



# Advisor

May/June 2004  
Volume 17, No.3

## 2004 Semiannual Meeting

### **“Freshwater seas” merit oceans of attention**

For an event focusing on the world’s greatest freshwater resource, the 2004 Semiannual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission had a distinctly salty air. From the theme, “Restoring the Greatness of our Freshwater Seas!” to a special session on the Great Lake’s place in national ocean policy, the meeting bore a particular emphasis on the Great Lakes’ kinship with the other great waters of the world.

“That’s how we need to look at our great resource,” said Commission Chair Sam Speck, referring to the theme in his opening remarks. “Not as individual lakes or regional bodies of water, but as freshwater seas of global significance.”

The meeting, May 3-4 in Cleveland, was held just two weeks after the release of the draft report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, whose recommendations focused in part on the role of the Great Lakes in national ocean policy. Dr. Paul Sandifer, chair of the Ocean Commission’s stewardship committee, led a panel discussion of the implications and opportunities of that report for the Great Lakes. Respondents included Tony MacDonald, executive director of the Coastal States Organization; Dr. Jeff Reutter, director of Ohio Sea Grant; and Dr. Tom Johnson, director of the Large Lakes Observatory at the University of Minnesota-Duluth (The Commission has since offered its own observations on the draft report; see editorial, page 2 and story, page 7).

The oceanic theme was also reflected in a presentation by Roger Gauthier, manager of the Commission’s Data and Information Management Program, on the Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS). This is a multifaceted monitoring network the Commission is helping to develop as part of the Integrated Ocean Observing System covering the coastal areas of the United States (see special insert, this issue).

The meeting, held in conjunction with the May 5-6 “Actions Toward a Sustainable Great Lakes” conference, marked the start of four days dedicated to the restoration, protection and sustainable use of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system (see story, page 4).

Commissioners unanimously approved five policy resolutions at the Semiannual Meeting, relating to a permanent barrier for the Chicago Sanitary and Ship canal; ballast water management needs; water security; groundwater monitoring and research; and navigation maintenance dredging (see story, page 5).

In another meeting highlight, Lt. Col. Thomas Magness, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Detroit District, reported on the status of the binational Great Lakes-St. Lawrence System Review Study. The binational, multiagency effort is assessing engineering, environmental and economic features of the system in order to

*continued on page 4*

## *In This Issue*

### **Features**

*Commission weighs in on U.S. Ocean Policy report*

*ANS Update: International Treaty on Ballast Water and Prospects for Domestic Legislation*

*Special insert: Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS)*

**News & Views . . . . .2**  
*President/CEO Mike Donahue*

**Commission Briefs . . . . .3**

**Point: counterpoint . . . . .9**

**Around the Lakes . . . . .10**

**Calendar . . . . .11**

**The Last Word . . . . .12**  
*Commission Chair Sam Speck*

*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.*

### Board of Directors

Samuel W. Speck (OH), Chair  
Thomas E. Huntley (MN), Vice Chair  
Pat Quinn (IL)  
John R. Goss (IN)  
Ken DeBeaussiaert (MI)  
Erin M. Crotty (NY)  
William J. Carr (ON)  
Cathleen Curran Meyers (PA)  
Michel Lafleur (QC)  
Todd Ambis (WI)

### President/Chief Executive Officer

Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.

### Advisor Editor

Kirk Haverkamp

### Program Managers

Thomas Crane, Resource Management  
Matt Doss, Environmental Quality  
Roger Gauthier, Data and Information Management  
Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, Regional Coordination  
Christine Manninen, Communications and Internet Technology  
Steve Thorp, Transportation and Sustainable Development

### Project Managers

Stuart Eddy, Katherine Glassner-Shwayder, Dave Knight, Ric Lawson, Gary Overmier, Victoria Pebbles, Tom Rayburn, Kevin Yam

### Program Specialists

Laura Blackburn, Jon Dettling, Karl Geil, Shannon Glutting, Christian Guenther, Kirk Haverkamp, John Hummer, Elizabeth Johnson, Laura Kaminski, Becky Lameka, Jennifer Read, Michael Schneider, Anne Sturm, Kevin Walters, Hao Zhuang

### Director of Research, Emeritus

Albert G. Ballert, Ph.D.

### Administrative Staff

Pat Gable, Ron Hasselbring, Marilyn Ratliff, Rita Straith

### Research Associates/Fellows

Suzan Campbell, Ted Lawrence, Devra Polack

## Giving our “oceans” their due

By any measure, the recently released draft report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy is one impressive document. Embedded in its 413 pages are almost 200 recommendations that, if implemented, will fundamentally reshape policy and planning approaches to marine and freshwater management in the United States and beyond. While it may not have received the attention in this region that it has elsewhere, it would be a

mistake to dismiss the “ocean report” as a matter of limited interest or implication for the Great Lakes.

