

Advisor

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Great Lakes Day in Washington

Congress eyes Great Lakes restoration

It's time to give the Great Lakes their due.

That was the central message of this year's Great Lakes Day in Washington, the annual gathering of the region's policymakers and opinion leaders in the nation's capital. With events sponsored by the Commission and the Northeast-Midwest Institute, the day brought into focus the pressing policy and legislative needs of the Great Lakes region, including calls for a comprehensive Great Lakes Restoration Plan.

Participants, which included members of Congress and their staffs, as well as representatives of major U.S. and Canadian agencies, public interest groups and the private sector, heard how the Great Lakes would benefit from combining today's often-fragmented restoration programs into a unified plan that addresses the Great Lakes' needs on a system-wide basis, much as Congress recently did in approving the Everglades restoration plan.

"The Great Lakes are the centerpiece of the largest freshwater system on the face of the earth," Commission Chair Nat Robinson told the assembled officials. "They hold the key to the economic prosperity, environmental health and quality of life for tens of millions of residents."

Capacity crowds of nearly 140 people attended the day's main events, starting with the traditional Congressional Breakfast, co-sponsored by the Commission and the Institute. Sen. Mike DeWine (R-Ohio) and Rep. James Oberstar (D-Minn.), co-chairs of the Great Lakes Congressional Task Force, led off a distinguished panel that outlined congressional, federal and gubernatorial roles in forging a partnership for Great Lakes restoration.

"We must start thinking long and hard about the future of our lakes" Dewine told the group. "Not just the immediate future and a need for resources, but the long-term future — 10, 15, 20 years down the road. We must work together as partners to create and implement a long-term, comprehensive strategy on how we are going to restore and protect the lakes."

Later, at the Commission-sponsored Great Lakes Issues Briefing, Commission leadership introduced the 2002 *Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity*, the Commission's recommendations for congressional actions to "Restore the Greatness" to the Great Lakes (see story and special insert, page 6). The program



Rep. James Oberstar (D-Minn.), co-chair of the Great Lakes Congressional Task Force, discusses Great Lakes restoration efforts at the Congressional Breakfast at Great Lakes Day in Washington.

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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.

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 photo: International Port of Duluth, Minnesota Office of Tourism

Deja Vu all over again

The Great Lakes region, it seems, is rediscovering the merits of comprehensive water resources planning. Not since the heyday of the Water Resources Council and the Title II river basin commissions has there been such preoccupation with itemizing, prioritizing and strategizing. Even agencies and organizations with a “crisis of the day” mentality seem to have a newfound appreciation for the bigger picture. The terminology has changed over the last 20 years (we talk of “restoration plans” rather than “comprehensive, coordinated joint plans”) but the focus on watersheds and ecosystems has not changed. In the words of Yogi Berra, it’s “deja vu all over again.”

The return to basin planning is gratifying to the Great Lakes Commission which, for almost a half a century, has brought its unique blend of planning and advocacy to bear on the region’s restoration needs. Last year, arguing that decades of misuse and abuse had done an injustice to the greatest freshwater system on the face of the earth, our member states challenged the region to “Restore the Greatness” by embracing a system-wide approach to Great Lakes restoration. Our *Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity* has since become a blueprint for regional action and will provide the building blocks for a large-scale, science-driven restoration plan that we will develop in collaboration with our partners.

In recent months, a multitude of Great Lakes-related agencies and organizations have released, or announced the development of strategies, plans, priority lists and other documents that speak to ecosystem restoration. The U.S. Policy Committee’s

Great Lakes Strategy — a commendable, consensus-based initiative — was principal among them and received well-deserved recognition. Similar efforts, both public and non-governmental, will soon follow.

Some view this multiplicity of ecosystem restoration plans and strategies as a potential problem. I view it as an opportunity. Why? Because there’s a remarkable degree of consistency in the messages being conveyed. Compare our *Great Lakes Program* and the recently released *Great Lakes*

“The return to basin planning is gratifying to the Great Lakes Commission which, for almost a half a century, has brought its unique blend of planning and advocacy to bear on the region’s restoration needs.”

Strategy. A quick review indicates that for the most part, the Great Lakes community is in the same boat and rowing in the same direction. At the Great Lakes Commis-

sion, we’re committed to weaving together a planning fabric that draws from all such interests.

