

Advisor

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Ohio DNR director is new Commission chair

Speck, Huntley elected to leadership posts

Sam Speck, director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, was unanimously elected chair of the Great Lakes Commission at its 2002 annual meeting in Cleveland on Oct. 15.

Speck, who heads the Commission's Ohio delegation, succeeds outgoing chairman Nat Robinson of Wisconsin, who assumes the post of immediate past chair. Minnesota state Rep. Thomas Huntley was elected vice chair, the position previously held by Speck.

"This is a very exciting time for the Commission, given the issues and challenges we face," Speck said. "It is a great privilege to be elected chair at a time when so much can be done, a time when we are seeing unprecedented support for a comprehensive vision for the restoration, recovery and protection of the Great Lakes."

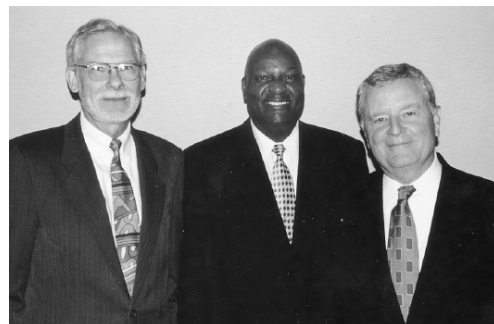
The Commission has been presented with some significant opportunities, he said, including ongoing efforts to develop a framework to manage water use, as called for in Annex 2001 of the Great Lakes Charter, the challenge of battling aquatic invasive species through reauthorization and implementation of the National Invasive Species Act, and other regional priorities.

"The Great Lakes Commission has a number of absolutely critical contributions to make in advancing the region's environmental and economic well-being," Speck said. "No other organization possesses the breadth and depth of experience and expertise in addressing Great Lakes issues; no other organization possesses the capacity for networking and coalition building; no other organization has a more respected reputation for balanced, reasoned advocacy; and no other organization is more ready to move ahead in its own right and to facilitate others in doing so."

Held only a short distance from Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River, the meeting symbolized the progress the region has made in the 30 years since the lake was declared dead and the river caught fire.

Speaking on behalf of Ohio Gov. Bob Taft, Lt. Gov. Maureen O'Connor noted those events were a major impetus behind passage of the Clean Water Act and for water stewardship efforts worldwide.

"Each of our Great Lakes states and provinces – often in conjunction with local and federal partners – is engaged in important, forward-thinking work as stewards of this shared resource," she said. "Our actions in the Great Lakes will have far-reach-



Vice Chair Tom Huntley, Immediate Past Chair Nat Robinson and Chair Sam Speck.

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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.

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Cover photo: Winter storm at Grand Haven Lighthouse, Carl Ter Haar.

Enemy subs, freshwater whales and monster carp

Great Lakes literature is getting more interesting all the time, and some days I can hardly wait to reach for the material in my in-box. The dry, dispassionate, data-filled government reports of the past seem to be giving way to a new model for informing us of the “issues.”

Just consider the following items that actually crossed my desk in recent weeks and have garnered national attention. The headline of one tabloid warned that enemy submarines have secretly transited the St. Lawrence Seaway and are now poised to attack Chicago.

Preposterous!

The text of a middle school curriculum documented the annual migration of freshwater whales and dolphins into Lake Michigan.

Outrageous!

And a flurry of news reports spoke of the impending invasion of man-sized flying carp into that same lake.

Unbelievable!

(Oops – this one is actually true.)

While these examples are admittedly tongue-in-cheek, there’s no denying that it can be difficult to separate fact from fiction. And it’s getting harder all the time. The distinction between science-based policymaking and advocacy-driven “fact finding” is blurred at best and, at worst, indistinguishable to all but the most perceptive analysts.

The complexity of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system is rivaled only by the complexity of its institutional arrangements. Every side of every issue, it seems, has its own advocacy group and – more often than not – policy positions

that are formulated first, then followed by selective fact finding that is backfilled to support that position. In such an environment, science is relegated to the sideline and decisionmaking becomes a function

The distinction between science-based policymaking and advocacy-driven “fact finding” is blurred at best and, at worst, is indistinguishable to all but the most perceptive analysts.

of whose opinion is most skillfully presented or voiced most loudly.

This scenario must

be avoided at all costs – there’s far too much at stake. In the next year alone, the region’s policymakers will be faced with decisions on how to manage our water resources, clean up our contaminated sites, prevent the invasion of nuisance species, and ensure an environmentally responsible and economically viable maritime transportation system. Facts, not opinions, need to drive those decisions.