For years, Great Lakes advocates have bemoaned a perceived “bicoastal bias” in Washington; a primary focus on our marine coasts with little more than a passing nod to the tremendous freshwater resource that straddles our binational boundary here in North America’s heartland. This bias appears to be dissipating: the president’s recent Executive Order speaks of our lakes as a “national treasure,” and the numerous restoration-related bills now before Congress are replete with similar references. The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy is well advised to turn an attentive ear to the nation’s “Fourth Coast” when finalizing its report; our freshwater seas deserve no less!

A recent meeting of The Coastal Society featured a detailed, region-by-region assessment of the draft report’s recommendations. I was struck by the fundamental congruity from one region to the next with respect to ecosystem stresses, governance needs and desired policy directions. It became clear that the formulation of national policy need not be based on the “tug and pull” of freshwater vs. marine interests. We are all in this together: it makes no difference if our seas

are sweet water or salt water!

The Great Lakes Commission has identified a series of themes to guide report authors as the document is finalized. These include ensuring that the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence System is fully and equitably addressed in any national ocean

*We are all in this together:  
it makes no difference if  
our seas are sweet water  
or salt water!*

policy; that any new governance approach build upon existing institutional arrangements; that the primary stewardship role of states be recognized;

that national policy development be harmonized with current and prospective ecosystem restoration initiatives; that the international dimension of our marine and freshwater resources be accommodated in such policy; that decisionmaking be based upon sound science; and that principles of environmental and economic sustainability be a guiding force.

A Great Lakes resident once suggested to me an intriguing solution to the “bicoastal bias” problem: simply rename our lakes as oceans. Surely, for example, the Huron Ocean would command far more respect than a mere lake! (Remember the elevated status that Lake Champlain enjoyed during its brief tenure as a “Great Lake” in 1998?)

The solution is far more complex but not out of reach. In its final form, the Ocean Commission report has great potential for the Great Lakes, provided that it is fully responsive to this region’s needs and is aggressively implemented in harmony with other initiatives designed to give our oceans — I mean our lakes — their due.



Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.

## Great Lakes Regional Data Exchange conference

The acquisition and exchange of science-based data and information is the lifeblood of sound decisionmaking. The Great Lakes Commission will promote advancements in this area by hosting a major regional data exchange conference Oct. 26-28 in Detroit.

The meeting responds to the rapidly growing importance, sophistication and capabilities of data management and exchange tools for environmental protection and natural resource management. The conference and accompanying exhibition will offer attendees valuable insights into the potential of advanced Internet and geospatial technologies as tools to provide instant access to information, increased efficiency and improved decisionmaking abilities. Goals include improved coordination of regional data holdings and increased compatibility among computer models.

This initiative responds, in part, to an April 2003 resolution the Commission adopted to encourage data exchange partnerships and standardization of decisionmaking tools.

Conference themes are:

- Binational consistency in data acquisition analysis and availability

- Case Studies: Great Lakes environment and economy

- Data exchange, standards and policy issues

- Decision support systems

- Distributed IS/IT web mapping applications and technologies

- Ecosystem monitoring and observing systems

- Federal, state and provincial web portals

- Regional education and information clearinghouses

Registration information and guidelines for submitting papers for presentation are available on the conference web site, <http://rdx.glc.org>

Sponsors to date include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, International Joint Commission, and the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. Contact: Kevin Yam, [kyam@glc.org](mailto:kyam@glc.org)



**October 26-28, 2004, Marriott  
Detroit Renaissance Center**



Photo: Michigan Travel Bureau

Presentation abstracts are due by Aug. 16. Early registration is \$150 (\$200 Can.) before August 31. Exhibitor space is available. See <http://rdx.glc.org> or contact Kevin Yam, [kyam@glc.org](mailto:kyam@glc.org), 734-971-9135.

## Congress urged to act now to stop Asian carp

With time running out, the Great Lakes Commission has urged key members of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee to provide immediate assistance in securing funds for a dispersal barrier to prevent the significant ecological and economic damage that will occur if Asian carp reach the Great Lakes.

In correspondence with Reps. David Hobson (R-Ohio) and Pete Visclosky (D-Ind.), Great Lakes Commission Chair Sam Speck asked the two congressmen to support appropriations for the construction, operation and maintenance of a dispersal barrier system in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. Hobson is chair of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water of the Committee on Appropriations, and Visclosky is a ranking member of the same.

"Time is of the essence," Speck wrote. "The Asian carp population continues its progress toward the Great Lakes system, and FY 2005 appropriations are essential if the dispersal barrier system – the primary line of defense for this invasion – is to be fully operational."

Specifically, Speck urged support for federal appropriations to construct a new dispersal barrier in the canal and to upgrade and make permanent the existing, temporary barrier constructed as a demonstration project, and to ensure full federal funding for the effective operation of both. Scientists believe both barriers are necessary for adequate protection of the Great Lakes.

