

Advisor

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Governor's message to Annual Meeting delegates

Great Lakes protection is a joint venture

By Wisconsin Gov. Scott McCallum

Welcome to Milwaukee, Wisconsin! Our state's largest city is pleased to host the annual meeting of the Great Lakes Commission.

Your theme of ensuring environmental and economic prosperity for the Great Lakes region certainly reflects the priorities of my administration and the people of this state. Wisconsin has a strong history of environmentalism and is blessed to be bordered by Lake Michigan to the east, Lake Superior to the north and the Mississippi River to the west. In between those great bodies of water lie tens of thousands of smaller lakes and rivers.

The water is an integral part of the lives of Wisconsinites and we are committed to protecting our water resources now and for future generations. I am happy to report that we are making significant progress on several fronts.

In May, I signed into law the first wetlands protection bill in the country. Passed unanimously by both houses of our state legislature, the measure filled the void created by the January 2001 United States Supreme Court decision that narrowed the water and wetland areas subject to federal regulation. Today, Wisconsin protects precious, isolated wetlands, including many near coastal areas, from being dredged or filled.

The following month, I added my signature to the Great Lakes Charter Annex 2001. Alongside my fellow Great Lakes governors and two Canadian premiers, we strengthened our ability to properly manage water resources and established the framework for water diversion standards. Access to water has always been an important issue, but pressure will continue to build in this new century as sources of fresh water dwindle in many parts of the world.

My opposition to drilling for oil or gas on the Great Lakes is now a matter of law. In late August, I signed the 2001-2003 state budget, which included a provision banning such practices. While adequate energy resources are a crucial issue, we must not pursue energy opportunities at the expense of the largest surface fresh water source in the world. The United States Congress is currently advancing legislation to address this important regional issue as well.

We must be ever vigilant about life beneath the waters of the Great Lakes and threats to that ecosystem. Invasive plants and aquatic animals pose a significant risk to the Great Lakes, as well as to our inland lakes and rivers. For that reason, I created



Gov. McCallum

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The Advisor is published bimonthly by the Great Lakes Commission. The Commission is a binational agency established in 1955 to promote the orderly, integrated and comprehensive development, use and conservation of the water and related natural resources of the Great Lakes basin and St. Lawrence River.

Commission News & Views

From the desk of the president...

Great Lakes Commission

The Great Lakes Commission is a binational public agency dedicated to the use, management and protection of the water, land and other natural resources of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system. In partnership with the eight Great Lakes states and provinces of Ontario and Québec, the Commission applies sustainable development principles in addressing issues of resource management, environmental protection, transportation and sustainable development. The Commission provides accurate and objective information on public policy issues; an effective forum for developing and coordinating public policy; and a unified, systemwide voice to advocate member interests.

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Let's turn our backs to the lakes

Sometimes, to see things more clearly we need to look the other way. Such is the case with so many of today's environmental and resource management challenges, whether they involve beach closures, habitat loss, contaminated sediment or any other type of impaired use. To understand these problems, we need to turn our backs to the lakes and look inland.

Water quality is largely a function of land use; we can't hope to improve the former without addressing the latter. And we're on a collision course. The most fragile and biologically productive component of the Great Lakes basin — our coastal zone — is not only the locus of intensive development, it also suffers the consequences of poor land-use decisions elsewhere in the watershed.

Recognizing the land use/water quality connection is one thing; doing something about it is another. As a society, we perceive water as a common property resource and readily accept government intervention in its use and protection. But land ownership is jealously guarded as a basic human right and government intervention of any kind is typically resisted. (The "wise use" movement isn't limited to western states.)

We at the Great Lakes Commission are doing our part. Recent years have seen a pronounced focus on the "land side," whether it be brownfields redevelopment, soil erosion and sediment control, or capacity building and training in watershed management. However, it ultimately will

be land-use decisions at the local level that have the greatest impact on Great Lakes water quality. As the land use/water quality connection becomes more widely recognized, it will be our watershed councils, our soil and water conservation districts, and our county and local governments that assume center stage in Great Lakes governance.