In my experience, I’ve found that eight ingredients are essential to the success of any large-scale regional initiative: 1) political backing and a willing “champion”; 2) broad-based institutional and public support; 3) environmental, economic and social dimensions; 4) national and regional relevance; 5) a clear vision and measurable milestones, outcomes and benefits; 6) sound science; 7) a compelling argument for prompt action; and 8) relentless advocacy.

All the pieces of the restoration puzzle are now being formed. With these ingredients as our guide, let’s bring them all to the table and put the picture together — and now!



Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.

Monitoring inventory to aid efforts for Lake St. Clair

The Great Lakes Commission is spearheading a new project that will yield a comprehensive inventory of monitoring programs and a long-term monitoring strategy for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River watershed. Based on a needs assessment developed by U.S. and Canadian officials, the inventory will identify all binational, federal, state/provincial, local and non-governmental monitoring programs relevant to the lake and watershed. The project is funded by a unique arrangement among the U.S. county agencies within the watershed and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Detroit District.

Once completed, the inventory will be released as a geographically searchable database for broad use on the Internet. A project team will assess the inventory to determine gaps in the overall monitoring regime and

develop a long-term monitoring strategy for the watershed. The inventory and strategy will ultimately be key elements of the Lake St. Clair/St. Clair River Management Plan the Commission is developing.

The management plan, a joint Great Lakes Commission-U.S. Army Corps of Engineers initiative, will include long-term management guidelines and recommendations in the areas of water quality, beach closings, biodiversity and monitoring, among others. Scheduled for completion in early 2003, the congressionally authorized plan is being developed in close cooperation with Canadian partners, with nearly 100 U.S. and Canadian representatives participating in technical workgroups. See www.glc.org/stclair.

Contacts: Matt Doss, mdoss@glc.org; or Ric Lawson, rlawson@glc.org.



Changing times spur new modal shift study

In a 1993 study, the Great Lakes Commission found that waterborne transportation was safer, used less fuel and had fewer pollutant emissions when compared to equivalent rail and truck movements. Since then, changes in commodity flows, emission data and transportation technology have generated interest in a new study, which the Commission called for last fall. The new study will update the principal elements of the 1993 study and address other issues.

Transportation is a major energy use sector in North America, with a large impact on environmental quality. Safety across all transportation modes has become a priority concern for the public and government. Adding impetus to the new study are increasing public concerns about highway congestion and growing problems with rail service due to mergers and routing decisions.

In one example from the 1993 study, it was found that moving a given cargo between

Thunder Bay, Ontario, and Superior Wis., by rail car ferry required only half as much fuel as the equivalent shipment by train and one-quarter as much as hauling by truck. Emissions for carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide were lower as well, while accidents were almost nonexistent.

The new study will be completed in late 2002. Funding for the project is provided by American Great Lakes Ports, the Canadian Ship-owners Association, Chamber of Maritime Commerce, Lake Carriers' Association, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation and St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation.

Contact: Steve Thorp, sthorp@glc.org.



Photo: Michigan Sea Grant

Tools to protect, conserve water take shape

The Great Lakes Commission's efforts to develop water management tools for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system are in high gear, with the recent completion of several draft projects. The initiative, which supports work called for under Annex 2001 to the Great Lakes Charter, will lay the foundation for a legally defensible and scientifically sound system to ensure that informed decisions are made regarding water withdrawal, use and consumption.

Draft products soon to be available include:

- A computerized water use database that documents 1998 water withdrawal, diversion and consumptive use in the eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces of the Great Lakes basin (1999 and 2000 data is now being gathered)
- A descriptive report of state and provincial water resources management and conservation programs
- Publication of the proceedings of an experts workshop held last fall, featuring a list of essential questions that must be asked to assess the ecological effects of a given water withdrawal.
- A comprehensive review and analysis of the published research and "gray literature" on potential ecological impacts of water use and withdrawal
- A manual featuring a descriptive inventory of computer models for water withdrawal impact assessment

Ongoing efforts by the project management team, comprised of U.S. and Canadian representatives with scientific, technical and policy expertise, include work on three major issues: 1) refining the definition of "consumptive use" to assess actual use; 2) identifying the components of an environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation program; and 3) defining the elements of an improvement standard in the context of Annex 2001.

The project is supported by the Great Lakes Protection Fund. See www.glc.org/waterquantity/wrmdss/ Contact: Tom Crane, tcrane@glc.org; or Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.

