



Advisor

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The Advisor is published bimonthly by the Great Lakes Commission. The Great Lakes Commission is a binational agency established in 1955 to promote the orderly, integrated and comprehensive development, use and conservation of the water and related natural resources of the Great Lakes basin and St. Lawrence River.

Will maximize potential of volunteer monitoring groups

Great Lakes Commission selected to help implement Michigan Clean Water Corps

The Great Lakes Commission has been selected by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to assist in establishing the Michigan Clean Water Corps, a statewide initiative to more fully realize the potential of volunteer water monitoring activities.

Created through an executive order by Gov. Jennifer Granholm, the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MCWC) will assist the Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) in collecting and sharing water quality data for use in water resources management and protection programs, at both the state and local level.

"Michigan's water is not only one of our most prominent attributes, it is undoubtedly among the state's most valuable resources," said Lt. Gov. John Cherry, a member of the state's delegation to the Great Lakes Commission. "It is within the state's best interest to enable the citizens to keep the water clean and beautiful for many future generations to enjoy, and that will be the primary mission of the Clean Water Corps."

Building upon existing volunteer water monitoring programs established by the MDEQ, the Clean Water Corps will educate Michigan residents about water quality issues and promote citizen participation in protecting the state's water resources.

The Commission is partnering with the Huron River Watershed Council to develop, implement and administer the program, under the direction of MDEQ and with the advice of a steering committee MDEQ has established for the project.

"Many volunteer groups are already monitoring Michigan rivers, streams and lakes at various levels of effort and they represent a tremendous underutilized resource for assessing water quality in Michigan," said Steven Chester, director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. "The MCWC will assist established programs in reaching their potential and expanding the use and access of their data."

The Commission and the Huron River Watershed Council will solicit, organize and train volunteers around the state to participate in water quality monitoring activities. The MCWC will provide training for stream and lake monitoring; disseminate methods for accurate data collection; implement effective quality assurance practices; facilitate data reporting and information sharing; and provide a forum for communication and support among volunteer monitoring groups in Michigan.

"This initiative is an excellent example of the 'value added' work the Great Lakes Commission can bring to a member state and to the region as a whole," said Dr. Mike

"Michigan's water is not only one of our most prominent attributes, it is undoubtedly among the state's most valuable resources..."
Lt. Gov. John Cherry.

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Commission News & Views

From the desk of the president/CEO...

Great Lakes Commission

The Great Lakes Commission is a binational public agency dedicated to the use, management and protection of the water, land and other natural resources of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system. In partnership with the eight Great Lakes states and provinces of Ontario and Québec, the Commission applies sustainable development principles in addressing issues of resource management, environmental protection, transportation and sustainable development. The Commission provides accurate and objective information on public policy issues; an effective forum for developing and coordinating public policy; and a unified, systemwide voice to advocate member interests.

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Cover illustration: Sailboat at sunset; photo, Dan Tomaszewski, Michigan Travel Bureau

Breaking the Cycle

In a seminal article written over 30 years ago, Anthony Downs speaks of the “issue-attention cycle” that characterizes public attitudes toward public policy issues. He notes the “high-intensity interest in ecological matters” of that time and wonders how such interest can be sustained given an easily distracted public. He laments the fact that each of our ecological problems “suddenly leaps to prominence, remains there for a short time, and then – though still largely unresolved – gradually fades from the center of public attention.”

We need to do everything possible to ensure that Downs’ statement of the 1970s remains a characterization of the past rather than a prediction of the future.

Public interest in Great Lakes restoration, protection and sustainable use is presently riding the crest of the issue-attention cycle. The time to act is now: who knows how long this crest will last?

The Great Lakes Commission is doing its part. The membership launched its “Restore the Greatness!” campaign some four years ago and, in addition to calling for a renewed congressional commitment to the lakes, also directed its energies to four strategic fronts that provide a foundation for progress.

- **Advocacy:** In an era where needs are measured in the tens of billions of dollars of new funds, this region has struggled just to maintain the status quo. Among many other actions, the Commission recently urged Congress to meet the administration’s request for Great Lakes Legacy Act funding, a modest yet critical step in moving restoration from concept to reality.

- **Technical Support:** In recent months, the Commission has produced – in unprecedented detail – an inventory of the basin’s

biohydrological resources; a comprehensive wetlands inventory; a GIS tool for aquatic invasive species control; a water conservation tool kit; a restoration plan for the Lake St. Clair watershed; and a business plan for a Great Lakes Observing System. All are elements of a much-needed decision support system.