What we need is a dramatic shift in focus – a large-scale, long-term, unrelenting commitment to science-based decision support that separates fact from fiction and distinguishes science-based advice from advocacy-driven opinion. I’m talking about all the non-sexy stuff. Monitoring. Data gathering. Research. Scientific analysis.

These activities are – or should be – the underpinnings of all public policy decisions. Yet they rarely pique the interest of those who allocate the funds. This needs to change. Perhaps the headline writers for the tabloids can help us...



Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.

Keeping tabs on Lake Michigan: database now online

Resource managers and other interested parties now have an easy way to obtain monitoring data collected within the Lake Michigan basin.

The Lake Michigan Monitoring Inventory provides a fully searchable online database of information on active monitoring programs within the basin. The inventory includes the purpose and type of the data collected, the methodologies employed and many other characteristics.

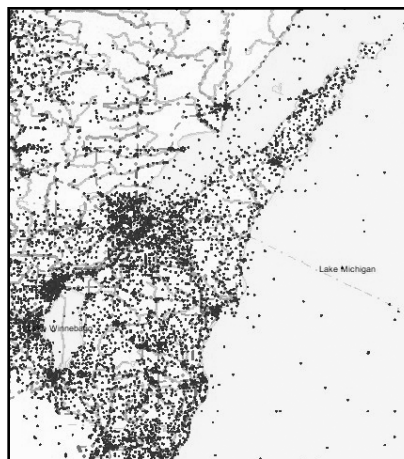
"This site presents an innovative use of technology that will not only make it easier for the public to access monitoring data," said Judy Beck, Lake Michigan team manager with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), "But the database will also assist monitoring managers in their efforts to coordinate data collection throughout the basin."

Monitoring locations are displayed on a map and are searchable. Most important, the site serves as a data portal, directly connecting users

to program manager contact information and data download websites.

The online inventory was created through a unique partnership among the Commission, project funder U.S. EPA, and 10 local watershed organizations. The project also serves as a pilot for a larger inventory that will be expanded to cover the entire Great Lakes basin.

See www.glin.net/gis/lkmich or contact: Ric Lawson, rlawson@glc.org



Example from online inventory map shows region around Green Bay, Wis., including the Door County peninsula. Each dot represents an individual monitoring station; users can zoom in and click on dots for site-specific information.

New beach monitoring techniques presented

More than 100 policymakers and beach managers previewed the Commission's BeachCast project at the third annual meeting of the Great Lakes Recreational Water Quality Association, Oct. 30 in Chicago.

As part of the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN), BeachCast will reach an audience of millions, offering one-stop-shopping for Great Lakes beach advisories, current lake conditions, beach profiles, weather and UV indexes. It will also include information on E. coli, beach monitoring techniques, human health risks and more.

"The widespread use of this system will promote public awareness, increase accountability, and further facilitate local actions in maintaining healthy beaches," said Mike Donahue, Commission president/CEO.

To be unveiled at the Commission's Semi-annual Meeting April 15-17, the system will



Attendees of the Great Lakes Recreational Water Quality Association's annual meeting pose on the Lake Michigan beach behind Chicago's South Shore Cultural Center.

initially provide information on Chicago and Milwaukee area beaches, with other metropolitan areas to follow. The project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office. Contact: Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org

Great Lakes Day: Congressional Breakfast and Issues Briefing

March 20, 2003
Washington, D.C.

Great Lakes Commission 2003 Semiannual Meeting

April 15-17, 2003
Indianapolis, Ind.

Annual Meeting of the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Law- rence Mayors

June 16-18, 2003
St. Catharines, Ontario

mark your calendar

Apply now for Great Lakes Basin Program grants

Applications are now being accepted online for grants under the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. Grants of approximately \$30,000 per project will be awarded in the areas of program and grant assistance; best management practices (BMP) demonstration; and information/education. Several grants of approximately \$100,000 will also be awarded for large-scale BMP demonstration projects.

Of special interest are proposals addressing agricultural conservation treatment, urban

erosion control, forest logging and road maintenance, or shoreline/streambank/bluff stabilization. Other priorities include the emerging issues of total maximum daily loads, natural stream/shoreline restoration and continuous year-round cropland cover.

Nonprofit agencies and nonfederal units of government are eligible to apply. Project areas must be located within the U.S. portion of the Great Lakes basin. The application deadline is January 17, 2003. See www.glc.org/basin/RFP.html. Contact: Gary Overmier, garyo@glc.org.

Everglades offers lessons for Great Lakes restoration

Commission President/CEO Mike Donahue spent three days reviewing large-scale ecosystem restoration efforts in the Florida Everglades in late October in his role as a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board (EAB). Appointed to the board by Chief of Engineers Gen. Robert Flowers last year, Donahue participated in helicopter and air boat tours of the expansive Everglades and discussed the prospects for similar large-scale initiatives in the Great Lakes basin and other regions of North America.

