



Advisor

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Getting down to business: 2001 semiannual meeting

Calling it a “roll-up-your sleeves and work session,” Chair Nathaniel E. Robinson welcomed delegates to the Great Lakes Commission’s Semiannual Meeting May 15-16 in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Titled, “Ensuring Environmental and Economic Prosperity,” the meeting gave representatives of the eight states and two provinces, U.S. and Canadian government officials and other interested parties plenty of opportunities to tackle issues facing the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region. Commissioners approved a slate of nine resolutions calling for action on a wide range of Great Lakes initiatives; participated in special panel sessions that explored two of the most significant challenges facing the region, oil and gas drilling under the lakes and water resources management; toured two federal environmental research laboratories, the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory and the USGS Great Lakes Science Center; and met with staff in breakout sessions for updates on Commission initiatives.

“Never has there been more to celebrate as we come together,” Vice Chair Sam Speck told the group. “Never have the opportunities that face us been greater. And never has our work been more important than it is right now.”

As examples, he pointed toward the progress made on the Annex 2001 water management agreement and signs that Congress may be ready to consider a Great Lakes protection plan modeled after the one recently passed for the Florida Everglades.

Keynote speaker Tracy Mehan, chair of the host Michigan Delegation, urged delegates to be ambitious in their goals for the region. Speaking on the “Restore the Greatness” theme laid out in the Commission’s Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity, Mehan pointed to its seven priorities: cleaning up toxic hot spots, shutting the door on invasive species, controlling nonpoint source pollution, restoring and conserving wetlands and critical coastal habitat, ensuring sustainable use of water resources, strengthening our decision support capability, and enhancing the commercial and recreational value of our waterways.

Chair Robinson called on the delegates to make a personal commitment to those themes. He urged each to write down the “story” of what they are doing personally to advance those seven priorities, and bring that story to the annual meeting this fall.

“I want you to ask yourself, ‘what is it I can do, what am I going to do, to contribute to the process so that, individually and collectively, we can succeed?’” he said.

Breakout sessions addressed ongoing initiatives and emerging issues in each of the Commission’s major program areas. The Transportation and Sustainable Development session featured a presentation on land use and sustainability, the Resource Management session examined recent Supreme Court decisions on wetlands, Environmental Quality staff discussed restoring and delisting Great Lakes Areas of Concern, and the Communications and Information Management staff offered an overview of the upcoming Congressional Staff Tour and an update on the Great Lakes Information

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Commission Chair Nat Robinson

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.

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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How I spent (part of) my summer vacation

I recently had the good fortune to spend a “working vacation” aboard *Le Levant*, the French luxury cruise ship that’s helping lead the remarkable revival of the Great Lakes cruise industry. In return for hour-long daily lectures to a friendly and receptive audience, I enjoyed eight days of French cooking, an elegantly appointed stateroom, and a front row seat that took me to all five Great Lakes with stops at Toronto, Niagara Falls, Windsor, Little Current, the Soo, Mackinac Island, Saugatuck and Chicago. Yes, it was a tough job but as they say, someone’s got to do it. . .

I spent much of the week on the top deck, absolutely awe-struck by the immensity and beauty of the resource that surrounded me. I didn’t expect to have that type of reaction – after all, I’ve spent almost 20 years working on Great Lakes issues. Unfortunately, I’ve spent more time in airports, offices and windowless conference rooms than on the lakes themselves. Eight days on the water were just what I needed to reconnect with the lakes and fully appreciate the magnitude and importance of the stewardship responsibility entrusted to the Great Lakes Commission and its partners.

It occurred to me that the future of this region – its environmental and economic prosperity – is fundamentally linked to the personal connection our elected officials and policymakers must have with the lakes themselves. For example, I challenge any one of them at the federal, state or provincial level to:

- watch a 1,000-footer glide silently through the Poe Lock, or a salty through the Welland . . . and tell me our world-class maritime industry doesn’t deserve a world-class infrastructure; or

- ply the waters of Lake St. Clair, its beaches teeming with swimmers and its water with boaters . . . and tell me our “sixth Great Lake” doesn’t deserve the attention the other five receive; or

- venture into the international inland sea we call Lake Superior . . . and tell me we don’t need to treasure and cultivate our relationship with Canada; or

- sail past the great, water-dependent economies of Toronto, Cleveland, Detroit and Chicago . . . and tell me we can

afford to entertain notions of exporting the lifeblood of this region; or

- experience firsthand the industrial legacy we call “Areas of Concern” . . . and tell me that it’s okay for the cleanup

to take decades.

I’m convinced that fostering a personal connection between our leadership and our lakes is the only way progress will be made. Only then can passion and unrelenting commitment replace the complacency, posturing and turf protection that we see far too often in the public arena when issues become abstractions.

