



Advisor

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The Advisor is published bimonthly by the Great Lakes Commission. The 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.

Assessing Great Lakes health: An emerging priority

While great strides in environmental improvement have characterized the Great Lakes management effort in our recent past, a legacy of misuse and abuse haunts us. We, as resource users, have opened the door to aquatic nuisance species, altered and destroyed habitats, and released pollutants into the ecosystem. Increasingly, we are realizing our mistakes and seeking remedies but, to make better decisions, we need more information about the current health of the basin.

The State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC), hosted biennially by Environment Canada and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), is a forum for information exchange among decisionmakers and researchers on the ecological health of the basin and major factors that impact it. SOLEC has identified more than 80 indicators of ecosystem health that assess how the Great Lakes basin is faring. Several major initiatives are underway to measure, monitor and refine these indicators.

The Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium — a multiagency, binational group of more than 140 members (from nearly 30 agencies) led by the Great Lakes Commission — is developing a long-term monitoring plan for Great Lakes coastal wetlands. The consortium will consolidate wetlands inventories into a single, classified inventory for the entire basin; develop and validate indicators of wetland condition; and develop and populate a broadly accessible database of monitoring information that will be used as part of a decision support system. For more information on this U.S. EPA-funded initiative, visit www.glc.org/monitoring/wetlands/. Contact: Julie Wagemakers, juliew@glc.org.

*"... to make better decisions,
we need more information
about the current health of
the basin."*

The Lake Michigan Online Monitoring Database is another ongoing Commission project funded by U.S. EPA. Building on research conducted under the Commission's Lake Michigan Tributary Monitoring Project, the database will be made available on the Great Lakes Information Network using a map-based interface. The web site will allow users to search the database for monitoring projects in the Lake Michigan basin by geographic location or other characteristics. Guidance is provided by the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council, convened in 1999 to promote a cooperative approach to monitoring in the Lake Michigan basin. Recently, the Commission also coordinated a workshop to review monitoring programs in the upper Great Lakes connecting channels to assess the programs' adequacy for delisting the binational Areas of Concern. A major, long-term Commission goal is to consolidate monitoring program information into a single, searchable source for the entire Great Lakes basin. Contact: Matt Doss, mdoss@glc.org.

The Commission has a strong interest in land-use indicators, as well. As reported at SOLEC 2000, monitoring of such indicators is inconsistent and fragmented, and a coordinated monitoring and development effort is needed to adequately characterize

Commission News & Views

From the desk of the president...

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 photo: Lake Michigan from Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Credit: Courtney Shosh

The sum of the parts

This is the season for annual report releases and, if your in-box is like mine, it's stacked full of glowing tributes to the accomplishments of Great Lakes-related agencies large and small. The casual reader, quite understandably, might flip through these reports and conclude that all is well. Indeed, if we're all doing such a great job, Great Lakes management and protection efforts must be just where we want them!

Sounds logical, but most will agree that we're far from where we need to be.

How is this possible in light of all our individual accomplishments? Why does the whole appear to be less than the sum of its parts? In my view, it's because no single Great Lakes institu-

tion — even if it performs in an exemplary manner — is capable of achieving regional environmental and economic prosperity on its own. Simply put, even a team full of all-stars won't make the playoffs unless they work together.

The Great Lakes region has a well-deserved, global reputation for intergovernmental and public/private sector partnership. And, on an issue-specific basis, we've seen some tremendous accomplishments when all the players work together. We're now faced with our greatest challenge however and, hence, our greatest opportunity. We need (as I've argued in this column previously) a single, unified, large-scale legislative and appropriations package that offers a vision for the lakes and a means to achieve it. The Great Lakes Commission, on behalf of its member states, has taken its kick at the can with a "Great Lakes Program" identifying its own priority actions to achieve seven goals: cleaning up toxic hot spots, shutting the door on invasive spe-

cies, controlling nonpoint source pollution, restoring and conserving wetlands and critical coastal habitat, ensuring the sustainable use of our water resources, strengthening our decision support capability, and enhancing the commercial and recreational value of our waterways (see special insert).

Is the Commission's "Great Lakes Program" the one and only answer? No, and it's not meant to be. Rather, it's our contribution to a larger effort. Other members of the Great Lakes team — citizen environ-

mental interests, user groups and business/industry associations, among others — have much to contribute, as well. The Commission applauds and supports an emerging effort through the

"The building blocks, such as the Commission's 'Great Lakes Program' and related efforts, are now being forged. The next step is to assemble them into a solid foundation."