2002 Baltic fellowships focus on invasive species

Six invasive species experts from northeastern Europe recently visited North America to meet with counterparts here under the auspices of the Commission's Baltic Fellowship program, sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

This year's fellowships were tied to February's International Conference on Invasive Species in Alexandria, Va. The six fellows attended the conference and met with representatives from the U.S. Geological Survey's International Invasive Species Program to discuss a Baltic invasive species inventory. They also met with U.S. EPA staff to discuss risk assessment and invasives modeling, and to share their perspectives on aquatic and terrestrial assessment and modeling.

The fellows also attended a full-day Great Lakes invasive species workshop in Chicago,

hosted by the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office.

The six fellows are leading researchers and senior environmental officials from Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Lithuania. Because of their environmental similarities, the Great Lakes and Baltic regions have often been the source of invasive species to the other, and are of mutual interest to researchers and management officials in the two regions.

Fellowship testimonials and reports will be posted on www.epa.gov/glnpo/baltic/index.html. It is expected that next years' fellowships will continue to focus on common issues of the Great Lakes and Baltic Sea regions. For further information contact Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.

International Association of Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Mayors
June 12-14, 2002
Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Québec

Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting and related events
Oct. 14-15, 2002
Cleveland, Ohio

State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC)
Oct. 16-18, 2002
Cleveland, Ohio

mark your calendar

Commission takes message to Washington

Commission President/CEO Mike Donahue testified before U.S. House of Representatives subcommittees on two recent occasions, offering support for legislative priorities identified in the Commission's *Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity*.

Appearing before the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment on April 10, Donahue called for cost share reforms and expanded restoration authority for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers when the Water Resources Development Act is reauthorized this year.

Before the House Environment, Technology

and Standards Subcommittee on Feb. 28, Donahue voiced opposition to a proposed transfer of the National Sea Grant Program to the National Science Foundation. He urged that the Sea Grant Program be reauthorized and supported with appropriations that strengthen Sea Grant research, education and extension functions.

Complementing these activities has been extensive correspondence with members of Congress on these and other priorities embodied in the *Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity*. For copies of testimony and related materials, contact Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org.

Great Lakes Day (continued from page 1)

outlines legislation and appropriations needed to support seven key goals for the Great Lakes:

- 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
- Enhancing the commercial and recreational value of our waterways

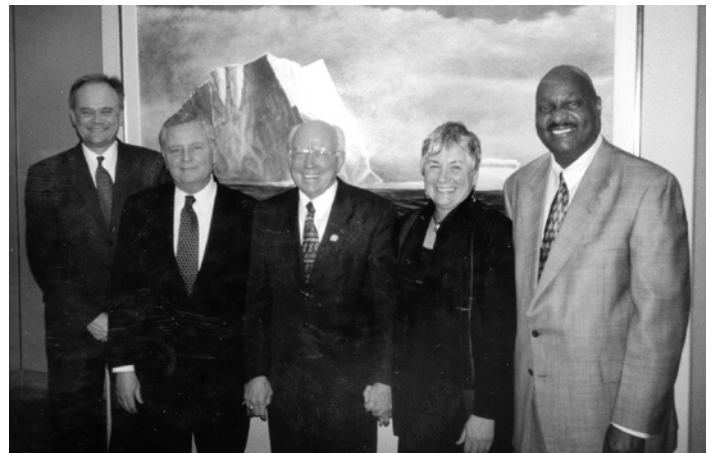
William Leary, a senior White House official with the Council on Environmental Quality, told the group that it's no longer enough to just clean up toxic pollution. Leary, who played a major role in developing large-scale restoration plans for the Everglades and Chesapeake Bay, said the nation needs to undo past mistakes – such as filling in wetlands – and take active measures to restore the integrity of whole ecosystems.

During the Commission-sponsored issues briefing, Tom Skinner, administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, laid out some ambitious goals his agency has

set for the Great Lakes, including a target of having all 31 Areas of Concern delisted by 2025. He was joined by John Mills, Director General, Ontario Region, Environment Canada.

Other speakers included Chris Jones, director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; Dick Munson, executive director of the Northeast-Midwest Institute; and Joy Mulineux, director of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force.

Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.



Among the highlights of Great Lakes Day in Washington was a reception and dinner at the Canadian Embassy, where Commission leadership met with Canadian federal and provincial officials and a Great Lakes congressional leader. Above, from left, host Peter Boehm, the Embassy's Minister for Political and Public Affairs; Vice chair Sam Speck; Rep. Vernon Ehlers (Mich.); Immediate Past Chair Irene Brooks; and Chairman Nat Robinson.