- **Partnership-building:** Partnership – in all shapes and forms – is a hallmark of this organization. It extends from the local level (e.g., a major new initiative with Michigan’s Huron River Watershed

Council) to the international level (e.g., recent Board action designating the multinational Helsinki Commission as an Observer agency.)

- **Financial Support:**

This year, the Commission will direct up to \$5.4 million to member jurisdictions and dozens of other public agencies, citizen groups, universities and research organizations. These funds all translate into improvements in water and air quality, in land use, and in management efficiency.

Anthony Downs argues that the issue-attention cycles starts to decline when the stage of “alarmed discovery and euphoric enthusiasm” is tempered with a dose of reality: “realizing the cost of significant progress.” While euphoria may be more than we can ever hope for, it is imperative that we break the cycle that ultimately leads to complacency. We can do this by demonstrating significant progress in the near term. We must also realize that achieving a desired state of restoration, protection and sustainable use is neither a 100-yard-dash nor a marathon. It’s an *unending* journey, but one well worth taking.



Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.

Comprehensive Great Lakes coastal wetlands inventory completed

The Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium is completing the first phase of its work to develop practical methods for tracking coastal wetlands trends across the basin. The centerpiece of this effort, coordinated by the Great Lakes Commission, is the first comprehensive and classified inventory of coastal wetlands within the binational Great Lakes basin (see illustration).

The inventory will provide a geographic information system (GIS) foundation to track wetland change and build a long-term monitoring dataset. The map-based interface allows users to zoom in on and identify wetlands anywhere in the Great Lakes basin, and obtain detailed information by clicking on their images on the map. Pending final review, it will be available through the Great Lakes Commission web site at www.glc.org/wetlands

Other results include studies designed to test the implementation of various field methods and the development of indices of biological integrity (IBIs) for Great Lakes coastal wetlands.



These indices combine biological, physical and chemical metrics into comparative measures of wetland integrity. Several years of field study at more than 30 sites, coupled with data inte-

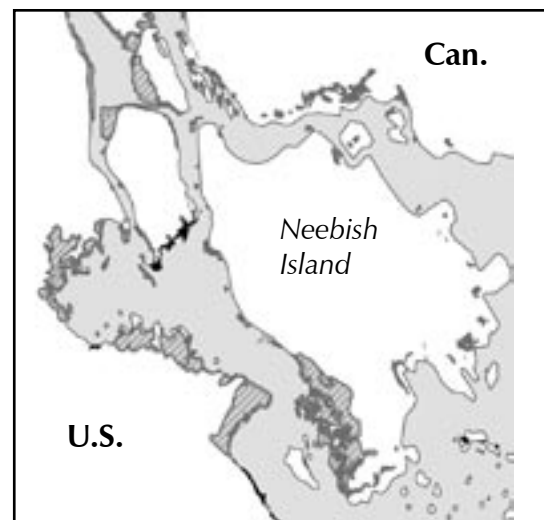
gration and analysis, have resulted in validated IBIs for plant communities, fish, invertebrates, amphibians and wetland birds.

In addition, the consortium has evaluated the use of snapping turtle eggs for tracking contaminant levels and remote sensing techniques for determining changes in wetland area and other land-use impacts. All results are being incorporated into indicators for use in a long-term monitoring program.

The results of this work will be presented at the upcoming State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC), Oct. 6-9 in Toronto. At SOLEC, consortium Chair Tom Burton of Michigan State University and Joel Ingram of Environment Canada-Canadian Wildlife Service will present the current state of Great Lakes coastal wetlands. Additional members will discuss the results of several key projects.

The consortium is funded through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office, with supplemental funding from many other organizations. For more information, visit www.glc.org/wetlands.

Contact: Ric Lawson, rlawson@glc.org.



Detail from coastal wetlands inventory showing three different types of wetlands along the St. Mary's River channel connecting Lake Superior and Lake Huron.

Clean Water Corps (continued from page one)

Donahue, Commission president/CEO. "It's about building partnerships, applying technical expertise and, most importantly, making a difference in the environmental quality and sustainable use of this great resource."

The program is funded at \$679,600 through August 2007 and may be extended for additional years.

The MCWC will complement the Commis-

sion's ongoing work in developing web-based monitoring databases, facilitating monitoring initiatives and coordinating various monitoring organizations. The project also offers the potential of serving as the basis for a volunteer monitoring network coordinated across the entire Great Lakes basin.

Contact: Ric Lawson, rlawson@glc.org.