I’m not suggesting that our region’s elected officials and policymakers all need an eight-day cruise to establish or rediscover their connection to the lakes. But it’s up to all of us to make sure that lakes’ issues are more than just a litany of abstractions on a long list of competing policy priorities. Let’s not hesitate to suggest that the Great Lakes must be their top priority. Offer them opportunities to “reconnect” with the resource, and let a day or two on the lakes take care of the rest.



Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.

“The future of this region...is fundamentally linked to the personal connection our elected officials and policymakers must have with the lakes themselves.”

Resolutions address key regional priorities

Commissioners approved nine resolutions at the 2001 Semiannual Meeting, all outlining measures to ensure environmental and economic prosperity for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region. Ranging from resource management and environmental protection to transportation and sustainable development, the resolutions provide a basis for Commission advocacy efforts in the coming months.

Harbor maintenance tax and trust fund

Calls for the elimination of the U.S. Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) and Trust Fund, given that the HMT discourages the use of waterborne transportation in favor of more polluting alternatives and diverts cargo from Great Lakes ports. Calls on the U.S. government to resume its historical role in funding dredging operations and general harbor maintenance.

Border entry rules for recreational boats

Urges the U.S. Customs Service and the Immigration and Naturalization Service to simplify rules and procedures that deter recreational boats from crossing the U.S./Canada border. Recommendations include increasing the locations where boaters may obtain entry forms and standardizing administrative procedures among Port of Entry offices.

Beneficial use of dredged material

Urges making beneficial use (rather than disposal) of dredged material a policy priority. Notes that most dredged material is suitable for such uses as habitat restoration, landscaping, land reclamation and as aggregate for making cement and glass. Recognizes that advances in technology and risk assessment allow safe and beneficial uses of contaminated material.

Ballast water management for ANS prevention and control

Calls for the establishment of ballast water criteria to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic nuisance species and for the development of uniform regulations, guidelines, best management practices and treatment technologies to apply to all commercial vessels in the Great Lakes-St.

Lawrence system. Urges more funding for ballast water monitoring and to develop technologies for ballast water management. It also applauds the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species for its development of a ballast water policy statement and endorses associated principles.

Reauthorization of the 1996 Farm Bill

Calls on Congress to reauthorize certain U. S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service programs as part of the next Farm Bill and to authorize and provide \$15 million in new funds for the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. Supports a stronger federal commitment to programs that reward stewardship practices through voluntary, incentive-based approaches on private lands.

Effective environmental monitoring programs in the Great Lakes basin

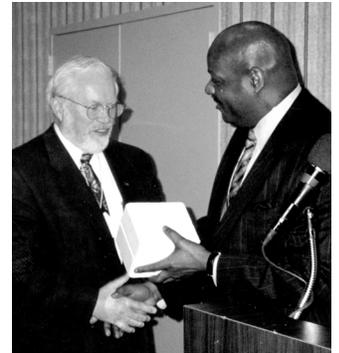
Calls on Congress and federal agencies to maintain adequate resources for monitoring programs that support vital environmental protection and resource management efforts in the Great Lakes basin. Notes the critical role monitoring plays in managing and protecting natural resources and the environment.

Federal support for restoration and delisting of Great Lakes Areas of Concern

Urges Congress to reaffirm the federal commitment to resolve pollution problems in Areas of Concern (AOCs) designated under the U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The resolution notes that remediation plans for many of the 31 AOCs in U.S. waters are nearing the implementation phase and require funding to restore beneficial uses and, ultimately, delist the sites.

Spill reporting in the St. Clair River-Lake St. Clair-Detroit River corridor

Calls for development of a comprehensive binational water quality monitoring system to provide accurate and timely data needed to protect public health and promote commercial and recreational uses in the corridor.



Dr. Frank Quinn, left, chief hydrologist at NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, is presented with the Commission's Outstanding Service Award by Chair Nat Robinson at the 2001 Semiannual Meeting. Quinn was recognized for his research contributions and policy coordination efforts throughout decades of work in partnership with the Commission and on behalf of the Great Lakes region.

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Semiannual Meeting Highlights

Four perspectives on Great Lakes drilling

A special session titled “Oil and Gas Drilling Under the Great Lakes” provided a look at some of the issues involved in directional drilling from the perspectives of government, private sector and citizen experts.

The panel, moderated by Dr. Frank Kudrna, chair of the Illinois Delegation, featured Thomas Wellman, permitting unit supervisor of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality; Mindy Koch, chief of the Land and Mineral Services Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Michael Barratt, former president of the Michigan Oil and Gas Association; and Hans Voss, executive director of the Michigan Land Use Institute.