"Despite the obvious differences between

the two ecosystems, the Everglades offer many lessons with broad applicability to the Great Lakes," Donahue said. Principal among these, he noted, are the enormity and complexity of the task; the importance of multi-organizational, multidisciplinary teams; and the need for partnerships at all levels and participation by all relevant interests.

The EAB advises the Corps on the environmental aspects of its mission and opportunities to bring its authority and expertise to bear on leading environmental/ restoration needs. Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.

Averting a water "crisis"

Great Lakes policy officials and water law experts convened at the University of Toledo College of Law in October for "The National Water Crisis: Great Lakes Neighbors Managing International Waters in Crisis." Commission Chair Sam Speck and President/CEO Mike Donahue were among the regional leaders who addressed the conference, along with International Joint Commission co-chairs Herb Gray and Dennis Schornack.

Speck updated attendees on progress in implementing the Great Lakes Charter Annex 2001, while Donahue released preliminary findings

from the Commission's water resources decision support project. U.S., Canadian and First Nations/ tribal panelists shared perspectives on current challenges in water withdrawal, diversion and consumptive use decisionmaking.

While most agreed that the Great Lakes are not presently in "crisis" conditions, a sense of urgency was shared in developing the legal, program and institutional foundation for a binational, multijurisdictional water management and decisionmaking process.

Contact: Sandi Zellmer, UT College of Law, szellme@utnet.utoledo.edu.

Database to track, help fight ANS invasions

To help prevent or limit the spread of nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species (ANS) into uninfested waters, the Great Lakes Commission is developing an online, geographic information systems database of ANS invasions within the state of Michigan.

The database will provide a baseline of current ANS invasions, enabling managers to identify priority areas for prevention and control efforts. For example, by identifying ports, marinas and harbors with ANS infestations, such areas can be targeted for outreach efforts aimed at recreational boaters and commercial users.

The mapping tool also will highlight locations where monitoring has shown an absence of ANS infestations. These areas, particularly those of

pristine quality, could benefit from increased efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of ANS. The data layers also will help identify areas where monitoring is needed or where existing efforts can be better coordinated. Finally, the maps can be used in developing strategies to contain or eliminate new and isolated infestations.

Funding is provided by the Michigan Great Lakes Protection Fund. Project collaborators include the Michigan Lake and Stream Association, the University of Michigan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Michigan Sea Grant, Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory.

Contact: Sarah Whitney, swhitney@glc.org

Register online for mercury conference

The Great Lakes Commission and the International Joint Commission will co-sponsor a workshop, "An Ecosystem Approach to the Health Effects of Mercury in the Great Lakes Basin," Feb. 26-27, 2003, at the Cleary International Conference Centre in Windsor, Ontario. Online registration and details are available at <https://www.glc.org/mercury>
Contact: Matt Doss, mdoss@glc.org

Annual meeting (continued from page 1)

ing effects in other areas of the United States, Canada and throughout the world. Therefore, we must harness the region's energy, ingenuity and resources behind a collective vision."

Other Ohio dignitaries included Congressman Steve LaTourette, who provided an update on congressional initiatives such as the Water Resources Development Act and the Great Lakes Legacy Act. Cleveland Mayor Jane Campbell provided the meeting's welcoming address.

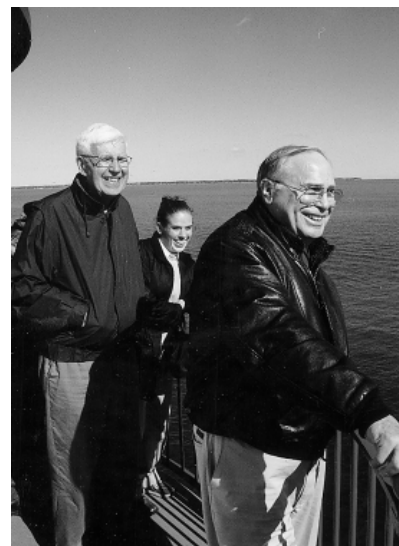
Commissioners adopted a variety of resolutions establishing Commission policies or calling for action on issues that ranged from beach health to invasive species (see story, page 6).

Afternoon sessions featured reports on the status of federal Great Lakes programs by the U.S. General Accounting Office and the Canadian Auditor General, and on building partnerships for a Great Lakes Restoration Plan, including discussions of current and prospective initiatives.