Great Lakes governors and Great Lakes Congressional Task Force to "pull it all together." It's gratifying to see such a heightened interest in a federal legislative and appropriations package that, at long last, might give the Great Lakes the attention they deserve.

Now comes the defining moment. Can we, as individual members of the Great Lakes team, find the common ground on our respective priorities and move a single package forward? I believe we can, and I believe we must. Let's consider, for example, a "Priorities Summit" in the immediate future that will help move all regional interests toward consensus. The building blocks, such as the Commission's "Great Lakes Program" and related efforts, are now being forged. The next step is to assemble them into a solid foundation. Then, and only then, will the whole be greater than the sum of the parts.



Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.

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Receive Great Lakes Daily News free via e-mail (www.glin.net/forms/dailynews_form.html). The Daily News message, which includes the day's headlines and related news, is sent to subscribers Monday-Friday by noon (EST). Contact: Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org.



At an awards ceremony on Feb. 17, the Commission-managed Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN, www.great-lakes.net) was cited as "Web Site of the Year" for its cultural importance, exceptional content and quality, and effective design. The inaugural award was presented by Michigan State University's newly established Center for Great Lakes Culture. Shown here, Kurt Dewhurst, Center director, presents the award to Christine Manninen, GLIN project manager/webmaster.

A great day for the Great Lakes

If the Great Lakes Commission's annual "Great Lakes Day in Washington" is any indication, a groundswell of support is emerging for a multiyear, large-scale legislative and appropriations package directed at Great Lakes restoration. Co-sponsored with the Northeast-Midwest Institute and held on March 15, Great Lakes Day featured a Congressional Breakfast headlined by four co-chairs of the Senate and House Great Lakes task forces: Sen. Mike DeWine (R-OH), Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI), Rep. Steve LaTourette (R-OH), and Rep. John Dingell (D-MI). While each reviewed accomplishments of the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation over the past year, the focus was unquestionably on the future. Sen. DeWine announced that he and his Great Lakes colleagues have written the Great Lakes governors with an invitation to work with stakehold-

ers to "identify specific priorities and goals for the future of the lakes" that can provide the basis for federal legislative activity.

Commission Chair Nat Robinson and the Institute's Dick Munson emceed the event, which attracted more than 130 participants, including more than 30 members or representatives from congressional offices. Tracy Mehan, chair of Michigan's Delegation to the Great Lakes Commission, offered remarks titled "Restore the Greatness," introducing attendees to the Commission's current priorities.

Great Lakes Day activities were followed by a "Great Lakes Environmental Summit" hosted by the Northeast-Midwest Institute. For information on the Congressional Breakfast and Issues Briefing, contact Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org. For the Great Lakes Environmental Summit, contact Joy Mulinex, joy_mulinex@levin.senate.gov.

Executive Committee sets priorities, plans for future

The 2001 edition of "Great Lakes Day" in Washington, D.C., also featured a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Great Lakes Commission, which is comprised of delegation chairs of the eight Great Lakes states. Chair Nat Robinson presided over a number of action items, all directed at advancing the Commission's theme of "ensuring environmental and economic prosperity." Decisions included: 1) proceeding with a Soo Lock construction request in FY2002; 2) strategies for releasing/advocating

Commission priorities embodied in its "Great Lakes Program"; and 3) proceeding with the final phase of an endowment campaign feasibility study. Members also discussed the continuing growth of the organization and its services, and approved new titles to best position the organization for the future (i.e., Executive Committee re-titled "Board of Directors" and Executive Director re-titled "President/Chief Executive Officer"). Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.

Commission advances Lake St. Clair management efforts

Building on the success of its December 1999 conference, *Lake St. Clair: Its Current State and Future Prospects*, the Great Lakes Commission is pursuing a number of initiatives to advance binational management efforts for the lake. The conference summary report, including detailed findings and recommendations, is available on the new Lake St. Clair page on the Great Lakes Information Network at www.glin.net/lakes/stclair.html.