Wellman outlined the history and regulatory background of directional drilling under the Great Lakes in Michigan, including the 13 wells already drilled under lakes Michigan and Huron. Noting that Michigan prohibits offshore drilling in the Great Lakes themselves, he cited a 1997 Michigan Environmental Science Board report that found that onshore directional drilling posed “little to no risk” of contamination to the lake bottoms, though there would be greater risk to the shoreline where the wellheads are located.

Koch said the DNR has been meeting with environmental and conservation groups, industry, and local and state governments to develop a recommendation on whether to lift the state’s moratorium on new gas and oil leases under the Great Lakes, in effect since 1997. She expects the DNR will ask the policymaking Natural Resources Commission for a decision this summer.

Voss called for extending the moratorium on new leases, saying production sites adversely impact communities and neighboring property. Noting that local communities have no control over the state permitting process, he urged that township and county governments and residents be given the opportunity to participate. “If you live in a residential area ... and your next-door neighbor decides to lease an oil well and perhaps a processing station, your quality of life is going to be impacted,” he said.

Barratt noted the state already has 3,800 directional wells drilled under rivers, wetlands, critical dunes, buildings and other sites. He favorably compared the environmental risks to ones already presented by such things as petroleum transportation via Great Lakes shipping or the oil and gas pipelines under the Straits of Mackinac.

See related Point-Counterpoint in this issue.

Getting down to business, continued from page 1

Network and related web projects.

It was only the second semiannual meeting ever held in Ann Arbor, headquarters of the Great Lakes Commission. The Michigan Delegation was the sponsor, along with the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes and the Michigan Department

of Agriculture. The meeting was immediately followed by a symposium on aquatic nuisance species prevention and control May 16-17, and a meeting of the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species on May 18, both in Ann Arbor. Contact: Dr. Michael J. Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.

Resolutions, continued from page 3

Monitoring plan for binational Great Lakes coastal wetlands

Urges member jurisdictions and other interested parties to take an active role in developing the Great Lakes coastal wetlands monitoring plan recently funded by the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency. Calls on Congress to support the plan through adequate funding of Clean Water Act programs and Great Lakes laboratories, the biennial State of the Great Lakes Ecosystem Conference and related initiatives. Contact: Dr. Michael J. Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.



From left to right: Thomas Wellman, Mike Barratt, Hans Voss and Mindy Koch

mark your calendar

Great Lakes Congressional Tour

Aug. 14-16, 2001
Regional

Recreational Boating and Dredging Symposium

July 16, 2001
Cleveland, Ohio

Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting and associated events

Oct. 9-12, 2001
Milwaukee, Wis.

Semiannual Meeting Highlights

Water management is special focus

An overview of efforts to assess, monitor and manage water use in the Great Lakes basin was provided during a panel session, "Safeguarding Our Water Resources," at the 2001 semiannual meeting.

Irene Brooks, immediate past chair of the Great Lakes Commission, gave a progress report on Annex 2001 of the Great Lakes Charter, which outlines a new set of binding agreements and principles for managing the waters of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence system.

Brooks said the states and provinces are working to resolve issues raised during the draft proposal's public comment period last winter. "I think we're pretty close to an agreement on what Annex 2001 should be," she said. (Great Lakes governors and premiers approved the proposal June 18; see related item on page 10).

On a related issue, Richard Bartz, director of the Division of Water of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, discussed progress in creating a Water Resources Management Decision Support System for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system. The two-year project, begun in August 2000, will yield a status assessment of the resource, an enhanced inventory of

usage information and new understanding of the ecological impacts of water withdrawal, all of which will provide the technical basis for sound water management decisions.

Scott Christilaw, of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, profiled an ongoing project to detail water supplies, use and demand at the sub-basin level within local watersheds in Ontario. The project will identify current "hot spots" and likely future centers of high demand in the province.

Also, Thomas Baldini, U.S. Chair of the International Joint Commission, reported on the new International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study. Designed to assess the impact of the current regulatory system, the U.S.-Canada effort is the first comprehensive examination of water levels, flows and management practices in the system in 50 years.



Commission Chair Nat Robinson, with an emphasis on punctuality, presided over a productive, well-attended meeting with more than 120 delegates, observers and other participants present.

Kudrna receives Lifetime Achievement Award

The Great Lakes Commission bestowed its highest honor on Dr. Frank L. Kudrna at May's Semiannual Meeting, presenting the longtime Commissioner with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

Kudrna, who was appointed to the Commission in 1978, received the award from Chair Nat Robinson to a standing ovation during after-dinner ceremonies May 15 in Ann Arbor.