Morning sessions at the meeting showcased several key Commission initiatives, among them laying the groundwork for the development of a system to guide water use and management decisions under Annex 2001 of the Great Lakes Charter. The meeting also highlighted restoration planning efforts in the binational Lake St. Clair watershed and featured updates on key federal legislation addressing Commission priorities.



Annual meeting attendees disembark from a tour of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Neah Bay at its berth in Cleveland. Led by Captain Randy Helland, chief of the Ninth Coast Guard District Marine Safety Division, the tours of the icebreaker provided a look at Coast Guard operations on the Great Lakes.



From left, state Sen. Ed Oliver, alternate commissioner from Minnesota; Molly Flanagan, of the Ohio Environmental Council; and Michigan State University Prof. Frank D'Itri, commissioner from Michigan; take in the view from the top of Marblehead Lighthouse during a tour of significant sites on and around the Lake Erie Islands that preceded the annual meeting.

Great Lakes Commission - Sea Grant Fellowship

Undergraduate and graduate students may apply now for the 2003 Great Lakes Commission-Sea Grant Fellowship. This one-year position offers an the opportunity to work with members of the scientific, policy development and information/education communities to advance the environmental quality and sustainable economic development goals the Great Lakes states. Apply by February 21, 2003. See www.glc.org/about/scholarships or contact Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org

DID YOU KNOW

There are approximately 37 million people living in the Great Lakes basin? And that of these, about 26 million rely on the Great Lakes for their drinking water? Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Report: Address cumulative water use effects

The final report of the Commission's Water Resources Management Decision Support System (WRMDSS) project, a study of the data and information needed to make sound decisions regarding new withdrawals and uses of Great Lakes water resources, will be released in January 2003.

The findings and recommendations from this two-year project focus on Great Lakes hydrology, water use and the assessment of ecological effects. Among the dozens of key findings are:

- Common standards are needed for data quality, reporting and access across the basin
- Withdrawal effects are most clearly seen at the watershed scale

• Watersheds need to be examined based upon unique hydrological characteristics and current ecological sensitivities and stressors

• Each withdrawal has cumulative effects over time and space that should be addressed by the decision support system.

The project supports implementation of Annex 2001 of the Great Lakes Charter, signed by the region's governors and premiers, which calls for a system to guide management decisions regarding new or expanded uses of the waters of the Great Lakes basin. Supported by the Great Lakes Protection Fund, the report will be available online at www.glc.org/wateruse/wrmdss.html Contact: Tom Crane, tcrane@glc.org

Commission presses for NAISA passage, new ANS barrier

The Commission has been working since its Oct. 15 Annual Meeting to address issues identified in key resolutions adopted at that event. Resolutions and actions include:

Reauthorization of the National Invasive Species Act (NISA): The Commission has urged members of the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation and key congressional committees to expedite passage of the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA), which reauthorizes and expands the expiring NISA of 1996.

Addressing the invasion threat of Asian carp: Noting the imminent threat posed by Asian carp to the Great Lakes system, the Commission urged members of the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation and key congressional committees to support immediate construction of a second, permanent dispersal barrier to block its passage through the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to Lake Michigan.

Beach closures and associated water quality concerns: The Commission called on federal, state and provincial governments to make beach health a high priority. The Commission's BeachCast initiative is being accelerated and the issue has been tentatively selected as a theme for the 2003 Semiannual Meeting.

Restoration planning in the binational Lake St. Clair watershed:

The Commission urged Congress to provide the necessary authority and funding to implement forthcoming recommendations from a Commission-coordinated management plan for the Lake St. Clair/St. Clair River watershed.

Decision support for water resources management:

Recognizing the need for timely follow-up to the soon-to-be-completed Water Resources Management Decision Support System project (see above story), the Commission is working toward the important next step of developing an information-gathering system that will help provide timely information for water resources management.

10th anniversary of the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN):

Formally recognizing the 10-year anniversary of GLIN in 2003, the Commission applauded its extraordinary success and urged Great Lakes states, provinces, agencies and organizations to work with GLIN to enhance their visibility on the Internet. Visit GLIN at www.great-lakes.net

For the full text of the above resolutions, see www.glc.org/about/resolutions. Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org

Ohio watersheds benefit from outreach project

Nearly 230 watershed professionals were trained in sustainable watershed management practices over the past two years under a recently concluded Commission project funded by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

The Ohio Watershed Project provided technical and outreach training for local watershed groups. More than 70 watershed managers, state agency representatives, and regional and national watershed experts attended the project's final workshop in October, where topics included fundraising, working with local officials, integrating watershed planning within a

regulatory framework, and total maximum daily load development and implementation.