2004 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission

Oct. 4-5, 2004
Toronto, Ontario

State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC) 2004

Oct. 5-8, 2004
Toronto, Ontario

RDX: Regional Data Exchange 2004 Conference

October 26-28 2004
Detroit, Mich.

mark your calendar

Great Lakes Observing System takes shape

Efforts to develop an integrated Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS) are moving steadily forward through a broad-based partnership coordinated by the Great Lakes Commission. A draft business plan for a regional association to oversee the system has been produced and a survey of public user needs is underway.

GLOS will provide real-time access to a range of physical, chemical and biological Great Lakes data collected by multiple independent systems. It is one of 11 regional nodes of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) being developed to cover the nation's coastal areas.

The GLOS Regional Association business plan outlines the program's purpose, governance, benefits, components, funding mechanisms, data management priorities, product development, evaluation and marketing, education plan, and implementation schedule. The draft business plan has been reviewed by the multiagency GLOS Steering Committee and will soon be released for public comment.

A brief survey on the prospective uses of the system has been prepared, in collaboration with the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network, and widely distributed to Great Lakes stakeholders. All responses will be shared with and considered by

the GLOS Steering Committee as the business plan is finalized. Interested parties may complete the survey online at www.glc.org/glos/survey/survey.html

Members from all 11 IOOS regional associations met for the first time Aug. 30-Sept. 2 in Arlington, Va. to coordinate activities for FY2005-2011. It is anticipated that the GLOS Regional Association will be chartered in 2005, along with adoption of partnership agreements between agencies, organizations and institutions.

GLOS is a cooperative activity of many U.S. federal and state agencies, as well as academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations and commercial interests across the region. Funding for GLOS development in 2004 is through a grant from the NOAA Coastal Services Center. Funding beyond 2005 will come from IOOS federal appropriations or earmarks.

A congressional staff briefing, organized with the assistance of the Great Lakes Task Force, was held Sept. 10 in Washington, D.C. to build support for integrated monitoring initiatives for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River system, IOOS authorization, and related initiatives.

More information is at www.glc.org/glos. Contact: Roger Gauthier, gauthier@glc.org.

Mapping aquatic invasions in Michigan

A spatial database offering convenient access to localized information on key aquatic invasive species (AIS) invasions within the state of Michigan has been developed by the Great Lakes Commission and several partners.

The online database maps infestations of six invasive species (sea lamprey, ruffe, round goby, purple loosestrife, zebra mussel, and quagga mussel) by county and watershed, and displays how each has spread over time. Direct data downloads on each of the six can be executed to provide users with geographic information system (GIS) data layers, database files used to create the maps, and quick facts about each species.

The project is helping to improve communications among resource managers; enhance

AIS prevention and control measures; provide timely, valid, reliable and practical information to assist decisionmakers and educate the public; and help identify information gaps that limit regional progress toward invasive species control. Potential applications to the rest of the Great Lakes region are being pursued.

Project partners include the University of Michigan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Michigan Sea Grant, NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, U.S. Geological Survey, and the Michigan Lake and Stream Association.

To access the database, visit www.glin.net/envt/flora-fauna/invasive/mapping.html.

Contact: Tom Rayburn, tray@glc.org.

Commission welcomes two new Observer organizations

Strengthening partnerships at home and abroad, the Great Lakes Commission has invited the U.S. Maritime Administration and the multinational Helsinki Commission to join with it in an official relationship as Observer organizations.

As Observers, the two organizations will be nonvoting participants in the Great Lakes Commission's meetings and provide advice, support and feedback on matters of mutual interest. The Commission would also partner with the two organizations on selected initiatives that would benefit from their respective capabilities.

The Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), represents nations of the Baltic Sea region and is the Great Lakes Commission's first trans-Atlantic Observer organization. Like the Commission, it is a multijurisdictional agency established to help coordinate the management and protection of a shared resource, in this instance the Baltic Sea.

The two organizations share a number of common interests and challenges, invasive species in particular, owing in large part to the ecological, climate and political similarities between the Great Lakes and Baltic Sea regions. The Great Lakes Commission has been engaged in cooperative ventures with the Baltic Sea region since

1999, through the Baltic Fellowship Program sponsored by the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office.

The U.S. Maritime Administration, a branch of the U.S. Department of Transportation, has the mission of strengthening the U.S. maritime transportation system to meet the economic and security needs of the nation. Its mission and expertise complement the Commission's transportation and

sustainable development activities in the Great Lakes region, and formalizing the relationship between the two organizations sets a foundation for cooperative efforts on national maritime policy concerning the Great Lakes.

The HELCOM web site is at www.helcom.fi/helcom.html and the U.S. Maritime Administration web site is at www.marad.dot.gov.

Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.