His colleagues on the Board of Directors cited Kudrna's selfless commitment to the Commission and the entire region over the years and credited his leadership and guidance in the organization's emergence as a major binational research, policy and advocacy organization.

Accepting the award, Kudrna urged his fellow Commissioners to maintain the balance between environmental and economic issues that has earned the Commission a reputation as "an honest broker

of Great Lakes issues" and to take a large scale approach to Great Lakes initiatives, such as the one now being pursued for the Everglades.

He also called for the Commission and its partners to press ahead with the proposed Great Lakes Center in Ann Arbor, promote regional candidates for important national appointments, bring full Canadian participation to the Commission and maintain contact with Commission "alumni" to draw upon their knowledge and expertise.

A former Commission chair and presently the head of the Illinois Delegation, Kudrna is only the second person to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award, the first being former Michigan Attorney General Frank Kelley in 1995. Kudrna is Chief Executive Officer of the civil engineering firm Kudrna and Associates, Ltd. in Westmont, Ill.



Commissioner Frank Kudrna, left, receives his lifetime achievement award from Commission Chair Nat Robinson during a presentation at the Michigan League on the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor.

Board of Directors looks ahead

Chair Nat Robinson convened the Commission's Board of Directors on May 14 and the meeting had a decided emphasis on positioning the organization for future challenges. Dr. Mike Donahue, president/CEO, announced staff expansion plans to enhance Commission communications, advocacy and technical capabilities (see related stories).

The board adopted a FY2002 budget of approximately \$6 million, following Donahue's announcement that 52 distinct projects have been funded for the year thus far, with more than \$1.2 million received in the last eight weeks alone. The board also accepted a consultant's

final report on an endowment fund feasibility study and agreed to initiate, over time, an endowment fund campaign and annual giving program. The intent is to augment member dues and project-specific funds, and enhance advocacy efforts and special projects.

The board also applauded progress since the release of the Commission's "Great Lakes Program for Environmental and Economic Prosperity". Legislative and appropriations priorities are being advocated via targeted correspondence and communications with Congress and the administration. Contact: Mike Donahue, mtonahue@glc.org.

Legislators urged to support Commission priorities

Moving forward aggressively to advance the legislative and appropriations initiatives embodied in its "Great Lakes Program for Environmental and Economic Prosperity," the Great Lakes Commission is urging key members of Congress to endorse the program's 39 priority

actions. Key members of the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation, along with chairs and ranking members of relevant committees, have been contacted to seek their support for specific legislation and appropriations.

All 39 priority actions advance the Great Lakes Program's seven themes: cleaning up toxic hot spots, shutting the door on invasive species, controlling nonpoint pollution sources, restoring and conserving wetlands and 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.

Among many others, specific legislative and

appropriations priorities include:

- \$50 million annually to U.S. EPA to restore beneficial uses at 31 U.S. toxic "hot spots" or Areas of Concern around the Great Lakes.
- \$30 million to NOAA for Great Lakes Coastal Restoration Grants for site cleanup, stormwater control, wetland restoration, buffer/greenway acquisition and related activities.
- \$6.5 million in FY2002 to begin construction of a new lock at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.
- \$3 million to the Great Lakes Sea Grant Program for aquatic nuisance species prevention and control through development of commercial ballast technology.
- \$35 million to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to purchase long-term easements to return agricultural lands to wetlands in the Great Lakes region.
- \$250 million for the Clean Water Act, Section 319 program - the nation's primary tool for addressing nonpoint source pollution.

"Commission advocacy initiatives are fully underway and I urge all members of the Great Lakes Delegation – and key House and Senate leadership – to embrace our priorities," states Commission Chair Nat Robinson. "The region's environmental and economic prosperity is at stake and our Great Lakes Program offers a solid foundation for future progress."

Contact: Mike Donahue, mtonahue@glc.org.



Left to right: Henri Selles, of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Immediate Past Chair Irene Brooks and Commissioner Larry Macklin use special glasses to examine 3-D displays of bathymetric data of the Great Lakes during a tour of the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory during the semiannual meeting in Ann Arbor. A second group toured the the USGS Great Lakes Science Center. These labs play a key role in providing scientific support for policy and management decisions.

Back to the future on aquatic nuisance species prevention and control

With the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (NISA) due to expire in 2002, public and private stakeholders across the country are preparing for the Act's reauthorization. The Great Lakes Commission, in cooperation with the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS), is spearheading an initiative to assess how far we have come and where we need to head after a decade of experience under this federal legislation. As part of this initiative, a symposium, *Looking Forward, Looking Back*, was held May 15-16 in Ann Arbor, Mich. with the support of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-Great Lakes National Program Office.

Focusing on ballast water management and "no ballast on board" issues, the event attracted leading ANS experts and an audience of nearly 100 stakeholders involved in prevention and control initiatives.