There's much we can do at the interstate and binational level to foster sound stewardship decisions at the local level. Let's take a good look at the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and make sure that land use is adequately addressed in both words and practice. Let's consider a comprehensive, basinwide examination of land-use practices and impacts as a follow-up to the landmark Pollution From Land Use Activities Reference Group (PLUARG) study the International Joint Commission completed a quarter century ago. Let's make sure that our restoration plans — both agency-specific and collective — recognize the land use/water quality connection. Finally, let's foster the kind of capacity-building needed at the local level to get the job done.

Simply put, if we don't turn our backs to the lakes, we'll be turning our backs on the lakes.



Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.

To Our Friends and Colleagues in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

On behalf of our chairman, Nathaniel E. Robinson, members of our Board of Directors and staff of the Great Lakes Commission, we express our deepest sorrow for the tragic, unconscionable act that has affected so many lives in New York, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., and beyond. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, your families, and your friends and colleagues.

Efforts to "Restore the Greatness" move forward

Great Lakes Commission advocacy efforts this year have focused on the 39 legislative and appropriations priorities presented in its the *Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity*. All priorities have been vigorously advanced and two have been the subject of Commission testimony in recent months.

The Commission submitted written testimony to the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment for H.R. 1070, the Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2001. The bill proposes funding to clean up contaminated sediments in Great Lakes Areas of Concern. Commission recommendations include:

- 1) Establish dedicated funding through partnerships and cost-sharing arrangements with states and local communities;
- 2) Coordinate funding through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, with input from state and local governments, as well as the Army Corps of Engineers;
- 3) Increase funding to ensure that cleanup programs do not become an unfunded mandate for state and local government; and
- 4) Focus resources where substantial improvements can be made.

The Commission also provided written testimony to the House Subcommittee on Environment,

Technology and Standards on the research provisions of the National Invasive Species Act of 1996. Recommendations include:

- 1) Establish dedicated federal funding of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) research that includes ballast water monitoring and demonstration projects, and environmentally sound biological and chemical control options;
- 2) Establish a technology feasibility study center;
- 3) Modify funding mechanisms to provide more rapid response to new ANS discoveries and expand the containment tools available;
- 4) Modify the ecological survey requirement from a status report to a trend analysis to assess prevention/control success; and
- 5) Require ships entering U.S. waters to report the source and status of their ballast.

This testimony has been complemented by literally dozens of targeted letters, meetings and other communications concerning priorities embodied in the Great Lakes Program.

"We're pleased with the program's reception in Congress," said Nat Robinson, Chairman of the Commission's Board of Directors. "We anticipate favorable action on many program elements as we work to 'Restore the Greatness.'"

For more information, contact: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org.



New GLIN service aids grant seekers

The newest section on the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) streamlines the process of searching for Great Lakes-related funding opportunities online. Unveiled in early October, the site offers a fully searchable database of several hundred grant, fellowship and scholarship sources that have relevance for the Great Lakes audience.

Search categories include type of funder (e.g., community-based, federal, foundation); funding

priority/issue (e.g., air quality, dredging, habitat protection); geographic area of focus (e.g., Lake Erie basin, state of Michigan, U.S. regionwide); and funding cycle/proposal deadlines.

The database, at www.glin.net/infocenter/news/funding, will be updated weekly and enhanced over time. Funding for this project is through a grant from the U.S. EPA-Great Lakes National Program Office. Contact: Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org.

GLIN, GLRC form news partnership

The Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) and Great Lakes Radio Consortium (GLRC) have teamed up to produce the GLIN Daily News service! As of September, GLRC and GLIN are jointly producing and marketing the GLIN Daily News service through a set of shared University of Michigan interns. Look for more details in the November/December issue of the *Advisor*.

Commission, Corps implement John Glenn Program

The federally authorized John Glenn Great Lakes Basin Program is strengthening regional management efforts, thanks to a strong partnership between the Great Lakes Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Commission is designing three studies, to be conducted under the auspices of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, that were mandated under the provisions of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999.

1) The Great Lakes Strategic Plan entails a comprehensive analysis of the Corps' mandate and role in the Great Lakes region. It will include a historical analysis of the Corps' presence, a review of ongoing projects and an analysis of factors limiting use of existing Corps programs and authorities, including the need for new or modified authorities.