Last spring's Baltic Sea-Great Lakes Workshop on Aquatic Invasive Species, coordinated by the Great Lakes Commission, brought scientists and policymakers from both regions together in Ann Arbor, Mich. to address matters of common concern. Photo: Kirk Haverkamp

Great Lakes water: How we use it

Water use in the binational Great Lakes basin totaled an estimated 846 billion gallons of water a day in 2000, according to new information available from the Great Lakes Regional Water Use Database.

Recently updated with 1999 and 2000 data, the online database provides a centralized source of information on withdrawals, diversions, and consumptive uses in the binational Great Lakes basin. Maintained by the Great Lakes Commission, it is one of several Commission projects providing the information needed to support water management decisions under the Great Lakes Charter and Annex 2001.

The database details water use by category, state or province, and basin. Data is provided by each state and province and reflects a mix of

measured and estimated figures.

Hydroelectric power is by far the single largest user of Great Lakes water, accounting for about 95 percent of all use. Fossil fuel and nuclear power plants are next, with public water supply a distant fourth. According to the database, hydroelectric use was 789.3 bg/d in 1999, and 800.0 in 2000. Nonhydroelectric withdrawals were estimated at 47.8 bg/d in 1999, and 46.0 bg/d in 2000.

Great Lakes surface water is the largest source of water withdrawals, at about 89 percent, with 8 percent coming from tributary streams and 3 percent from groundwater sources.

The Great Lakes Regional Water Use Database is available online at www.glc.org/wateruse/database. Contact: Tom Crane at tcrane@glc.org.

Did you know

Globally, more than 2 billion people face water supply shortages. By 2025, that figure is expected to rise to 5.5 billion, two-thirds of the world's population. Source: Wisconsin Sea Grant.

Establishing a pathway for action in Michigan's AOCs

More than 100 natural resource professionals and local stakeholders gathered recently in Monroe, Mich. for a workshop to help establish a "pathway" toward restoring and delisting impairments to fish and wildlife in the state's Areas of Concern (AOCs).

Organized by the Great Lakes Commission on behalf of Michigan's Statewide Public Advisory Council (SPAC), the July 21 workshop assessed the status of ongoing restoration efforts and outlined a process for setting and achieving restoration targets for three beneficial use impairments: degradation of fish and wildlife populations, loss of fish and wildlife habitat, and degradation of benthic organisms.

Workshop presentations showcased successful restoration efforts, reviewed methodologies for establishing restoration targets, outlined practical steps in restoration planning and target setting for fish and wildlife, and identified follow-up actions to assist public advisory councils and their partners in developing restoration plans for their AOCs.

An opening presentation by Keith Bowers, chair of the Society for Ecological Restoration and president of Biohabitats, Inc., provided an introduction to the field of ecosystem restoration and outlined practical actions that local groups can take at the watershed level. The presentation identified specific steps to include in ecological restoration plans and attributes of restored ecosystems, and addressed the integration of ecological restoration into larger programs.

Karen Rodriguez and Jamie Schardt of U.S.

EPA's Great Lakes National Protection Office (GLNPO) presented findings from GLNPO's assessment of fish and wildlife restoration planning in Michigan's 14 AOCs. The report, *Pathway for Delisting Three Beneficial Use Impairments in Great Lakes Areas of Concern*, is available online at www.glc.org/spac/fishwildbui.html.

Their presentation also illustrated the linkage between ecosystem restoration and Areas of Concern delisting, highlighted common gaps and needs, and outlined a pathway for remedial action.

Dr. J. David Allan, professor of conservation biology and ecosystem management at the University of Michigan, provided the keynote luncheon address, focusing on a national survey of stream restoration. Dr. Allan noted that there is no clearinghouse for river restoration efforts, and little or no evaluation or monitoring data on work in this area. His "synthesis effort" is helping to distill and disseminate information on successful river restoration efforts.

The workshop was followed by a field trip to remediation sites on the River Raisin.

The SPAC is a coalition of representatives from Michigan's 14 AOCs that works to advance restoration efforts in the Areas of Concern. The Great Lakes Commission supports the Council with funding from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Proceedings from the workshop will be available in September on the SPAC's web site at www.glc.org/spac.

Contact: Matt Doss, mdoss@glc.org.

New computer specialist joins Commission

Hugh Brennan is the newest member of the Great Lakes Commission staff. He is responsible for computer technical support and network operations, and assists with maintenance, administration, and product development for the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN).

Before joining the Commission, Brennan worked as an information technology manager at Nutraceutical Clinical Laboratories Interna-

tional, Inc. (now Preservation Sciences) in St. Petersburg, Fla. He has also worked as a web developer, systems administrator and PC technician.