The Commission is now developing recommendations for a binational Lake St. Clair Management Initiative to integrate U.S. and Canadian

efforts into a meaningful framework, and will partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a management plan for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River. Authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 1999, the management plan will be developed in coordination with federal, state/provincial and local agencies, and will include recommendations for potential restoration measures. A second Lake St. Clair conference will be convened to review the draft management plan and discuss implementation efforts. Contact: Matt Doss, mdoss@glc.org.

Ohio watershed groups work toward comprehensive plans

The Great Lakes Commission is spearheading a coalition that is helping Ohio watershed groups develop and implement comprehensive watershed management plans. The Commission, along with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio State University (OSU) Extension and Tetra Tech, Inc., is conducting two-day training workshops on all aspects of planning, from resource inventories to program evaluation.

Thus far, workshops have been held in Columbus and Dayton. "The workshop was a great

experience for networking and getting information on improving our watershed plan," said one participant. "I hope I can retain all this valuable knowledge." Workshops will be held in Akron, Toledo and Athens this spring. Training is provided in conjunction with an online watershed course developed by OSU Extension. For more information, visit the project web site at www.glc.org/watershed/ or contact Ric Lawson, rlawson@glc.org, or Sarah Whitney, swhitney@glc.org.

Tourism is principal theme of mayors conference

The 15th annual conference of the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors will be held June 6-8, 2001, in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Mayors John Rowsell (Sault Ste. Marie) and M. Denis Lapointe (Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Québec) will host the event. Tourism will be a principal theme with five major sessions: Great Lakes Heritage Coast, an Ontario coastal program and land-use initiative with direct connections to

tourism and recreation; Circle Tour and Eco-tourism; Great Lakes Cruising; the Destination Tourism Attraction; and Great Lakes of North America, a marketing organization formed to promote Great Lakes tourism to the international market. The Great Lakes Commission continues to serve as U.S. secretariat to the association. For more information, visit www.city.sault-ste-marie.on.ca. Contact: Benita Brogno, conference coordinator, 705-541-7179, mayorsconference@cityssm.on.ca.

Great Lakes Commission Semiannual Meeting

May 15-16, 2001
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Aquatic Nuisance Species Symposium

May 16-17, 2001
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Spring Meeting of the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species

May 18, 2001
Ann Arbor, Mich.

mark your calendar



www.glin.net/tourism/circletour/

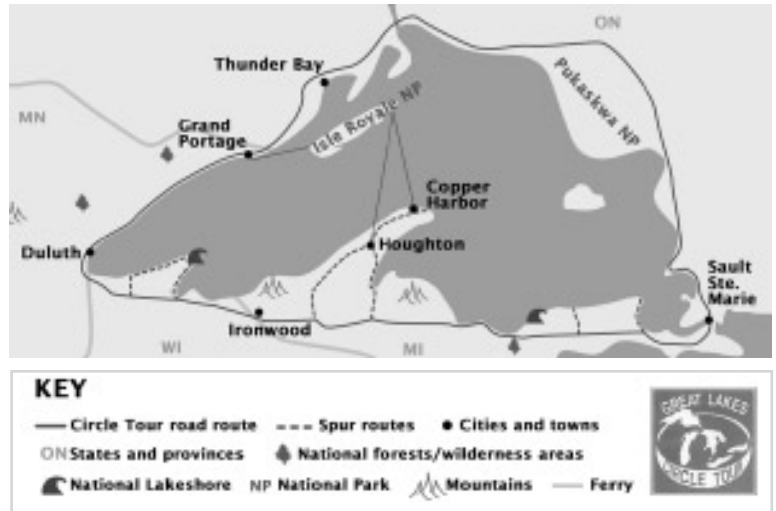
The Great Lakes Circle Tour arrives online!

The 6,500-mile Great Lakes Circle Tour — a scenic, international road system connecting the five Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River — now has its own section on the Great Lakes Information Network.

The Circle Tour signage system was established in the late 1980s as a cooperative, regional effort between the Great Lakes Commission and the eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces that comprise the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system. The Circle Tour established new routes and connected them to previously designated highways on “North America’s Fresh Coast.” Several spur routes, including a ferry ride across Lake Michigan, have been added in recent years.

Each year, the Commission receives hundreds of requests for information on the Great Lakes Circle Tour from travelers within the region and beyond. The online version of the Circle Tour will provide these travelers with a starting point

when planning their Great Lakes vacations. In addition to informational maps, road routes and estimated mileages, the site features links to cities, camping and recreation areas, and natural attractions. Contact: Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org.



