy, but any newly constructed vessels must comply with the requirements.	Vessels traveling to U.S. ports from foreign ports -- including foreign flag vessels -- and vessels traveling from one U.S. port to another.	Oceangoing vessels that: a) engage in port operations in Michigan and do not discharge ballast water into the waters of the state; b) discharge ballast water treated by one or more of the ballast water treatment methods approved by the MDEQ; or c) have not otherwise been determined by the MDEQ to need an individual permit.	For Vessels Coming From Outside the EEZ – qualifying vessels include all vessels over 300 gross register tons, US and foreign, carrying ballast water into the waters of the state after operating outside the waters of the state. All vessels traveling between one port or place and another in the Pacific Coast Region.
Regulatory / Programmatic Scope	Comprehensive (all pathways) No State preemption No CWA preemption Addresses NOBOBs	Ballast only n/a n/a Does not address NOBOBs	Comprehensive (all pathways) No State preemption No CWA preemption Addresses NOBOBs	Ballast only Preempts State and local laws Supersedes CWA authority Addresses NOBOBs	Ballast only n/a n/a Addresses NOBOBs	Ballast only n/a n/a
Exchange Standard	n/a	95% volumetric exchange. For ships using the pumping-through method, pumping through 3x the volume of each ballast water tank. Pumping through less than three times the volume may be accepted provided the ship can demonstrate that at least 95% volumetric exchange is met.	Provides option of BWE or best performing treatment above floor before 2011 at latest. After 2011, only option is ballast water treatment. The performance requirement for BWE is a demonstrated 95% volumetric purge of ballast water in the high seas.	95% volumetric exchange. Operators of vessels sailing from outside the U.S. EEZ to U.S. ports on the Great Lakes to exchange their ballast water outside of the EEZ or in other areas where the discharged water will not introduce aquatic nuisance species into U.S. waters.	n/a	For Vessels From Outside the EEZ: Flow Through Exchange - overflowing the tank from the top – 3x; or Empty/Refill Exchange - pump out until tank is empty and refill tank with mid-ocean waters. For Vessels From West Coast Ports: Exchange in near-coastal waters; Retain all ballast water on board; Use a USCG approved method of BWM at least as effective as exchange; Discharge the ballast water to a reception facility approved by the CSLC; or Under extraordinary circumstances perform a ballast water exchange in an area agreed to by the CSLC and in consultation with the USCG
Treatment / Discharge Standard	Best-performing ship-board ballast water treatment and hull management methods. Environmentally protective standard by 2011.	Discharge standards: < 10 organisms / m ³ greater than 50 microns; < 10 organisms / mL between 10 to 50	Numerical standards determined by regulating agencies to ensure no measurable risk, or when none available use of best performing treatment (BPT). BPT must, at a minimum, achieve 99% reduction in viable near-coastal plankton for existing vessels and a 99.9% reduction For new vessels.	Discharge standard: < 0.1 organisms / m ³ greater than 50 microns; < 0.1 organisms / mL less than 50 Treatments used prior to deadline must be “at least as effective as BWE”	Treatment standard: (1) Hypochlorite treatment; (2) Chlorine Dioxide treatment; (3) Ultra Violet Light Radiation treatment preceded by suspended solids removal; (4) Deoxygenation treatment.	Discharge standard: No detectable living organisms / m ³ greater than 50 microns; < 10 ⁻² organisms / mL between 10 to 50 microns; < 10 ³ bacteria and 10 ⁴ viruses / 100 mL less than 10 microns

ATTACHMENT #2 ACTION

Strategic Plan background

The Commission commenced a strategic planning initiative in September 2006, which – over the last nine months – has involved in-person strategy sessions with the full Commission, Board and staff; and numerous opportunities for review/comment by Commissioners, Observers and other interested stakeholders in the region. The Commission also consulted and received considerable advice from Joe Laur of SEED Systems, Inc.

Since releasing the plan for final comment on March 22, the Commission received more than two dozen additional comments from Commissioners, Observers and others. In addition to written comments received, several parties also engaged in two conference calls on April 10-11 to share their views. The comments received were reviewed and given full consideration by the Board. The engagement and interest in this process has been encouraging for all involved.

The Commission is now asked to approve the final draft of the strategic plan, attached. The five-year plan outlines the Commission's vision for the region and for the Commission itself. The four focus areas for the Commission's work include Communications and Education, Information Integration and Reporting, Facilitation and Consensus Building, and Policy Coordination and Advocacy. Also included are a series of Guiding Principles for the Commission to help guide the actions of Commissioners, Board and staff in their work.

Following approval of the strategic plan, the next step will be development of a detailed two-year work plan to guide program development and staff directives over the next 24 months. The work plan will be operational in nature and prioritized by the vision, goals, objectives and actions outlined in the strategic plan.

Great Lakes Commission
Strategic Plan
FINAL draft – May 3, 2007

Vision for the Region – 2012

We, the state and provincial Members of the Great Lakes Commission, envision a healthy, vibrant Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River region that exemplifies our shared ideals of environmental quality, economic growth and stewardship for current and future generations.

Our ideals for the region include:

- Our pride of place and sense of regional identity inspire our commitment to protect, maintain, restore and sustainably use our bounty of freshwater resources. Our children choose to live and work here because of the opportunities offered and high quality of life.
- The waters of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin (Basin) are accessible to the public and provide high quality drinking water for millions of people; safe, unpolluted beaches for swimming and boating; and a thriving fishery, free of consumption advisories.
- The waters of the Basin support a diverse and healthy web of plants, fish and wildlife. Governments and the public share a sense of stewardship and optimism that our waters, lands and related resources are being wisely used, managed, protected and enhanced.
- Harbors and waterways support recreational boating and a commercial navigation industry that efficiently moves goods, enhances the competitiveness of our regional economy, and sets a global example in minimizing environmental impacts.
- Healthy and diverse populations of native flora and fauna are protected by preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species.
- Government leaders recognize the importance of critical issues facing the Great Lakes, speak with a unified voice, and make decisions that enhance resource protection and economic development.
- The Great Lakes region is viewed domestically and internationally as a model for sustainable development because of our commitment to stewardship of our resources.

Our Vision for the Great Lakes Commission - 2012

The Great Lakes Commission is a leader among regional institutions, serving its Members – the states and provinces – by helping them collectively fulfill their vision for the region.

The Commission is a respected and trusted voice because its products and positions are built on collaboration with others, encourage economic prosperity and environmental protection, and are

science-based. The Commission is an important binational forum that fosters dialogue among decisionmakers in its Member states and provinces to enable them to reach consensus on the region's priorities and speak with a unified voice.

Commission programs provide leadership in the areas of communication and education, information integration and reporting, facilitation and consensus building, and policy coordination and advocacy.

Mission

The Great Lakes Commission is a public agency established by the Great Lakes Basin Compact in 1955 to help its Member states and provinces speak with a unified voice and collectively fulfill their vision for a healthy, vibrant Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River region. Commission products and services focus on communication and education, information integration and reporting, facilitation and consensus building, and policy coordination and advocacy.

The purpose of the Commission is to carry out the terms and requirements of the Great Lakes Basin Compact, as noted in Article 1: To promote the orderly, integrated, and comprehensive development, use, and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin.

Goals, Objectives and Actions

Goal 1: Communication and Education

The Commission raises public awareness of ecosystem management and the links between environmental quality and economic viability. The Commission educates and empowers government, citizens and other stakeholders to effectively participate in decisions affecting the future of the region.

Objectives:

- Foster public stewardship and understanding of ecosystem management.
 - Develop a dynamic Great Lakes atlas as a repository for reference information on the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN).
 - Create new content on GLIN to synthesize and interpret information; make complex topics understandable to a lay audience; and engage the public in solutions.
 - Provide pass-through funds from federal or other sources to states, provinces or local entities for monitoring, cleanup and education programs, such as through the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control.
- Maximize the use of information technologies in communication and education programs throughout the region by providing leadership, infrastructure and support for Internet-accessible resources.
 - Apply Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and related technology and communication mechanisms to GLIN and associated websites to enhance their

- effectiveness in disseminating information. Customize and target these technologies to the needs of specific audiences.
 - Enhance the use of two-way communication mechanisms, such as web conferencing, community-driven encyclopedias (wikis) and discussion forums, on GLIN and associated websites.
 - Develop training and web-based tutorials to better enable the Great Lakes constituency to use information technologies.
- Inform and advise state/provincial decisionmakers about Great Lakes issues on a regional, binational and international scale.
 - Implement a Communications Strategy for the Great Lakes Commission to provide guidance on key messages and optimal delivery mechanisms for various audiences.
 - Expand the content, delivery and audience demographic of GLIN Daily News.
- Support efforts to promote Great Lakes tourism and other water-based activities. The Commission will complement the work of others in this area and, where appropriate, will lead efforts to coordinate regional activities or pool resources.
 - Enhance GLIN's capacity to be a clearinghouse for Great Lakes Circle Tour information.
 - Convene state/provincial tourism bureaus to enhance Circle Tour offerings and coordination, and identify new opportunities.
 - Support programs that encourage responsible practices by Great Lakes recreational users to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species.
 - Promote the benefits of marine transportation, including pollution savings and economic advantages as a transportation artery of the continent, while acknowledging the impacts on the environment and other users.

Goal 2: Information Integration and Reporting

The Commission researches, collects, organizes and makes accessible data and information about the Great Lakes that is relevant to our Members, individually and collectively, and to others in the Great Lakes region. Decisionmakers rely on data maintained by the Commission to support planning, resource management and other activities.

Objectives:

- Promote adoption of uniform data collection and information management standards and protocols for use by our Members and the region as a whole.
 - Facilitate regional collaborative programs such as the Great Lakes Air Deposition and Great Lakes Water Use Database projects that create objective input for decisionmaking by the states and provinces.
 - Promote the inclusion of metadata with all Great Lakes datasets.
 - Conduct outreach to promote awareness of data standards and information collection protocols.
- Facilitate interagency information integration programs across the region.

- Support periodic forums, such as the Regional Data Exchange Conference, that coordinate observing and monitoring activities.
- Work with Members and partners to address institutional barriers to efficient exchange of regional data and information, such as coordinating formal data exchange agreements and identifying state information integration priorities.
- Consolidate information to support research, management and policy development interests of Members and Observers.
 - Assess the needs of Members and Observers, on an annual basis, for aggregated data within priority issue areas.
 - Work collaboratively with state, provincial and regional agencies to develop and maintain high quality data and information tools for issues of interest to Members and the region as a whole.
 - Develop and maintain a Great Lakes regional GIS to consolidate and serve geographic data to Members and the public.
- Serve as a clearinghouse of information about the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region and Great Lakes programs.
 - Publish datasets and information products on GLIN.
 - Publish an online catalog of data, reports and other informational products relevant to the Commission's mission.
- Provide analysis and reporting on the conditions and trends of ecological and economic factors affecting the Great Lakes, where such information is not otherwise available and is needed to serve the interests of Members.
 - Provide data analysis and reporting support to panels and workgroups involving state and provincial agencies, Observers and others, to facilitate regional decisionmaking on critical issues.
 - Support collection and assessment of data to measure progress toward ecosystem restoration goals, such as the use of key Great Lakes environmental indicators to assess progress toward goals of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes.
 - Develop staff expertise to provide economic benefit-cost analyses to support policy and management decisions on aquatic invasive species and other issues.

Goal 3: Facilitation and Consensus Building

The Commission convenes and leads multistakeholder forums, projects and activities on issues and ideas of importance to Member jurisdictions and others. The Commission provides forums where emerging issues and ideas are identified, leading research is presented, conflicting views are shared and debated, and consensus is built around potential solutions.

Objectives:

- Serve as neutral broker of information, ideas and analyses by convening forums to share information and facilitate regional approaches and solutions.
 - Convene and provide secretariat support for Commission task forces, working groups and committees, such as the Great Lakes Dredging Team, the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species and the Great Lakes Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Task Force.
 - Establish and convene new committees, task forces and work groups, as needed, to address emerging regional priorities and improve coordination of programs and policy implementation.
 - Convene conferences and symposia on emerging issues such as renewable energy, water conservation and coastal management to share information, innovative approaches and success stories among states and provinces.

- Enhance dialogue and debate among Members to build consensus on regional issues.
 - Develop and implement a strategy, built on regional consensus, to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species.
 - Design and conduct semiannual Commission meetings that feature expert panels on timely and high priority regional topics.
 - Convene periodic meetings of individual state and provincial delegations to enhance dialogue and identify emerging issues, challenges and opportunities for appropriate Commission action.
 - Develop and endorse resolutions and policy positions on issues where Members agree.
 - In conjunction with stakeholders, define and promote environmentally sustainable shipping practices.

- Monitor relevant regional, national/binational and international policy forums and initiatives of relevance to the Great Lakes, report to Members and, where appropriate, represent Members' views in such forums and initiatives.
 - Participate in review of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.
 - Monitor and react to activities under the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, U.S. Ocean Action Plan and related initiatives.
 - Track progress on implementation of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes.

Goal 4: Policy Coordination and Advocacy

The Commission helps the region speak with a common voice. The Commission provides coordination, support and advocacy on issues where there is consensus among its Members. The Commission assists and supports its Members in advocating common positions.

The Commission conducts advocacy programs and activities in coordination with other leading regional, national and international institutions. In formulating advocacy positions, the Commission welcomes opposing views.

Objectives:

- Facilitate and, when appropriate, represent Members' views on regional and U.S. federal policy and legislative initiatives.
 - Facilitate communication among Members on federal and legislative priorities through discussions at Commission meetings, topic-specific workgroups, exchange of written materials and other mechanisms.
 - Represent the consensus views of Members in communications to Congress, the International Joint Commission, federal agencies and other forums.
 - When requested by Members, develop regional approaches for key issues that are not addressed by regional agreements or federal legislation.