For more information, contact: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, [jonmacd@glc.org](mailto:jonmacd@glc.org)

# Commission Briefs

## Sustainability: Moving ideas to actions

### 2004 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission

Oct. 4-5, 2004  
Toronto, Ontario

### State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC) 2004

Oct. 5-8, 2004  
Toronto, Ontario

### RDX: Regional Data Exchange 2004 Conference

October 26-28 2004  
Detroit, Mich.

mark your calendar

What is being done to advance sustainability in the Great Lakes region? How can we, as a community of diverse interests, work together effectively to achieve it?

These were the two key questions that brought more than 200 participants to Cleveland May 4-6 for the "Actions Toward a Sustainable Great Lakes" conference. Organized by the Great Lakes Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Buffalo District, the conference was designed and conducted by 26 partner organizations representing various sectors of the Great Lakes community.

The action-oriented conference focused on specific legislative, policy, program and appropriations needs to move the region toward sustainability in each of eight identified areas. Breakout sessions focused on those areas where sustainable use is a key component of protection and restoration efforts: water use

and management; water quality; toxic hotspots; aquatic invasive species; human health; habitat/wetlands; sustainable waterways; and research and decision support.

The Rt. Honorable Herb Gray, chair of the Canadian Section of the International Joint Commission, was among the featured speakers, and videotaped presentations were made by U.S. Sens. Mike DeWine and George Voinovich. Bonnie Kranzer, of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, and Joe Miller, of Weston Solutions, Inc., drew upon their experiences with the ongoing Everglades restoration effort to identify prospective parameters for a large-scale restoration, protection and sustainable use initiative in the Great Lakes basin. Conference proceedings are being prepared and will be accessible through the Great Lakes Commission web site at [www.glc.org](http://www.glc.org). Contact: Mike Donahue, [mdonahue@glc.org](mailto:mdonahue@glc.org)

## 2004 Semiannual Meeting (continued from page 1)

determine its maintenance needs and viability.

"I tell you, the band-aid, scotch tape and chewing gum approach we've taken can't last us for another 50 years," he said.

Radm. Ronald Silva, just prior to his retirement as commander of the U.S. Coast Guard Ninth

District, gave the keynote address at the meeting luncheon. Silva sketched out the wide range of activities the Coast Guard is involved in on the Great Lakes, including emergency planning and maritime security; ballast water management and aquatic invasive species control; and toxic spill planning, prevention and response.

Other sessions featured Dave Cowgill, of the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office, on funding oppor-

tunities for remediating Great Lakes Areas of Concern under the Great Lakes Legacy Act; Roy Deda, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Chicago District, on the dispersal barrier project for the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal; Maggie Rodgers, Cleveland Division of Water, on water security; and Pete Swenson, U.S. EPA -Region 5, on the agency's proposed sewage blending policy (see Point-Counterpoint, page 9).

The 2004 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission will be Oct. 4-5 in Toronto. Contact: Mike Donahue, [mdonahue@glc.org](mailto:mdonahue@glc.org)



Minnesota state Rep. Thomas Huntley, vice chair of the Great Lakes Commission, leads the discussion of policy resolutions. Chair Sam Speck is at left.



Dr. Paul Sandifer, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy

## Policy positions adopted at 2004 Semiannual Meeting

By unanimous action, the Great Lakes Commission adopted five resolutions at its Semiannual Meeting on issues of importance to the region. Approved by the appointed representatives of the Great Lakes states, the resolutions establish Commission policies and call for specific actions in regard to the following:

**Ballast Water Management Needs in Response to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Convention** – Commits the Commission to help assess the potential impact on U.S. domestic policy of the recently adopted IMO convention calling for the establishment of global ballast water standards to limit the spread of aquatic invasive species. Also urges the U.S. and Canadian federal governments to expedite efforts to develop and implement much-needed standards, regulations and guidelines.

**Construction and Maintenance of a Permanent Dispersal Barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal** – Calls upon Congress to immediately approve construction of a second, permanent dispersal barrier in the canal to prevent Asian carp from reaching the Great Lakes. Also urges Congress to reaffirm its commitment to protect the Great Lakes and other waters from the threat of aquatic invasive species by promptly passing the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act.

**Navigation Maintenance Dredging in the Great Lakes and Connecting Channels** – Noting the current backlog in Great Lakes navigation maintenance dredging, calls for funding parity with other U.S. regions and urges Congress to allocate funds sufficient to eliminate all navigation maintenance dredging backlogs in the Great Lakes by the end of FY 2007.

**Protecting Drinking Water Security in the Great Lakes Basin** – Noting that the protection of public water supplies has been identified as a key priority in domestic security strate-

gies, requests that the Great Lakes Commission, member states and appropriate water utility/industry associations be provided representation on U.S. EPA's Water Security Working Group and related bodies.

### **Enhanced Groundwater Monitoring and Research to Inform Management Decisions**

– Noting the need for enhanced groundwater research to support

the management of Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River water resources, including the implementation of Annex 2001, calls for increased federal funding for the U.S. Geological Survey to maintain and expand the existing groundwater monitoring network; and urges that groundwater data and information be consolidated for ready access in an integrated basinwide network.