He received a bachelors' degree from Michigan State University in 1998 and is currently I-Net+ and CIWA certified. Contact: hbrennan@glc.org.



Hugh Brennan

Commission focuses on land use, water quality linkage

A quarter century ago, the work of the Pollution from Land Use Activities Reference Group (PLUARG) had a major effect on land use practices in the Great Lakes basin. Based on the findings of this International Joint Commission (IJC) initiative, a new-found appreciation for the effects of land use on water quality led to significant changes in land-use practices by farmers, developers and other resource users.

Today, the PLUARG studies still provide the foundation for addressing nonpoint source pollution issues and problems in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin and beyond. A fresh look at the topic will be taken at a workshop to be convened by the Great Lakes Commission Nov. 8-9 in Ann Arbor, Mich.

The workshop, funded by the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office, will bring together Great Lakes scientists, agency regulators and land-use managers to assess the current state of nonpoint source pollution in the Great Lakes region; review changes in post-PLUARG land-use activities and progress toward meeting PLUARG recommendations; and identify issues and unmet needs.

"The relationship between land use and water quality has become increasingly apparent in the years since PLUARG," said Dr. Mike Donahue,

president/CEO of the Great Lakes Commission. "We can't resolve our water quality problems by focusing on our lakes and tributaries alone, we also need to turn around and look inland."

The workshop features a series of presentations from former PLUARG participants and leading experts in nonpoint source pollution in the Great Lakes. Workshop participants will then discuss opportunities for advancing an aggressive regional agenda for land use management and nonpoint source pollution control.

The binational PLUARG group was established by the International Joint Commission (IJC) in 1972 under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the United States and Canada. It was notable not only for its technical contributions, but also as a demonstration of how governments and other organizations could work together to improve environmental conditions in the binational Great Lakes basin.

Along with the Great Lakes Commission, partners in conducting the invitation-only event include the IJC, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Coastal States Organization, and the National Association of Conservation Districts-Great Lakes Committee.

Contact: Beth Johnson, bjohnson@glc.org.

Don't forget!

The 2004 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission, Oct. 4-5, 2004 in Toronto, Ontario, is nearly upon us! With the theme, "Celebrating Success, Preparing for the Future!" this event will help shape the Commission's Strategic Plan and near-term priorities. For more information or to register online, see www.glc.org/meeting

Congress urged to boost funds for AOC cleanup

In one of a continuing series of messages to Congress on issues of concern to its membership, the Great Lakes Commission is urging the region's representatives to ensure that efforts to clean up Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs) are adequately funded in FY2005.

In an Aug. 30 letter to the House and Senate Great Lakes congressional delegations, Chair Sam Speck and President/CEO Dr. Mike Donahue noted that the House Appropriations Committee is recommending only \$10 million in FY2005 for implementation of the Great Lakes Legacy Act. This falls far short of the documented cleanup requirements at the 31 U.S. AOCs, and of the administration's budget

request of \$45 million in FY2005.

By comparison, in 2004 U.S. EPA received \$80 million in applications for cleanup efforts at 14 of the 31 U.S. AOCs, while only \$10 million was appropriated under the Legacy Act.

Passed in 2002, the Great Lakes Legacy Act is a key element of the U.S. AOC cleanup program. The Commission believes a \$45 million appropriation in FY 2005 would provide the necessary foundation for meeting the federal government's long-term commitment to restoring beneficial uses at these contaminated sites.

For the text of the letter, go to www.glc.org/policy/legacy_09-04.html. Contact: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org.

New guide promotes upland beneficial use of dredged material

A significant problem in navigation channel maintenance dredging is finding ways to dispose of the resulting material. A recently published guide from the Great Lakes Commission addresses that problem by showing how that material can be put to productive uses in upland areas.

The guide, *Testing and Evaluating Dredged Material for Upland Beneficial Uses: a Regional Framework for the Great Lakes*, addresses how to efficiently identify and implement appropriate beneficial uses for dredged material of different types under various circumstances.

Intended for dredged material managers, regulators and other interested parties, the report responds to a need identified

opportunities, evaluating their suitability, meeting regulatory requirements and implementing the projects.

The Commission's report takes the reader through each of these steps in detail, offering strategies and addressing difficulties. It also presents a series of case scenarios and regulatory criteria that might be encountered in implementing these projects in each of the Great Lakes states. A separate annotated bibliography serves as a companion document to the regional framework and includes citations and descriptions for the more than 200 references used throughout the guide.

The report was produced by a team of collaborators that included members of the Commission staff, regulatory officials from each Great Lakes state, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. EPA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Maritime Administration. Funding was provided by the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office.