The symposium examined fundamentals of the Act and featured progress reports, from state and federal perspectives, on the current provisions of NISA under the following categories: institutional framework/implementation, research and monitoring, ballast water and standards, information and education, and non-ballast prevention and control. Among many others, the following preliminary recommendations were developed as guidance for the reauthorization of NISA:

- Enhance cooperation between the United States and Canada to account for jurisdictional

challenges posed by the ANS problem in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system.

- Empower regional and state entities with the authority and resources needed to implement the legislative goals and mandates established under NISA.

- Elevate the following priorities with NISA-authorized funding: 1) ballast water treatment technology research, including demonstration projects and full-scale applications; 2) rapid response tools to contain or eradicate invasions; and 3) ecological surveys to analyze trends, gauge success and support early-detection monitoring.

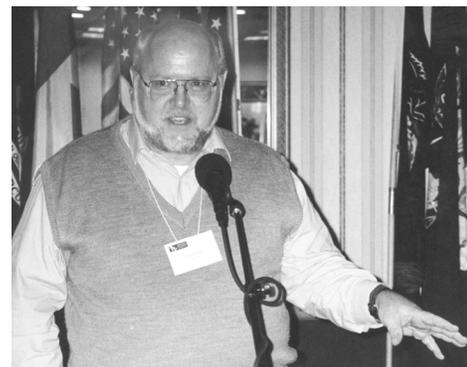
- Set performance-based ballast water standards that can be enforced on a national level.

- Establish wide-scale ANS information and education programs and define the role of such programs in targeting specific vectors.

- Identify harmful nonindigenous species and implement control plans more expeditiously, using best management practices to target high priority, non-ballast vectors.

- Create a national rapid response protocol as a guide for states and watersheds to use in mobilizing an emergency network equipped to contain new introductions.

Contact: Katherine Glassner-Shwayder, shwayder@glc.org.



Dave Reid, a senior physical scientist with the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Mich., addresses symposium attendees.

Great Lakes Congressional Tour - A Great Lakes Odyssey

On Aug. 14-16, 2001, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Geological Survey will sponsor a tour of the Great Lakes region for Congressional staff. Titled "A Great Lakes Odyssey," the tour is designed to attract key staff to the region to experience the splendor only the Great Lakes can offer. Participants will be briefed on key public policy issues, introduced to Great Lakes research aboard the USGS *Grayling* and NOAA *Shenon*, view sea lamprey control project sites,

and enjoy a stay at the historic Mackinac Island Grand Hotel. The event will highlight the environmental and economic value of the lakes, emphasize the importance of a strong federal/state partnership and discuss attendant federal program and appropriations needs. Taking part will be the Great Lakes Commission, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory and the USGS Great Lakes Science Center. Contact: Mike Quigley, quigley@glcrl.noaa.gov.

New coastal wetlands research RFP released

On behalf of the Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium, the Great Lakes Commission invites proposals for pilot projects to validate coastal wetland indicators relating to flora, fauna, landscape and physical features. Projects should also test incorporation of these indicators within a long-term scientific monitoring strategy for Great Lakes coastal wetlands. Up to \$300,000 is available to support this work in a 1-year project timeframe. Proposal deadline: Dec. 4, 2001. For more information, visit www.glc.org/monitoring/wetlands/ Contact: Ric Lawson, rlawson@glc.org.

Six join Commission staff

The Great Lakes Commission is pleased to announce a major staff expansion that will strengthen its advocacy, communications and technical support capabilities.



The Commission welcomed three new representatives at May's semiannual meeting. Front row from left, Sandy Smith was recently appointed a Commissioner from Pennsylvania, while Bill Carr and Maurice Boisvert are the respective new heads of the Ontario and Quebec delegations. Behind them are Commission President/CEO Mike Donahue and Chair Nat Robinson.

•Dr. Jon MacDonagh-Dumler is project manager in the Regional Coordination Program and will assume responsibility for maintaining relations with Congress and furthering the Commission's role as a leading advocate for the region. MacDonagh-Dumler brings a wealth of experience, including two decades in private industry and five years with the Institute for Environmental Toxicology at Michigan State University. He holds two degrees in chemistry from Wichita State University and a doctorate in resource management from MSU.

•Kirk Haverkamp is the new editor of the *Advisor*. Formerly assistant news editor of the *Romeo (Mich.) Observer*, he has a master's degree in journalism from Michigan State University. Contact: kirkh@glc.org.

•Jonathon Colman is webmaster for TEACH Great Lakes and the Commission's web site. He previously served with the Peace Corps in Burkina Faso, West Africa. Colman holds a bachelor's degree in scientific and technical

communication from Michigan Technological University. Contact: jcolman@glc.org.