Previous workshops trained local watershed coordinators in developing the elements of a comprehensive watershed plan. These included taking an inventory of the watershed, tracking the success of management efforts, addressing nonpoint source pollution, public involvement and education, fundraising, and more.

Project partners included the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio State University Extension and Tetra Tech, Inc. Contact: Sarah Whitney, swhitney@glc.org



Doug Kohli, a local soil and water conservation district professional, leads a tour of a flood-plain re-establishment project on Ohio's Big Darby Creek.

Seven Baltic fellows, six weeks of study

The Baltic Sea Fellowship Program – a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-supported initiative of the Great Lakes Commission – provided education, training and research experiences last summer and fall for seven resource managers from the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. This year's fellows participated in six weeks of research and management training, focused on remediating contaminated sediments, at the University of

Connecticut's Environmental Research Institute and at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 in Chicago.

Fellows also attended the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC) in Cleveland, which provided an opportunity to learn about the current and prospective use of biological indicators in managing water resources. Contact: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org

Familiar face among Commission's new staff

The Great Lakes Commission is pleased to announce the addition of four new members to its staff and the return of another.

Tom Rayburn has rejoined the Commission as a senior project manager in the Environmental Quality Program, where he works on toxic spill response and Lake St. Clair restoration. He returns after a one-year stint as an environmental specialist with the U.S. Coast Guard Ninth District in Cleveland, Ohio.

Laura Kaminski is a program specialist in Resource Management, where she works on the Commission's tributary modeling project. Kaminski previously worked as an environmental consultant for the Traverse Group in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Kevin Walters has joined the Commission as

a program specialist in Resource Management, where he will be a member of the aquatic invasive species project team. A fisheries biologist, he was formerly employed by the California Department of Fish and Game.

Laura Blackburn has accepted a program specialist position in the Data and Information Management Program, where she will work on oil and hazardous spill prevention and response. She most recently worked as a forester with the Colorado State Forest Service in Fort Collins.

Devra Polack, former webmaster at Michigan Sea Grant, has been contracted to enhance web site presence and marketing for the Great Lakes Basin Program on Soil Erosion and Sediment Control and to assist with Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) development.

10th World Lakes Conference to be held in Chicago

The Great Lakes Commission will sponsor a one-day symposium on toxic contamination in the Great Lakes at the 10th World Lakes Conference. The meeting, a joint conference of the International Lake Environment Committee and the International Association for Great Lakes Research, will be held in Chicago June 22-26, 2003. The symposium, funded by Michigan's Office of the Great Lakes, will highlight lessons from the Great Lakes for application to other large lake systems worldwide. See www.ilec.or.jp/eg or contact Sarah Whitney, swhitney@glc.org

POINT POINT

Should water be managed as a commodity?

Prof. Martin Jaffe, University of Illinois at Chicago



Prof. Martin Jaffe is an interim coastal business and environment specialist with the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He has conducted a detailed study of water management in north-eastern Illinois.

Water's long been deemed a "commodity" in theory since the U.S. Supreme Court's *Sporhase v. Nebraska*, 458 U.S. 941 (1982) decision struck down Nebraska's water transfer reciprocity statute as an impermissible burden on interstate commerce. It's also long been considered a "commodity" in practice, as shown by the tens of millions of dollars worth of water transfers negotiated between riparian and inland communities throughout the Great Lakes basin.

Individual rights to use our common water resources can be created by state water law doctrines or by issuing a water user a permit or license. For example, Illinois requires Lake Michigan water users to obtain an allocation permit in order to manage the Chicago diversion. But many of the Great Lakes states either don't regulate water withdrawals from other sources or only regulate water quality but not quantity

in their withdrawal permits. Using water without any public oversight over the amounts withdrawn can lead to a "tragedy of the commons."

If the states won't assess resource sustainability in their water permits, then we must turn to markets to do the job, simply because water transactions should internalize relative resource scarcity (assuming that water prices are elastic – which they may not be – and that, under principles of supply and demand, scarcer resources command higher prices). Market forces – and the threat of higher water prices – can provide a check on water resource over-use and encourage water conservation. Many economists also claim that free markets manage resources more efficiently than government fiat. Commodifying our water resources is probably the cheapest and most efficient way to manage them while also protecting the long-term sustainability of our shared waters.

counterpoint

James Olson, Olson and Bzdok, P.C., Traverse City, Mich.



Attorney James Olson currently represents Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation, a nonprofit organization contesting a groundwater use issue by Nestle North American Waters, Inc. (The views expressed by the author are his own, and not necessarily those of his client.)