The report and bibliography may be downloaded at www.glc.org/docs/subject.html?sc=sr. Print copies are available from the Great Lakes Commission. Contact: Victoria Pebbles, vpebbles@glc.org



Duane Roskoskey, of the Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality, gives an enthusiastic endorsement of the Commission's new beneficial use manual at a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers workshop on the subject in Grand Haven, Mich. in August. Photo: Dave Knight

by the Great Lakes Dredging Team's Beneficial Use Task Force. The task force noted that, while there are numerous potential uses for dredged material in upland environments, many impediments are encountered in identifying

Board convenes for strategy session

Planning, partnership, priority-setting and publicity were the overriding themes when the Great Lakes Commission Board of Directors convened for a two-day strategy session in Chicago in late July.

Chair Sam Speck spoke of the region's "changing strategic environment," and of opportunities for the Great Lakes Commission to both lead and partner in ecosystem restoration, protection and sustainable use initiatives. Board members agreed to focus the upcoming Annual Meeting on strategic planning and to engage the full membership and larger Great Lakes-St. Lawrence community in the plan development process.

Board members also agreed to harmonize their restoration priorities with those of the region's governors, and step up advocacy efforts through

an enhanced presence in Washington, D.C. Within the region, it was agreed that the Commission's considerable – and growing – technical expertise in data management and policy analysis should be aggressively publicized to best serve those who depend upon it for sound decisions.

In other actions, the Board approved an operating budget for FY 2005 (a 3.0 percent increase over FY 2004 and the Commission's largest budget to date); agreed to extend Observer designation to the U.S. Maritime Administration and the multinational Helsinki Commission; accepted reports on a multitude of activities responding to Commission priorities; and refined plans for the Commission's 50th anniversary celebration next year.

Contact Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.

Restoration workshops conclude, yield advice on priorities

A year-long series of regional workshops to discuss and refine ecosystem restoration priorities ended just as it began: with an active and engaged public willing to share its views with regional leaders.

Mid-August sessions in Green Bay and Milwaukee capped off the eight-workshop series, which began September 2003 in Michigan. Over that period, some 750 stakeholders – drawn from all sectors of the Great Lakes community – offered advice and recommendations on the Great Lakes governors' restoration priorities, including their breadth and focus, how to apply them at the local level, and how they should be implemented.

Funded by the National Sea Grant College Program, the workshops were a collaborative effort of the Great Lakes Sea Grant college programs, Council of Great Lakes Governors, various state agencies and Great Lakes Commission.

While each workshop had its own distinct format, emphasis and mix of stakeholders, all shared several common themes, according to Dr. Mike Donahue, Commission president/ CEO.

"From Minnesota to New York, and all points

between, stakeholders applauded the governors' leadership and the overall scope of the restoration priorities," Donahue said. "They also expressed well-formed opinions on how these priorities might be applied to their portion of the basin."

Donahue also noted that stakeholders generally expressed a bias for action – a need to move forward aggressively in securing necessary funds and programs to implement priorities.

Workshop outcomes are being circulated to regional and national policymakers and opinion leaders to help inform continuing efforts to shape and pursue an ecosystem restoration strategy for the Great Lakes Basin. Proceedings from three of the eight workshops have been finalized and can be accessed at www.glc.org/restwksbp. The balance of the proceedings are being processed and will be available soon. A synthesis event and associated document designed to highlight common themes and significant findings from all eight workshops are in the planning stages.

Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org; or Jon Dettling, dettling@glc.org.

Rapid response scenarios, implementation explored

A "test run" of a model rapid response plan being developed to head off new infestations of aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes region was conducted July 22 at a workshop hosted by the Great Lakes Commission at its offices in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Attended by invasive species experts from around the region, the workshop focused on the application of the model rapid response plan to a species-specific case study. The species in question, hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), is an aquatic weed that has yet to be found in the Great Lakes system, but is considered a high-risk species due to a history of invading and causing high levels of ecological damage in other regions.

The workshop posed a variety of scenarios under which a hydrilla invasion might occur, then considered how a response might be carried

out under each set of circumstances. Scenarios included hydrilla invasions on private property, in federally and state-managed waters, a Great Lakes harbor, the open waters of the Great Lakes and on tribal land. The results will be used to further refine the model. The Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality is also using the results in developing its own rapid response plan.

The workshop was the second held under the project, A Rapid Response Plan for Great Lakes Aquatic Invasions, funded by the U.S. EPA-Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) and conducted by the Commission and the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species.

The draft model rapid response plan is available online at www.glc.org/ans/initiatives.html#rapid. Contact: Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, shwayder@glc.org.