Basin Program announces 24 new grant awards

Twenty-four projects have been selected to receive funding under the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control for FY2001. A total of \$557,741 was granted to projects from all eight Great Lakes states: \$62,850 for two Illinois projects, \$25,000 for one Indiana project, \$138,358 for six Michigan projects, \$43,100 for two Minnesota projects, \$54,230 for three New York projects, \$120,724 for five Ohio projects, \$48,479 for two Pennsylvania projects, and \$65,000 for three Wisconsin projects. Of

these 24 projects, 12 are demonstrations, six are program/technical assistance grants and six focus on information/education. Funding for this program is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service through a cooperative agreement with the Great Lakes Commission. With the addition of these awards, the Basin Program has supported 182 projects and invested nearly \$5.2 million since the program’s inception in 1991. Contact: Tom Crane, tcrane@glc.org.

Commission gains new environmental quality specialist

John Hummer has joined the Great Lakes Commission staff as a program specialist in the Environmental Quality Program, where he will work on projects addressing Remedial Action Plans, Lakewide Management Plans, wetlands and eco-

system monitoring. Hummer holds a master’s degree from Michigan State University and previously served as director of Friends of the Jordan River Watershed in northern Michigan. Contact: John Hummer, jhummer@glc.org.

The Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity (see insert)



March 28, 2001

To Our Friends in The Great Lakes Community

We are pleased to present a “working draft” of a compilation of federal legislative and appropriations priorities that would help secure a clean environment, strong economy and high quality of life for residents of the eight state Great Lakes region.


We emphasize that this draft statement is a “work in progress” and is intended to be a contribution to broader efforts to secure region-wide consensus as a large-scale legislative/appropriations package is developed. Toward that end, we applaud an emerging effort through the Great Lakes governors and Great Lakes Congressional Task Force to do just that, and we pledge our support to a mutual consensus.

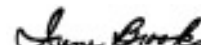
This statement offers several themes (and associated priority actions) that could be pursued in this and future years. These themes include cleaning up toxic hot spots; shutting the door on invasive species; controlling nonpoint source pollution; restoring and conserving wetlands and critical coastal habitat; ensuring the sustainable use of our water resources; strengthening our decision support capability; and enhancing the commercial and recreational value of our waterways.

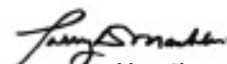
We believe that it is our charge to ensure environmental and economic prosperity for the Great Lakes; the greatest freshwater resource on the face of the earth deserves no less.

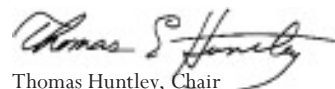
The Commission appreciates your consideration of this statement and welcomes the opportunity to work with you on mutual interests, and on a broader statement of regional consensus. Please also let us know how we can further support and assist you in your efforts. We welcome a call, and invite you to contact your state delegation chair (see below) or Great Lakes Commission staff at 734-665-9135.

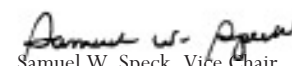
Sincerely,

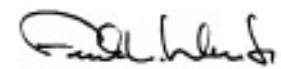

Nathaniel E. Robinson, Chairman of the Board
(and Chair, Wisconsin Delegation)
608-266-7257

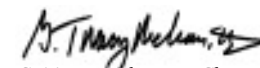

Irene Brooks, Chair
Pennsylvania Delegation
717-772-4785



Larry Macklin, Chair
Indiana Delegation
317-232-4020


Thomas Huntley, Chair
Minnesota Delegation
651-296-2228


Samuel W. Speck, Vice Chair
(and Chair, Ohio Delegation)
614-265-6565


Frank Kudrna, Chair
Illinois Delegation
630-969-3060


G. Tracy Mehan III, Chair
Michigan Delegation
517-335-4056


Gerald Mikol, Alternate Commissioner
New York Delegation
716-851-7200

Recreational boating and dredging symposium to highlight small-craft harbor needs

The Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes Dredging Team will cosponsor *Recreational Boating and Dredging*, a regional symposium, in Cleveland on July 16 in association with the National Coastal Zone '01 Conference. Open to the public, the symposium will bring together the recreational boating community, marina operators and dredging experts to discuss a range of relevant issues, including innovative funding options and new dredging technologies for small-craft harbor maintenance.