If water is made a commodity, the power to safeguard the water commons will be severely compromised. Once water is treated as a commodity, private property or contract rights may attach, and the power of government to protect or manage the natural resource is limited by the Constitution (e.g., the Commerce Clause) or, arguably, international trade agreements, like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Water is generally non-renewable (a finite supply) and not owned by anyone. Water is considered a commons, held and managed by government for the benefit of all citizens. In *Illinois Central Railroad v. Illinois* (1892), the U.S. Supreme Court held that the water resources of the Great Lakes are subject to a public trust. This public trust prohibits the conversion of water into a commodity for sale or export except in very narrow circumstances. Other

Supreme Court decisions have held that water is not a commodity unless the legislature of a state has chosen to make it an article of commerce.

British Columbia has been sued for more than 10 billion dollars for refusing to allow the export of its fresh water. This claim turns on whether water is a good protected by NAFTA. So long as water is a commons, and not a commodity, citizens will not be held hostage by international trade or constitutional challenges.

Water is viewed as a commons because it is recognized as a foundation for the survival of all citizens and the environment in which they live. The conversion of water into a commodity would subordinate this commons to the market place and control of private interests. This would trade fundamental human rights and democracy for economic gain. If water itself is a commodity, then we will have sold off the Garden of Eden.

2002 elections reshape Great Lakes political picture

The 2002 midterm elections brought a number of changes to the U.S. Great Lakes political landscape, the most notable being the election of five new governors in the eight Great Lakes states.

In an election year otherwise dominated by Republican gains, Democrats won four of the seven Great Lakes governorships that were contested. Democrats won in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Pennsylvania, while Republicans took the top spot in Minnesota, Ohio and New York.

Among the governors-elect is a member of the Great Lakes Commission, Michigan Attorney General Jennifer Granholm (D). The other new governors are state Rep. Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota (R), U.S. Rep. Rod R. Blagojevich (D) of Illinois, former Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell (D) of Pennsylvania and state Attorney General James E. Doyle (D) of Wisconsin, who defeated incumbent Gov. Scott McCallum (R). Incumbents Gov. Bob Taft (R) of Ohio and Gov. George E. Pataki (R) of New York successfully defended their seats. Indiana Gov. Frank O' Bannon's (D) term runs until 2004.

The Great Lakes region will have one new U.S. senator, with the election of Minnesota Solicitor General Norm Coleman (R) to fill the seat of the late Sen. Paul Wellstone (D). Michigan Sen. Carl Levin (D) was re-elected in the region's only other U.S. Senate race. Democrats have a 9-7 advantage in Great Lakes senate seats.

Nine new members of the U.S. House of Representatives were elected from Great Lakes states, with three incumbents defeated. The region lost nine House seats due to redistricting after the 2000 Census.

Newly elected and their districts, are: Rahm Emanuel, D-Ill. 5th; Chris Chocola, R-Ind. 2nd; Michigan Secretary of State Candice Miller, R-Mich. 10th; state Sen. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Mich. 11th; John Kline, R-Minn. 2nd (def. incumbent Rep. Bill Luther, D), Tim Bishop, D-N.Y. 1st (def. incumbent Rep. Felix Grucci, R), Dayton Mayor Michael Turner, R-Ohio 3rd; state Sen. Jim Gerlach, R-Pa. 6th; and state Sen. Timothy Murphy, R-Pa. 18th. In a battle

of incumbents following redistricting, Rep. Tim Holden (D) defeated Rep. George Gekas (R) to represent Pennsylvania's 17th District.

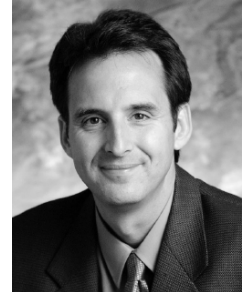
New Great Lakes governors



Rod Blagojevich-Ill.



Jennifer Granholm-Mich.



Tim Pawlenty-Minn.

Overall, the GOP will have a 67-58 regional edge in the U.S. House, undoing what had been a 70-64 Democratic advantage.

In state legislatures, the two parties swapped control of the Wisconsin and Illinois state senates, with the Republicans winning the former and Democrats the latter. Republicans continue to control six Great Lakes state senates vs. two for the Democrats, and five GOP state houses/assemblies to three Democratic.

Three delegates to the Great Lakes Commission were re-elected to new terms in the Minnesota state senate: Sens. Cal Larson (R), Ann Rest (D) and Edward Oliver (R). Another Minnesota Commissioner, state Rep. George Cassell (R), was unsuccessful in his bid to unseat state Sen. Dallas Sams (D).