•Elizabeth Moore, the 2001 Great Lakes Commission-Sea Grant Fellow, will work with experts from around the region on environmental quality and sustainable development goals. Formerly a graduate research associate with the Ohio Watershed Network of The Ohio State University Extension, she has a master's degree in natural resources from OSU. Contact: emoore@glc.org.

•Amy Morrow is a research associate providing support for the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. She has a bachelor's degree in natural resources from the University of Michigan.

•Dan Blake is a research fellow in resource management sponsored by the Edna Bailey Sussman Fund. He is pursuing dual master's degrees in public and natural resource policy at the University of Michigan. He previously wrote for *Greenwire* and the *National Journal* in Washington, D.C. Contact: dblake@glc.org.

"We're fortunate to secure the services of this very talented and experienced group of individuals," said Dr. Mike Donahue, Commission president/CEO. "They will dramatically enhance our regional leadership role in communications, advocacy and technical support." The Commission now has 32 employees, supported by a FY 2002 budget of approximately \$6 million.

York University student awarded Ratza scholarship



Kevin Yam, a master's student in planning in the Department of Environmental Studies at York University (Toronto, Ontario), is the winner of the 2001 Carol A. Ratza Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by the Great Lakes Commission. The scholarship will support Yam in his work as a research assistant at the York Center of Applied Sustainability in Toronto.

"My research interest is to explore various information and communication technologies in managing and monitoring the

natural and built environment," Yam says. "I am particularly interested in the integration of geospatial technologies with urban and environmental models, building of planning support systems, and facilitating communication and participation in the planning process."

For more about Kevin and his research, visit www.glc.org/announce/01/5-01yam.html.

The scholarship is in memory of Carol Ratza, a veteran employee of the Great Lakes Commission and a dedicated advocate for the Great Lakes. For more information or to donate to the scholarship fund, contact Mike Donahue, 734-665-9135 or mDONAHUE@glc.org.

Should we drill for oil and gas under the Great Lakes?

by Michael J. Barratt, former president, Michigan Oil and Gas Association

Residents of the entire Great Lakes region have recently seen quantum jumps in the price of energy. In Michigan, for example, gasoline prices hit \$2/gallon, natural gas prices increased 40 percent to 60 percent and propane prices have increased markedly.

Since Michigan produces only 4 percent of its crude oil demand and 30 percent of its natural gas, we need to find ways to both conserve and maintain our energy supply.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has proposed to lease Great Lakes bottomlands for the purpose of drilling wells onshore to locations under the Great Lakes. These wells may contain significant reserves to help Michigan have a secure energy supply.

Using a safe and proven technology known as directional drilling, it is possible to reach and produce these reserves with little to no effect on surrounding areas. Of the 13 wells in Michigan

drilled under Great Lake waters since 1979, there have been no spills, accidents or other incidents.

We now have a window of opportunity to use the existing infrastructure from those wells to develop additional reserves under the Great Lakes. Drilling pads, roads, pipelines and production facilities are in place, which can be used to drill new wells under the Great Lakes.

Besides energy security, the people of Michigan benefit from royalties paid to the state of Michigan, which are put into the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to develop and extend parks, and purchase wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas.

Let's encourage development of Michigan's bottomland resources in a safe and environmentally friendly way to ensure that Great Lakes waters and shorelines can be enjoyed by future generations and to make sure we have the energy supplies here to maintain our quality of life.

by Cameron Davis, Executive Director, Lake Michigan Federation

For economic, ecological and institutional reasons, horizontal oil and gas drilling (also known as directional drilling) under the Great Lakes is a practice whose time should not come any time soon. While a leak from drilling is unlikely to imperil Great Lakes water quality directly, it can cause a number of other effects that can't be undone.

Hydrogen sulfide, known to exist in lakebed oil and gas reserves, can escape – and has – causing far-reaching human health problems. Well-head and pipeline leaks can contaminate groundwater, wetlands and surface water, such as when a cracked pipeline caused evacuations in Crystal Falls, Mich., in November 1999.

Drilling can harm fragile shoreline habitat. When one quart of oil can contaminate 2 million gallons of drinking water, and reserves are expected to be too small to make a dent in the region's energy needs, the risk makes drilling a lose-lose proposition.

In Michigan, the state seeks to justify drilling

by arguing that millions of dollars in royalties go toward natural resource preservation. In the 1980s, however, oil and gas companies began to deduct post-production costs, resulting in revenue losses of \$12 million, according to the Michigan Land Use Institute. A 1998 report from the state itself found that Michigan oversight of leasing and royalty payments continues to be lax.