Commission unveils plan to “Restore the Greatness”

Calling for bold action to undo a legacy of misuse, the Great Lakes Commission unveiled the 2002 *Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity* at Great Lakes Day in Washington March 14. The full document is available at www.glc.org/docs/GLprogram2002.pdf.

The program, built around the seven key themes first articulated in last year's document, calls for a series of congressional actions to “Restore the Greatness” and promote a clean environment, prosperous economy and high quality of life for citizens of the Great Lakes region.

“The Great Lakes are the crown jewels of the world's fresh waters and hold the key to economic prosperity, environmental health and quality of life for tens of millions of residents,” said Chairman Nat Robinson. “They've come a long way since they were declared ‘dead or dying’ three decades ago but much work remains to be done.”

This is the second iteration of the *Great Lakes Program for Environmental and Economic Prosper-*

ity, originally introduced last year. Updated for the second session of the 107th Congress, the program forms the basis of the Commission's advocacy efforts for the coming year.

“Our annual legislative and appropriations priorities offer a blueprint for basin restoration efforts,” said Mike Donahue, Commission president/CEO. “We were pleased to see that Congress embraced many of these goals last session and we hope to build on that success in the current one.”

The *Great Lakes Program* has been endorsed by the Great Lakes Commission's Board of Directors on behalf of its eight member states. Its provisions build upon the many federal authorities, regional agreements and strategic plans associated with individual and collective members of the Great Lakes community and call for applying sustainable development principles in the use, management and protection of water, land and other natural resources. See www.glc.org/announce/02/02-03glprogram.html or contact Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.

Québec, Cleveland prepare to host Commission delegates

A “look ahead” is the theme of the upcoming [Great Lakes Commission Semiannual Meeting](#), May 6-8 in Québec City, Québec.



Commission Chairman Nat Robinson discusses regional priorities with André Boisclair, Québec Minister of State for the Environment and Water, at the opening of the province's new Chicago office last fall. Québec environmental and water issues will be showcased at the upcoming Semiannual Meeting in Québec City.

Titled “Our Lakes, Our River, Our Future,” the meeting will examine current issues and trends to consider what can be done to influence the future state of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system. Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr. (U.S. Navy - ret.), head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, will be among

the keynote speakers.

The host Québec delegation has arranged for a number of outstanding tours on May 5-6, giving delegates the opportunity to take in a variety of cultural, historical, natural and maritime attractions, including Old Québec City, the Charlevoix region and the Groupe Océan Shipyard.

Meanwhile, preparations are underway for the Commission's Annual Meeting Oct. 14-15 at the Sheraton in Cleveland, Ohio. Plans call for a local tour and opening reception on Oct. 14, with the business meeting taking place the following day. A Commission-sponsored reception will welcome attendees to the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC) Oct. 16-18, immediately following the Annual Meeting. Start making plans now to attend!

For information, call 734-665-9135 or e-mail glc@glc.org.

New staff, Sea Grant fellow, join Commission

Four new staff members recently joined the Great Lakes Commission.

Gary Overmier is a project manager in Resource Management, overseeing activities related to the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. Previously an assistant director of the University of Toledo's Legal Institute of the Great Lakes, he has a wealth of experience in areas related to agriculture, erosion control and nonpoint source pollution issues.

Rebecca (Becky) Lameka is a program specialist in Resource Management, working on the Water Resources Management Decision Support System project. Most recently a California State Sea Grant Fellow with the California Resources Agency, she has extensive experience in coastal and marine policy.

Kevin Yam is a program specialist in Communications and Information Management, and will contribute to the Commission's Geographic Information System (GIS) and Beachcast projects. Winner of the Commission's [2001 Carol A. Ratza Memorial Scholarship](#), Yam is experienced in using GIS for land use planning and for watershed and waste management.

Dr. Thomas Jabusch, a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota, is the Great Lakes Commission-Sea Grant Fellow for 2002-03.

With a strong science background and interest in policy and communications, Jabusch will support the Commission in multiple areas, including strategic and Great Lakes restoration planning.

Finally, Diane Kozlowski, a project manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Buffalo District, recently concluded a 60-day assignment with the Commission. Under a leadership program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, she provided technical assistance to the St. Clair/St. Clair River Management Plan and supported the Corps' Remedial Action Plan assistance program in Ohio.

Donahue sworn in as adviser to Corps commander

Commission President/CEO Mike Donahue was sworn in as a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Environmental Advisory Board at the board's April 11 meeting in Rock Island, Ill. The board advises the Corps' Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, shown here with Donahue, on national policy directions and environmentally sustainable solutions to engineering and economic challenges. Photo: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District.