The symposium results from concern over

growing recreational harbor dredging needs in light of recent low water levels and long-term trends for federal operations and maintenance (O&M) funding. As O&M budgets get tighter, recreational harbors will not receive needed maintenance dredging because commercial harbors are given priority. The Commission has responded by advocating for a federally funded study of the economic benefits that accrue from Great Lakes recreational boating. Contact: Steve Thorp, sthorp@glc.org.



New leadership for Ontario and Québec delegations

Bill Carr, acting western hemisphere team leader for the Office of International Relations and Protocol of Ontario's Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, has been named chair of the Great Lakes Commission's Ontario Delegation. He replaces Lorraine Ratnik, who is retiring from provincial service. Carr has worked for the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade for 10 years, and previously held positions in the province's Ministry of Environment. In his current position, he provides policy and operational information and advice regarding the conduct of Ontario's international relations in the western hemisphere.

Maurice Boisvert, the government of Québec's Chicago delegate, will chair the Commission's

Québec Delegation. He replaces Donald Leblanc, who will remain active as an Associate Commissioner. Boisvert has held numerous positions within the government of Québec, including deputy minister at the Ministère de la Famille et de l'Enfance, associate deputy minister at the Ministère des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'Immigration, and associate deputy minister of regional services (forests) at the Ministère des Ressources naturelles. He has also held various positions in the health and social services fields in the last 20 years, including serving as assistant deputy minister at the Ministère de la Santé.

Welcome to them both!



Bill Carr



Maurice Boisvert

Assessing Great Lakes health, continued from page 1

the state of the Great Lakes ecosystem. A Commission proposal addresses part of this need by developing and enhancing land-use indicators for the nearshore area. Contact: Victoria Pebbles, vpebbles@glc.org.

One of the largest-scale indicator projects to date is being led by Dr. Gerald Niemi of the Natural Resources Research Institute of the University of Minnesota Duluth. The U.S. EPA recently awarded a \$6 million, four-year grant

to Niemi and a team of scientists who will compile and test indicators in the areas of water quality and diatoms, fish and macroinvertebrates, wetland vegetation, birds and amphibians, and chemical contaminants. The project will provide recommendations on what indicators may be most valuable for future monitoring efforts. Contact: Nora Kubazewski, 218-720-4280, nkubazew@nrri.umn.edu.

Great Lakes states advance planning, smart growth

“Smart growth” is the popular term for policies that address land-use planning, transportation and infrastructure issues, as well as institutional arrangements to integrate local growth policies across jurisdictions. Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are among states that have taken important steps in this direction.



Infill development (building in already urbanized areas) is an example of smart growth. Ann Arbor, Mich. Photo credit: Victoria Pebbles.

Minnesota’s Community Based Planning Act, passed in 1997, identifies 11 statewide planning goals and sets forth a framework to integrate sustainable development into local planning. Planning in Minnesota is still voluntary, as it is in all Great Lakes states. However, once a comprehensive plan is established, local governments must follow it, and plans must be coordinated among

local and neighboring jurisdictions. Smart growth activities launched in 1999 complement Minnesota’s planning efforts. The state’s smart growth framework is set forth in *Growing Smart in Minnesota*, a document that establishes state smart growth goals, principles and strategies.

Pennsylvania’s “Growing Smarter” initiative, announced in February 2000, features a combination of strategies to promote multimunicipal land-use planning, and ensure consistency between

planning and zoning at the local level. It also enhances existing land-use tools. An example is an amendment that encourages and enhances “transferable development rights” as a tool to “preserve open space and farmland, and to drive growth to areas where it is wanted.” Growing Smarter includes \$3.6 million in local land-use planning assistance geared toward the development of multimunicipal plans that meet the state’s land-use objectives. A top-to-bottom interagency review of state government identified more than 100 state programs that impact land use and called for state agencies to modify their programs and activities to better support smart growth.

Smart growth in Wisconsin took root with the passage of several statutory provisions and directives in the 1999-2001 state budget. That law set forth a series of local comprehensive planning goals and encouraged state agencies to design their policies and programs accordingly. It also defined comprehensive planning, spelled out requirements of a comprehensive plan, and established public participation and adoption procedures. Beginning in 2010, all local land-use ordinances must be consistent with the adopted local comprehensive plan. A total of \$3.5 million in grants is available for local land-use planning assistance.