2) The Great Lakes biohydrological inventory entails a compilation and analysis of existing Corps data on hydrology, tributary flows, biological aspects affecting water quality and

flows, and meteorological data. The inventory will contribute to the Commission's ongoing Water Resources Management Decision Support System project, conducted in response to a Great Lakes Council of Governors request and with support from the Great Lakes Protection Fund.

3) A recreational boating study will document economic benefits from the use of federally maintained harbors and channels. This work will showcase and enhance the Commission's growing interest in recreational boating.

Congress is expected to approve \$500,000 for FY2002 to continue the three initiatives, which were funded at \$100,000 last year.

The John Glenn Great Lakes Basin Program was one of three basinwide initiatives created under the 1999 legislation; the others address Great Lakes navigation and fishery/ecosystem restoration.

Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.

11th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species

February 25-28, 2002
Alexandria, Virginia

Freshwater Spills Symposium

March 19-21, 2002
Cleveland, Ohio

Great Lakes Commission Semiannual Meeting and Associated Events

May 6-9, 2002
Quebec City, Quebec

mark your calendar

McCallum , continued from page 1

the Governor's Advisory Task Force on Invasive Species. Led by Lt. Governor Margaret Farrow, the task force is evaluating the severity of the problem in Wisconsin waters and will develop a statewide plan to combat the introduction and spread of non-indigenous species.

Managing Wisconsin's coastal resources is a collaborative effort involving federal, state and local agencies along with scores of dedicated individuals. To boost efforts to protect our Great Lakes coasts, my administration will provide nearly \$7 million of federal coastal zone management funds to protect our Great Lakes coasts. The Wisconsin Coastal Management Program will administer these funds for community-based restoration activities in the coastal areas of lakes Superior and Michigan.

The majority of the money, \$5.7 million, comes from the new Great Lakes Coastal Restoration

Fund — one-time funds from the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) of 2000. It is my hope and expectation that Congress, at the urging of Great Lakes governors and our congressional delegations, will make the fund a permanent resource for the benefit of all Great Lakes states.

I have made the protection of the Great Lakes a priority in my administration and have asked Nat Robinson, the Great Lakes Commission chair from Wisconsin, to seek and pursue every opportunity to preserve this irreplaceable resource.

Additionally, I encourage my fellow governors, premiers and the Great Lakes Commission, to work collectively and aggressively to develop a unified plan to protect the greatest system of fresh water on the face of the earth.

States allocate funds for new Soo Lock

Construction of a new Soo Lock has taken a step closer to reality with commitments from three Great Lakes states to pick up a share of the cost.

Michigan, Illinois and Pennsylvania all appropriated funds last summer to cover their contributions towards the new lock, to be built on the St. Mary's River between lakes Huron and Superior. Approximately one-quarter of the \$225 million project is to be covered by nonfederal, cost-sharing funds from the eight Great Lakes states. The remaining five states have also committed to supporting the project and are in the process of securing appropriations to cover their shares.

The new large lock would improve shipping reliability and efficiency on the Great Lakes by replacing two World War I-era locks that are too small to handle modern commercial vessels. Presently, only one of the locks astride the

channel at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. can handle the 1,000-foot freighters that make up the backbone of today's Great Lakes fleet, placing the system at risk in the event of a malfunction.

"Construction of this lock will economically benefit our entire region and has been a priority for the Great Lakes Commission," said Nat Robinson, the Commission's Chairman of the Board. "We applaud the actions of our member states in committing their resources to this worthy project and call upon Congress to react to this expression of good faith by acting now to appropriate construction funds."

The Commission is urging Congress to appropriate \$6.5 million this session for planning, engineering and design and initial construction.

Contact: Steve Thorp, sthorp@glc.org, or visit www.glc.org/docs/soo.html.

"Great Lakes Odyssey" strengthens Commission, congressional ties

Northern Michigan proved to be the perfect setting for the inaugural Great Lakes Congressional Tour, a mid-August event that introduced some 18 congressional staffers to the splendor of the lakes and to associated management issues and opportunities.

Titled "A Great Lakes Odyssey," the event was hosted by the Great Lakes Commission and three partner agencies: the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the U.S. Geological Survey's Great Lakes Science Center and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory.

With Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel as the base of operations, congressional staff were introduced to Great Lakes research priorities and needs. They visited the sea lamprey control center at the Hammond Bay Biological Station near Cheboygan, went aboard federal research

vessels on Lake Huron to obtain and analyze fish and lake bottom samples, and heard briefings by the directors and senior staff of the sponsoring agencies.

The tour participants were drawn from the House, Senate, Great Lakes Task Force and Northeast Midwest Institute staffs. Their enthusiastic response to the tour has prompted the Commission to consider, at its annual meeting, scheduling such events on a regular basis.

For more information, contact: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org, or Julie Wagemakers, juliew@glc.org.



Mike Quigley, of the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab, demonstrates lake sampling procedure for congressional staff aboard a Great Lakes research vessel. Photo: Steve Brandt.

Board, staff leadership strategize on regional priorities



Mike Donahue, Irene Brooks, Nat Robinson and Sam Speck work out Commission strategies at Columbus meeting.

How can the Great Lakes Commission best employ its mandate, resources and advocacy capabilities to ensure an environmentally and economically prosperous future for basin residents? This was the focus of a strategy session for Board officers and staff leadership held August 10 in Columbus, Ohio and

hosted by Vice Chair Sam Speck, head of the Ohio Delegation.

Chairman of the Board Nat Robinson lead the

meeting, which was also attended by Immediate Past Chair Irene Brooks and Commission President/CEO Dr. Mike Donahue. Key topics included prospective elements of an expanded advocacy strategy; opportunities to expedite development of a region-wide, consensus-based "Great Lakes Restoration Plan;" and new directions and priorities for the Commission, with an emphasis on binational and international initiatives.

Strategy session outcomes will be a focus of a Board of Directors retreat planned in the coming months. Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org, or Nat Robinson, robinsn@board.tec.wi.us.

Lake St. Clair management plan project underway

The Great Lakes Commission is collaborating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a comprehensive management plan for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River. Authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 1999, the plan is being prepared in collaboration with U.S. and Canadian federal, state/provincial and local agencies, tribal authorities and First Nations, and other stakeholders.

The management plan will evaluate environmental problems, determine management goals and objectives, and develop recommendations

for management priorities. It will provide a mechanism for synthesizing and integrating existing studies, plans and recommendations into a cohesive, ecosystem-based framework.

The project is guided by a project management team, which held its organizational meeting Sept. 25 in Mount Clemens, Mich. A broad-based stakeholder advisory committee is being assembled as well. The draft plan is scheduled for release in spring 2002 in conjunction with a second "State of Lake St. Clair" conference. Contact: Matt Doss, mdoss@glc.org.

Report outlines uses for dredged material



Monitoring biomounds near Milwaukee. Photo: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Waste to Resource: Beneficial Use of Great Lakes Dredged Material has just been published by the Great Lakes Commission, with support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The booklet addresses key issues surrounding the productive use of dredged material, a sometimes controversial yet increasingly feasible alternative for dredged material management. Topics include: Why do we dredge? What is

beneficial use? How are decisions made about placement of dredged material? What about contamination?

A map features the type and location of several dozen beneficial use projects around the lakes. Case studies highlight beneficial use applications ranging from topsoil enhancement to beach nourishment to habitat restoration. The booklet is available from the Great Lakes Commission or online at www.glc.org/dredging.

Contact: Victoria Pebbles, vpebbles@glc.org.

Looking through “environmental windows”

The Commission has begun work on a new project related to Great Lakes dredging — “environmental windows.” Windows refer to periods of time when dredging activities will have minimal adverse ecological effects. Such effects include, among others, harm to fish and shellfish from resuspended sediments, the effects of sedimentation on sensitive resources and habitat, entrainment of aquatic organisms by hydraulic dredges and disruptions of bird nesting.

In recent years the process by which such windows are determined has come into question. Low lake levels and increased dredging demands have brought about more dredging activity. This has compromised the ability of relevant agencies to undertake the monitoring, data analysis and

studies required to establish windows based on scientifically sound information.

The goal of the project is to establish a regional process for determining environmental windows using the best information available, including data from project-related studies. A Windows Advisory Team (WAT) has been assembled with representation from the Great Lakes states. Also, an e-mail list has been set up for information exchanges among project participants. Contact Steve Thorp, sthorp@glc.org.