- In collaboration with others, establish regional priorities on U.S. federal legislation and funding.
 - Coordinate and consult with the Council of Great Lakes Governors and other regional institutions and partners as federal legislative priorities are developed.
 - Publish an annual report on regional legislative priorities and educate members of Congress on these priorities through briefings and meetings.
 - Facilitate communication and coordinate advocacy activities with organizations in other regions on high priority Great Lakes issues.
 - Provide policy advocacy support to the panels and task forces convened and served by the Commission, where their views are consistent with Members' priorities.
 - Advocate for necessary resources to accomplish critical Great Lakes information collection and monitoring tasks that are designed to support priority activities and measure progress toward regional goals, such as those identified by the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration.

- Develop supporting materials and execute communication strategies to advocate Commission priorities and assist Members in advocating these priorities to U.S. federal policymakers.
 - Implement and maintain a Great Lakes Legislative Priorities Database to track appropriations and authorizations important to the Commission, the Council of Great Lakes Governors and others, and provide relevant information on bills, sponsors and committees.
 - Engage Members and key stakeholders in coordinated campaigns to support the Commission's top legislative priorities.
 - Identify and work with Members who can advocate on specific issues, based on special expertise or contacts with key federal policymakers.
 - Organize an annual event to bring Commissioners and other stakeholders to Washington for advocacy meetings with federal policymakers.

- Coordinate and lead programs that assist Members and others with promoting awareness and appreciation of Great Lakes values, issues and priorities among federal and international policymakers.
 - Conduct a biennial Congressional tour and coordinate other opportunities for members of Congress and their staff to be briefed on key Great Lakes issues.

- Provide review, analysis and, where appropriate, advice to Members on state, provincial, national and international proposals, agreements, legislation and other policy initiatives affecting Members' interests in the Great Lakes.
- Conduct issue briefings for regional policymakers, such as state legislators, which provide regional perspectives on alternative policy approaches and successful initiatives underway within individual jurisdictions.

Guiding Principles

The following principles guide the actions of the Great Lakes Commission in its work. These principles set high standards that we, as an organization, aspire to and that help us to define what we are moving toward.

- Great Lakes Commission initiatives are defined by our Member jurisdictions and add value by bringing a regional perspective to state and provincial Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River programs, projects and priorities.
- Great Lakes Commissioners are ambassadors for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River region and serve as liaisons between their jurisdictions and the Commission. Commissioners bring their individual expertise to bear on regional issues, building collective solutions with their fellow Commissioners.
- The Board of Directors convenes, engages and coordinates its state/provincial delegation on Commission priorities, projects and operations in accordance with the Great Lakes Basin Compact and the Commission's Strategic Plan.
- The Commission is transparent about its various roles, which include convener, facilitator, advocate and information broker.
- The Commission provides information that integrates relevant scientific, economic and policy components to guide decisionmaking.
- The Commission values inclusiveness in its projects, partnerships and decisionmaking; diverse views are welcomed and considered.
- The Commission respects the roles of other regional institutions and partners with them to build on respective strengths to achieve common goals.
- The Commission supports sustainable development principles and reflects this commitment in all its operations.



Great Lakes
Commission
des Grands Lacs

Eisenhower Corporate Park • 2805 South Industrial Hwy., Suite 100
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-6791
Office (734) 971-9135 • Fax (734) 971-9150 • glc@glc.org

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Mich. Dept. of Environ. Quality
Lansing, Michigan

Alexander B. Grannis

Commissioner,
New York Dept. of Environmental
Conservation
Albany, NY

Sean Logan

Director
Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources
Columbus, Ohio

William Carr

Team Leader
Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs
Toronto, Ontario

Cathleen Curran Myers

Deputy Director for
Water Management
PA Dept. of Envir. Protection
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Michel LaFleur

Chargé d'affaires
Government of Québec
Chicago, Illinois

Todd Ambts

Administrator
Division of Water
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
Madison, Wisconsin

*Ensuring environmental and economic
prosperity for the Great Lakes-St.
Lawrence region through
communications, policy research and
development, and advocacy.*

Memorandum

To: Great Lakes Commissioners, Associate Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners

Fr: Tim Eder, Executive Director

Re: Review of the FY 2008 Draft Great Lakes Commission Budget

Da: May 3, 2007

Action Request: Please review the attached draft FY 2008 budget and provide comments to me (teder@glc.org) by end of business May 11, 2007.

In 2004, the Commission's Board of Directors established the policy to have the Great Lakes Commissioners, Associate Commissioners and Alternates review and approve the Commission's proposed budget at each Semiannual Meeting. The Commission's 2008 fiscal year is July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. This communication provides you the opportunity to review the budget and ask questions in advance of the Semiannual Meeting which is scheduled for May 14-15 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The budget will be presented for approval on May 15 at the meeting.

Attached is the proposed FY 2008 budget as well as the current approved FY 2007 budget so you can see where changes are being suggested for the upcoming year. Also included is a brief description of the budget line items.

The proposed FY 2008 budget was reviewed and discussed by the Finance Committee and the Board at recent meetings and conference calls. Through this process, the Board has approved the transmittal of the draft budget for your consideration.

The budget is presented by line item and includes figures for the general operating budget, the restricted budget and a total budget. The restricted fund represents income from the numerous projects that are supported by grants, contracts and cooperative agreements with outside funding sources. Currently, there are 27 active restricted fund projects at the Commission.

An indirect cost rate is always applied to all of the Commission's restricted projects. Indirect costs are those joint or common costs which can benefit all of the Commission's projects and programs and are not easily identifiable as a direct cost for a particular project. Examples include facilities rent, utilities, equipment maintenance, accounting and payroll, personnel management and other administrative services. Each year, the indirect cost rate is calculated based on the previous year's expenses. Our current indirect rate is 38% of direct costs (including rent) and is, in general, calculated on all line item expenses except equipment, travel and contractual. Indirect cost recovery is shown as a revenue stream for the general budget.

Total Proposed Budget

The total proposed budget for FY 2008 is \$5,660,375 which includes the general operating expenses added to the restricted fund expenses. The total budget is about 12.3 % lower than the FY 2007 budget. Descriptions of anticipated expenses and revenues follow.

FY 2008 Anticipated General Operating Expenses

The proposed general operating budget for FY 2008 is \$1,046,450, which represents a 5.9% decrease over the approved FY 2007 general operating budget. This decrease is necessary due primarily to a reduction in revenue to General Operating from a decrease in indirect cost recovery. Expenses have been reduced in order to present a balanced budget. Some of the reduction in the amount of funding for personnel in the general budget will be accomplished by shifting some staff time to restricted fund projects.

Other adjustments in line items compared to FY 2007 budget levels are made based on the analysis of audited expenditures for FY 2006 and expenditures for the first half of FY 2007.

A few other items of note to help you in your review include:

- The personnel line item (salaries and benefits) was decreased to \$604,450 which is about 12% lower than the 2007 budget.
- The contractual line item was decreased to \$10,000. This is possible due to the completion of the strategic planning process in FY 2007. FY 2008 contractual needs are only for the janitorial service provided to the Commission for office cleaning.
- The books, dues and subscriptions line item was reduced to \$4,500. Savings are anticipated by arranging a less robust package of services provided to us from Washington DC legislative trade publications.
- Office supplies were reduced to \$4,500. Savings can be realized by reviewing and implementing different purchasing practices as well as assigning additional office supply charges to restricted fund projects.

Proposed FY 2008 Restricted Fund Budget

The anticipated restricted fund budget is \$4,613,925 which represents about a 13.7 % decrease over the FY 2007 budget. This recommended decrease is based on the following proposed changes:

- The personnel line item was reduced by about 14% from the 2007 budget. This reduction is due to the fact that the Commission is currently supporting several fewer full-time people than at the start of FY 2007.
- The travel line item was reduced by 38.4% from \$95,300 to \$58,700. There were several projects that required extensive staff and committee travel that were completed in 2007. Less restricted fund-supported travel is planned for 2008.
- Similarly, the meetings line item was reduced by more than 60% from the 2007 budget. There were several large conferences planned and held in 2007 that will not be repeated in 2008 and overall; fewer meetings are planned for 2008.
- The equipment line item was increased by 24% from the 2007 budget. This request is necessary to cover anticipated equipment purchases and upgrades to support the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) and the Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS).

Fringe Benefits for Staff

The Commission provides fringe benefits for staff including dental, optical, disability and health insurance, employer retirement contributions and payroll taxes. The Commission's retirement plan is a 403 (b) plan through the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association - College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF) program. The large majority of the costs associated with the Commission's fringe benefits package are related to retirement contributions and the payment of health care premiums for staff, of which the Commission currently pays 100 percent.

The Commission's fringe benefits package is valued at 44% of salary as an aggregate calculation. This is shown in an accounting sense as direct fringe (retirement, health care, dental, optical, etc.) and allocated fringe which represents things like sick time and vacation time. Historically, the allocated fringe (which represents about 9% of salary) has been added to the personnel line item. Beginning with the FY 2008 budget, the allocated fringe will be shown as part of the direct fringe. This change will provide consistency in accounting and will allow managers to better track expenditures in their restricted fund budgets. This also explains why the reduction in fringe benefits is not proportionate with the reduction in personnel costs as presented in the draft FY 2008 budget.

In February, the Commission was notified that health care premiums were expected to increase again in FY 2008. In an effort to keep fringe benefits costs down, the Commission management recommended, and the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors approved, some changes in the health care coverage for staff. Beginning in FY 2008, the Commission will offer some different plan options that will require employees to participate in the cost of their health care. The goal is to maintain health care costs at a level equal to or less than the FY 2007 costs.

Revenue Projection

Underneath the proposed expenditures is a table that shows the revenue projections for FY 2008. These projections show the amount expected from state member dues, investment income from the Commission's reserve fund, income from various meetings (primarily the annual and semiannual meetings), the sales of publications, indirect cost recovery from grants and contracts, direct support from the Commission's reserve funds and the direct support from grants and contracts themselves. The presented total is \$5,660,375, assuming 100% payment of state dues.

The Board approved the proposed budget with the following stipulations and understanding:

- Earlier this year, the Board approved a policy to use the increased market value from the Commission's reserve funds to support the FY 07 budget. The amount of revenue proposed from reserve funds in FY 2008 to support the budget is \$60,400. Assuming a 5% increase in market value of reserves, the Commission will be able to capture that revenue by selling a portion of reserve investments without reducing the principal or corpus of the reserve funds. This is in addition to income from interest and dividends that is also included in the budget in the investment income line item and is estimated at \$30,000 for FY 2008. These investment revenues are generated from dividends, returns on fixed investments such as interest from CDs and cash. Note that the Finance Committee and the Board are in the process of developing an Investment Policy Statement that will guide future uses of the reserve funds and will set forth an investment diversification strategy.
- Appropriate program development activities will be pursued to secure new project funding consistent with the Commission's new Strategic Plan to help support staff and reduce the reliance on income from the reserve fund.
- Commission staff will work with the Board to aggressively seek timely payment of dues as well as payment of back dues. Back dues recovered will be used to offset the deficit.

Please remember that any comments or questions that you have regarding the proposed budget should be directed to me at: teder@glc.org by **May 7, 2007**. Please remember that we are planning to present the 2008 proposed budget for approval on May 15 in Indianapolis. In addition to forwarding questions or comments to me, please feel free to contact your delegation chair as well.

I appreciate this opportunity to provide this information to you and look forward to receiving your comments.

Budget Line Item Descriptions (2008 Budget)

The following are brief line item descriptions to help you understand the proposed FY 2008 budget.

Personnel

- The salaries line item represents support for the 21 full-time employees, one fellow, three .75-time employees, and three part-time work study students.
- Benefits includes the fringe benefits package for staff including dental, optical, disability and health insurance, employer pension contributions and payroll taxes.

Internal Operations

- Office supplies are things such as envelopes, pens, staples, toner cartridges, computer expendables, etc.
- The equipment line item includes equipment purchase, software and hardware purchase and upgrades, furniture and other office equipment.
- The equipment maintenance covers internet service, outside computer administration and monitoring, and repair of equipment.
- Insurance includes building and general liability, workers compensation, fidelity and employees on travel status.
- Accounting and Audit covers audit expenses and other accounting fees billed by the auditors.
- Facilities, Rent and Maintenance covers building rent, maintenance, janitorial supplies, utilities, etc.
- The telephone line item covers our basic service including conference calling and long distance.
- The postage line items covers things like stamps, freight, packaging and handling.
- Printing/reproduction covers both internal and external expenses including copier costs and internal report preparation costs and outside printing of brochures and reports, film, etc.
- Books/Dues/Subscriptions cover such things as membership dues that the Commission pays corporately, journals, publications and other service subscriptions (such as Congressional Quarterly), etc.
- Newsletter/Annual Report covers all costs (except salary and fringe) associated with the production of the Advisor, the ANS Update and "Keeping it on the Land" newsletters and the Commission's Annual Report.

Travel

- The Travel-Staff line item covers expenses related to staff business travel such as hotel expenses, meals, airfare, mileage, car rental, etc.
- The Travel-Committee line item covers travel expenses for committee members covered by specific restricted fund projects.

Meetings

- Meetings covers expenses associated with the Commission's annual and semi-annual meetings, and all other conference, meetings and workshop-related expenses.

Contract Services and Grants

- This line item includes payments to contractors supporting specific projects for the Commission, payment to grantees under various programs such as the "Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control" and other contracted work.