The full text of all five resolutions is available at [www.glc.org/about/resolutions](http://www.glc.org/about/resolutions) Contact: Mike Donahue, [mdonahue@glc.org](mailto:mdonahue@glc.org)

### **Stakeholders weigh in on restoration priorities**



*John Goss, director of the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources, and Brian Miller, of Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, review a working list of stakeholder comments compiled at a restoration priorities workshop in Hammond, Ind., in May. About 450 stakeholders have participated in the workshops so far this summer, which are being conducted around the region to gather feedback on the Great Lakes restoration priorities issued by the Council of Great Lakes Governors last October. The workshops are a cooperative venture of the Great Lakes Commission, national and state Sea Grant programs, and the Council of Great Lakes Governors. Goss is chair of the Indiana Delegation to the Great Lakes Commission.*

### **Mark your calendar!**

#### **2004 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission**

Oct. 4-5, Delta Chelsea Hotel,  
Toronto, Ontario

(Immediately prior to SOLEC 2004)

Details to come at [www.glc.org](http://www.glc.org)

# Commission Briefs

## Commission welcomes new members

Several new members have been appointed in recent months to represent their respective states on the Great Lakes Commission.

Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich has appointed Rita Athas, director of regional programs and deputy chief of staff for the city of Chicago, as a member of the Commission's Illinois Delegation. Gary Clark, director of the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources Office of Water Resources, was appointed as an alternate member.

In Ohio, state House Minority Leader Chris Redfern, D-Catawba Island, has been appointed to the Commission by House Speaker Larry Householder, as the appointment reserved to the speaker by state law. In addition, James Weakley, president of the Lake Carriers' Association, has been elevated from Alternate Commissioner to Commissioner by Ohio Gov. Bob Taft.



Rep. Chris Redfern



Rita Athas



Gary Clark

Athas serves as Chicago Mayor Richard Daley's liaison to a wide range of coalitions and was executive director of the Northwestern Municipal Conference, a regional association of 40 municipalities and townships representing more than 1.2 million residents in suburban Chicago.

Clark, a civil engineer, has spent his entire career with the Office of Water Resources, beginning in 1974. His areas of expertise include statewide water supply management, groundwater modeling, groundwater and surface water law, and state water planning.

Rep. Redfern was originally appointed to the House and has been re-elected twice since. He has also served six years as an Ottawa County commissioner and coordinated former Attorney General Lee Fisher's run for governor.

Weakley, who succeeded former Ohio Commissioner George Ryan as president of the Lake Carriers' Association in January 2003, is a former U.S. Coast Guard officer. He joined The Interlake Steamship Company in 1993, eventually becoming operations manager.

## Linking water withdrawals to ecological impacts

A significant step toward implementation of Annex 2001 of the Great Lakes Charter has been taken with the development of a computer model for assessing the ecological effects of water withdrawal in a Great Lakes watershed.

The model is a prototype that can be used to assess proposals for new or increased water withdrawals in the Great Lakes basin. It is one of a series of projects supported by the Great Lakes Protection Fund in order to provide practical, science-based support to meet the Great Lakes governors' and premiers' commitments under Annex 2001.

Developed by the environmental engineering firm Limno Tech., Inc. in cooperation with the Great Lakes Commission, the model permits direct evaluation of how hydrologic changes affect specific aspects of a river-based watershed. Designed for and field-tested in Michigan's

Muskegon River watershed, it is also applicable to a wide range of Great Lakes basin systems.

By linking together multiple watershed models of this type, it may be possible to develop an assessment tool for the larger Great Lakes basin. It can also be used as an adaptive management tool for assessing the cumulative impacts of multiple flow modifications and for simulating water flow in areas that are not gauged.

The project grew out of an inventory of modeling systems that Limno Tech, based in Ann Arbor, Mich., conducted for the Commission's Water Resources Management Decision Support System project. For more information, see [www.glc.org/wateruse/tools/limno](http://www.glc.org/wateruse/tools/limno)

Contact: Becky Lameka, [blameka@glc.org](mailto:blameka@glc.org)

## Did you know

Lake Superior could contain all of the other Great Lakes? Not only that, it would have room to spare for three more Lake Eries! The largest and deepest of the Great Lakes, it has a volume of 2,900 mi<sup>3</sup> (12,100 km<sup>3</sup>) out of the Great Lakes total volume of 5,439 mi<sup>3</sup> (22,684 km<sup>3</sup>). Lake Erie, by comparison, has a volume of only 116 mi<sup>3</sup> (484 km<sup>3</sup>). Source: Great Lakes Atlas, U.S. EPA and Environment Canada.

## Commission weighs in on U.S. Ocean policy

The release of the Preliminary Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy in April was an event of profound significance in the nation's evolving approach to managing its water and related natural resources. The Great Lakes Commission was among those invited to comment on the draft report and, after careful review, has responded with a letter from Chair Sam Speck offering a series of recommendations for consideration.