The Point-Counterpoint feature will return in the next issue of the Advisor

Annex 2001 draft agreements unveiled

**Great Lakes Commission
2004 Annual Meeting
registration**

www.glc.org/meeting

**Great Lakes Coastal
Wetlands Consortium**

www.glc.org/wetlands

**Great Lakes Observing
System (GLOS)**

www.glc.org/glos

**Invasive Species Mapping
in Michigan**

www.glin.net/envt/flora-fauna/invasive/mapping.html

Helsinki Commission

www.helcom.fi/helcom.html

**U.S. Maritime
Administration**

www.marad.dot.gov

**Great Lakes Regional
Water Use Database**

www.glc.org/wateruse/database

**Statewide Public Advisory
Council (SPAC)**

www.glc.org/spac

**Great Lakes Legacy Act
advocacy letter**

www.glc.org/policy/legacy_09-04.html

**Great Lakes Commission
publications**

www.glc.org/docs/subject.html?sc=sr

**Rapid Response Plan
for Great Lakes Aquatic
Invasions**

www.glc.org/ans/initiatives.html#rapid

**Restoration priorities
workshops proceedings**

www.glc.org/restwksbp

**Council of Great Lakes
Governors**

www.cglg.org

**International Association
of Great Lakes and
St. Lawrence Mayors**

www.glc.org/mayors

After three years of work, draft agreements for the implementation of Annex 2001 of the Great Lakes Charter have been released by the Council of Great Lakes Governors for public review.

The draft agreements represent a collective effort to update the way the waters of the Great Lakes basin are managed and protected, and address issues that include water withdrawal, consumption and diversion. The documents will be available for public inspection and comment through Oct. 18, during which time there will also be a series of public meetings to provide information and invite feedback on the draft agreements.

Specific protective measures in the draft implementing agreements include:

- A commitment that conservation and information programs will be put in place and main-

tained in all the Great Lakes states, Ontario and Québec;

- A commitment to use a uniform, resource-based decisionmaking standard in evaluating proposals for new or increased water uses;
- A commitment to a collective decision making process for future proposals for regionally significant new or increased water uses; and
- A requirement that all future new or increased diversions and regionally significant water uses in the Great Lakes basin result in an improvement to the basin's ecosystem.

Once the comment period has ended and public comments have been taken into account, the agreements will be refined and presented to the governors and premiers for their approval and signatures.

For more information, visit www.cglg.org.

Stakeholder sessions help shape Great Lakes/Seaway Study

Representatives from diverse sectors of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence community turned out to share their thoughts and perspectives on the future of marine transportation during a recently concluded series of stakeholder engagement meetings held around the region.

Stakeholders made more than 80 presentations during the series of six meetings, held to gather input for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway Study being conducted by the United States and Canadian federal governments. More than 500 individuals attended the sessions, including representatives of the marine transportation industry; ports; environmental groups; state, provincial, local and regional governmental officials; resource managers; waterfront property owners; tribes; and other interested citizens from both the United States and Canada.

The six meetings, held in the United States and Canada during the months of June and July, were facilitated by the Great Lakes Commission and the Quebec City-based St. Lawrence Economic Development Council (SODES) on behalf of the U.S. and Canadian federal agencies conducting the study.

Stakeholders were asked, among other things, to identify specific concerns they would like the study to address, to comment on the structure of the study, and to contribute general ideas on how the study can be improved. Written briefs were submitted by a number of stakeholder groups and individuals unable to attend the sessions.

All presentations and submitted briefs will be compiled this fall by the Commission and SODES into a report for the U.S. and Canadian agencies leading the study.

The study, which began in May 2003, is designed to assess baseline environmental and economic conditions associated with the Seaway system in the interest of informing decisions on its future.

David Wright, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Detroit District, was recently named U.S. co-manager of the Seaway Study. He succeeds Wayne Schloop, also of the Detroit District, who was promoted to a new position in that office. The Canadian co-manager is Marc Fortin, director of seaway and domestic shipping policy for Transport Canada.

Contact: Dave Knight, dknight@glc.org.

Great Lakes/St. Lawrence mayors gather in Chicago

Invasive species, sewage overflows, air quality and beach closings were among the issues addressed by the region's mayors when they convened in Chicago July 16-18 for the 17th annual conference of the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors.

Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley chaired the conference as president of the association. His co-host, Quebec Mayor Jean-Paul L'Allier, represented the Quebec Metropolitan Community, host site of the 2005 conference.