Miscellaneous/Special Projects

- This line item includes things like bank charges, credit card discounts, and payroll processing, etc.

Training

- This item was first added in the FY 2006 budget and will cover the non-travel related costs associated with professional development and training for staff. This will include tuition costs and registration fees, materials and supplies, etc.

Grant Match

- This covers the Great Lakes Commission's obligations to meet required project match for restricted fund projects. Depending on the program this match ranges from 5 percent to as much as 50 percent.

GREAT LAKES COMMISSION
FY 2007 and FY 2008 BUDGET Draft May 3, 2007

Category	General Operating		Restricted		Total	
	2007-Approved	2008-Proposed	2007-Approved	2008-Proposed	2007-Approved	2008-Proposed
1. Personnel						
a. Salaries	\$ 508,500	\$ 447,750	\$ 994,000	\$ 802,975	\$ 1,502,500	\$ 1,250,725
b. Benefits	\$ 177,975	\$ 156,700	\$ 348,000	\$ 348,825	\$ 525,975	\$ 505,525
2. Internal Operations						
a. Office Supplies	\$ 6,375	\$ 4,500	\$ 9,750	\$ 5,600	\$ 16,125	\$ 10,100
b. Equipment	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 29,300	\$ 36,200	\$ 30,300	\$ 38,200
c. Equipment Maintenance	\$ 20,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 20,800	\$ 21,900	\$ 40,800	\$ 39,900
d. Insurance	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
e. Accounting and Audit	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
f. Facilities Rent and Maintenance	\$ 169,000	\$ 170,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 169,000	\$ 170,000
g. Depreciation	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000
3. Communications						
a. Telephone	\$ 7,500	\$ 8,500	\$ 6,100	\$ 6,725	\$ 13,600	\$ 15,225
b. Postage	\$ 10,500	\$ 10,500	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 21,500	\$ 21,500
c. Printing/Reproduction	\$ 7,500	\$ 6,000	\$ 29,500	\$ 18,600	\$ 37,000	\$ 24,600
d. Books/Dues/Subscriptions	\$ 6,375	\$ 4,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,375	\$ 4,500
e. Newsletter/Annual Report	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 13,200	\$ 16,025	\$ 20,700	\$ 23,525
4. Travel						
a. Staff	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 95,300	\$ 58,725	\$ 120,300	\$ 83,725
b. Committee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,700	\$ 36,050	\$ 21,700	\$ 36,050
5. Meetings	\$ 32,000	\$ 34,000	\$ 57,900	\$ 22,900	\$ 89,900	\$ 56,900
6. Contract Services and Grants	\$ 16,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 3,707,000	\$ 3,228,400	\$ 3,723,000	\$ 3,238,400
7. Misc./Special Projects	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500
8. Training	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,000
9. Grant Match	\$ 85,000	\$ 80,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,000	\$ 80,000
TOTAL	\$ 1,111,725	\$ 1,046,450	\$ 5,343,550	\$ 4,613,925	\$ 6,455,275	\$ 5,660,375

GREAT LAKES COMMISSION
REVENUE PROJECTION

	2007-Approved	2008-Proposed
1. State Dues	\$ 480,000.00	\$ 480,000.00
2. Investment Income	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
3. Meetings/Publications	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
4. Indirect Cost Recovery	\$ 518,100.00	\$ 446,050.00
5. Grants and Contracts	\$ 5,343,550.00	\$ 4,613,925.00
6. Reserve Fund	\$ 81,625.00	\$ 60,400.00
TOTAL	\$ 6,455,275.00	\$ 5,660,375.00

State Dues are assessed at \$60,000 per state.

INFORMATION SECTION

**ATTACHMENT #1
INFORMATION**

SUMMARY

Report of the Executive Director

The Report of the Executive Director, to be delivered on May 14, during the opening session of the Semiannual Meeting, will focus on staff activities and accomplishments over the last few months, as well as on emerging issues and issue opportunities for Commission involvement. Administrative, financial and advocacy updates will be covered as well.

Due to time limitations, the oral presentation will touch only on highlights. The Commission staff welcomes inquiries from all members, Observers and other friends.

ATTACHMENT #2 INFORMATION

Attached are updates from the program areas as follows:

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| Resource Management | – Attachment #2-A |
| Environmental Quality | – Attachment #2-B |
| Transportation and Sustainable Development | – Attachment #2-C |
| Communications and Internet Technology | – Attachment #2-D |
| Data and Information Management | – Attachment #2-E |



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*Ensuring environmental and economic
prosperity for the Great Lakes-St.
Lawrence region through
communications, policy research and
development, and advocacy.*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioners and Observers
FROM: Tom Crane, Program Manager
Resource Management
DATE: May 2, 2007
RE: Resource Management Program Activities Update

This memo provides information on current priorities and work activities being pursued through the Resource Management Program of the Great Lakes Commission. The following individuals are currently assigned to the Resource Management Program:

Katherine Glassner-Shwayder, Senior Project Manager
Gary Overmier, Senior Project Manager
Michael Schneider, Senior Program Specialist
Marcia Woodburn, Program Specialist
Erika Jensen, Sea Grant Fellow
Laura Kaminski, Research Associate

Appreciation is extended to all of these individuals for their hard work, enthusiasm, knowledge, leadership and commitment to advancing the goals of the Great Lakes Commission through the Resource Management Program.

Thanks also to the many individuals assigned to other program areas that have provided direct staff support to projects in the Resource Management Program since the 2006 Semiannual Meeting.

1. Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control

The Great Lakes Basin Program is a U.S. federal-state partnership designed to improve and protect Great Lakes water quality through erosion and sediment control. The Basin Program was established in 1990 when the U.S. Congress appropriated start-up funds for program activities, including a competitive grants program to support unique and innovative demonstration projects to control erosion and reduce sedimentation in the Great Lakes basin. In 2002, the Great Lakes Commission, working with the Great Lakes Congressional delegation, was successful in gaining authorization of the Great Lakes Basin Program under the reauthorized Farm Bill.

The goal of the Great Lakes Basin Program is to protect and improve water quality in the Great Lakes by reducing soil erosion and controlling sedimentation. The program accomplishes this goal through its demonstration grants program, information and education activities, technology transfer and professional assistance. Support for the Great Lakes Basin Program is provided by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Funding for the Basin Program in FY 2007 was not directed by Congress and USDA has the decisionmaking authority as to whether to fund the program for this year. The Commission has been discussing FY 2007 funding needs with USDA and a funding decision is expected soon.

The Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Task Force, one of two Great Lakes Commission appointed Task Forces, oversees the Great Lakes Basin Program. Commission staff working through the Task Force met in Dundee, MI in November 2006 and issued an announcement for the annual request for proposals (RFP) in December 2006 for the 2007 program year grants. The 2007 program included large-scale and small-scale grants. One hundred and seventeen applications were received by the March 2007 deadline. Because FY 2007 programmatic support has not yet been secured, the final review of proposals was put on hold pending a response from USDA regarding funding.

Through 2006, the Great Lakes Basin Program has supported 389 projects totaling more than \$14 million. The state-by-state summary of grants is included as Attachment 1.

This is the beginning of the ninth year of publishing *Keeping it on the Land*, the newsletter of the Great Lakes Basin Program that serves Great Lakes soil erosion and sediment control interests. To date, 34 editions have been published. Additionally, the Commission manages a listserv for the soil erosion and water conservation community in the Great Lakes basin. The Great Lakes Basin Program Annual Report for Program Year 2006 has been completed and presented in the December issue of the *Keeping it on the Land*. All newsletters are available through the Commission office or online at: <http://glc.org/basin/>.

Staff also continues to provide administrative and programmatic support to the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Great Lakes Committee which meets two times per year. The most recent meeting was held March 5, 6, and 7, 2007, in Washington DC in conjunction with the Great Lakes Commission's meeting.

For more information contact: Gary Overmier - garyo@glc.org

2. Great Lakes Tributary Modeling Program

In 1998, the Great Lakes Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers entered into a cooperative agreement to support the development of sediment transport models for tributaries to the Great Lakes that discharge to federal navigation channels or Areas of Concern (AOCs). These models are designed to serve as tools for watershed planning and to assist state and local resource agencies in evaluating alternatives for soil conservation and sediment reduction. By supporting state and local measures that will reduce or prevent the loading of sediments and pollutants to tributaries, this work is helping to reduce the need and costs for dredging and maintenance of navigation channels and harbors. The program also supports other local and regional efforts such as actions to de-list Great Lakes AOCs, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) evaluations, resource management initiatives, and restoration projects.

Since program inception, the Corps has completed model development at 14 tributaries. Many of these projects have resulted in the development of detailed, location-specific models for small watersheds or portions of larger watersheds and have required local stakeholders to have specific technical skills, training and expertise to be able to run the model and interpret its results correctly. However, future project work under this program has begun to shift to include the development of simpler web-based tools that can continue to support watershed planning at smaller tributaries and sub-basins. The Burns Ditch/Trail Creek project in Indiana was the first project to be completed in this manner. These new web-based models will still include site-specific information and will be accessible to and usable by a larger audience within each watershed.

To assist the Corps in identifying priority tributaries for future project work under this program, Commission staff have recently begun to develop a Geographic Information Systems (GIS)-based tool which will enable program partners to prioritize over 100 eligible tributaries within the basin based on various parameters, identified needs and available resources. The program website, designed to keep model users and stakeholders informed of project work, has recently undergone a complete revision by Commission staff. As additional detail is added, the new site will include up-to-date information on each of the completed and ongoing modeling projects as well as other helpful resources for soil erosion and sediment control professionals and the general public. This new site is available at www.glc.org/tributary.

For more information contact: Laura Kaminski - laurak@glc.org or Tom Crane - tcrane@glc.org.

3. Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Control

The Great Lakes Commission continues to work on aquatic invasive species (AIS) issues by providing staff support to the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species as well as on a project specific level. The following AIS related activities have been conducted since the 2006 Semiannual Meeting.

Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species Initiatives

Meetings: The fall meeting of the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) was held December 13-14, 2006 in Ann Arbor, Mich. The meeting agenda, action items and summary can be found online, through the Panel website, at: www.glc.org/ans/panel.html#glpmeet. Rapid response planning, including early detection and monitoring, provided the main focus of the meeting and presentations were offered on federal, regional and state initiatives addressing these issues. Other noteworthy topics covered included Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS); the Great Lakes Panel Operational Guidance document; and revisions to the *Great Lakes Aquatic Invasions* publication. The spring Panel meeting is scheduled for May 10-11, 2007 in Erie, Pennsylvania at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center at Presque Isle. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the spring meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, scheduled for May 8-10, with an all-day session taking place on May 9 on *ANS State Management Plans: Great Lakes Regional Perspectives*. The all-day session will provide the Great Lakes states an opportunity to address the ANS Task Force regarding the progress and obstacles of state management planning for aquatic invasive species.

Panel Committee support: Staff has worked with the Executive Committee of the Panel to develop and finalize the Great Lakes Panel's Operational Guidance document. The final document is available online at: www.glc.org/ans/panel.html#guide. The guidance document will serve in formalizing the conduct of the Great Lakes Panel, ultimately helping to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Panel as a multijurisdictional entity to advance AIS prevention and control programs on a regional basis. Staff has supported each of the standing committees in their development of work plans and priorities documents. Staff worked with the Research Coordination Committee to develop materials related to the Research Coordination Committee's *Aquatic Invasive Research Priorities Document*, available online at: www.glc.org/ans/panel.html#committees and *Priority Species List*. In addition, staff aided the Policy Coordination Committee in the development and distribution of a recommendation for the ANS Task Force encouraging the Task Force, through their leadership capacity, to support authorization and funding of the aquatic nuisance dispersal barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. The recommendation, submitted to the ANS Task Force in January 2007, is available online at: www.glc.org/ans/panel.html#recommendations. It is noteworthy that this recommendation was included as an attachment to the Great Lakes Commission Congressional letter advocating for funding for the dispersal barrier with the intent to inform Congress of the broad base of support among the Panel membership for long-term operation of the dispersal barrier.

Great Lakes Commission AIS Project Activities

ANS Update (Volume 13, No. 1): This upcoming issue of the *ANS Update* will include an article authored by Gary Whelan, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, addressing the topic of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS). Expected publication of this issue is May 2007.

Great Lakes Aquatic Invasions booklet: Staff completed work on the development of a comprehensive publication: *Great Lakes Aquatic Invasions*. This new full-color publication was developed as part of the Commission's ongoing efforts to raise awareness and understanding of aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes region. The 14-page booklet provides summaries of the history and global movements of AIS; ecological and economic impacts in the Great Lakes; common vectors by which AIS are introduced and spread, along with case studies of species associated with those vectors; model strategies for AIS prevention and control; policy developments; and future directions of AIS management. An extensive list of AIS-related web sites is provided as well. The Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species was closely involved in developing the booklet. Funding was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office, with additional support from the U.S. Forest Service, Eastern Region. The publication is also available online at www.glc.org/ans/aquatic-invasions. Print copies may be ordered at www.glc.org/docs/

State ANS Management Planning: The project, *A Collaborative Approach to Advance Implementation of State Management Plans for Prevention and Control of ANS in the Great Lakes Region*, has continued to provide a valuable opportunity to support state ANS management planning efforts. Through a series of state-specific workshops funded by the National

Oceanic Atmospheric Administration National Sea Grant Program, this project has facilitated collaboration between the Great Lakes Commission staff and representatives from the Sea Grant programs and natural resource agencies in the Great Lakes states in an effort to advance the development and implementation of ANS state management plans (SMPs). State-specific SMP workshops have been successfully conducted in six Great Lakes states: Wisconsin, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. The culmination of this project will be an all-day session of the ANS Task Force spring meeting in May 2007 showcasing state management plans in the Great Lakes region with a focus on successes and obstacles in state management planning. The session will bring together the project partners and the ANS Task Force to strategize ideas for improving and promoting the implementation of state management plans, including collaboration across jurisdictional lines. Materials and details on the outcomes of the SMP project, including workshop agendas, presentations and summaries are posted as they become available on the project website (<http://www.glc.org/ans/initiatives.html#advance>).