Harbor dredging, Michigan City, Indiana. Photo: National Park Service.

Binational team developing water management tools

Substantial progress is being made to support development of a Water Resources Management Decision Support System for the Great Lakes. Commission staff, working with a multi-agency, binational Project Management Team have completed several major products in recent months. Among them:

- A comprehensive literature search and analysis addressing the ecological impacts of water withdrawal;

- A descriptive inventory of 35 computer models that can be employed to characterize and assess various ecosystemic impacts of water withdrawal;

- A revised and enhanced inventory of basin water use, featuring 1998 data;

- A water balance report for the seven major bodies of water of the Great Lakes system;

- A descriptive survey of state/provincial water use and conservation programs; and

- The development and analysis of three water

use scenarios addressing hypothetical proposals for consumptive use, water diversion and withdrawal projects.

The Project Management Team and its technical subcommittees are also defining, scoping and answering questions involving three priority issues associated with the recently signed Annex to the Great Lakes Charter: water conservation, resource improvement, and consumptive use data. And, more than 60 experts in a dozen disciplines have been invited to contribute to an “Experts Workshop” (November 13-14, Ann Arbor) at which essential questions to assess ecological impacts of withdrawal will be developed and refined.

Supported by the Great Lakes Protection Fund, the project will assist the Great Lakes governors and premiers as they implement the Annex to the Great Lakes Charter.

Contact: Tom Rayburn, tray@glc.org or visit www.glc.org/waterquantity/wrmdss.



Did you know?

Between 80 and 90 million tons of cargo pass through the Soo Locks each year, about half of it iron ore. The Soo Locks play a critical role in our national defense as the primary route for iron ore shipments to the region's steel mills.

Should government do more to protect farmland?

Jim Fuerstenau, Exec. Director, Michigan Farmland and Community Alliance

POINT
BOIN



Protecting our farmland is important for several reasons. Not only is it the source of our food supply and a major contributor to our economy, but it plays important roles in our environment as well. Open land is necessary to recharge ground water aquifers, control runoff and maintain water quality. Farmland also provides wildlife habitat in the form of shelter and food supply.

Urban sprawl directly reduces the amount of farmland available. From 1981 to 1997, more than 12.6 million acres of farmland in the Great Lakes states and provinces were lost to development, an area larger than lakes Erie and Ontario combined.

A variety of innovative tools to protect farmland have been developed in recent years but their use is inconsistent by local and regional governments throughout the Great Lakes region. Agricultural Security Areas, Purchase/Transfer of Development Rights programs and property tax policies that assess farmland for its

agricultural value rather than as potential development all have been shown effective in preserving farmland.

Used strategically, farmland protection tools can actually aid economic growth and make development more organized and profitable. By identifying areas fit for long-term agriculture, vibrant economic growth can occur in the agriculture industry due to an increased sense of stability and the increased investment that will follow. At the same time, it is easier to identify areas fit for development. This predictability aids the development community.

There is a lot of land in the Great Lakes region. Enough for development and natural systems, including agriculture, to exist. However, we need to ensure that the land is utilized efficiently and productively. We are at a critical point in our history and the decisions we make today will define our legacy for future generations.

Lee Schwartz, Asst. Vice President, Michigan Assn. of Home Builders

counterpoint
counterpoint



Government efforts aimed at “preserving” farmland are misguided. Government should be concentrating on preserving farmers. The number one threat to farming is its low profitability, not families moving to rural areas. Only by making farming profitable can we preserve farmland.

Farmers in the field understand this. A 1998 Michigan study, conducted to make the case for “informed policy decisions” on proposals designed to preserve farmland by stopping development - among them purchase and transfer of development rights programs and agricultural security zones - yielded some interesting results.

According to the farmers surveyed, the two most important issues they faced were high taxes (93 percent) and low profitability (89 percent). Fully 67 percent of the farmers reported that they were not able to make a profit from farming.

Equally interesting was the finding that 58 percent of the farmers surveyed were opposed to any government restrictions on their ability to develop or sell their land, including voluntary purchase of development rights (PDR), transfer of development rights and agricultural security zones. They know a farmer’s net worth is not improved by these programs.