Find more information about smart growth on the Great Lakes Sustainable Land Use web site at www.glc.org/bridges. Contact: Victoria Pebbles, vpebbles@glc.org.

Commission promotes the Great Lakes at Coastal Zone ‘01

The Great Lakes will be showcased when Cleveland plays host to Coastal Zone ‘01, a major international conference never before held in the region. Commission staff have been on the Local Planning Team for the July 15-19 conference, and are organizing and/or speaking at sessions on soil erosion and sedimentation, the beneficial use of dredged material, coordinated data collec-

tion and monitoring, transboundary ecosystem management, and integrated geographic information systems. The Commission will also offer a poster presentation on the Great Lakes Information Network and will host an associated symposium on recreational boating on July 16. Contact: Victoria Pebbles, vpebbles@glc.org.

Great Lakes governance and sustainability: Are we on the right track?

The University of Michigan will host the next iteration of the Canada United States Interuniversity Seminar (CUSIS), set for June 21-22 in Ann Arbor, Mich. CUSIS is a periodic gathering of U.S. and Canadian academics (and other parties) with an interest in issues of binational governance. Since its initial event in 1970, CUSIS has had a remarkable impact on the evolution of regional governance and helped shape the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

Funded by the Canadian Embassy, the upcoming CUSIS is titled "Toward Environmental and Economic Sustainability in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin." Challenges in governance will be assessed in areas that include water diversion/export, aquatic nuisance species pre-

vention and control, land-use/water quality linkages, and toxic contaminants. Sponsors of the event include the universities of Michigan, Windsor and Waterloo, and the State University of New York at Buffalo. Hosts include Commission President Mike Donahue, an adjunct professor at the University of Michigan, and Marcia Valiante, professor of law at the University of Windsor.

The symposium will be of particular interest to U.S. and Canadian academics. Policy practitioners and others with an interest in governance are also welcome on a "space-available" basis. For program information, contact Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org, or Marcia Valiante, mvalian@uwindsor.ca.

DID YOU KNOW?

Great Lakes coal shipments during the 2000 navigation season totaled 42.5 million net tons. The largest shipper was Midwest Energy's Superior, Wis., facility where 16.5 million tons were loaded last season. Since opening in 1976, this terminal, owned by Detroit Edison, has shipped about 234.5 million tons of low-sulfur coal from Wyoming and Montana. Destinations for last season's coal included 56 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River ports. The leading receiving port was Nanticoke, Ontario, on Lake Erie, with nearly 11.5 million net tons. Contact: Al Ballert, aballert@glc.org.

Michigan clean-up priorities presented at legislative briefing

Restoring and delisting Michigan's Great Lakes "toxic hot spots" was the focus of the fifth annual legislative briefing sponsored Feb. 14 by the Statewide Public Advisory Council (SPAC) for Michigan's Areas of Concern (AOC) Program. The SPAC presented its legislative priorities calling for increased state effort devoted to Michigan's AOC program, local management authorities to help fund sediment cleanup activities, assistance to local communities to correct sanitary sewer overflows, and policies and standards to prevent the introduction of harmful

nonindigenous species from the ballast water of commercial vessels.

Featured speakers included Rep. Gerald Van Woerkom (91st District) and Sen. Ken Sikkema (31st District), chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs. The briefing provided an opportunity for SPAC members to meet informally with their legislators and brief them on environmental restoration efforts in the AOCs. The Great Lakes Commission supports the SPAC and coordinated the briefing. Contact: Matt Doss, mdoss@glc.org.



Midwest Energy Terminal, Superior, Wis. Photo courtesy of Midwest Energy.

USGS names Great Lakes coordinator

Donna Myers has been named Great Lakes coordinator for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). In this newly created position she will promote the integration of biological sciences, geology, mapping and water programs in the basin to better serve the needs of natural resource managers. She will work with members of the USGS's

Great Lakes Technical Team to develop data and information for the wise use, management and conservation of natural resources in the Great Lakes basin.

Myers is located in the USGS office in Columbus, Ohio. Contact: Donna Myers, dnmyers@usgs.gov.