For more information on AIS-related activities contact: Katherine Glassner-Shwayder - shwayder@glc.org.

4. Great Lakes Science Vessel Coordination

Great Lakes science vessels are an important part of U.S. and Canadian research and monitoring efforts designed to protect the quality of the Great Lakes ecosystem. They support a wide range of research and monitoring activities related to the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the largest freshwater system in the world. Demand for scientific data has continued to increase while funding for research and monitoring has been reduced, prompting research managers to seek better ways to coordinate the use of these critical resources.

Since 1997, individuals representing science, management and vessel operations interests from both the U.S. and Canada have met annually to provide input on developing a coordinated approach to the management and operations of Great Lakes science vessels. One of the recommendations from the first workshop in 1997 was to annually convene a Great Lakes Science Vessel Workshop to provide a forum for continued discussion of important issues and to gauge project progress. Recent workshops have focused primarily on vessel operations issues.

The Great Lakes Commission has worked with a project steering committee to plan and convene the annual workshops. In addition to these annual workshops, a science vessel coordination website provides information on the Great Lakes science vessel fleet and other important issues of interest to scientists, managers and operators. It includes features such as a jobs pages, ship listings, information on shipyards and suppliers, and additional links to other organizations. Individual vessel web-pages are linked directly to the website. The website can be accessed through the following address: www.canamglass.org.

The 11th annual workshop was held January 24-26, 2007, in Traverse City, Michigan in conjunction with the Industry Days conference of the Great Lakes Captain's Association. The 12th annual workshop will again be held in conjunction with the Industry Days conference on January 14-18, 2008, at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy and the Holiday Inn West Bay in Traverse City, Michigan.

For more information on the Science Vessel Coordination project contact: Tom Crane - tcrane@glc.org

5. Great Lakes Regional Water Use Database

The Commission continues to serve as the repository for the Regional Water Use Database established by the Great Lakes states and provinces to fulfill one of the key requirements of the Great Lakes Charter. The database was established by the Great Lakes states and provinces in 1988, to provide a uniform, consistent base of data of water withdrawals, diversions and consumptive uses for nine categories of water use in the Great Lakes basin. Water use data are provided to the Commission on an annual basis. These data are then compiled with reports provided to the jurisdictions to assist them in the conduct of their water resources planning and management activities under the Great Lakes Charter and Charter Annex. The annual reports for 2003 and 2004 have been completed and will soon be available online on the Commission's website: www.glc.org/wateruse/database.

For more information on the Water Use Database contact: Tom Crane - tcrane@glc.org

**GREAT LAKES BASIN PROGRAM FOR SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL
DEMONSTRATION GRANTS PROGRAM
1991-2006**

<i>State</i>	<i>Number of Grants</i>	<i>Total Funding</i>
Illinois	11	\$551,505
Indiana	26	\$888,914
Michigan	116	\$5,306,985 ¹
Minnesota	38	\$966,510
New York	76	\$2,255,937
Ohio	51	\$1,786,224
Pennsylvania	26	\$972,974
Wisconsin	45	\$1,457,218 ²
TOTAL	389	\$14,186,267

¹Includes three \$600,000 appropriations (FY 91-93) to the MI DNR for the Saginaw Bay Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program

²Includes a grant of \$21,368 to the National Association of Conservation Districts for 7 soil erosion workshops in the Great Lakes Basin



Great Lakes Commission des Grands Lacs

Eisenhower Corporate Park • 2805 South Industrial Hwy., Suite 100
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-6791
Office (734) 971-9135 • Fax (734) 971-9150 • glc@glc.org

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Water Management
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Division of Water
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioners and Observers

FROM: Matt Doss, Program Manager
Environmental Quality

DATE: May 2, 2007

RE: Update on Environmental Quality Program Activities

Program Staff:

Matt Doss, Program Manager
John Hummer, Project Manager

The following is a brief overview of key activities and products completed or underway in the Environmental Quality Program area since the 2006 Annual Meeting.

1. Support for the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration

Staff from the Environmental Quality Program continues to track the status of the *Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's* (GLRC) Area of Concern (AOC) and Habitat/Species recommendations. Matt Doss, program manager, participates on the Federal-State Areas of Concern Coordinating Committee, established pursuant to the GLRC's AOC recommendations. Doss facilitated the Areas of Concern session at the Second Annual Great Lakes Restoration Conference convened by the Healing Our Waters Coalition in September 2006. He also will present on the U.S. AOC program at the Great Lakes United annual meeting in June 2007. Doss serves on the Project Delivery Team for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes Habitat Initiative and is also providing support to the GLRC's Wetlands Initiative.

2. Support to Great Lakes Areas of Concern/Remedial Action Plans

The Commission continues to provide staff support to the Statewide Public Advisory Council (SPAC) for Michigan's Areas of Concern Program with funding provided by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The Council currently is focusing on implementing new statewide delisting guidance for Michigan's AOCs, completed in January 2006. Commission staff has assisted MDEQ in presenting the delisting guidance to local public advisory councils and identifying specific actions that need to be taken, at both the statewide level and for individual AOCs, to implement the guidance. A key challenge is to develop AOC-specific delisting targets for fish and wildlife impairments. The Commission convened a work session in November 2006 to discuss MDEQ's process for developing these targets. The Commission currently is administering funding under the SPAC grant to nine AOC public advisory councils to develop or implement delisting targets consistent with MDEQ's new statewide guidance.

In April the SPAC released its *2007 Status Report and Legislative Agenda for Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern Program* and convened meetings with Michigan state legislators to urge continued support for the program. SPAC officers have testified before state legislative committees to highlight accomplishments in Michigan's AOCs and to urge continue funding for MDEQ programs and services that support AOC cleanup efforts. Conducted annually by the SPAC, this year's outreach is particularly important given the budget crisis impacting state government in Michigan.

At a regional level, Commission staff convened representatives from the U.S. AOCs in February to discuss and solicit support for legislative priorities for the AOCs. The Commission used this forum to recruit AOC representatives to participate in Great Lakes Day in Washington. With support from the Healing Our Waters Coalition, many AOC representatives participated in Great Lakes Day events and met with their Congressional representatives. They provided a valuable, local voice to support the Great Lakes Commission's legislative agenda.

Finally, the Commission is collaborating with U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA and the Cuyahoga River RAP to sponsor a conference for the U.S. AOC program. Titled *Great Lakes Areas of Concern: Achieving Restoration Targets and Sustaining Stewardship*, the conference will be held June 28-29, 2007 at the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio. The conference will convene participants from the U.S. AOCs to review the status of the AOC program, identify opportunities to expedite progress on key AOC tasks, and exchange information among AOC participants. The Commission is administering funding to help representatives from local AOC groups participate in the conference. This is the third regional AOC conference that the Commission has coordinated. The conference program and registration materials will be distributed in late May and will be posted online at www.glc.org/rap/aconference.

3. Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council

The Commission continues to support the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council, formed in 1999 by federal, state and local agencies to facilitate coordination among groups involved in ecosystem monitoring activities in the Lake Michigan basin. The Council hosts workgroups that focus on ten issue-based monitoring networks in the Lake Michigan basin, including tributaries, wetlands, wildlife and groundwater, among others. Each group is working to establish strategies to better coordinate data collection, sharing and reporting.

Lake Michigan has been chosen as one of three pilot study sites to support development of the National Water Quality Monitoring Network for U.S. Coastal Waters and their Tributaries (commonly known as the National Monitoring Network, or NMN). Lake Michigan was selected as a NMN pilot in response to a Statement of Interest submitted by the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council. The pilot study will be coordinated by the Great Lakes Commission as part of its support for the Council. Other partners include the four Lake Michigan states, U.S. EPA and the Great Lakes Observing System, among others. The initiative will test and refine the NMN design and may serve as a catalyst for enhanced monitoring coordination throughout the Great Lakes basin. The Council is hosting an initial workshop to kick-off the pilot study on May 10 in New Buffalo, MI. For more information, see <http://acwi.gov/monitoring/network> or <http://wi.water.usgs.gov/lmmcc>.

With funding from U.S. EPA-GLNPO, the Council's Tributary Workgroup has designed a coordinated tributary monitoring event that commenced last year and continues this fall. Through the workgroup, the Commission is coordinating state and federal agencies to combine monitoring efforts and supplement them with additional monitoring to update pollutant load estimates to Lake Michigan from major tributaries. This intensive monitoring event serves to validate forecasting and update results from the Lake Michigan Mass Balance project. An additional benefit is to provide monitoring resources for three AOCs on Lake Michigan. Field sampling of a set of key parameters, including total mercury, methyl mercury, PCBs, and a suite of nutrients, began in summer 2005 in several tributaries to Lake Michigan by a federal-state agency partnership. Sampling was completed in summer 2006 and detailed analysis of results is in its final stages.

4. Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium

The Commission continues to facilitate the Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium. The Consortium is comprised of wetlands researchers and resource managers and was developed through a cooperative agreement with U.S. EPA-GLNPO. The Consortium's goal is to develop a long-term monitoring strategy and implementation plan for Great

Lakes coastal wetlands. To date, the Consortium has made progress in several areas. It has developed a set of standard protocols for basinwide monitoring indicators. Field testing and metric development have been completed for a number of biological indicators and the results have been published in peer-reviewed journals. A workshop was held in January to compare Consortium-developed indicators with those of the Great Lakes Environmental Indicators project. Both projects are currently working closely to develop the Consortium's final monitoring plan.

A collaborative team of Canadian and U.S. experts merged coastal wetlands inventories and classified coastal wetlands into a single, seamless map product. Also, examination of two different methods for collecting coastal data remotely across the basin for assessment of wetland extent and landscape characteristics was completed. A comprehensive database of potential monitoring personnel from federal, state and local agencies has also been developed. As part of the final monitoring implementation plan due this September, Commission staff is investigating the capacity of various organizations to assist with on-the-ground sampling and data collection in coming years. In the fall, the Commission will plan a workshop to assist the Lake Ontario LaMP in developing coastal wetland indicators for Lake Ontario.

A near-term priority is to complete a data management system to house data from across the Great Lakes basin for coastal wetland monitoring. The Commission continues to administer contractual work, assure the quality of work being done, and maintain the information exchange webpage (www.glc.org/wetlands) and discussion lists.

5. Michigan Clean Water Corps

The Commission continues to work under contract with MDEQ to administer Governor Granholm's Michigan Clean Water Corps – MiCorps – volunteer water quality monitoring program. The Commission is partnering with the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) to consolidate and coordinate three state volunteer monitoring programs – the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program, Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program and Volunteer River, Stream and Creek Cleanup Program. The Commission and HRWC manage MiCorps programs, recruit and train new participants, administer grant funding, oversee quality control, implement a data exchange system, facilitate an annual statewide conference, produce a semi-annual newsletter, and report on results.

To date, the project team has developed a website (www.MiCorps.net); established a web-based volunteer monitoring program registry and directory; conducted a monitoring program survey; solicited, reviewed and contracted with nine stream monitoring programs; established training materials and held volunteer monitoring training events; developed quality assurance guidance and review protocols; reviewed quality assurance plans; published a program brochure; published the first two issues of The MiCorps Monitor newsletter; conducted the annual MiCorps Conference; developed the MiCorps Data Exchange Network, and drafted the first MiCorps Annual Report and Executive Summary. The Data Exchange Network serves as the central location for all volunteer monitoring data collected through the MiCorps program and includes both an online data entry system for MiCorps members, as well as a data search interface for all interested parties. The next MiCorps conference is being held Oct. 15-16, 2007 at the Ralph MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake.

Under the Volunteer River, Stream and Creek Cleanup Program, Commission staff sent out the FY 2007 Grant Application Package and received 10 proposals. Staff reviewed the proposals and submitted funding recommendations to the MDEQ. Cleanup projects are located throughout Michigan and are generally completed by the end of October. The program provides small grants (\$500 to \$5,000) to local units of government to support river and stream cleanup projects. Ten cleanup projects were funded under the program in 2006.

6. Lake Erie Habitat Mapping Webpage

Commission staff are working with a broad set of partners to distribute habitat mapping products for the Lake Erie basin using new geographic information system (GIS) tools on GLIN. The initiative began in June 2005 when habitat experts from across the region met to review the status of habitat mapping and discuss data needs to complete the process and consolidate efforts. A follow-up meeting was conducted in January 2006. The final web products are to be unveiled in June 2007. See the project website at www.glc.org/eriehabitat/ for more information or contact Pete Giencke at pgiencke@glc.org



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Environmental Affairs
Office of the Governor
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Ken DeBeaussaert

Director
Office of the Great Lakes
Mich. Dept. of Environ. Quality
Lansing, Michigan

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Commissioner,
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Conservation
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Columbus, Ohio

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Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs
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Water Management
PA Dept. of Envir. Protection
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Michel LaFleur

Chargé d'affaires
Government of Québec
Chicago, Illinois

Todd Ambts

Administrator
Division of Water
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
Madison, Wisconsin

*Ensuring environmental and economic
prosperity for the Great Lakes-St.
Lawrence region through
communications, policy research and
development, and advocacy.*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioners and Observers

FROM: David L. Knight, Program Manager
Victoria Pebbles, Associate Program Manager

DATE: May 2, 2007

RE: Update on Transportation and Sustainable Development Program
Activities

Program Staff

Dave Knight
Victoria Pebbles
Becky Lameka

New Initiatives

Support for Corps Habitat Initiative

In December, 2006 the Commission was awarded a contract to help support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Habitat Initiative (CHI). The CHI aims to develop four main products: 1) a funding data base for habitat protection and restoration; 2) an inventory of current and potential habitat restoration and protection projects, 3) a suite of criteria for the Corps to evaluate potential projects; 4) an implementation plan that applies the first three products. The Commission is serving as a subcontractor to Public Sector Consultants of Lansing MI—the principal contractor—in support of item 2 above. The Commission's role is two-fold: 1) create a data base to house an inventory of habitat restoration and protection projects across the great Lakes region; and 2) conduct a series of outreach meetings to individual states to inform them of the CHI, demonstrate how to enter projects into the data base through a web-based project form and encourage state participation.