All the “farmland preservation” measures under consideration around the Great Lakes won’t make an unprofitable farm profitable. Cost estimates for preserving 10 million acres of farmland in Michigan through a PDR program run upwards of \$31 billion. Policymakers should ask themselves which is a better use of this tax money: to lock land into one use forever or to invest in tax relief for farmers and the expansion of value-added agricultural activities?

Seeking signs of success

Recent years have seen a pronounced shift in the focus of environmental protection and resource management efforts in the Great Lakes basin. As our understanding of the linkage between land use and water quality has increased, so too has our focus on local watersheds as primary units of management. Local planners and citizen volunteers are playing a pivotal role and providing them with the right tools has never been more important.

Help is on the way in a new book, *Seeking Signs of Success: A Guided Approach to More Effective Watershed Programs*. The book walks the reader through five key stages of the watershed program

evaluation process and, in so doing, promotes more focused programs, enhanced efficiency, greater accountability and an objective measure of success in meeting management goals. The authors are Cheryl K. Contant (Georgia Institute of Technology), Amy S. Beyer (Conservation Resource Alliance) and Michael J. Donahue (University of Michigan adjunct professor and Great Lakes Commission President/CEO).

Copies are available from Harbor House Publishers, 231-582-2814 or www.harborhouse.com.



\$30 million available for coastal restoration

A substantial source of funds is available for Great Lakes coastal restoration projects. Congress appropriated \$30 million last year to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for coastal restoration projects to be administered by the Great Lakes states. Those funds became available Oct. 1. Each state has, or will soon, release a Request for Proposals.

Eligible restoration projects include:

- Contaminated site cleanup;
- Stormwater controls (non-infrastructure);

- Wetland and habitat restoration;
- Acquisition of greenways and buffers; and
- Other projects designed to control polluted runoff and protect and restore coastal resources.

Grant eligibility is limited to state and local agencies, but nonprofit organizations may partner with eligible participants. The NOAA Coastal Zone Management Program web site is at www.ocrm.nos.noaa.gov/czm. For a list of state contacts, contact: John King, john.king@noaa.gov.

IJC appoints new Great Lakes regional office director

Dr. Gail Krantzberg has been named the new director of the International Joint Commission's Great Lakes Regional Office in Windsor, Ontario. She will succeed outgoing director Tom Behlen upon his departure in October.

An ecotoxicologist and environmentalist, Krantzberg has had a distinguished scientific public service career with Ontario Public Service and has played an important role in Great Lakes issues. She has written close to 70 scientific articles on issues pertaining to Great

Lakes water quality.

Previously senior policy advisor on Great Lakes programs for the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Krantzberg played a key role in the restoration of Collingwood Harbor, the only Great Lakes Area of Concern to be taken off the list of contaminated sites.

The Great Lakes Regional Office directorship is rotated on a four-year basis between the United States and Canada.

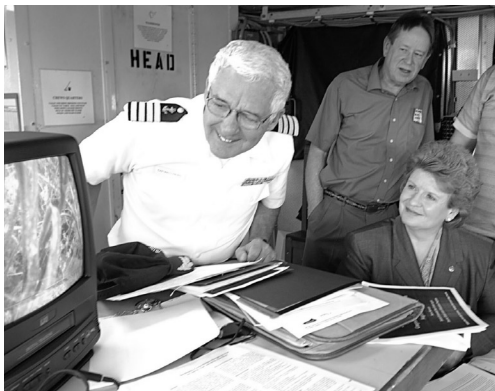
Contact: Jennifer Day, dayj@windsor.ijc.org.



Dr. Gail Krantzberg

Around the Lakes

Senators tour St. Clair-Detroit waterway



Capt. Luther Clyburn demonstrates a live picture of the bottom of the Detroit River for Sen. Stabenow. Photo: Dave Brenner.

The waterway connecting lakes Huron and Erie had its share of senatorial attention over the summer. In August, Michigan Sen. Debbie Stabenow took a boat tour of Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River aboard the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet vessel *Pride of Michigan*. The tour included briefings on critical issues facing the water corridor, including a presentation by Commission program manager Matt Doss on a new initiative to develop a compre-

hensive management plan for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River, as well as other Commission projects related to aquatic nuisance species, contaminated sediments and funding for Great Lakes restoration programs.

