

MEMO

To: Member and Interested Parties, Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species

Fr: Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, Great Lakes Panel Administrator

Re: Preliminary Agenda: Joint Meeting the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species and ANS Task Force
Date: May 8-11, 2007
Location: Tom Ridge Environmental Center in Erie, Penn.

Da: April 13, 2007

Meeting Agenda: I am pleased to share with you the preliminary agenda (attached) for the Great Lakes Panel meeting to be held in conjunction with the ANS Task Force (ANSTF) scheduled for May 8-11, 2007 at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center in Erie, Penn. This joint meeting of the Great Lakes Panel and ANSTF will include the all-day session, *ANS State Management Plans: Great Lakes Regional Perspectives* to be moderated by the Great Lakes Commission. The session will be based on outcomes of the project *A Collaborative Approach to Advance Implementation of State Management Plans for Prevention and Control of Aquatic Nuisance Species in the Great Lakes Region*, funded by the National Sea Grant Program. Please note that briefing materials for the meeting sessions (listed below) will be available online on Monday April 16 with electronic registration available on Wednesday, April 18. You will be notified as meeting briefing materials are posted online over the next few weeks.

For this upcoming event, we are fortunate to have secured a premier meeting location at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center at Presque Isle. Our thanks go to Jim Grazio (Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection) for his assistance in handling local logistics. To get a preview of what to expect at this wonderful venue, check out the Ridge Center websites at: www.trecpi.org/ or www.discoverpi.com/. Arrangements have also been made to provide some local color and social opportunity with a dinner cruise offered on the Victorian Princess scheduled for Wednesday evening to include a guided tour of Presque Isle Bay. The total cost of the excursion, including dinner, is \$25 per person. More information on the Victorian Princess is available online at: (<http://www.victorianprincess.com/>). For planning purposes, it is necessary to sign up and pay for the dinner cruise by Monday, April 23, 2007 as indicated on the attached registration form.

Your participation is encouraged for all of the interrelated sessions listed below.

May 8 (Tuesday): 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	ANSTF Meeting
May 9 (Wednesday): 8:00 am - 5:00 pm	ANS Task Force Meeting: Session on <i>ANS State Management Plans: Great Lakes Regional Perspectives</i>
May 9 (Wednesday) Evening (6:30 pm – 8:45 pm)	Dinner Cruise & Guided Tour of Presque Isle Bay
May 10 (Thursday): 8:00 am - 12:00 noon	ANSTF Meeting and GLP Meeting (*)
May 10 (Thursday): 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	GLP Meeting
May 11 (Friday): 8 am - 12:00 noon	GLP Meeting
May 11 (Friday): TBA (early afternoon)	Post Meeting Activity: Pontoon Boat Ride (free, compliments of PA DEP)

(*): Although the Thursday morning session is formally considered part of the ANS Task Force Meeting, agenda items selected are considered of significant concern to both the ANSTF and the Great Lakes Panel to provide common ground for discussion.

Overall, this joint meeting is being organized as an opportunity for members of the Great Lakes Panel and ANS Task Force along with other stakeholders to convene and learn about progress as well as ongoing challenges related to the ANS state management plan process. The ultimate goal of this forum is to encourage collaboration in advancing state management planning on ANS prevention and control in the Great Lakes region and beyond!

Post Meeting Activity: Pontoon boat tours of the unique Presque Isle Bay lagoon system will be available for interested parties following adjournment of the Great Lakes Panel meeting during early afternoon on Friday (schedule to be announced). This electrically-powered boat seats 18. If interested, please sign up on the registration form for planning purposes.

Meeting Registration and Related Items: It is very important that you register either online (available April 18) or by submitting the attached registration form by Monday, April 23 to assist staff in finalizing meeting arrangements. We ask that your registration includes pre-payment (with credit card information) for the box lunch (\$15) on Wednesday afternoon and the dinner cruise (\$25) for Wednesday evening if participate is planned. As part of registration materials, please note the proxy form.