Great Lakes Beach Conference addresses public health and protection

Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium
www.glc.org/monitoring/wetlands/

State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference
www.on.ec.gc.ca/solec/ or
www.epa.gov/glnpo/solec

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Lake St. Clair
www.glin.net/lakes/stclair.html

Ohio Watershed Training Workshop
www.glc.org/watershed/

Conference of the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors
www.city.sault-ste-marie.on.ca

Great Lakes Circle Tour
www.glin.net/tourism/circletour/

Great Lakes Sustainable Land Use
www.glc.org/bridges

Coastal Zone '01
www.csc.noaa.gov/cz2001/

Beach Health
www.glc.org/monitoring/beaches/

Improving Air Quality Through Land Use Activities
www.epa.gov/orcdizux/transp/traqsusd.htm

St. Lawrence River Action Plan
www.slv2000.qc.ec.gc.ca

More than 200 participants gathered in Chicago Feb. 6-8 to discuss the state of Great Lakes beaches and related monitoring efforts. Mayor Richard Daley spoke on the importance of monitoring beach health. Priorities identified at this U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)-sponsored event included a need for more efficient technologies for rapid-result monitoring, casting a broader net for communications and education for beachgoers, and developing beach monitoring networks to allow beach management agencies and organizations to share information on volunteer monitoring plans, data results and effective communications strategies.

Beaches are regularly monitored for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) counts and, if a count is too high, the beach is closed. Current technology for testing *E. coli* has a significant time delay; results are only available after a processing period of approximately 48 hours. Consequently, this type of monitoring is not effective as a daily measure and often leads managers to close their beaches after the risk has passed. To protect beachgoers,

Great Lakes researchers are actively searching for better testing options.

The lack of effective communication and education for the beach-going public is also of concern. Brochures, site signage and web sites that identify and explain factors that may affect beach health are being considered to increase the public's knowledge and awareness.

The U.S. EPA-Great Lakes National Program Office is also supporting the Great Lake Commission in using the Great Lakes as a pilot for communicating the results of U.S. EPA's national beach health survey.

To find historical data records on beach monitoring and to locate contacts for Great Lakes beaches, see www.glc.org/monitoring/beaches/. To learn more about the Commission's beaches project, contact Julie Wagemakers, juliew@glc.org. For more information and follow-up on the beaches conference, contact Judy Beck, Judy.Beck@epa.gov, or Holly Wirick, Wirick.Holiday@epa.gov.

Annex 2001 is focus of public hearings

The Great Lakes Governors released Annex 2001 for public comment on Dec. 14, 2000. The annex is a proposed amendment to the Great Lakes Charter of 1985, a good-faith agreement among the Great Lakes governors and the premiers of Ontario and Québec on the management of the waters of the Great Lakes.

Formal public meetings on the annex have been

held in Buffalo, Oswego and Albany, N.Y.; Erie, Penn.; Toledo, Cleveland, Akron and Columbus, Ohio; Portage and Valparaiso, Ind.; and Lansing and Marquette, Mich. There is strong interest in the charter revisions, and the governors and premiers will finalize the annex based on further discussions. Contact: Jeff Edstrom, Council of Great Lakes Governors, edstrom@cglg.org.

U.S. EPA issues guidance to improve air quality

In response to increasing interest from state and local planners and government officials, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released *Improving Air Quality Through Land Use Activities*, new guidance to help states develop strategies to improve air

quality while their communities grow. The guidance is available online at www.epa.gov/orcdizux/transp/traqsusd.htm. Contact: Tracie Jackson, jackson.tracie@epa.gov.

St. Lawrence River Action Plan: Navigation

by Jérôme Faivre, Transportation Department, Government of Québec

In the "Around the Lakes" section of the September/October 2000 *Advisor*, readers learned about the St. Lawrence River Action Plan, a major initiative in Québec to protect the St. Lawrence River ecosystem.

One noteworthy feature of Phase III of the plan is the introduction of a new action area: navigation. Since 1998, the Navigation Committee has assembled representatives of governments, the shipping industry, and the environmental and community sectors with goals of:

- reducing the environmental impacts of commercial navigation and recreational boating, and
- establishing, with a consensus-building approach, a foundation for the sustainable development of navigation on the St. Lawrence River.

The Navigation Committee's initiatives are focused on well-known issues in the Great Lakes region, such as dredging ports and navigable channels, the risk of accidental spills of toxic products, the release of nonindigenous aquatic species from ballast water, and bank erosion.