Stabenow's state counterpart, Sen. Carl Levin, toured the Detroit waterfront in July to assess the status and prospects of programs to enhance the riverfront's accessibility and use as a recreational resource. Levin was joined by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives, Commission President/CEO Dr. Mike Donahue and other regional and local officials. Contact: Matt Doss, mdoss@glc.org.

Mesocosm project tests new monitoring technique

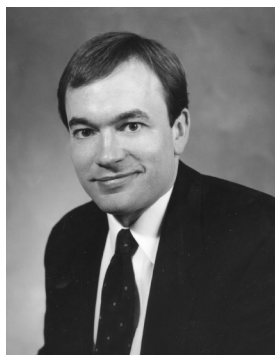
A project to explore the use of miniature environments as a means of monitoring the effects of pulp and paper mill effluent on fish and other aquatic organisms is underway in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The project uses mesocosms, or simulated natural systems, to see how fish are affected by various concentrations of endocrine disrupters.

The pilot project is a cooperative venture by St. Mary's Paper Ltd., Environment Canada, the Upper Great Lakes Environmental Research Network, Sault College of Applied Arts and

Technology and AMEC Earth and Environment Limited. Primary funding is provided by the paper company.

Pulp and paper companies on the East Coast have used mesocosms as testing devices before but this is the first time they have been tried in Ontario. The study, underway since July, places fish in tanks with various concentrations of paper mill effluent, then assesses the effects after 60 days.

More information is available online at www.ulern.on.ca.



Tom Skinner

Tom Skinner appointed new U.S. EPA Region 5 administrator

Tom Skinner, previously the director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is the new administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 5 office in Chicago. U.S. EPA Administrator Christie Whitman made the appointment in June.

"(U.S.) EPA is fortunate to have the leadership of such an experienced environmental professional," Whitman said. "He brings a wealth of knowledge about agency programs and relation-

ships with the states, which will be critical in developing more progressive approaches to protecting the environment and public health."

In his new position Skinner manages U.S. EPA's programs in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, as well as the Great Lakes National Program Office. He was appointed to head the Illinois EPA in January 1999.

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/region5/news/news01/01opa102.htm.

Let's just do it! (cont'd from page 12)

Prosperity, and the growing perception that the Great Lakes community is losing its influence due to the absence of a unified vision and a collective, effective strategy to achieve it.

The Great Lakes community is now well positioned to move aggressively to develop a Great Lakes Restoration Plan. Political will and motivation have heightened, Congress has clearly indicated it is receptive, and numerous building blocks are available. For example, many other restoration plan initiatives are underway on an agency-specific basis. The U.S. Policy Committee, USGS, U.S. Coast Guard, Corps of Engineers and NOAA, among others, also have either finalized or are in the process of developing such plans. Regional agencies, like the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, have developed plans as well. And thanks to Congressional Great Lakes Task Force leadership, the Great Lakes states are receiving a one-time \$30 million allocation earmarked specifically for coastal restoration.

While these individual efforts are laudable, we still need a unified, consensus-based, region-wide Great Lakes Restoration Plan and we need it NOW! I'm pleased to note that my own governor, Scott McCallum, also senses this urgency and has encouraged his fellow governors and premiers, and the Great Lakes Commission, to aggressively develop a unified plan (see cover article, this issue).

A plan development process needs to be devised now, and a plan development team assembled that provides the expertise, diverse representation and political support needed to get the job done. Let's build upon the many agency-specific restoration plans already available or in process, and consider a "Restoration Plan Summit" in the next couple months to pull it all together. And let's work toward a release date early enough next year to influence the upcoming second session of Congress and make a difference in FY2003. This will help ensure that the priorities and strategic plans of participating agencies are consistent with, and linked to, the over-arching Great Lakes Restoration Plan. I will gladly make the technical and facilitation capabilities of the Great Lakes Commission available to assist in the effort.

We, as a Great Lakes community, know what we *should* do and we know what we *need* to do. Now is the time to ascend to the next level and forge an even more effective partnership and strategic alliance within government, the private sector, our citizen organizations and the entire Great Lakes community. Let's not squander our time away! Let's not forfeit this opportunity! Let's get the job done! Let's just do it and let's do it now!