Great Lakes Basin Program awards 34 new grants

Thirty-four projects, totaling more than \$715,000, have been selected to receive funding under the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control for FY2002. These projects address shoreline and streambank stabilization, urban erosion control, stormwater issues and agricultural conservation practices.

Of the 34 grants, nine are demonstration projects, 15 are for program/technical assistance and 10 focus on information/education. Among them are soft engineering installations along rivers and shorelines in Great Lake states, programs to educate local officials on the benefits of soft engineering projects, assistance for citizens

and local officials in instituting stormwater and urban erosion controls, prescribed grazing and buffer installation projects in rural areas, and erosion control on rural construction sites.

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 216 projects and invested more than \$5.9 million since the program's inception in 1991.

Contact: Gary Overmier, garyo@glc.org.

Commission Briefs

Commission to assist on UNESCO water project



The Great Lakes Commission, through its Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN), is serving as a technical consultant for a new “Water Portal of the Americas” international initiative. The portal will be an extensive Internet library offering profiles of each country in the Americas, along with the state of their freshwater resources and ecosystems.

Given its success in linking a binational community via the web, GLIN is being used as a model for the portal design. Stage One of the site will focus on data from the World Water Assessment Program (WWAP), a United Nations project to assess the status of water resources, identify critical issues, develop indicators, and help countries enhance their own assessment capacity. The portal and first edition

of the WWAP’s World Water Development Report will be launched in March 2003 at the Third World Water Forum in Japan.

With funding from the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the project is being led by the Water Web Consortium, a collaborative network of web site operators and users of water information based at the Florida Center for Environmental Studies. GLIN is a founding member of the consortium.

The first meeting of the project’s technical advisory team was held Feb. 27-March 1 at UNESCO offices in Paris. Christine Manninen, project manager and webmaster for GLIN at the Great Lakes Commission, attended.

See www.waterweb.org or contact Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org.

Great Lakes - St. Lawrence mayors to meet in Québec

On June 12-14, Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Québec, will host the 16th annual conference of the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors. This year’s meeting, titled “Water: Driving Force of Economic Development,” will feature presentations by André Caillé, president of Hydro-Québec; the Honourable Herb Gray, chair of the Canadian Section of the International Joint Commission; and Jacques Baril, Québec transport minister.

On behalf of the association, Mayors’ Association president Denis Lapointe will present the Valleyfield Protocol, a formal position statement on selected water resource issues.

The Great Lakes Commission provides secretariat support to the association, in partnership with the St. Lawrence Economic Development Council (SODES). Contact: Karina Payant, 450-373-3238 or portval@rocler.qc.ca; or Steve Thorp, sthorp@glc.org.

Building consensus toward a national ANS agenda

The Great Lakes Commission is advocating a regional approach in building national invasive species (ANS) policy, as evidenced at a special session of 11th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species, Feb. 26-28 in Alexandria, Va.

In cooperation with the national ANS Task Force, the Commission brought together three other regional panels (Western, Gulf of Mexico and Northeast) to discuss ANS priorities in their

respective geographic areas and outline future directions for strengthening prevention and control efforts. Panel presentations were followed by a discussion on advancing a national agenda on the ANS issue, particularly with an eye toward reauthorizing the National Invasive Species Act. The Great Lakes Panel was recognized as a leading entity over the past decade in developing a model ANS policy. Contact: Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, shwayder@glc.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Poe Lock is named for Colonel Orlando Metcalfe Poe, the U.S. Army engineer who designed the original Poe Lock, at that time the world’s largest. The 800’x100’ lock opened in 1896, a few months after Poe died at the age of 63. It was replaced by the current lock, which opened in 1969. Source: *Seeing the Light, the Lighthouses of the Western Great Lakes*, by Terry & Sue Pepper.

Regulations or incentives:

How best to manage nonpoint pollution from animal feedlots?

Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter, The Sierra Club

Imagine the urine and feces of more than 16,000 people collected in a single site, mixed into a slurry, stored in open lagoons and then spread onto farm fields without any additional treatment. Now think about this happening with no enforceable standards or practices, no permitting process and, in fact, no requirement that environmental and public health agencies, much less the neighbors, even know about the existence of these facilities.

While no one would seriously suggest that the above scenario is acceptable, entirely voluntary programs for water pollution control from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) are virtually identical to this, with the same or even worse potential for environmental and public health threats.