Among other commissioners serving in state legislatures, Michigan state Sen. Walter North (R) and Rep. William Callahan (D) did not run again due to term limits; Callahan mounted an unsuccessful primary challenge last August to U.S. Rep. Sander Levin (D), who was re-elected. In Ohio, Commissioner and state Rep. Rex Damschroder (R) did not seek re-election.

For complete Great Lakes election results, visit www.glc.org/announce/02/11election.html



Ed Rendell-Pa.



James Doyle-Wis.

Great Lakes scholarship...apply now!

Applications are being accepted for the 2003 Carol A. Ratza Memorial Scholarship. This award is open to high school seniors and returning students who will be enrolled full-time at a Great Lakes college or university in fall 2003. **The application deadline is March 31, 2003.** See www.glc.org/about/scholarships. Contact: Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org

Managers say state of the lakes is “mixed”

An uneven picture of the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem was presented at the fifth biennial State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC), held Oct. 16-18 in Cleveland.

The event, held every other year to review a broad set of indicators under the auspices of the U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, depicted an ecosystem that is experiencing significant improvements and serious deteriorations at the same time. Some indicators, such as contaminant concentrations in sediment cores, showed improving trends while others, such as Diporeia abundance, were declining.

Significant pressures on the ecosystem were reported to include: the proliferation of non-native species, the continued persistence of toxic contaminants, habitat destruction, episodes of nutrient overabundance, and difficulty with physical processes such as hardened shorelines, water level fluctuations and ice cover.

SOLEC 2002 featured reports on a record 45 separate indicators spanning five topical areas:

Human Health, Open and Nearshore Waters, Coastal Wetlands, Land and Land Use, and Unbounded. New work on agriculture, forestry, groundwater and societal response indicators was presented as well. Reports and feedback on these indicators are collected by organizers at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada and compiled into a State of the Lakes report that is released the year after each conference.

Great Lakes Commission staff conducted a special session for top-level state, provincial and federal managers, who focused on the practical application of indicators as a means to inform management decisions. They also discussed barriers to implementing indicators and ways to overcome these barriers, including improved communication and outreach, integrating workplans and programs, and increased coordination.

Contact: Ric Lawson, rlawson@glc.org or Victoria Pebbles, vpebbles@glc.org

Legacy Act passes, NAISA must wait

Appropriations priorities for the Great Lakes remain in limbo, as the 107th Congress adjourned in November without enacting the FY2003 budget.

In November, Congress passed the Great Lakes Legacy Act through the efforts of sponsors Rep. Vernon Ehlers (R-Michigan) and Sen. Carl Levin (D-Michigan), and other members of the Great Lakes Congressional Task Force. President Bush signed the act into law Nov. 27. Efforts now turn to securing the appropriations needed to implement the legislation.

The Great Lakes Legacy Act has been a key priority of the Commission and its partners. Its passage culminates many years of hard work by the Commission, environmental organizations, Great Lakes industries, citizen advisory councils, and others. The act authorizes \$50 million a year for five years to address contaminated sediments in Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs),

One disappointment for Great Lakes advocates was that Congress adjourned without reauthorizing the National Invasive Species Act (NISA) of 1996, a major priority of the Great Lakes Commission. The Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species worked hard with regional and national partners to help shape the new NAISA legislation, which now must wait until the 108th Congress convenes in January.

Prospects are good that the 108th Congress will pass an omnibus bill in February. Among many others, the Commission is hopeful that it will provide solid funding for its Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. The program was authorized under the 2002 Farm Bill, a major Commission priority for this highly-successful, 11-year-old program.

Contact: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org

2002 Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting resolutions
www.glc.org/about/resolutions

Lake Michigan Monitoring Inventory
www.glin.net/gis/lkmich

Water Resources Management Decision Support System report (available Jan.)
www.glc.org/wateruse/wrmdss.html

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

Great Lakes election results
www.glc.org/announce/02/11election.html

Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN)
www.great-lakes.net

Great Lakes Basin Program request for proposals (RFP)
www.glc.org/basin/RFP.html

Conference: Health effects of mercury in the Great Lakes Basin
<https://www.glc.org/mercury>

10th World Lakes Conference
www.ilec.or.jp/eg

Former Commission chair Irene Brooks named to IJC

Irene Brooks, chair of the Great Lakes Commission from 1998-2000, has been appointed to the International Joint Commission (IJC) by President George W. Bush.

Brooks and fellow appointee Allen Olson were sworn in as commissioners to the U.S. Section of the IJC on Dec. 3. She previously served as executive director of the Office for River Basin Cooperation of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and headed the Great Lakes Commission's Pennsylvania

Delegation. She was appointed to both positions by then-Gov. Tom Ridge in 1995.