Staff have completed four of eight state workshops as of to date (PA, IL, MI, and MN) and four more are planned to be completed before the end of May, 2007. Through the state workshops, GLC staff is compiling feedback on the CHI in general and the habitat project entry web form. State comments have been incorporated into the web form where feasible. The initial deadline to submit projects for the Corps is June 15, 2007. (An FAQ about the state workshops is attached). Non-technical issues and questions raised at the workshops are being compiled by staff and will be part of the Commission's final report for this contract. An overriding issue raised by the states at the workshops has been the need for some level of assurance that federal agencies (not just the Corps) will use the data base as part of their funding process for habitat restoration and protection. V. Pebbles is the project manager. See www.glnhi.org.

Cities Investment in Great Lakes Protection and Restoration

This one-year project, awarded by the Joyce Foundation in December 2006, aims to characterize local expenditures throughout the Great Lakes basin to protect, enhance and restore the Great Lakes. The Commission is the lead, but is partnering closely with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (which has a subcontract for this project) to develop a list of eligible restoration and protection activities in consultation with a group of local experts. A survey will be developed and administered to local units of government throughout the Great Lakes basin during summer of 2007. The results of the survey will be analyzed and presented in a final report that documents local investment in Great Lakes protection and restoration. The final report is expected in late 2007. V. Pebbles is the project manager. For more information, see <http://glc.org/glinvestment>.

Continuing Projects/Initiatives

Joint Project Agreement with NOAA Coastal Services Center (CSC)

The focus of the Joint Project Agreement since the last update has been to complete a work plan to carry out a suite of activities to address regional needs identified in Great Lakes Regional Needs Assessment. The needs assessment focused on three issue areas: ports/navigation; coastal community development (CCD) and data information integration and distribution (DIID). The three reports are online at www.glc.org/regionalneeds. Key work plan elements include:

- enhancing the coastal pages on GLIN;
- establishing mechanisms for enhanced regional coordination among coastal managers and between the coastal management community and the GLC (e.g., focus groups, a list serv, Great Lakes Day);
- integrating NOAA data and information sources and services with those in the Great Lakes region and delivering such to regional stakeholders by building on related initiatives, such as RDX data exchange and GLOS;
- planning and conducting a scoping workshop to examine the benefits of coastal infrastructure and potential strategies for a regional response to maintain and protect that infrastructure, and
- training on a Habitat Priority Planner—a GIS-based tool that was originally developed for Lake St. Clair, but has been updated to apply to any geography (will help support habitat recommendations of the GLRC).

V. Pebbles is the project manager. The Joint Project Agreement with the NOAA Coastal Service Center extends through August, 2009.

Sustainable Land Use:

Great Lakes Smart Growth Briefing Paper and Jurisdiction Profiles

In preparation for the 2006 Semiannual meeting, staff prepared a draft briefing paper on status and trends in Great Lakes state planning and smart growth. To develop this paper, staff prepared profiles of individual state policies and programs. At the 2006 Semiannual meeting, staff was directed to develop profiles of the Great Lakes provinces. Among the findings are that 27 percent of the Great Lakes Commission membership is from agencies that administer a state land use program. Staff is finalizing this paper as part of a general issue brief to be published shortly. This paper will also be presented by B. Lameka as part of a panel on land use in the Great Lakes at IAGLR 2007. More information is online at <http://www.glc.org/meeting/sgprofiles>

State Land Use Roundtables: The state land use roundtable series engages GLC staff in planning and conducting of land use roundtables in individual states, as endorsed by a Commission resolution in 2001. Each roundtable is crafted to build on past GLC work (multi-stakeholder report and resolution) and recent state initiatives and accomplishments to advance and link urban revitalization and open space protection. Funding has been provided by U.S. EPA to support 6 roundtables; 5 have been completed as of this update:

- Michigan Roundtable, January, 2003
- Ohio Balanced Growth Roundtable, January, 2005
- Wisconsin Waterfront Revitalization Conference, April, 2005
- Ohio Balanced Growth Roundtable, January 2005
- Pennsylvania Land Use Roundtable, September, 2005
- Indiana Coastal Connections 2006 Land Use Policy Roundtable, April 2006

Planning is underway to hold a New York roundtable on September 18, 2007 in Albany. V. Pebbles is project manager. See <http://www.glc.org/landuse>

Great Lakes Sustainable Land Use Web Site

Staff continue to maintain Great Lakes Sustainable Land Use—a GLIN “sister” web site that features news articles related to land use from around the region that are updated daily and links to relevant state, federal and regional web sites. www.glc.org/bridges

Note: See other program area updates for complementary land use projects and activities.

SOLEC

V. Pebbles continues to represent the Commission on the SOLEC Steering Committee. SOLEC 2006 took place November 1-3, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with the theme of “chemical integrity.” Pebbles served on a committee to select success stories and emceed the awards ceremony for that.

Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Review

Commission staff spanning multiple program areas has participated on various working groups set up as part of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement review process. Most of that work wrapped up by the end of calendar year 2006. Commission staff continues to monitor progress of the GLWQA review through existing mechanisms (e.g. BEC meetings).

Great Lakes Dredging Team

www.glc.org/dredging

The Great Lakes Dredging Team (GLDT) will be participating in a review led by the National Dredging Team (NDT) of the National Dredging Policy and the 2003 NDT Action Agenda to reaffirm the adequacy of the national policy and agenda in support in support of the U.S. Marine Transportation System (MTS). The project was initiated by the federal interagency cabinet-level Committee on the Marine Transportation System. The primary activity for the GLDT will be to communicate with regional and local stakeholders, solicit their review and comments, and organize the input into a coordinated regional response by the end of June. Final recommendations at the national level are scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

GLDT staff is also in final stages of development of an illustrated brochure outlining dredging needs in Great Lakes harbors and navigational channels, the criticality of timely and environmentally responsible dredging in the Lakes to the region’s marine transportation system, and the overall importance of the issue to the North American economy.

Other upcoming GLDT activity includes:

- Reconvening the Windows Advisory Team comprised of experts from multiple disciplines and geographic areas in the Great Lakes to continue work toward a scientifically sound and cost effective process for determining environmental dredging windows in the Lakes, and one that one that would provide maximum value for the states;
- Hosting a delegation from the Chinese Dredging Association June 6 to share information and education on beneficial use of dredged material, and
- Continuing exploration of a possible conference or workshop bringing together watershed managers in the Great Lakes basin, dredging practitioners, port interests and other appropriate stakeholders to discuss potential new approaches to regional sediment management.

Great Lakes Recreational Boating Economic Benefits Study

The good news is that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, after a lengthy review process, has 1) posted the final draft of the study on its Detroit District website and 2) allowed the Great Lakes Commission to move forward with plans to release study findings. This study documents the regional impact of Great Lakes recreational boating in its entirety, including boater spending patterns and volumes, the contributions to state economies by marinas and charter fishing operators, and the dollars and jobs generated by Great Lakes watercraft manufacturers. A primary motivation for the study was to demonstrate, through documentation of economic benefits, the federal interest in maintaining authorized recreational harbors in the Great Lakes.

The full draft of the study can be accessed at the Detroit District website www.lre.usace.army.mil, using the following path: Projects and Studies/Planning Studies/John Glenn Great Lakes Basin Program/Recreational Boating. See also within this briefing book an executive report of key findings.

Soo Lock Expansion Project

As of this date, a Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR) revisiting initial benefit-cost ratio calculations for the project has been forwarded to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) John Paul Woodley with a recommendation to proceed with construction despite the fact that the benefit to cost ratio is below equity. The recommendation to proceed was made by USACE staff on the basis of national security and the unacceptable risk of having only one large lock at the Soo. The LRR and is still awaiting Woodley's action. In Congress, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 was recently passed in the House with language calling for full federal funding of the project which would add a second lock large enough for 1,000-foot class vessels, which represent a majority of the U.S.-flag carrying capacity on the Great Lakes. TSD staff has been active in advocacy efforts supporting this WRDA provision, specifically advocating for the House language to be included in a Senate WRDA bill. The Commission is also working toward finalization of a Project Cooperation Agreement with the Corps formalizing the Commission's role as non-federal sponsor of the project.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioners and Observers
FR: Christine Manninen, Program Manager
Communications and Internet Technology
DA: May 2, 2007
RE: CIT Program Activities Update

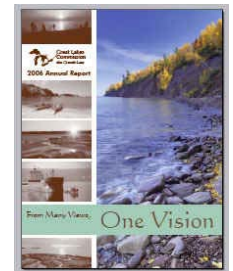
This memo provides information on current priorities and work activities being pursued through the Communications and Internet Technology (CIT) Program of the Great Lakes Commission. The CIT Program oversees the writing, design and marketing of all Commission products, including both online and print publications. Among these are the Commission's annual report, quarterly *Advisor* newsletter, media advisories and web sites, including the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN), the region's premier source for Great Lakes news and information.

Current staff within the CIT Program includes:

Program Manager:	Christine Manninen
Senior Web Programmer:	Hao Zhuang
Senior Program Specialist:	Kirk Haverkamp
Program Specialist:	Elizabeth Schmidt
Web Contractor:	Devra Polack
Workstudy Students:	Sara Wedell, Maggie Weston

1. 2006 GLC Annual Report

The 2006 Great Lakes Commission Annual Report was released in February. The 20-page publication includes an overview of Commission projects and key regional initiatives during the year, and features messages from Michigan Lt. Gov. John Cherry Jr., Commission chair, and Tim Eder, executive director. The publication includes individual sections focusing on how the Commission's work in 2006 helped advance each of the four goals set forth in its new strategic plan and is illustrated throughout with relevant quotations offered by Great Lakes dignitaries. The report also includes FY2006 financial data, lists of Board members, Commissioners, Observers, funders and staff; and descriptions of each of the Commission's six program areas. Contact: Kirk Haverkamp, kirkh@glc.org.



2. Media advisories

The Commission periodically conducts media events or issues press releases and news commentaries to raise awareness of Great Lakes issues and developments, both among the Great Lakes policy, management and research communities and the public at large.

In fall 2006, the Commission worked with the office of U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (Ohio) to host a media event drawing attention to water quality issues in the Great Lakes basin and efforts to address them by Commission's Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. Preparations are now underway for another event to announce the release of the Commission's recreational boating study, timed to coincide with the start of the boating season. Media advisories issued in recent months have included the announcement of the election of Michigan Lt. Gov. John Cherry Jr. and Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn as chair and vice chair of the Great Lakes Commission; calls for legislation to stop invasive species and other elements of the Commission's near-term legislative priorities; calls for the enactment of the Great Lakes Asian Carp Barrier Act (S. 336 and H.R. 553); and the announcement of a study to assess municipal investments in Great Lakes restoration. Contact: Kirk Haverkamp, kirkh@glc.org.

3. **E-newsletter**

The Commission unveiled a new communications tool, an e-mail newsletter, in January to help keep Commissioners and others informed on Commission activities. The service, *Great Lakes Commission News Briefs*, offers a short summary of Commission news each month. The bulletins feature updates on Commission activities, policy and advocacy developments and upcoming events, as well as an overview of a featured project. The e-newsletter is sent out at mid-month to all Commissioners and Observers, as well as to a broader readership via the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN). For the current edition and links to archives, see www.glc.org/email. Contact: Kirk Haverkamp, kirkh@glc.org.

4. **Legislative Priorities Tracking Project**

To advance the goals and objectives of the *Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes*, the Great Lakes Commission has initiated development of a web-based tool to provide up-to-date information on Great Lakes legislative priorities. The project will help increase support for Great Lakes protection and restoration by providing restoration advocates with easy access to current information regarding federal legislation and funding for restoration through a web portal as part of the Great Lakes Information Network. A prototype of the project, developed by Commission staff, has been demonstrated, reviewed and critiqued by potential users and received broad support from leaders in the Great Lakes region and Washington. Funding is being sought to support implementation of the database. This project will help engage a wide array of audiences in the legislative process, informing, educating, and building stewardship for the Great Lakes. Contact: Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org.

5. **Communications support for the Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS)**

A new GLOS brochure was printed in April 2007 and is now being broadly distributed to partners throughout the region. Recent updates to the Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS) web site include the dynamic rotation of images and captions to the home page, the development of a password-protected Board Room and listserv archive, new events calendar, and new pages to showcase current conditions on the lakes. As the lone freshwater component of International Ocean Observing System (IOOS), GLOS is paving the way for improved water management and data exchange across the international Great Lakes region. GLOS will provide critical real-time data for member states and provinces and multiple users, including resource managers, researchers, educators, homeland security interests, the commercial shipping industry and the recreational boating community, among others. GLOS data will be served through the GLIN interface to maximize its visibility. Commission staff is working closely with the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network to further GLOS outreach and education efforts. For more information, visit www.glos.us or contact: Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org.