CAFOs take manure and transform it into deadly wastes in quantities that overwhelm the

capacity of natural systems to absorb and deal with their effects. Water pollution, air pollution and the growing threat of antibiotic resistant bacteria are making it increasingly clear that these facilities pose enormous threats to public health and the environment.

Arguments against regulation claim that agricultural activities should be treated differently than all other potentially polluting activities. However, in an age where technology has totally transformed livestock raising, this argument does not hold up. A regulatory program that requires a CAFO operator to properly design and operate his/her facility and comply with good practices won't stop all pollution, but will give a better chance of preventing problems before they happen, and help us catch problems quickly when they inevitably appear.

POINT



Anne Woiwode is director of the Mackinac (Mich.) Chapter of The Sierra Club

Don Parrish, American Farm Bureau Federation

One-size-fits-all regulations, at the federal, state and local levels, place a heavy burden on individual farmers and distort the traditional structure of family farms. The expenses incurred to meet compliance with mandatory controls take a heavy toll on farm incomes and force farmers and ranchers to spread the cost of increased regulation over more units of production.

The unintended consequence is the inability of small- and medium-sized family farms to compete in a highly charged regulatory environment.

Although farming is always changing, changes to agriculture seem to be accelerating. Farmers receive about the same prices they did 20 years ago, yet costs for labor, machinery, land and other inputs have continued to rise.

Since the farmer does not control the price of the product he sells, he must control the cost

of production. As environmental regulations are placed on farms, these additional costs will likely stress farms and accelerate the need for larger, more cost-efficient operations.

Agriculture is supportive of the right mix of public policy tools that will enable farmers and ranchers to improve net farm income, enhance their economic opportunity and enhance the environment. With the proper mix of public and private resources, American agriculture can provide food and environmental security for this nation and much of the rest of the world.

Farm Bureau members support incentive-based approaches as the best way to manage nonpoint pollution from animal feedlots. Implementing incentive-based programs will pay significant long-term dividends by improving water quality and protecting family farms.

counterpoint



Don Parrish is senior director of regulatory relations for the American Farm Bureau Federation

Whitman announces Great Lakes Strategy

Responding to calls for a comprehensive approach to Great Lakes issues, the federal/state U.S. Policy Committee has issued a wide-ranging plan to protect and restore the Great Lakes.

Great Lakes Strategy 2002: A Plan for the New Millennium was unveiled April 2 by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman. The plan identifies major basinwide environmental issues and establishes common goals for federal, state, and tribal agencies to work toward.

"The U.S. Policy Committee is to be commended for its efforts in developing the Great Lakes Strategy," said Commission President/CEO Mike Donahue, who attended the announcement at the NOAA Lake Michigan Field Station in Muskegon, Mich. "It provides a very useful, consensus-based list of goals and action items that will help move forward restora-

tion plans for the Great Lakes ecosystem."

The strategy will provide a means to coordinate the efforts of the many agencies involved with restoring and protecting the Great Lakes, and help the United States fulfill responsibilities under the U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Developed through a three-year effort with extensive public input, it articulates a shared, long-range vision for the lakes and establishes a list of goals and target dates for achieving them.

The U.S. Policy Committee is comprised of senior federal, state and tribal officials responsible for Great Lakes environmental programs. It identifies strategic environmental goals and priorities for the U.S. portion of the Great Lakes.

See www.epa.gov/glnpo/gls/index.html or contact Vicki Thomas, thomas.vicki@epa.gov.

Canada bans bulk water exports from Great Lakes

In a move intended to protect its freshwater resources, the Canadian government has enacted a ban on bulk water removals from its boundary waters, including the Great Lakes.

The ban, passed by Parliament in December, prohibits bulk removals from the more than 300 lakes and rivers that form, cross or straddle the Canada-U.S. border. It also will set in place a licensing regime for boundary waters projects

such as dams, obstructions or other works.

Regulations to enforce the new legislation are being developed by Canadian federal agencies and are expected to be available for public review shortly.

The legislation amends Canada's International Boundary Waters Treaty Act, which implements the 1909 Canada-U.S. Boundary Waters Treaty.

Gray, Schornack appointed to IJC chairs

The Right Hon. Herb Gray, Canada's longest-serving member of the House of Commons, and Dennis Schornack, a top adviser to Michigan Gov. John Engler, have been appointed as the respective chairs of the Canadian and United States sections of the International Joint Commission.