Drilling does not make sense institutionally because the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) promotes drilling while acting under the guise of objective regulator. In 1998 officials in the MDEQ Geological Survey Division, which oversees oil and gas drilling permits, lobbied the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission for support of Great Lakes horizontal drilling. If the state wants credibility on the drilling issue, it can't have it both ways.

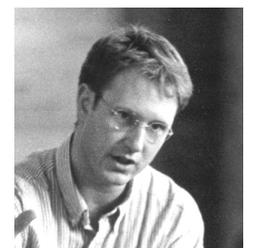
The bottom line about drilling under the Great Lakes: it's simply not worth the risk.

To read more, visit *The Lake Michigan Federation* web page at www.lakemichigan.org

POINT
POINT



counterpoint
counterpoint



These articles are presented as a service to Advisor readers and complement the panel discussion at the 2001 Semi-annual meeting. The views expressed are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily reflect those of the Great Lakes Commission or its member jurisdictions.

Governors and Premiers approve Great Lakes Charter Annex

Great Lakes governors and premiers, meeting June 18 in Niagara Falls, N.Y., committed to the development of “a new, common resource-based conservation standard” that will be applied to water withdrawal proposals.

The Great Lakes Charter Annex, also known as Annex 2001, directs that a new set of binding agreements be developed within three years to govern water management within the basin and that those agreements establish a decision-making standard to be applied to any proposals for new or increased water withdrawals from the basin.

The new standard will be based on the principals of preventing or minimizing loss of water from the basin; ensuring there are no significant adverse individual or cumulative

impacts on the region’s waters and water-dependent natural resources; demonstrating an improvement to such resources; and complying with all applicable laws and treaties. Among others, the annex also calls for development of an information-gathering system to support water management decisions; and a broad-based public participation program.

In a relation action, the governors adopted a resolution outlining a series of factors to be considered when reviewing proposals subject to the Water Resources Development Act of 1986.

For a copy and discussion of the Great Lakes Charter Annex, see www.cglg.org/projects/water/index.html. Contact: The Council of Great Lakes Governors, cglg@cglg.org.

Mayors call for Great Lakes-St. Lawrence restoration

The International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors has unanimously endorsed the notion of a large-scale, consensus-based restoration plan for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence ecosystem. The resolution was approved at the association’s 15th Annual Conference June 6 - 8 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Nathaniel E. Robinson, chair of the Great Lakes Commission, welcomed the mayors’ action. “We are delighted that the mayors, who represent Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

shoreline communities, recognize the need for a broad-based restoration plan that will achieve regional environmental and economic prosperity. The Great Lakes Commission looks forward to the partnership opportunity.”

The mayors also called for a moratorium on drilling for oil and gas under the Great Lakes and approved two resolutions echoing the Commission’s stance on simplified border entry rules for recreational boats and the need for federal funding to clean up Areas of Concern. Contact: Steve Thorp, sthorp@glc.org.

Lake Michigan monitoring networks linked

At its spring meeting near the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore May 21-22, the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council, a Great Lakes Commission-coordinated group of federal, state and tribal environmental monitoring agencies and other stakeholders, established a new initiative to link monitoring networks in the Lake Michigan basin.

The networks will be linked through 10 workgroups organized around specific topics such as groundwater, fisheries, aquatic nuisance species, wildlife, air, wetlands and land use. Each

workgroup will interact with existing networks, inventory monitoring activities and develop a strategic plan for the basin. The strategic plans will coordinate monitoring efforts among networks by standardizing methods, sharing data and integrating their individual monitoring approaches into an overall plan for the basin. Each will be based on State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference indicators.

Contact: Ric Lawson, rlawson@glc.org; or visit <http://wi.water.usgs.gov/lmmcc/>.



**Great Lakes Commission
Semiannual Meeting photos**
[http://www.glc.org/
announce/01/semi01photos.html](http://www.glc.org/announce/01/semi01photos.html)

**Great Lakes Commission res-
olutions**
[http://www.glc.org/about/
resolutions/resOct00.html](http://www.glc.org/about/
resolutions/resOct00.html)

**Great Lakes Program to
Ensure Environmental and
Economic Prosperity**
[www.glc.org/announce/01/3-
01glprogram.html](http://www.glc.org/announce/01/3-
01glprogram.html)

**Coastal Wetland request for
proposals**
[http://www.glc.org/monitoring/
wetlands/](http://www.glc.org/monitoring/
wetlands/)

**2001 Carol A. Ratzka
Memorial Scholarship**
[www.glc.org/announce/01/5-
01yam.html](http://www.glc.org/announce/01/5-
01yam.html)

Lake Michigan Federation
www.lakemichigan.org

**The Council of Great Lakes
Governors**
[www.cglg.org/projects/
water/index.html](http://www.cglg.org/projects/
water/index.html)

**Lake Michigan Monitoring
Coordination Council**
[http://wi.water.usgs.gov/
lmmcc/](http://wi.water.usgs.gov/
lmmcc/)

Great Lakes links & publications

Mehan tapped for EPA post

G. Tracy Mehan, III has been nominated by President Bush to be assistant administrator for water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. As director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Office of the Great Lakes, Mehan has served as chair of the Great Lakes Commission's Michigan Delegation and as the state's representative to the International Joint Commission.