The draft report provides an opportunity to ensure that the Great Lakes are appropriately recognized as North America's "freshwater seas." The following are key points of the Commission's recommendations:

- The waters of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System must be fully and equitably addressed in any national ocean policy.
- Any new approach to governance should recognize and build upon existing institutional arrangements.
- Effective governance must recognize the primary stewardship role of the states.
- National ocean policy must be harmonized

with current and prospective ecosystem restoration and protection initiatives.

- The international dimension of our marine and freshwater resources must be fully addressed in a national ocean policy.
- Ecosystem monitoring, surveillance and research must provide the foundation for policy development and associated governance.
- The development and implementation of a national ocean policy must be guided by principles of environmental and economic sustainability.

The Great Lakes Commission applauds the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy for its initiative in addressing the substantial challenges and opportunities associated with the marine and freshwater resources of this nation, and looks forward to working with the Ocean Commission as the process moves forward.

(Links to the full text of the Commission's comments, as well as to the draft report itself, are available at [www.glc.org/announce/04/06ocean.html](http://www.glc.org/announce/04/06ocean.html))

Contact: Mike Donahue, [mdonahue@glc.org](mailto:mdonahue@glc.org)

## Soil erosion, sediment control grants to benefit water quality

The Great Lakes Commission is awarding \$1.9 million in federal grants to projects that will benefit water quality in the Great Lakes basin through improved land management practices and education. Forty-seven agencies and organizations, spanning all eight Great Lakes states, have been selected to receive these funds through the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control.

The Great Lakes Basin Program improves water quality by supporting projects to help reduce the amount of sediment that enters our waterways. Such sediment can clog streams and rivers, and bring with it pesticides, fertilizers and other contaminants washed off the land.

Projects range in scope from less than \$5,000 for an erosion education project, to more than

\$100,000 for efforts to stabilize a mile of eroding riverbank. Grant recipients are selected by the Commission's Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Task Force, whose membership consists of state and federal resource managers. Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Since it was initiated in 1991, the Great Lakes Basin Program has placed more than 121,000 acres of land in the Great Lakes states under various forms of erosion and sediment control. In the process, it has involved thousands of community volunteers in watershed improvement projects, improved local ecosystems, and built support for ongoing ecosystem restoration efforts.

For more information, visit [www.glc.org/basin](http://www.glc.org/basin)  
Contact: Gary Overmier, [garyo@glc.org](mailto:garyo@glc.org)

### 2004 Ratza winner



*Barbara Barrett Lucas, a master's degree student in the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment, is the recipient of the 2004 Carol A. Ratza Memorial Scholarship. With concentrations in land use planning and environmental education, she is pursuing a career that will focus on the interface between environmental knowledge and action.*

*The scholarship is in memory of Carol A. Ratza, a former employee of the Great Lakes Commission. For more information, visit [www.glc.org/about/scholarships](http://www.glc.org/about/scholarships) or contact: Christine Manninen, [manninen@glc.org](mailto:manninen@glc.org)*



Ted Lawrence

## Peace Corps veteran chosen as Sea Grant Fellow

Ted Lawrence has been selected as the 2004-05 Great Lakes Commission-Sea Grant Fellow.

He is spending his tenure providing support for the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species and associated Commission projects.

Lawrence is completing a master's degree in natural resource policy at the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment. He has also been researching

international environmental problems in developing countries through comparative studies with developed countries.

He graduated from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Wash., in 1997. A Peace Corps veteran, he spent two-and-a-half years as an agro-forestry extension agent in Senegal, West Africa. Contact: Ted Lawrence, [tlawrenz@glc.org](mailto:tlawrenz@glc.org)

## Stakeholder input sought on binational Great Lakes/Seaway study

Progress continues on a binational Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway study, with a series of five regional consultation sessions to solicit stakeholder input on the project.

The study, authorized by Congress and guided by a May 2003 memorandum of cooperation between Transport Canada and the U.S. Department of Transportation, is evaluating the anticipated maintenance needs of the system over the next 50 years.

"The public meetings on the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway study have provided an excellent opportunity to share and clarify information on the project as well as listen to concerns and issues of stakeholders of the waterway," said Seaway Study co-manager Wayne Schloop, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Detroit District.

"The meetings to date have created a dynamic forum for diverse regional interests to share their viewpoints and to hear the views of others."

The meetings are being coordinated by the Great Lakes Commission and the St. Lawrence Economic Development Council (SODES), which have been selected as "facilitators of stakeholder engagement" for the study. Oversight of the study is by a steering committee comprised of representatives of seven U.S. and Canadian federal agencies.

Meetings were held in Chicago, Ill.; Montreal, Québec; St. Catharines, Ontario; Duluth, Minn.; and Clayton, N.Y. through June and July.

Written comments will be accepted through Sept. 1, 2004. Submit comments or requests for information to: Dave Knight, [dknight@glc.org](mailto:dknight@glc.org)

## GLAD research grants address atmospheric deposition of toxics

Innovative research into toxic air pollution and how it can contaminate our water and the food chain is being supported this year by more than \$1.2 million in federal grants under the Great Lakes Air Deposition (GLAD) Program.