6. **Great Lakes Regional Research Information Network**

The Commission is partnering with the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network in developing a binational regional network in the Great Lakes, the Great Lakes Regional Research Information Network (GLRRIN). GLRRIN will coordinate, foster collaboration and enhance cooperation on research, education and outreach and improve our ability to manage the Great Lakes ecosystem. GLRRIN will support and assist with the implementation of a research coordination strategy currently under development by the IJC's Council of Great Lakes Research

Managers. The Commission – through the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) – will host the GLRRIN web site and its various searchable databases of researchers and organizations. GLIN is also hosting email lists for the GLRRIN steering committee and all individual lake teams within the network. Contact: Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org.

7. **2007 Carol A. Ratza Memorial Scholarship winner**

Laura Valdmanis, a freshman at Hobart and William Smith College in Geneva, N.Y., is the recipient of the 2007 Carol A. Ratza Memorial Scholarship. A native of Prior Lake, Minn., Valdmanis is pursuing a double major in earth science and mathematics. She is cited as a role model by her fellow students and community members because of her knowledge, dedication and enthusiasm, especially pertaining to political, cultural and environmental causes.

The \$1,000 award is in memory of Carol Ratza, who directed the Communications Program at the Great Lakes Commission from 1986-1997. For more information, visit <http://www.glc.org/about/scholarships/scholar.html> or contact Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org.

8. **GLIN updates: New coastal management pages**

The Commission is continually working on updates for the Great Lakes Information Network. Currently, work is being done to expand and enhance the section concerning coastal zone management. Updates will include an interactive map showing the area each state includes under the individual coastal management plans, a coastal calendar to share related events, a ‘coast’ email list to improve communications and a more indepth “Coastal Issues” page to facilitate greater learning on related issues. The Commission is also planning a complete GLIN redesign in the next 9-12 months. Planning will consider user needs, aesthetics, usability and site navigation, and enhanced GIS/mapping functions. Contact: Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org.

9. **Indiana Department of Environmental Management: May 2007 Site of the Month on GLIN**

Each month on the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN), the Commission highlights the wealth of information available on the web site of one active GLIN partner. These partners work closely with the GLIN Project Team to ensure that their information is cross-linked and fully integrated into the regional network. Other sites featured on GLIN in the past six months include:

- The Great Lakes Wiki (www.greatlakeswiki.org)
- Lake Superior Conservancy and Watershed Council (www.lscwc.org)
- Inland Seas Education Association (www.schoolship.org)
- Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (www.glslcities.org)
- St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences (www.riverinstitute.com)
- Stop the Mudness (www.stopthemudness.net)

To nominate a site for this award, please see www.glin.net/news/sitemont.html or contact: Liz Schmidt, eschmidt@glc.org.

10. **New grant to demonstrate geo-enabled tools for the Great Lakes**

The Commission recently received funding from the USGS National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program (NSDI CAP) to produce a demonstration of integrated, geo-enabled decision-making and its potential benefit for Great Lakes resource managers. Possible applications could benefit rapid response planning for invasive species, habitat restoration for native fish communities and coastal land use planning, among others. The one-year project will commence in July 2007 and include three to five small demonstration projects, which will be showcased on GLIN and among practitioners and decision-makers who will benefit from the tools. Contact: Pete Giencke, pgiencke@glc.org.



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Madison, Wisconsin

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioners and Observers
FROM: Roger L. Gauthier, Program Manager
Data and Information Management
DATE: May 2, 2007
RE: Data and Information Management (D&IM) Program Activities

Program Staff

Stuart Eddy, Project Manager
Jon Dettling, Project Manager
Richard Garcia, Senior Program Specialist
Peter Giencke, Program Specialist
Hugh Brennan III, IT Systems Administrator

Introduction

The D&IM program area oversees a growing suite of projects which focus on information management and access needed for regional policy development and decision making. The program manages enterprise information design, database development and maintenance, geographic information systems (GIS) integration and coordination of computing resources for the organization.

1) Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS) Submits Large-Scale Funding Request

The GLOS Regional Association (GLOS-RA), incorporated as a non-profit organization, has coordinated the submittal of a \$2.7 million proposal to NOAA to fund strategic projects across the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River region. This proposal was submitted under a call for proposals to implement key regional activities under the Integrated Oceans Observing System (IOOS) in March 2007. The proposal reflects a consensus input of stakeholders and subject matter experts across the region. It is anticipated that grant awards will occur by early June 2007 with work to be initiated starting in October 2007.

The GLC has been providing secretariat support to the GLOS Board of Directors, as part of three-year NOAA grant. It is anticipated that the GLC will receive additional funding in May 2007 through this grant to continue staffing the GLOS-RA through June 2008. The GLOS web pages (www.glos.us) have been continuously updated to reflect on-going activities. For further information, contact: Roger Gauthier at gauthier@glc.org.

2) Lake St. Clair Management Plan High Priority Projects

GLC staff has continued to provide technical and policy support to local stakeholders for the Huron to Erie Corridor (HEC), including Lake St. Clair. The development of the Lake St. Clair Management Plan was coordinated by the GLC for several years earlier this decade. Implementation of high priority projects are being addressed under an authority that will likely be included in a new Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill that hopefully will be passed by Congress in 2007. These projects include substantial data collection and management and new product development. These include: a) creation of a continuous 3-dimensional model for the corridor facilitated by the GLOS-RA; b) enhancements to the Lake St. Clair Coastal Habitat Assessment to promote habitat restoration and protection projects; and c) Phragmites eradication demonstration activities. For further information, contact Roger Gauthier at: gauthier@glc.org.

3) Inland Sensitivity Atlas (ISA) and Regional Response Plans

The GLC remains an active partner in the development of map products and contingency plans for regional and local emergency preparedness, prevention and response. These products address potential oil and extremely hazardous substance spills in the Great Lakes region. The program is funded and led by the U.S. EPA Region 5 Oil Planning and Response Section to meet objectives of the Clean Water Act. The Region 5 Regional Response Team (RRT) and local, state and federal agencies and organizations use project materials for preparedness activities across the region, including response planning, training and drills. GLC staff continues to update the Inland Sensitivity Atlas (ISA) series that was initiated through this project. Map creation for a statewide update to the Michigan portion of the atlas began this winter. Data development for the State of Indiana has begun and will become the focus for the project as Michigan updates are completed.

The GLC is contributing to updates of the Regional Response Plan for Region 5, which involves document development and information coordination between state and federal agencies. GLC staff is working with EPA Region 5 and the US Coast Guard throughout this process. In conjunction with that work, the Region 5 Regional Response Team website is being updated and enhanced. Staff expertise in both regional response planning and in web design and internet technology will be used to re-establish and enhance this communication tool. Project staff is involved in planning for a large-scale oil spill response exercise scheduled to take place in June. During the Spill of National Significance (SONS) 2007 exercise, oil spill and emergency response personnel from state and federal agencies throughout the region will react to simulated oil spills and other emergencies caused by a major natural disaster. The GLC has been providing data to support development of the exercise and will provide logistical assistance during the event.

Project staff continues to help experts refine response plans for specific sensitive areas by facilitating workshops with local responders and natural resource specialists. These workshops, referred to as “Net Environmental Benefit Analyses” (NEBA), are designed to evaluate the benefits and impacts specific response methods have within specific ecosystems. The NEBA process results in recommended response strategies for select sites, including inventories of preparatory actions that response agencies and resource managers can undertake. The workshops also routinely open new and better channels of communication between the key response entities in a sensitive area. The next NEBA workshop is expected to take place along the Lake Erie coast in northeast Ohio. For further information on these projects see: <http://www.glc.org/spills/> or contact Stuart Eddy at: seddy@glc.org.

4) Coastal Wetlands Consortium Data Management and Landscape Monitoring Protocol

The GLC has supported development of a data management system and landscape-scale protocol for monitoring Great Lakes coastal wetlands under the Consortium. The database will allow scientists and regulators across the region to enter and retrieve field survey data and satellite and airborne remote sensing of the extent and composition of coastal wetlands. The project draws heavily from the GLC’s expertise in geospatial information handling, web programming and database design. It ties closely with other support the GLC is providing to the Corps’ Great Lakes Habitat Initiative and the Wetlands Subcommittee of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. For further information, contact Stuart Eddy at: seddy@glc.org.

4) Regional Air Toxic Emissions Inventory special report & software re-design

The Great Lakes Regional Toxic Air Emissions Steering Committee has published a special report reflecting a wide range of updates made based on a special assessment of benzo[a]pyrene (b[a]p) emissions within the region. B[a]p is one of twelve “Level I Substances” targeted for emission reductions under the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy. Because its transport in the environment is limited to a smaller distance than most other persistent toxic substances, the regional inventory is an extremely valuable tool to regulators, policy makers and industry in pursuing emission reductions that are protective of human and wildlife health in the basin. The special assessment and report take a detailed look at the emissions reported by each of the nine participating jurisdictions and make several corrections and updates to improve accuracy and consistency across the region. While the overall result is a decreased emission estimate of about 70% of the original total, the more important result is a dramatic improvement in the quality and usability of the regional emission inventory for this substance. An intern from Ecole Polytechnique du Montreal, sponsored by the Quebec Government, is currently working at the Great Lakes Commission on a project to model the regional fate and impacts of b[a]p emissions.

The project Steering Committee has continued the task of re-designing its project software, RAPIDS, and the corresponding database. Over the course of the 15-year project, advances in computing abilities have caused the original software to become obsolete and incapable of taking advantage of the latest technological advantages. A redesign of the software will both improve performance and reduce costs over the long term. A contractor has been retained for this purpose and the project Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from the participating state and provincial air quality control agencies, have been guiding the work to redevelop the software. For further information on these items, see: www.glc.org/air/ or contact Jon Dettling at: dettling@glc.org.

5) Great Lakes Air Deposition (GLAD) program: \$680,000 of new research for 2007

The GLAD grants program, initiated by the Commission in 2003, continues to support innovative research projects to assist the region’s state air quality control agencies in addressing the impacts on water quality from toxic air pollution. The program provides a forum for information exchange among scientists, managers and policymakers. This program is funded by the U.S. EPA Air and Radiation Division and is coordinated in close cooperation with the eight Great Lakes states air agencies. Under the 2007 program, the GLC is supporting five new projects to take place at the region’s universities and research centers, for a combined amount of more than \$680,000, bringing total awards since the program began in 2003 to 24 projects totaling more than \$3.5 million. The Commission staff has been working with the GLAD Program Management Team (comprised of representatives from the state air quality control agencies) to determine program directions, select projects for funding and review project outcomes. Within the next 12 months, a large majority of the 24 active projects will reach conclusion and the GLC and GLAD PMT will focus on efforts to distribute the project findings and find ways to integrate these scientific efforts with regulatory and policy actions.

In addition, the staff has begun facilitating a dialogue among state air agency staff regarding mercury monitoring activities. Several states have expressed interest in expanding or augmenting their existing mercury monitoring activities. Coordination and collaboration at the regional level will be critical to seeing that such activities are efficient and well integrated to provide consistent information across the region. The Commission is hosting a series of conference calls among state agency staff to explore possibilities and reach some level of consensus regarding future directions. The result is a report on the region’s current mercury deposition monitoring systems and recommendations for future regional actions in this area. The report will provide guidance on future GLAD Program activities, as well as those of partnering agencies.

The GLAD Project Management Team continues to pursue a multi-tiered approach to addressing issues of atmospheric deposition of toxic substance to the Great Lakes. The four areas of program focus are: a) monitoring of atmospheric deposition; b) emissions inventories and emissions factor development; c) atmospheric and multi-media modeling; and d) assessment of effects to human and wildlife health. In the

coming year, the program will seek to sponsor additional work in pursuit of the program goals, will expand efforts to coordinate regional efforts in this area and will begin disseminating the findings of soon-to-be-completed projects. For more information on the Great Lakes Air Deposition Program and the newly-sponsored research projects, see: www.glc.org/glad/, or contact Jon Dettling at dettling@glc.org.

ATTACHMENT #3 INFORMATION

SUMMARY

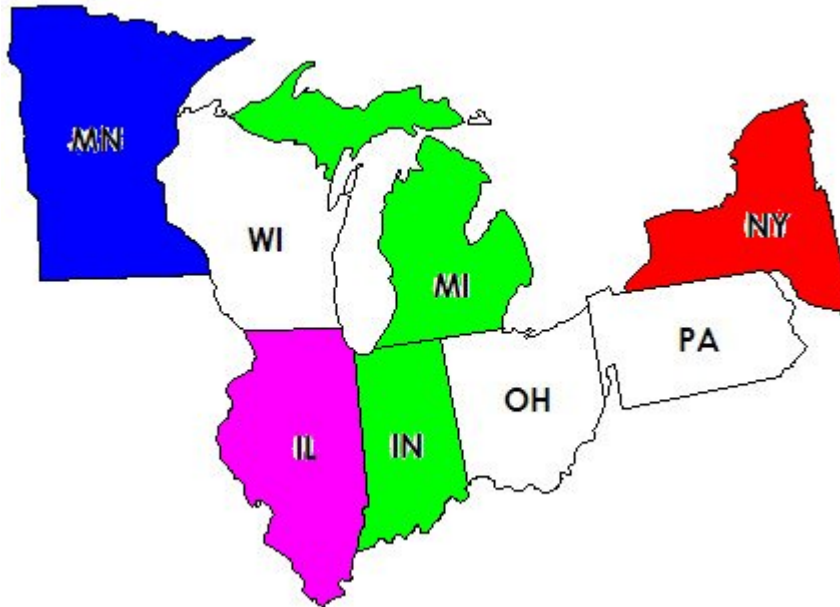
On December 13, 2005, the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers signed the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement, and the Great Lakes Governors endorsed and called for the legislative enactment of the companion Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. The agreements detail how the States and Provinces will manage and protect the Basin and provide a framework for each State and Province to enact laws for its protection.

The Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (the Agreement), is a good-faith agreement among the Great Lakes States, Ontario and Québec; that will be implemented in Ontario and Québec through Provincial laws, and in the States, through The Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (the Compact), is an agreement among the Great Lakes States that will be passed into law through an interstate compact.

On May 15th at the 2007 Semiannual Meeting, the Great Lakes Commissioners will receive an update on the status of the Agreement and the Compact from the Council of Great Lakes Governors, the Council of State Governments and a representative from a member state and province.

Attached is a one-page update showing progress and legislative activity to enact the compact in each of the Great Lakes states.

State Legislative Activity to Enact the Compact



2007 Active Bill

Passed One Chamber

Passed Two Chambers

Enacted into law

State	Bills Introduced
Illinois	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ House Bill 0375 (Passed March 29, 2007) ★ Senate Bill 0050 (Passed April 25, 2007)
Indiana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Senate Bill 0022 ★ Senate Bill 0515
Michigan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ House Bill 4336 ★ House Bill 4343 ★ Senate Bill 212
Minnesota - legislation signed by Governor Pawlenty on February 20, 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ HF 110 (Passed February 1, 2007) ★ SF 38 (Passed February 15, 2007)
New York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ A7266 (Passed April 23, 2007) ★ S4324

Information provided by the Council of Great Lakes Governors

<http://www.cglg.org/projects/water/CompactImplementation>



For Immediate Release
February 20, 2007

Contact: David Naftzger
Mobile: 847-863-1679
Office: 312-407-0177
dnaftzger@cglg.org

MINNESOTA MAKES HISTORY AS FIRST STATE TO APPROVE LANDMARK GREAT LAKES COMPACT

Duluth, Minnesota – Governor Tim Pawlenty today signed legislation making Minnesota the first State to formally ratify an interstate compact that will provide unprecedented protections for the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin.

The Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact, which includes a ban on new diversions of water outside the Basin with limited exceptions, was endorsed about a year ago by the Governors of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. To become law, it must be approved by each of the State legislatures and Congress must give its consent.

“This compact will improve and protect the health of the Great Lakes and our economy. I commend our legislature and, in particular, Representative Tom Huntley and Senator Ann Rest for continuing Minnesota’s legacy of regional Great Lakes leadership,” said Governor Pawlenty.

“I applaud Governor Pawlenty and the State of Minnesota for their action. Implementing this compact is critical to our efforts to restore and protect the Great Lakes. I look forward to the State of Wisconsin similarly enacting these protections,” said Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle, Council of Great Lakes Governors Chair.

The Governors and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec signed a companion agreement in December, 2005, to provide protections throughout the region. Ontario and Québec are currently moving forward with provincial implementation. No federal legislation is required in Canada.

The agreements detail how the States and Provinces will manage and protect the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin and will provide a framework for each State and Province to enact laws protecting the Basin.

The agreements include the following points:

- Lasting economic development will be balanced with sustainable water use to ensure Great Lakes waters are managed responsibly.
- There will be a ban on new diversions of water from the Basin. Limited exceptions could be allowed, such as for public water supply purposes in communities near the Basin, but exceptions would be strictly regulated.
- The States and Provinces will use a consistent standard to review proposed uses of Great Lakes water.
- Regional goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency will be developed, and they will be reviewed every five years. Each State and Province will develop and implement a water conservation and efficiency program.
- The collection of technical data will be strengthened, and the States and Provinces will share the information, which will improve decision-making by the governments.
- There is a strong commitment to continued public involvement in the implementation of the agreements.

The complete text of the agreements and additional information is available at www.cglg.org.

###

REFERENCE SECTION

REFERENCE

This section includes membership lists (Commissioners, Alternates and Observers and staff).

Please contact the Commission staff for information on the following task forces/committees that the Commission sponsors and staffs:

Committees and Task Forces

1. Great Lakes Air Deposition (GLAD) Program Management Team
2. Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium
3. Great Lakes Dredging Team
4. Great Lakes Information Network Advisory Board (GLIN)
5. Great Lakes Observing System Steering Committee
6. Great Lakes Observing System Regional Interest Group
7. Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species
9. Great Lakes Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Task Force
9. Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council
10. Michigan Statewide Public Advisory Council (SPAC)
11. Regional Inventory of Air Toxics Contaminants Steering Committee



April 23, 2007

Board of Directors

Lt. Governor John D. Cherry Jr., Chair, Michigan

Lt. Gov. Patrick Quinn, Vice Chair, Illinois

Hon. Thomas Huntley, Ph.D., Immediate Past Chair, Minnesota

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Ken DeBeaussaert, Michigan

Alexander B. Grannis, New York

Sean D. Logan, Ohio

William Carr, Ontario

Cathleen Curran Myers, Pennsylvania

Michel Lafleur, Québec

Todd Amb, Wisconsin

ILLINOIS

Commissioners

* Lt. Gov. Patrick Quinn
100 W. Randolph, Suite 15-200
Chicago, IL 60601-3220
Ph: (312) 814-4866
Fax: (312) 814-4862
Pat.Quinn@illinois.gov

Douglas P. Scott
130 N. Prospect St.
Rockford, IL 61107
Ph: 815-963-7849
Fax: 815-963-7849

Jack Lavin, Director
Ill. Dept. of Commerce and Economic
Opportunity
JRTC, 100 Randolph, Suite 3-400
Chicago, IL 60601
Ph: 312-814-2811
Fax: 312-814-1843
jack.lavin@illinois.gov

Leslie A. Sgro, Deputy Director
Ill. Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702-1271
Ph: (217) 785-3953
Fax: (217) 785-9236
leslie.sgro@illinois.gov

Rita Athas
Director of Regional Programs/Deputy
Chief of Staff
Office of the Mayor
121 N. LaSalle, Rm. 509
Chicago, IL 60602
Ph: (312) 744-0208
Fax: (312) 744-2324
mgach@cityofchicago.org

Alternate Commissioners

Gary R. Clark, P.E., Director
Office of Water Resources
Ill. Dept. of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62702-1271
Ph: (217) 785-3334
Fax: (217) 785-5014
gary.clark@illinois.gov

Dan Injerd, Manager
Lake Michigan Mgmt. Section
Office of Water Resources,
Ill. Dept. of Natural Resources
36 South Wabash Avenue, Suite 1415
Chicago, IL 60603
Ph: (312) 793-3123
Fax: (312) 793-5968
dan.injerd@illinois.gov

Katie McClain, Policy Advisor
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
100 W. Randolph, Suite 15-200
Chicago, IL 60601-3220
Ph: 312-814-4083
Fax: 312-814-4862
katie.mcclain@illinois.gov

Joe Deal, Assistant to the Mayor
City of Chicago
121 North LaSalle, Room 406
Chicago, IL 60602
Ph: (312) 744-1783
Fax:
jdeal@cityofchicago.org

INDIANA

Commissioners

*Kari Evans, Policy Director
Environmental Affairs
Office of the Governor
Indiana State House, Room 206
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Ph: (317) 233-9204
Fax: (317) 232-3443
kaevans@gov.in.gov

Ron McAhron
Deputy Director of Regulation
Ind. Dept. of Natural Resources
Indiana Government Center South
402 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Ph: 317-232-1557
Fax: 317-233-8654
rmcahron@dnr.in.gov

Jody W. Peacock
Director of Corporate Affairs
Ports of Indiana
150 W. Market St., Suite 100
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2845
Ph: 317-233-6225
jpeacock@portsofindiana.com

Thomas W. Easterly, Commissioner
Ind. Dept. Of Environmental Management
100 N. Senate Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Ph: 317-232-8611
Fax: 317-233-6647
teasterly@idem.in.gov

Robert E. Carter, Jr., Director
Ind. Dept. of Natural Resources
Indiana Government Center South
402 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Ph: (317) 232-4020
Fax: (317) 233-6811
recarter@dnr.in.gov

MICHIGAN

Commissioners

* Ken DeBeaussiaert, Director
Mich. Office of the Great Lakes
Mich. Dept. of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909-7973
Ph: (517) 335-4056
Fax: (517) 335-4053
DEBEAUSK@MICHIGAN.GOV

Hon. Patricia Birkholz
State Senator
Michigan State Senate
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
Ph: (517) 373-3447
Fax: (517) 373-5849
senpbirkholz@senate.michigan.gov

Lt. Governor John D. Cherry, Jr.
State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Ph: (517) 373-6800
Fax: (517) 241-3956
ltgovcherry@michigan.gov

Curtis A. Hertel, Executive Director
Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority
8109 East Jefferson
Detroit, Michigan 48214
Ph: (313) 331-3842 x 308
Fax: (313) 331-5457
hertel@portdetroit.com

Hon. Mike Cox
Attorney General
G. Mennen Williams Building, 7th Floor
525 W. Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 30212
Lansing, MI 48909
Ph: (517) 373-1110
Fax: (517) 335-4213
MikeCox@michigan.gov

Alternate Commissioners

A. Michael Leffler
Sr. Deputy Director
Mich. Dept. of Attorney General
P.O. Box 30755
Lansing, MI 48909
Ph: (517) 335-3571
Fax: (517) 335-6954
LefflerM@michigan.gov

Kristine M. Profit, Policy Advisor
Office of Lt. Gov. John D. Cherry, Jr.
State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Ph: (517) 335-7818
Fax: (517) 2413956
profitk@michigan.gov

MINNESOTA

Commissioners

* Hon. Thomas Huntley, Ph.D.
State Representative
585 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
Ph: (651) 296-2228
Fax: (651) 297-8128
rep.thomas.huntley@house.mn

Ed Oliver
Oliver Financial
401 Second Ave. S., Suite 418A
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Ph: (612)-259-0107
Fax: (952)-380-1401
oliverfinancial@earthlink.net

Hon. Morrie Lanning
State Representative
Minnesota Legislature
259 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155
Ph: (651)-296-5515
rep.morrie.lanning@house.mn

Hon. Yvonne Prettner Solon
State Senator
Capitol Bldg., Room G-9
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55135-1606
Ph: (651) 296-4188

Hon. Bill G. Ingebrigtsen
State Senator
State Office Bldg., Room 132D
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606
Ph: (651) 297-8063
sen.bill.ingebrigtsen@senate.mn

Alternate Commissioners

Henry Hanka
Special Projects Manager
America's Byways Resource Center
394 S. Lake Avenue, Suite 600
Duluth, MN 55802
Ph: (218) 625-3306
Fax: (218) 625-3333
hhanka@byways.org
(alternate for T. Huntley)

Dick Lambert
Minnesota Dept. of Transportation
395 John Ireland Blvd.
Mail Stop 420
St. Paul, MN 55155 1899
Ph: 651-215-6301
Fax 651-215-6185
Dick.Lambert@state.mn.us

Cal Larson
316 East Cherry Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
218-736-7823
larson55@prtcl.com

NEW YORK

Commissioners

Alexander (Pete) B. Grannis
Office of the Commissioner
NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1010
Tel: (518) 402-8540
Fax: (518) 402-8541

John Francis O'Mara
243 Lake St.
Elmira, NY 14901
Ph: (607) 733-4635
Fax: (607) 732-1033

Philip Reed
Jefferson County Legislator
42424 NYS Route 12
Alexandria Bay, New York 13607
Ph: (315) 686-4623
philreed@twcny.rr.com

Michael Elmendorf
62 Harvard Rd.
Watervliet, New York 12189-1208
Ph: (518) 441-7354
MikeElmendorf@aol.com

(2 Vacancies)

Alternate Commissioners

Donald E. Zelazny
Great Lakes Program Coordinator
NY State Dept. of Environmental
Conservation
270 Michigan Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14203-7134
Ph: (716) 851-7220
Fax: (716) 851-7226
dezela2n@gw.dec.state.ny.us

OHIO

Commissioners

* Sean D. Logan, Director
Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources
2045 Morse Rd.,
Columbus, OH 43229-6693
Ph: (614) 265-6565
Fax: (614) 261-9601
sean.logan@dnr.state.oh.us

Hon. Chris Redfern
State Representative
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Ph: (614) 644-6011
Fax: (614) 224-8202
district80@ohr.state.oh.us

James H. I. Weakley, President
Lake Carriers' Association
614 Superior Ave., West
915 Rockefeller Building
Cleveland, OH 44113-1383
Ph: (216)-861-0590
Fax: (216) 241-8262
weakley@lccaships.com

Timothy J. Grendell
Senate Building
Room #042, Ground Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Ph: (614) 644-7718
SD18@mailr.sen.state.oh.us

Christopher Korleski, Director
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
122 S. Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Ph: 614-644-2782
Fax: 614-644-3184
chris.korleski@epa.state.oh.us

Alternate Commissioners

John D. Baker
President - Great Lakes District Council
International Longshoremen's Association,
AFL-CIO
103 Erieside Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Ph: (216) 781-7816
Fax: (216) 781-7818
jbakerjr3737@aol.com

Vicki Deisner
Environmental Policy Coordinator
Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources
2045 Morse Road, Building D-3
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693
Ph: (614) 265-6873
Fax: (614) 261-9601
vicki.deisner@dnr.state.oh.us

Ed Hammett, Executive Director
Ohio Lake Erie Commission
One Maritime Plaza, 4th Floor
Toledo, Ohio 43604-1866
Ph: (419) 245-2514
Fax: (419) 245-2519
edhammett@ameritech.net