Michigan Governor John Engler has appointed Keith G. Harrison, director of the DEQ's

Office of Special Environmental Projects, to be acting director of the Office of the Great Lakes. Harrison also will continue to head the Office of Special Environmental Projects.

The Office of the Great Lakes oversees protection and management of the Great Lakes by coordinating Michigan programs and policies and by cooperating with other states and the U.S. and Canadian federal governments. For more information, visit the Office of the Great Lakes web site at www.deq.state.mi.us/ogl/



Tracy Mehan

Three-year ballast study underway

A three-year multinational, multiagency study of the biological invasion risks posed by overseas vessels entering the Great Lakes began in May. The study examines the potential for foreign species to be introduced via vessels that declare no-ballast-on-board (NOBOB) and the effectiveness of ballast water exchanges in preventing new invasions.

The study is managed by the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory and the University of Michigan Cooperative Institute for Limnology and Ecosystem Research. Scientists will evaluate residual ballast water and sediment

in ships with "empty" ballast tanks with a special focus on eggs, cysts and spores that may lodge in the sediment. They will also monitor refilled ballast tanks in the Great Lakes to check for hatching organisms and will travel on ships bound from Europe to study the effectiveness of open-ocean ballast water exchanges in eliminating or reducing non-native species from ballast tanks.

Funding for the project includes a \$1.1 million grant from the Great Lakes Protection Fund, \$745,000 in U.S. federal funds and in-kind support from participating research institutions. Contact: Dave Reid, reid@glrl.noaa.gov.

Great Lakes Calendar

4th International Symposium on Sturgeon

July 8-13, 2001, Oshkosh, Wis.

Contact: Ronald M. Bruch, 920-424-3059, bruchr@dnr.state.wi.us

The Inaugural Conference of the United States Society for Ecological Economics

July 11-13, 2001, Duluth, Minn.

Contact: Sue Mageau, (218) 525-4781, conferenceinfo@ussee.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

Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting

August 4-9, 2001, Madison, Wis.

Contact: Nadine Lymn, 202-833-8773, nadine@esa.org

Great Lakes Congressional Tour - A Great Lakes Odyssey

Aug. 14-16, regional.

Contact: Mike Quigley, 734-741-2149, quigley@glrl.noaa.gov.

Ecological Sustainability of the Global Market Economy

August 23-25, 2001, Montreal, Quebec

Contact: Dr. Tom Naylor, 514-398-4828, naylor@leacock.lan.mcgill.ca

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 Kirk Haverkamp at 734-665-9135 or kirkh@glc.org.

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The Last Word

A CALL TO ACTION!

Focusing: Staying on target, on message



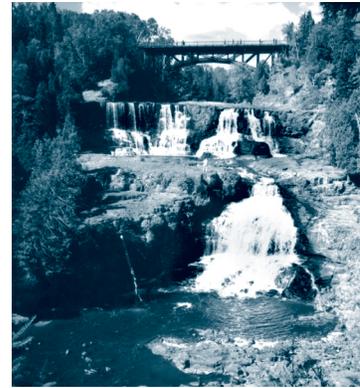
Telling our story: Individually and collectively!

To ensure environmental and economic prosperity for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region, we've got to act individually, as well as collectively.

No question about it -- every friend, supporter and partner of our shared vision must assume a personal and individual responsibility to help educate, advocate and market our story! Our story is about ensuring the greatness of the Great Lakes, but it is so much more than that. Our story is also about ensuring our environmental and economic prosperity, it's about preserving our proud tradition, it's about maintaining our rich natural resource heritage, and it's about improving our quality of life. Now, who wouldn't jump at the chance to listen to this great story, if only we have the courage to tell it?

Will you join the team and help transform our shared vision of environmental and economic prosperity into reality, or will you be a silent partner and do nothing? Ladies and gentlemen, that's the \$64,000 question. Are we going to be academic, or are we going to act?

NATHANIEL E. ROBINSON, CHAIR
Great Lakes Commission



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 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 July 25 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 underside of the Mackinac Bridge, looking north. The contest winner was Ron Kinnunen of Marquette, Mich. Thank you to all who participated!

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