Gray, who resigned his post as Deputy Prime Minister to

take the IJC position, has a record 39 years, six months and 29 days of continuous service in the House of Commons, winning 13 straight elections since 1962. Schornack, previously Engler's special adviser for strategic initiatives, played an active role in negotiations for Annex 2001 to the Great Lakes Charter and served on the board of directors of the Great Lakes Protection Fund.

Schornack replaces outgoing U.S. Chair Thomas Baldini; Gray replaces former Canadian Chair Leonard Legault.

Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species
www.glc.org/ans/anspanel.html

Baltic Fellows reports and testimonials
www.epa.gov/glnpo/baltic/index.html

Friends of the Great Lakes
friendsofthegreatlakes.org/

Great Lakes Basin Program
www.glc.org/basin/glbp.html

Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity
www.glc.org/docs/GLprogram2002.pdf

U.S. Policy Committee Great Lakes Strategy
www.epa.gov/glnpo/gls/index.html

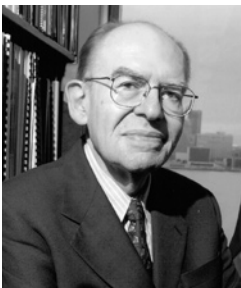
Waterweb Consortium
www.waterweb.org

Lake St. Clair project
www.glc.org/stclair

Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club
michigan.sierraclub.org

American Farm Bureau Federation
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Great Lakes Links & Publications



The Right Hon. Herb Gray



Dennis Schornack

Lakes expected to rise this year

The Great Lakes are expected to rebound this spring and summer, bringing some relief to boaters and commercial vessel operators who have contended with the hazards of low levels in recent years.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Environment Canada predict that Great Lakes water levels will be substantially higher this year compared to last summer. Lakes Michigan and Huron are expected to show the biggest increase, with a rise of eight inches over last year considered likely.

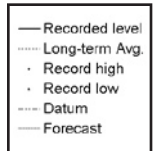
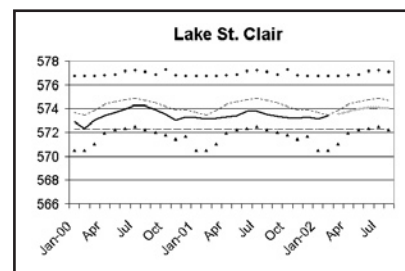
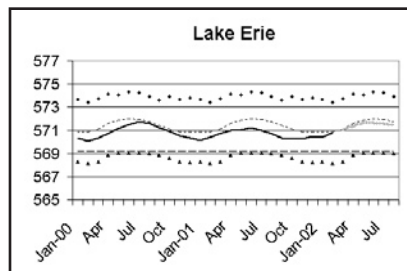
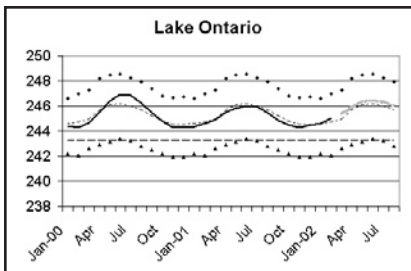
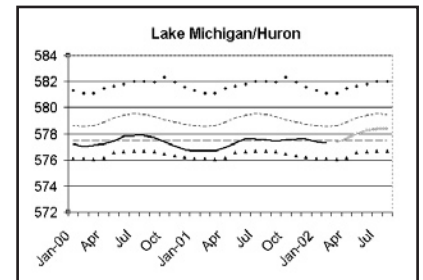
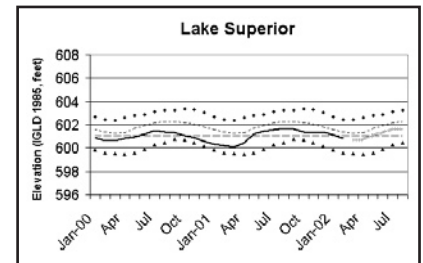
"Most mariners and recreational boaters should expect to see significant improvements in 2002 over 2001," said Roger Gauthier, a hydrologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Detroit District.

A wet fall and above-average precipitation in

January and February is credited for the turnaround, despite a mild winter that prevented the formation of a protective ice cover to prevent evaporation. Lakes Erie and St. Clair are expected to rise by four to five inches compared to last summer and Lake Superior is expected to rise slightly. Lake Ontario, the only lake with near-normal levels last year, is expected to remain unchanged.

Last year's levels were still an improvement over 2000, when the Great Lakes hit their lowest levels since the early 1960s. Gauthier attributed the low levels to several years of below-average precipitation in the basin and mild winters that began with the last El Niño year of 1996-97.