In the realm of bank erosion, mention should be made of a specific issue related to maritime traffic

between Québec City and Cornwall: erosion caused by ship-generated waves. The Navigation Committee achieved a remarkable outcome in September 2000 when the shipping industry voluntarily reduced the speed of all commercial ships

in a 15-mile (25-kilometer) section of the river with high ecological sensitivity near Montreal.

The place and role of maritime transportation from the standpoint of sustainable development is at the heart of the intervention strategy that the committee will propose in 2003. The notion of the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes as an integrated system is not new to the field of navigation. For additional information, visit the St. Lawrence River Action Plan web site, www.slv2000.qc.ec.gc.ca.



Bank erosion. Photo courtesy of the Transportation Department, Government of Québec.

Great Lakes Calendar

Great Lakes Commission Semiannual Meeting

May 15-16; Ann Arbor, Michigan
Contact: Mike Donahue, 734-665-9135, mdonahue@glc.org

Aquatic Nuisance Species Symposium

May 16-17; Ann Arbor, Michigan
Contact: Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, 734-665-9135, shwayder@glc.org

Spring Meeting of the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species

May 18; Ann Arbor, Michigan
Contact: Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, 734-665-9135, shwayder@glc.org

Ohio Watershed Training Workshop

May 23-24; Athens, Ohio
Contact: Sarah Whitney or Ric Lawson, 734-665-9135, swhitney@glc.org or rlawson@glc.org

Conference of the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors

June 6-8; Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
Contact: Steve Thorp, 734-665-9135, sthorp@glc.org

Canada United States Interuniversity Seminar

June 21-22; Ann Arbor, Michigan
Contact: Mike Donahue, 734-665-9135, mdonahue@glc.org

Project Management Team Meeting, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Water Resources Management Decision Support System

June 27; Romulus, Michigan
Contact: Tom Rayburn, 734-665-9135, tray@glc.org

Coastal Zone '01

July 15-19; Cleveland, Ohio
Contact: Gale Peek, 843-740-1231, Gale.Peek@noaa.gov

Recreational Boating and Dredging Symposium

July 16; Cleveland, Ohio
Contact: Steve Thorp, 734-665-9135, sthorp@glc.org

Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting and Associated Events

October 9-12; Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Contact: Mike Donahue, 734-665-9135, mdonahue@glc.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 Christine Manninen at 734-665-9135 or manninen@glc.org.

Save trees and money!

If you prefer to read the electronic version of the *Advisor* online via the Commission's home page (www.glc.org), please let us know and we'll cancel your print subscription.

The Last Word

A CALL TO ACTION!

Focusing: Staying on target, on message



Now that our vision and program priorities for ensuring environmental and economic prosperity for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region have been launched, if we are going to be successful, we have to enhance our advocacy and improve effectiveness among our partners and with members of the 107th Congress!

Quite frankly, we have to think differently. We have to think boldly. Equally importantly, we have to take decisive action together. "The Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity" (featured inside) reflects this 21st century can-do thinking. We must act together to get our vision for restoring greatness to the Great Lakes region approved and implemented. Our challenge is to stay focused, on target and on message!

Ensuring environmental and economic prosperity for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region is more than a mere theme, more than just a slogan, more than a vision, and so much more than simply a dream. ***It is our future!*** Selling our message clearly, persuasively, decisively and effectively, and achieving the necessary and desired result and impact, absolutely requires our individual commitment, collective action and the discipline to stay the course. Our vision, our future, can and will become reality, but only if we stay focused, on target and on message. The time to act is NOW!

NATHANIEL E. ROBINSON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
Great Lakes Commission



Photo credit: Christine Manninen

Where in the Great Lakes?

Guess the location pictured in this Great Lakes-St. Lawrence photo, and you could win a prize! Send your guess via e-mail to manninen@glc.org along with your name, address and daytime phone number (or call Christine Manninen 734-665-9135). All correct responses received by May 23 will be entered into a drawing. The winner will receive his/her choice of a Great Lakes Commission t-shirt or a \$10 credit toward the purchase of a Commission publication.



The location of last issue's "Where in the Great Lakes?" photo was the Welland Canal (between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario). The contest winner was Tom Henderson of Windsor, Ontario. Thank you to all who participated!

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