Among the resolutions the mayors adopted were those calling for:

- More aggressive measures to stop the introduction of aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River
- Federal initiatives in the U.S. to upgrade water and wastewater treatment systems to better prevent overflows from combined sanitary-stormwater sewer systems
- Adoption by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of standards requiring coal-fired power plants to reduce mercury emissions by 90 percent by the year 2010
- Action by the U.S. and Canadian federal governments to investigate causes of increased beach closings in the region, and support development technologies to expedite testing.

The mayors also appointed a special committee

of three U.S. mayors and three Canadian mayors to explore a closer formalized relationship (and prospective alternative institutional arrangements) with the Great Lakes Cities Initiative, established by Mayor Daley in 2003. For more information, go to www.glc.org/mayors. Contact: Dave Knight, dknight@glc.org.

Great Lakes Science Center commissions new research vessel

The newest Great Lakes research vessel, the R/V Sturgeon, was christened and commissioned Aug. 12 in Cheboygan, Mich. One of four science vessels operated by the U.S. Geological Survey/Great Lakes Science Center (GLSC), the 101-foot Sturgeon's primary role will be to support fisheries-related science in lakes Michigan and Huron. Formerly named the Marsys Resolute, the vessel was acquired by the GLSC from the Smithsonian Institution and completely rebuilt by Basic Marine in Escanaba, Mich.



Great Lakes Calendar

2004 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission

October 4-5, 2004, Toronto, Ontario
Contact: Mike Donahue, 734-971-9135, mdonahue@glc.org

State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC) 2004

October 5-8, 2004, Toronto, Ontario
Contact: SOLEC@ec.gc.ca

Wetlands 2004: Protecting Wetlands of International Significance

October 19-22, 2004, Kansas City, Mo.
Contact: Sharon Weaver, 518-872-1804
sharon.weaver@aswm.org

RDX: 2004 Regional Data Exchange Conference

October 26-28, 2004, Detroit, Mich.
Contact: Christine Manninen, 734-971-9135, manninen@glc.org

Seventh Water Information Summit

October 31-November 2, 2004, Orlando, Fla.
Contact: David Moody, 603-835-7900, dwmood@beaverwood.com

Great Lakes Beach Association Meeting

November 30-December 1, 2004, Parma, Ohio
Contact: Shannon Briggs, briggssl@michigan.gov

Third International Conference on Remediation of Contaminated Sediments

January 24-27, 2005, New Orleans, La.
Contact: Joan Purvis, 800-783-6338, info@confgroupinc.com

IAGLR Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research

May 23-27, 2005, Ann Arbor, Mich.
Contact: Tom Johengen, 734-764-2426, 05chairs@iaglr.org

Further details and a more extensive calendar are available online via the Great Lakes Information Network (www.great-lakes.net). If you have an event you'd like us to include, please contact Kirk Haverkamp at 734-971-9135 or kirkh@glc.org

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The Last Word

A look back – and ahead!



Sam Speck

What a remarkable period the past two years have been! Great Lakes issues have moved front and center as never before. And on so many, the Great Lakes Commission has made a seminal contribution by bringing parties together, getting the ball rolling, and providing critical research and data to move ahead.

Among them: Annex 2001 draft agreements have been developed and are out for public review. Our longstanding campaign to “Restore the Greatness” has helped fuel a groundswell of interest in ecosystem restoration, which promises to yield an unprecedented level of intergovernmental cooperation and funding in the near future. Invasive species challenges are being addressed through the construction of a permanent barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and with more attention given to ballast water issues. And the Commission is playing a key role in gathering basin interests together to focus on challenging transportation and sustainable development policy options.

The Commission is changing, with a larger staff and broader capabilities for addressing Great Lakes issues. Our strategic environment is also changing, with our governors and premiers focused on Great Lakes issues as perhaps never before, as are Congress and the national administration.

The role of the Commission may change as well, but our key purpose will remain: to provide the best sources of data, research and collective thinking; and bring diverse interests together to broker change and ensure the sustainability of the Great Lakes for present and future generations.

Thanks for the opportunity to have served as your chair in these exciting times, and best wishes to my successor!

Samuel W. Speck, chair, Great Lakes Commission

Where in the Great Lakes?



Can you identify the location of this Great Lakes scene? If you think you know, e-mail your answer, along with your name, address and phone number to kirkh@glc.org or mail it to the *Advisor* at the address on the mailing panel below. All correct responses received by **Oct. 25, 2004** will be entered into a drawing. The winner will receive his/her choice of a Great Lakes Commission beach towel or a \$10 credit toward the purchase of any Commission publication.



Last issue's winner was Jim Burke of the Lac Vieux Desert Tribe in Watersmeet, Mich., who identified this photo of Casa Loma in Toronto. Thanks to everyone who entered! Photo: Tourism Toronto.

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