Actual and projected lake levels: 2000-present



Charts: Keith Kompoltowicz, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Detroit District

Great Lakes Calendar

Water Resources Management Decision Support System: Project-wide Scenarios Workshop

May 15-16 2002, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Contact: Tom Crane, 734-665-9135, tcrane@glc.org

Water Quality Monitoring 2002: Building a Framework for the Future

May 20-23, 2002, Madison, Wisconsin
Contact: Dan Yates, 405-516-4972, dan@nwqmc.org

45th Annual Conference of the International Association for Great Lakes Research

June 2-6, 2002, Winnipeg, Man.
Contact: David Moss crop, 204-474-6603, David_Moss crop@umanitoba.ca

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

June 12-14, 2002, Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Québec
Contact: Karina Payant, 450-373-3238, portval@rocker.gc.ca

Coastal Zone Canada: Managing Shared Waters

June 23-28, 2002, Hamilton, Ontario
Contact: secretariat, 416-926-1907, managing.shared.waters@pollutionprobe.org

Integrated Transboundary Water Management Conference

July 23-26, 2002, Traverse City, Mich.
Contact: Jon Bartholic, 517-353-3742, bartholi@msu.edu

Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting

Oct. 14-15, 2002, Cleveland, Ohio
Contact: Mike Donahue, 734-665-9135, mdonahue@glc.org

State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC)

Oct. 16-18, 2002, Cleveland, Ohio
Contact: Paul Horvatin, 312-353-2117, horvatin.paul@epamail.epa.gov

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 734-665-9135 or kirkh@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

That was THEN – This is NOW!



Prior to March 2001, about the only folks publicly talking about the need for a regionwide, comprehensive plan for restoring the Great Lakes was the Great Lakes Commission membership. To heighten awareness and jump-start a regional strategic discussion about the need to develop a consensus-based policy and legislative funding strategy, we launched our *Great Lakes Program to Ensure*

Environmental and Economic Prosperity at our 2001 Congressional Breakfast. That was THEN!

Since March 2001, our Environmental and Economic Prosperity initiative has generated broad and varied discussion among regional policymakers, practitioners, politicians and the general public. Clearly, we have significantly shaped and contributed to the discussion and debate on what it will take to restore our Great Lakes. We have got people talking, focused, motivated and inspired for action!

At our 2002 Congressional Breakfast, the single most repeated mantra was that NOW, more than ever, is THE time for a regional restoration plan to be embraced by the Great Lakes community. What a difference a year makes! The groundwork has been laid: consensus on the need for a regional restoration plan is undisputed. The Great Lakes Commission, in conjunction with our partners, will continue to play a critical leadership role in coordinating efforts to develop a Great Lakes Restoration Plan. NOW is the time to move forward! If not the Commission – who? If not NOW – when? We can do it and we will!

NATHANIEL E. ROBINSON

Chairman of the Board
Great Lakes Commission



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400 Fourth Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

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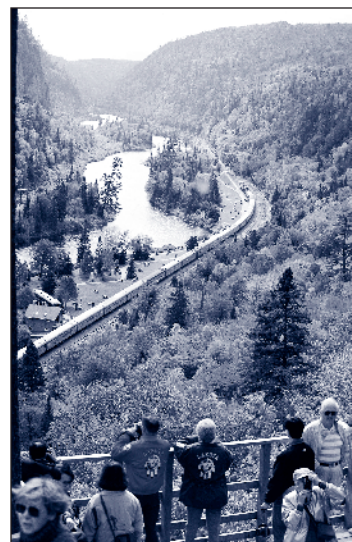
Time to update your subscription?

If you have moved, changed jobs or no longer wish to receive the Advisor, please contact Marilyn Ratliff at 734-665-9135 or mratliff@glc.org.

Where in the Great Lakes?

Guess the location pictured in this Great Lakes-St. Lawrence photo, and you could win a prize! (The passenger train is a clue.) Send your guess via e-mail to kirkh@glc.org along with your name, address and daytime

phone number (or call Kirk Haverkamp at 734-665-9135). All correct responses received by May 31 will be entered into a drawing. The winner will receive his/her choice of a Great Lakes Commission t-shirt or beach towel, or a \$10 credit toward the purchase of a Commission publication.



The location of last issue's "Where in the Great Lakes?" photo was Le Chateau Frontenac, in Québec City, site of our upcoming semiannual meeting! The contest winner was Léonce Naud, research officer with the National Emblems Office in Québec City. Thank you to all who participated!

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