NATHANIEL E. ROBINSON, CHAIRMAN
Great Lakes Commission

Policy Statement on Ballast Water Management

www.glc.org/ans/anspubs.html

Upper Lakes Environmental Research Network

www.ulern.on.ca

U.S. EPA Region 5

www.epa.gov/region5

Great Lakes Dredging Team

www.glc.org/dredging

GLIN Funding and Grants Guide

www.glin.net/infocenter/news/funding

GLIN Daily News

www.great-lakes.net/news

NOAA Coastal Zone Management Program

www.ocrm.nos.noaa.gov/czm

New Soo Lock Overview

www.glc.org/docs/soo.html

Water Resource Management Decision Support System Project

<http://www.glc.org/waterquantity/wrmdss/>

Harbor House Publishers

www.harborhouse.com

Great Lakes Calendar

International Joint Commission Public Forum on Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Water Quality

October 19-20, Montreal, Quebec

Contact: Jennifer Day, 313-226-2170 (U.S.), 519-257-6733 (Can.), commission@windsor.ijc.org.

Conference on the Emerging Science of Natural Channel Design

November 6-7, Columbus, Ohio

Contact: Jerry Wager, 614-265-6619, jerry.wager@dnr.state.oh.us

Lake Michigan: State of the Lake 2001

November 6-7, 2001, Muskegon, Michigan

Contact: Dr. Janet Vail, 616-895-3048, vailj@gvsu.edu

Fall meeting of the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council

November 8, 2001, Muskegon, Michigan

Contact: Ric Lawson, 734-665-9135, rlawson@glc.org

SOLEC Biological Integrity Workshop

December 4-5, Windsor, Ontario

Contact: Stacey Cherwaty, 905-336-6458, stacey.cherwaty@ec.gc.ca

11th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species

February 25-28, 2002, Alexandria, Virginia

Contact: 800-868-8776, profedge@renc.igs.net

Further details and a more extensive calendar are available online via the Great Lakes Information Network (www.great-lakes.net). If you have an event you'd like us to include, please contact Kirk Haverkamp at 734-665-9135 or kirkh@glc.org.

The Last Word

Let's just do it!

By Nathaniel E. Robinson, Chairman, Great Lakes Commission



In March of this year, members of the Congressional Great Lakes Task Force invited the Great Lakes governors to coordinate development of a comprehensive, region-wide Great Lakes Restoration Plan that would reflect a broad-based, regional consensus on legislative, appropriations and program priorities. Several governors have responded individually, but a greater opportunity lies ahead: a commitment that all governors, and the entire community of Great Lakes interests, join forces to weave a common thread among their individual visions, plans and priorities.

The time to act swiftly and boldly is now! The window of opportunity to influence the upcoming second session of the 107th Congress is fading fast. In fact, it is slipping away right before our eyes!

The Great Lakes policy community, particularly our state leadership, has a tremendous opportunity to advance, influence and advocate public policy that will ensure the informed use of the Great Lakes and protect, preserve and enhance the region's environmental and economic prosperity. The Congressional Great Lakes Task Force has opened the door by specifically requesting a plan, and we have an opportunity to seize the moment. It is that plain and simple!

This year has seen enhanced interest in the development of a comprehensive, consensus-based strategy that presents a shared vision for the Great Lakes basin. The impetus for this increased interest can be attributed to several factors, including successful initiatives in other regions (e.g., the Everglades Restoration Plan), the pronounced regional interest in the Great Lakes Commission's *Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic*

continued on page 11



Where in the Great Lakes?

Identify the subject of this Great Lakes - St. Lawrence photo and you could win a prize! Send your answer via e-mail to kirkh@glc.org along with your name, address and daytime phone number (or call Kirk Haverkamp at 734-665-9135). All correct responses received by Nov. 16 will be entered into a drawing. The winner will receive his/her choice of a Great Lakes Commission t-shirt or a \$10 credit toward the purchase of a Commission publication.



Last issue's photo was of the Pride of Baltimore II. The contest winner was Jim Ford, Assistant Director of the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission in Chicago. Thank you to all who participated!

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