Program Updates: Please note that there is significant change on the Great Lakes Panel agenda from past meetings by not including the roundtable updates from Panel members and interested parties during the meeting. The Panel's Executive Committee has suggested that written updates would serve as a more effective way to keep everyone informed on developments in the region. As part of meeting registration, staff requests submission of written program updates from Panel members and interested parties. If you do not plan to participate in the meeting, we ask that you still submit your update. This information will be available as pre-meeting briefing materials to be posted on the Great Lakes Panel website (<http://glc.org/ans/panel.html#glpmeet>).

- **Action Item: All members and interested parties of the Great Lakes Panel are requested to submit your registration form and program update to Erika Jensen by email at ejensen@glc.org by Monday, April 23, 2007**

On behalf of the Great Lakes Commission, I would like to recognize co-sponsors of this joint meeting of the Great Lakes Panel and ANS Task Force, including Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection represented by Jim Grazio (jagrazio@state.pa.us) and the ANS Task Force represented by Scott Newsahm (Scott_Newsham@fws.gov).

Meeting logistics are presented below. For additional meeting information, please contact Panel staff at the Great Lakes Commission by phone at 734-971-9135 or email: Kathe Glassner-Shwayder (shwayder@glc.org) or Erika Jensen (ejensen@glc.org). We look forward to seeing you all in May!

Meeting Logistics: *Please note that reservation deadline has been extended to April 18 for both hotels listed below. Otherwise, the information on meeting logistics is the same as presented in the March meeting announcement.*

Meeting Site:

Tom Ridge Environmental Center at Presque Isle, Erie, Pennsylvania
Room 112
301 Peninsula Drive, Erie PA 16505
Phone: 814-833-7424
Websites: www.trecpi.org/ or www.discoverpi.com/

Lodging

Please note that hotel availability in Erie is somewhat constrained for Monday, May 7th because of a large convention that has been scheduled over the weekend of May 5-6. Therefore, we recommend that attendees planning to arrive on Monday, May 7th stay at the Residence Inn while those planning to arrive on Tuesday May 8th stay at the Clarion Bel-Aire. For your convenience, blocks of rooms have been reserved at both of these hotels, as listed below, under the "Great Lakes Commission." Although you are encouraged to stay at these suggested hotels for logistical reasons, there are numerous other hotels available in the greater Erie area.

Suggested hotel for arrivals on Monday, May 7th

- **Residence Inn Erie by Marriot;** 15 minutes/ 6.5 miles from the Tom Ridge Center
 - Address: 8061 Peach St., Erie, PA 16509
 - Phone: 814-864-2500; 1-800-331-3131
 - Rate: \$89/night
 - Block of **60** rooms being held from Monday, May 7 through Thursday May 10 under "Great Lakes Commission" with rooms held at the quoted rate until April 18, 2007.
 - ***Shuttle transportation is available to and from the Residence Inn and the Tom Ridge Center***
 - Complimentary warm breakfast and cocktail reception
 - Website: www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/eriri-residence-inn-erie/

Suggested hotel for arrivals on Tuesday May 8th

- **Bel-Aire Clarion,** Approx. 2 blocks from the Tom Ridge Center
 - Address: 2800 West 8th St., Erie, PA 16505
 - Phone: 814-833-1116 or 1-800-888-8781
 - Rate: \$77/night
 - Block of **60** Rooms being held from Tuesday, May 8 through Thursday May 10 under "Great Lakes Commission" with rooms held until April 18, 2007.
 - Website: www.clarionhotel-erie.com

Nearby Airports

- Erie International Airport Tom Ridge Field; 10 minutes away www.erieairport.org/
- Buffalo Niagara International Airport; 1 hour 50 minutes/ 105 miles away <http://www.buffaloairport.com/>
- Cleveland Hopkins International Airport; 2 hours/ 114 miles away <http://www.clevelandairport.com/>