The Great Lakes Commission has announced the selection of seven air quality research projects to be funded this year under GLAD, a major initiative of the Commission and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Research funded under the program helps generate the information needed to address toxic pollution and devise policies to protect the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Projects funded through GLAD investigate the origins, behavior and environmental impacts of a class of airborne pollutants known as atmospherically deposited Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics (PBTs). These toxics, which include mercury, dioxins, PCBs, many pesticides and others, follow a variety of pathways as they move from the air into the water and eventually the food chain, where they tend to accumulate in higher organisms.

More information, including a list of projects funded this year, is available at [www.glc.org/glad/funded.html](http://www.glc.org/glad/funded.html)

Contact: Kevin Yam, [kyam@glc.org](mailto:kyam@glc.org)

### We're turning 50!

*The Great Lakes Commission will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2005. Look for special observances and commemorations throughout the year, culminating in our official anniversary event at our 2005 Annual Meeting in Ann Arbor! Hope you'll be with us as we celebrate this special milestone and as we head into another 50 years of ensuring the environmental and economic prosperity of the world's greatest freshwater resource!*



## Sewage blending: Solution or problem?

**Ken Kirk, Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies**

Since U.S.EPA issued its November 7, 2003, proposed guidance on blending, environmental activist groups have blatantly mischaracterized the guidance as an “environmental rollback.” Blending, a long-accepted wet weather management practice, protects the public health by preventing sewer backups into homes and businesses and safeguards the environment by maximizing the amount of wastewater a treatment plant can fully treat.

In addition to these benefits, U.S.EPA’s guidance will make more information about blending available for public comment and adds safeguards to a practice that already fully complies with Clean Water Act permits. For these reasons, key national organizations support the blending policy, including the National League of Cities, U.S. Conference of Mayors and others.

Estimates also show that municipalities would have to foot a bill of over \$200 billion in upgrades for treatment plants if blending were prohibited – money that could be better spent on projects

that would have tangible water quality benefits. Given shrinking municipal budgets, such a price tag would have a profound impact throughout the country, including for many of the municipalities within the Great Lakes Region.

U.S.EPA’s own description of its blending guidance best describes the critical need to continue with this time-tested process. The agency concludes blending will “help local governments operate their sewage treatment facilities and help prevent the overflow of raw sewage into homes and waterways during heavy rain storms. The proposed policy will provide practical solutions to local governments while maintaining and improving water quality.”

In short, this process protects against the very problem that the activist community disingenuously blames on blending – the release of untreated sewage into the nation’s waterways, including the Great Lakes. As such, EPA’s blending guidance should be made final as soon as possible.

# POINT POINT



*Ken Kirk is executive director of the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies*

**Cyndi Roper, Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund**

Ending the anachronistic practice of sewage “blending” is long overdue.

For over 30 years, the Clean Water Act has stated that sewage overflows should end. Communities have invested in overflow elimination and, although billions of gallons of sewage still enter the Great Lakes annually, an end has been in sight.

Now U.S. EPA is proposing to eliminate the finish line. They’re telling Great Lakes residents to get used to feces, industrial and household chemicals, and other contaminants in Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River and other water bodies that serve as our drinking water sources and recreational venues.

U.S. EPA’s proposal increases the likelihood that more of us will become ill following rain events. Studies document that over half of waterborne disease outbreaks follow heavy rain-

falls. In fact, according to the Centers for Disease Control, 7.1 million cases of mild to moderate and 560,000 cases of moderate to severe infectious waterborne diseases occur annually.

To make matters worse, the administration is cutting funding for sewage infrastructure so communities will face increased competition for limited dollars. In 2002, Michigan voters approved a \$1 billion bond earmarked primarily for sewer improvements. Michiganders, like others who live in the Great Lakes basin, understand the need to get sewage out of local waters. Why doesn’t the Bush Administration?

Forcing communities to continue choosing between sewage back-ups in basements and overflows into area waterways is bad public policy. Those who care about protecting public health and Great Lakes water quality should work together to keep the finish line in place.

# counterpoint counterpoint



*Cyndi Roper is Great Lakes policy director of Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund*

*The views expressed are those of the authors or the organizations they represent alone and do not necessarily reflect those of the Great Lakes Commission or its member jurisdictions.*

**Great Lakes restoration planning workshops**  
[www.glc.org/restwksbp](http://www.glc.org/restwksbp)

**RDX: Great Lakes Regional Data Exchange Conference**  
<http://rdx.glc.org>

**U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy**  
[www.oceancommission.gov](http://www.oceancommission.gov)

**Great Lakes Commission comments on U.S. Ocean Policy**  
[www.glc.org/announce/04/06ocean.html](http://www.glc.org/announce/04/06ocean.html)