ONTARIO

Associate Commissioners

* Bill Carr, Team Leader
Western Hemisphere
Office of Intn'l Relations & Protocol
Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs
1075 Bay Street, Room 830
Toronto, ONT M5S 2B1
Ph: (416) 325-8552
Fax: (416) 325-8550
bill.carr@ontario.ca

Kevin J. Wilson, Assistant Deputy Minister
Natural Resource Management Division
Ministry of Natural Resources
Suite 5520, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3
Ph: 416-314-6131
Fax: 416-314-1994
Kevin.j.wilson@ontario.ca

(To Be Appointed)
Environmental Liaison Office
Ministry of the Environment
135 St. Clair Ave. West, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5
Ph: 416-314-8475
Fax: 416-314-8478

David O'Toole,
Assistant Deputy Minister
Policy and Planning Division
Ministry of Transportation
77 Wellesley Street West
3rd Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8
Ph: 416-327-8521
Fax: 416-327-8746
david.o'toole@ontario.ca

Alternate Associate Commissioners

Patricia Boeckner
Director
Transportation Planning Branch
Ministry of Transportation
1201 Wilson Avenue, 3rd Floor -
Building B
Downsview, Ontario M3M 1J8
Ph: (416) 235-3976
Fax: (416) 235-5224
patricia.boeckner@ontario.ca

Robert P. Taylor, Director
Lands and Waters Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources
300 Water Street, P.O. Box 7000
Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8M5
Ph: (705) 755-1620
Fax: (705) 755-1201
robert.taylor@ontario.ca

Ranissah Samah
Senior Policy Advisor, USA
Office of International Relations and Protocol
Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs
1075 Bay Street, Suite 830
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2B1
Ph: (416) 325-9739
Fax: (416) 325-8550
ranissah.samah@ontario.ca

PENNSYLVANIA

Commissioners

* Cathy Curran Myers
Deputy Secretary for Water Management
Pennsylvania Dept. of Env. Protection
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063
Ph: (717) 783-4693
Fax: (717) 705-4087
cathmyers@state.pa.us

Pat Lupo, OSB
Program Director
Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force
301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 5
Erie, PA 16505
Ph: (814) 835-8069
plupo@lea.earthforce.org

Robert W. Light, Ph.D.
Director
Pennsylvania Sea Grant
301 Peninsula Dr., Suite 3
Erie, PA 16505
Ph: (814) 217-9017
Fax: (814) 217-9021
rw12@psu.edu

Alternate Commissioners

John Booser, Associate Director
Pa. Dept. Of Env. Protection
Office for River Basin Cooperation
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063
Ph: (717) 772-1101
Fax: (717) 783-4690
jbooser@state.pa.us

Lori A. Boughton, Director
Office of the Great Lakes
Penn. Dept. of Environmental Protection
230 Chestnut Street
Meadville, PA 16335
Ph: (814)-332-6816
Fax: (814) 332-6117
lboughton@state.pa.us

John T. Hines, Executive Director
Water Planning Office
Penn. Dept. of Environmental Protection
16th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office
Bldg.
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063
Ph: 717-787-4686
Fax: 717-783-4690
johines@state.pa.us

QUÉBEC

Associate Commissioners

* Michel Lafleur
Chargé d' affaires
Government of Québec
444 N. Michigan Ave.
Suite 1900
Chicago, IL 60611
Ph: (312) 645-0392
Fax: (312) 645-0542
michel.lafleur@mri.gouv.qc.ca

Marcel Gaucher,
Office of Intergovernmental Relations and
Climate Change
Ministry of Sustainable Development,
Environment and Parks
675 Boulevard René-Lévesque East,
6th floor, Box 30
Québec, Québec G1R 5V7
Ph: (418) 521-3828 ext. 4358
Fax: (418) 646-4920
marcel.gaucher@mddep.gouv.qc.ca

André Meloche, Director
Dept. of Maritime Transportation,
Air and Rail
Ministry of Transportation
700 Rene-Levesque Blvd. East
24th Floor
Québec City, Québec G1R 5H1
Ph: (418) 643-1864
Fax: (418) 646-4904
ameloch@mtq.gouv.qc.ca

Alternate Associate Commissioners

Louise Lapierre
Office of Intergovernmental Relations and
Climate Change
Ministry of Sustainable Development,
Environment and Parks
675 Boulevard René-Lévesque East,
6th floor, Box 30
Québec (Québec) G1R 5V7
Ph: (418) 521-3828 ext. 4105
Fax: (418) 646-4920
louise.lapierre@mddep.gouv.qc.ca

Pierre Brochu
Maritime Transportation Analyst
Dept. of Maritime Transportation,
Air and Rail
Ministry of Transport
700 Rene-Levesque Blvd. East
24 Floor
Québec City, Québec G1R 5H1
Ph: (418) 643-2908, ext. 2253
Fax: (418) 646-6196
pierre.brochu.DTMAF@mtq.gouv.qc.ca

WISCONSIN

Commissioners

* Todd Ambs, Administrator
Division of Water
Wisc. Dept. of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster St.
Madison, WI 53703
Ph: (608)-264-6278
Fax: (608)-266-6983
todd.ambs@dnr.state.wi.us

Hon. Dave Hansen
State Senator
319 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882
Ph: (608) 266-5670
sen.hansen@legis.state.wi.us

Fred P. Schnook
Project Manager/Planner
Foth & Van Dyke and Associates, Inc.
2737 South Ridge Rd,
P.O. Box 19012
Green Bay, WI 54307-9012
Ph: 920-496-6769
Fax: 920-497-8516
fschnook@foth.com

Alternate Commissioners

Nancy Larson
UWEX Lake Superior Basin Educator for
Natural Resources
Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center
29270 Co. Highway G
Ashland, WI 54806
Ph: 715-685-2674
Fax: 715-685-0036
nancy.larson@ces.uwex.edu

GLC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tim A. Eder
Executive Director
Eisenhower Corporate Park
2805 S. Industrial Hwy., Suite #100
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6791
Ph: (734) 971-9135
Fax: (734) 971-9150
teder@glc.org

* denotes State/Province Delegation Chair

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Jan Miller
Environmental Engineer
Great Lakes and Ohio River Division
111 North Canal Street
Chicago, IL 60606-7205
Ph: (312) 353-6354
Fax: (312) 353-5439
jan.a.miller@usace.army.mil

U.S. DEPT OF COMMERCE

Stephen B. Brandt, PhD., Director
Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab.
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin.
2205 Commonwealth Blvd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105-1593
Ph: (734) 741-2244
Fax: (734) 741-2003
stephen.b.brandt@noaa.gov

David Kennedy
Director
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource
Management - NOAA
1305 East-West Hwy.
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Ph: (301) 713-3155 x158
Fax: (301) 713-4012
david.kennedy@noaa.gov

Katherine Andrews
Executive Director
Coastal States Organization
Hall of the States, Suite 322
444 North Capitol St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
Ph: (202) 508-3860
Fax: (202) 508-3843
kandrews@coastalstates.org

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Bill Hunt, State Conservationist
NRCS
375 Jackson St., Ste. 600
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854
Ph : (651) 602-7900
Fax : (651) 602-7914
william.hunt@mn.usda.gov

COUNCIL OF GREAT LAKES GOVERNORS

David Naftzger
Executive Director
35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 1850
Chicago, IL 60601
Ph: (312) 407-0177
Fax: (312) 407-0038
dnaftzger@cglg.org

U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR

Craig Czarnecki
Supervisor
Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. FWS
2651 Coolidge Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 351-8470
(517) 351-1443
craig_zarnecki@fws.gov

Leon M. Carl, Ph.D.
Great Lakes Science Center
Biological Research Division
U.S. Geological Survey
1451 Green Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
Ph: (734) 214-7206
Fax: (734) 214-7201
lcarl@usgs.gov

Jim Nicholas, District Chief
Water Resources Division
U.S. Geological Survey
6520 Mercantile Way, Suite 5
Lansing, MI 48911-5991
Ph: (517) 887-8906
Fax: (517) 887-8937
jrnichol@usgs.gov

Gary Vequist
Associate Regional Director
Natural Resource Stewardship & Science
Midwest Region
National Park Service
601 Riverfront Dr.
Omaha, NE 68102
Ph: (402) 661-1860
Fax: (402) 221-3480
gary_vequist@nps.gov

U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

Collister (Terry) Johnson Jr., Administrator
St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp.
400 Seventh St., S.W., Room 5424
Washington, DC 20423
Ph: (202) 366-0091
Fax: (202) 366-7147
Terry.Johnson@sls.dot.gov

Doris Bautch, Director
Great Lakes Region
Maritime Administration
1701 E. Woodfield Rd., Ste. 203
Schaumburg, IL 60173
Ph: 847-995-0122
Fax: 847-995-0133
Doris.Bautch@marad.dot.gov

U.S. DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Radm. John E. Crowley Jr.,
Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District
1240 East Ninth St., Room 2081
Cleveland, OH 44199-2060
Ph: (216) 902-6005
Fax: (216) 902-6059
john.e.crowley@uscg.mil

Alternate

Captain Randy Helland, Chief
Marine Safety Division
Ninth Coast Guard District
1240 East Ninth Street
Cleveland, OH 44199-2060
Ph: (216) 902-6046
Fax: (216) 902-6059
randolph.c.helland@uscg.mil

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY**

Gary Gulezian, Director
Great Lakes National Program Office
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
Ph: (312) 353-2117
Fax: (312) 353-2018
gulezian.gary@epamail.epa.gov

GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION

Christopher I. Goddard, PhD.
Executive Secretary
2100 Commonwealth Blvd., Suite 209
Ann Arbor, MI 48105-1563
Ph: (734) 662-3209
Fax: (734) 741-2010
cgoddard@glfc.org

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

Karen Vigmostad, Director
Great Lakes Regional Office
P.O. Box 32869
Detroit, MI 48232
Ph: (313) 226-2170 or (519) 256-7821
Fax: (519) 257-6740
vigmostadk@windsor.ijc.org

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT (FEDERAL)

Sheila Tooze
Environmental Affairs Officer
Canadian Embassy
501 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
Ph: (202) 682-1740 X-741
Fax: (202) 682-7792
sheila.tooze@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

CHIPPEWA/OTTAWA RESOURCE

AUTHORITY

Mike Ripley
Environmental Coordinator
Albert LeBlanc Bldg.
179 W. Three Mile Rd.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Ph: (906) 632-0072
Fax: (906) 632-1141
mripley@sault.com

GREAT LAKES SEA GRANT NETWORK

Donald Scavia, Ph.D., Director
Michigan Sea Grant
Samuel T. Dana Bldg.
440 Church Street, Suite 4044
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1041
Ph: (734)936-3622
Fax: (734) 647-0768
scavia@umich.edu

JOHN G. SHEDD AQUARIUM

Dr. Jeffrey R. Boehme, Joint Chair
Great Lakes Initiative
1200 South Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60605
Phone (312) 692-3234
Fax (312) 939-2216
jboehm@sheddaquarium.org

U.S. DEPT. OF ENERGY

Patrick L. Wilkey, Director
Center for Env. Restoration Systems
Energy Systems Division
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 S. Cass Ave., Bldg. 362
Argonne, IL 60439
Ph: (630) 252-6258
Fax: (630) 252-6407
pwilkey@anl.gov

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

Tom Middleton, Chair
Great Lakes Committee
6928 Tappon Dr.
Clarkston, MI 48346
Ph: (248) 620-6551
Fax: (248) 660-6552
middleton@co.oakland.mi.us

* Invitation outstanding to Helsinki Commission

GREAT LAKES COMMISSION
Eisenhower Corporate Park
2805 S. Industrial Hwy., Suite #100
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6791
Ph: 734-971-9135 - Fax: 734-971-9150 - e-mail: glc@great-lakes.net

STAFF

Executive Director
Tim A. Eder

Program Managers

Thomas R. Crane, Program Manager, Resource Management
Matt Doss, Program Manager, Environmental Quality
Roger L. Gauthier, Program Manager, Data and Information Management
David L. Knight, Program Manager, Transportation and Sustainable Development
Christine Manninen, Program Manager, Communications and Internet Technology
Victoria Pebbles, Associate Program Manager, Transportation and Sustainable Development

Program Staff

Jon Dettling, Project Manager, Data and Information Management
Stuart Eddy, Project Manager, Data and Information Management
Katherine Glassner-Shwayder, Senior Project Manager, Resource Management
John Hummer, Project Manager, Environmental Quality
Gary Overmier, Senior Project Manager, Resource Management

Richard Garcia, Senior Program Specialist, Data and Information Management
Peter Giencke, Program Specialist, Data and Information Management
Kirk Haverkamp, Senior Program Specialist, Communications and Internet Technology
Rebecca Lameka, Program Specialist, Transportation and Sustainable Development
Elizabeth Schmidt, Program Specialist, Communications and Internet Technology
Michael Schneider, Senior Program Specialist, Resource Management
Marcia Woodburn, Program Specialist, Resource Management
Hao Zhuang, Senior Program Specialist, Communications and Internet Technology

Contract Support Staff

Elizabeth Johnson, Michigan Clean Water Corps
Devra Polack, Web Design, Communications and Internet Technology

Administrative Staff

Hugh Brennan III, Systems Administrator, Data and Information Management
Pat Gable, Administrative Assistant
Ron Hasselbring, Manager, Financial Services
Rita J. Straith, Manager, Administrative Services

Albert G. Ballert, Director of Research, Emeritus

Research Associates/Fellows

Erika Jensen, Sea Grant Fellow
Gabrielle Soucy, Government of Québec Intern
Laura Kaminski, Research Associate
Jacob Richardson, Research Associate