John Hines, DEP acting deputy secretary for water management, has been named acting head of the Pennsylvania Delegation to the Great Lakes Commission.

Olson served as governor of North Dakota from 1980-84. He is currently president/CEO of the Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota.

For more information, see www.ijc.org/news/021203b.html



Irene Brooks

Mayors Conference to tackle regional issues

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence community is cordially invited to the 2003 Conference of the [International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors](#), June 16-18 in St. Catharines, Ontario. The conference will be co-hosted by mayors Richard Daley of Chicago and Tim Rigby of St. Catharines, who describe it as an effective regional advocate.

"The International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors," they said in a joint statement, "has proven to be a consistently valuable venue of cooperation among cities with an interest in maximizing their relationships with the economy, ecology and culture of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence."

Founded 16 years ago, the coalition has promoted such diverse interests as tourism, economic development and pollution control. It has positioned itself on the cutting edge of regional policy deliberations, calling for a stronger mayoral voice in ecosystem restoration efforts and adopting principles to guide water use and protection. The latter took the form of the *Sala-berry-De-Valleyfield Protocol* named for the Québec community that hosted the 2002 conference.

Staff support for the association is provided by the Commission and the St. Lawrence Economic Development Council. Contact: Steve Thorp, sthorp@glc.org; or Brock Dickinson, bdickinson@city.stcatharines.on.ca

Great Lakes Calendar

NOSPILLS Conference

Jan. 21-23, 2003, Traverse City, Mich.
Contact: Bill Murphy, 231-632-6080,
emabill@torchlake.com

Brownfields-Greenfields Policy Roundtable

Jan. 23, 2003, East Lansing, Mich.
Contact: Victoria Pebbles, 734-971-9135,
vpebbles@glc.org

An Ecosystem Approach to the Health Effects of Mercury in the Great Lakes Basin

Feb. 26-27, 2003, Windsor, Ontario.
Contact: Matt Doss, 734-971-9135, mdoss@glc.org

Great Lakes Day: Congressional breakfast and issues briefing

March 20, 2003, Washington, D.C.
Contact: Mike Donahue, 734-971-9135,
mdonahue@glc.org

2003 Great Lakes Commission Semiannual Meeting

April 15-17, 2003, Indianapolis, Ind.
Contact: Mike Donahue, 734-971-9135,
mdonahue@glc.org

10th Annual International Conference on the St. Lawrence River Ecosystem

May 13-15, 2003, Cornwall, Ontario.
Contact: Christina Collard, 613-936-6620,
ccollard@riverinstitute.com

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

June 16-18, 2003, St. Catharines, Ontario.
Contact: Steve Thorp, 734-971-9135, sthorp@glc.org

10th World Lakes Conference

June 22-26, 2003, Chicago, Ill.
Contact: Sarah Whitney, 734-971-9135,
swhitney@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 734-971-9135 or kirkh@glc.org.

Save trees and money!

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

The Last Word

Us-Now!

By Samuel W. Speck, chair, Great Lakes Commission



Sam Speck

This is an exciting time to become chair of the Great Lakes Commission! I look forward to working with Vice Chair Tom Huntley – and the entire membership – in restoring and protecting the waters of the Great Lakes basin and improving our quality of life.

To maximize our effectiveness, we must:

- Be a leading partner in efforts to protect our water resources through implementation of Annex 2001 of the Great Lakes Charter;
- Build upon our Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity, and partner with the Council of Great Lakes Governors and other parties in developing a restoration plan to guide future activities;
- Address the aquatic nuisance species challenge now, and press Congress to reauthorize and strengthen the National Invasive Species Act and address the specific threat of Asian Carp; and
- Enhance our focus on transportation and sustainable development by recognizing trade and security policy needs, advocating for a major maritime transportation study, and securing a second large lock at the Soo.

The challenges are great but so are the opportunities. So I ask – if not us, who? If not now, when? Our answer, and our motto, for the coming year should be “Us – Now!” Together, we can make the difference.

Where in the Great Lakes?



Artists: Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen

You could win a prize if you can identify the subject of this photo from the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region! E-mail your answer to kirkh@glc.org along with your name, address and phone number (or mail to the *Advisor* at the return address below left, or call Kirk Haverkamp at 734-971-9135). All correct responses received by March 15 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.



Tom Henderson, a retired high school teacher from Windsor, Ontario, correctly identified the Chi-Cheemaun ferry, shown here with its bow raised to take on cars for the trip from Tobermora, Ontario, to South Baymouth Island across the mouth of Georgian Bay. Thank you to all who participated!

Photo: Steve Thorp.

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