**International Maritime Organization**  
[www.imo.org](http://www.imo.org)

**2004 Semiannual Meeting resolutions**  
[www.glc.org/about/resolutions](http://www.glc.org/about/resolutions)

**Water withdrawal modeling tools**  
[www.glc.org/wateruse/tools/limno](http://www.glc.org/wateruse/tools/limno)

**Great Lakes Basin Program**  
[www.glc.org/basin](http://www.glc.org/basin)

**GLAD - Great Lakes Air Deposition Program**  
[www.glc.org/glad/funded.html](http://www.glc.org/glad/funded.html)

**Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies**  
[www.amsa-cleanwater.org](http://www.amsa-cleanwater.org)

**Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund**  
[www.cleanwateraction.org/](http://www.cleanwateraction.org/)

**Keynote address to the 2004 IAGLR convention**  
[www.glc.org/announce/04/06iaglr.html](http://www.glc.org/announce/04/06iaglr.html)

## New security regulations have broad reach

New security measures meant to protect against terrorist attacks on or through international shipping are having an impact on the Great Lakes, even on the ferries that run to Mackinac Island.

Effective July 1, the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, U.S. Maritime Transportation Security Act and Canadian Marine Transport Security Regulations require ports and vessels involved in international trade to control access; monitor activities of people and cargo; and have security plans, officers and equipment. The U.S. and Canadian laws implement the international code, which was adopted by the United Nation's International Maritime Organization (IMO).

For the Great Lakes, the impacts are somewhat less than for ocean ports, but are still being felt.

"It's been a pretty large change in the way we do business," said Capt. Ray Skelton, foreign trade zone manager for the Duluth Seaway Port Authority. While specific security measures are classified, he said the new regulations have meant additional personnel, training and exer-

cises, with the costs only partially defrayed by federal grants.

All Great Lakes facilities that service international vessels arriving via the St. Lawrence Seaway are subject to the regulations. U.S. law also extends the regulations to passenger vessels carrying more than 150 people, including the Mackinac Island ferries, where new measures include security fences, restricted parking and screening some passenger luggage.

Implementation of the regulations on the Great Lakes is simplified by the fact that all foreign-flag traffic must enter through the St. Lawrence Seaway. Through a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Coast Guard and Transport Canada, foreign-flag vessels are boarded to verify compliance when they arrive at Montreal, eliminating the need for inspections at Great Lakes ports.

More information is available via the IMO web site, [www.imo.org/home.asp](http://www.imo.org/home.asp), or from the U.S. Coast Guard at [www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mp/mtsa.shtml](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mp/mtsa.shtml)

## First of three new Coast Guard cutters commissioned

A new member has joined the fleet of Great Lakes Coast Guard cutters, with more to come.

The USCGC *Hollyhock*, a 225-foot buoy tender, was commissioned April 30 at its home port of Port Huron, Mich. It's the first of three new Great Lakes cutters being built to replace vessels from the World War II era.

The *Hollyhock* replaces the 180-foot *Bramble*, which the Coast Guard donated to the Port Huron Historical Society following its decommissioning in May.

The *Hollyhock's* sister vessel, the *Alder*, was launched Feb. 7 at the Marinette Marine Corp. shipyard in Marinette, Wis., where all three ships are being built. Currently under construction is the successor to the heavy icebreaker *Mackinaw*, perhaps the most famous vessel on the Great Lakes. The 240-foot vessel, which will

bear the same name, is scheduled to be launched in January 2005 and delivered to its home port of Cheboygan, Mich., the following October.

The *Alder* is scheduled to be delivered to its home port of Duluth, Minn., this September and commissioned the following August.

Both the *Hollyhock* and *Alder* are Jupiter Class seagoing buoy tenders with icebreaking capabilities. Able to cut through three feet of ice, the vessels can be used for clearing shipping channels; setting out and retrieving navigation buoys at the beginning and end of the shipping season; search and rescue; maritime homeland security; law enforcement and pollution response. The new *Mackinaw* will have a more powerful ice-breaking capability and perform many of the same duties.

## Court ruling limits beach access

A Michigan tradition may have been upended by a state Court of Appeals ruling that the public does not necessarily have the right of access to Great Lakes beaches.

The ruling, issued May 13, asserted that private property rights along the Great Lakes extend all the way to the water's edge, and not the high-water mark as some have long contended. It affects what for many was the long-cherished belief that the public has the right to walk along the Great Lakes shoreline, so long as they stay below the high water mark.

As it now stands, beach walkers run the risk of trespassing unless they keep their feet in the water or stick to public beaches. State law directs that submerged lands belong to the public, but questions arose over what happens when the shoreline moves, as has happened dramatically

with the low lake levels of recent years. The case involved two Lake Huron beachfront property owners, one of whom owned only a 15-foot wide easement to the shore. The easement owner sued for the right to use the beach below the high water mark outside her easement, and won her case in circuit court. The Court of Appeals overturned that ruling, citing a 1930s ruling that set the property line at the water's edge.

The actual impact of the ruling may be minor. Most beachfront property owners in the state don't seem to mind people walking along the beachfront, as long as they're well behaved. However, it may reduce the incidence of unruly parties and unauthorized sunbathers, which some say have increased in recent years with the low lake levels.



*Michigan beach walkers, such as these along Lake Michigan, may find their freedom to wander Great Lakes shorelines limited by a recent court ruling. Photo: Michigan Travel Bureau*

## Donahue keynotes IAGLR convention

Mike Donahue, president/CEO of the Great Lakes Commission, presented the keynote dinner banquet address at the 47th Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research in Waterloo, Ontario.

Sponsored by the International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR), the four-

day conference featured more than 400 presentations and posters on Great Lakes research and other relevant studies. Donahue's May 26 address focused on the fundamental role of science and research in Great Lakes governance.

The full text of Donahue's remarks is available at [www.glc.org/announce/04/06iaglr.html](http://www.glc.org/announce/04/06iaglr.html)

## Great Lakes Calendar

### Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society

August 21-26, 2004, Madison, Wis.  
Contact: Beth Beard, 301-897-8616 ext. 220,  
[bbeard@fisheries.org](mailto:bbeard@fisheries.org)

### 13th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species

September 19-23, 2004, Ennis, County Clare, Ireland  
Contact: Elizabeth Muckle-Jeffs, 613-732-7068  
[profedge@renc.igs.net](mailto:profedge@renc.igs.net)

### 2004 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission

October 4-5, 2004, Toronto, Ontario  
Contacts: Mike Donahue, 734-971-9135,  
[mdonahue@glc.org](mailto:mdonahue@glc.org)

### State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC) 2004

October 5-8, 2004, Toronto, Ontario  
Contact: [SOLEC@ec.gc.ca](mailto:SOLEC@ec.gc.ca)

### Wetlands 2004: Protecting Wetlands of International Significance

October 19-22, 2004, Kansas City, Mo.  
Contact: Shanron Weaver, 518-872-1804  
[sharon.weaver@aswm.org](mailto:sharon.weaver@aswm.org)

### RDX: 2004 Regional Data Exchange Conference

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

### Seventh Water Information Summit

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

### Great Lakes Beach Association Meeting

November 30-December 1, 2004, Parma, Ohio  
Contact: Shannon Briggs, [briggssl@michigan.gov](mailto:briggssl@michigan.gov)

Further details and a more extensive calendar are available online via the Great Lakes Information Network ([www.great-lakes.net](http://www.great-lakes.net)). If you have an event you'd like us to include, please contact Kirk Haverkamp at 734-971-9135 or [kirkh@glc.org](mailto: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](http://www.glc.org)), please let us know and we'll cancel your print subscription.

# The Last Word

## A significant step forward for our “national treasure”



Sam Speck

Great things are on the horizon for the Great Lakes! President Bush's recent Executive Order recognizes the Great Lakes as a “national treasure” and sets in motion a series of actions to “ensure that the greatness of the lakes endures for generations.”

The Executive Order establishes a cabinet-level Great Lakes Interagency Task Force to better coordinate U.S. federal agency initiatives and enhance regional partnerships. It builds upon existing institutional arrangements; recognizes the importance of binational partnership; calls for science-based decisionmaking and outcome-based management goals; and recognizes sustainability as a central theme. These are all management principles the Great Lakes Commission has long endorsed.

There is no shortage of plans, priority statements or institutions in this region capable of addressing restoration goals. What we need are the funds and the public and private sector coordination to make it happen, and the Executive Order has the potential to expedite progress.

Consultations between the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the Great Lakes Commission over the last several years have afforded us an opportunity to help shape the ongoing evolution in basin governance. U.S. EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt is now visiting with our governors and other regional leadership – including Commission members and staff – in the interest of moving forward aggressively to implement the Executive Order.

We at the Great Lakes Commission believe that partnership is the key to progress. A significant step has been taken and, if we all work together, it will be followed by many more.

Samuel W. Speck, chair, Great Lakes Commission

## Where in the Great Lakes?



Can you identify this Great Lakes landmark? E-mail your answer, along with your name, address and phone number to [kirkh@glc.org](mailto:kirkh@glc.org) or mail it to the *Advisor* at the return address on the mailing panel below. All correct responses received by **Aug. 20, 2004** will be entered into a drawing. The winner will receive his/her choice of a Great Lakes Commission beach towel or a \$10 credit toward the purchase of any Commission publication.

Marie Zhuikov, communications coordinator of the University of Minnesota - Duluth Sea Grant Program correctly identified this photo of Pallasades Head on the north shore of Lake Superior. Thanks to everyone who entered! Photo: USDA Forest Service.



Cover photo: Warren Dunes State Park, Michigan; Carole Swinehart, Michigan Sea Grant Extension

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.



## Advisor

Eisenhower Corporate Park  
2805 S. Industrial Hwy., Suite 100  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6791

Address Service Requested

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT No. 112  
ANN ARBOR, MI

### Time to update your subscription?

If you have moved, changed jobs or no longer wish to receive the *Advisor*, please contact Marilyn Ratliff at 734-971-9135 or [mratliff@glc.org](mailto:mratliff@glc.org)