



Advisor

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2004 Annual Meeting focuses on advocacy, strategic planning

Region urged to speak as one for the Great Lakes

A single voice for the Great Lakes region. That is the primary goal the Great Lakes Commission should set for itself and strive to provide, in the opinion of newly elected Chair Tom Huntley and his Commission colleagues at the agency's 2004 Annual Meeting.

The Oct. 5 meeting in Toronto, with the theme "Celebrating Success, Preparing for the Future!" provided member delegations and partner organizations with the opportunity to share their views on key priorities the Commission should address and the strengths it should build upon as it develops a new strategic plan.

Among the key roles for the Commission, according to its members, are developing tools for decision support and data management; convening multiple interests to address regional issues; research coordination and development; specific issues such as invasive species and water resource management; and advocacy.

It was the last of these that Huntley addressed during a strategy session while speaking as head of the Minnesota delegation, prior to his election as chair at the end of the meeting (see story, p. 7).

"Our entire delegation agrees, the most important thing for the Great Lakes Commission is to speak for all the Great Lakes with one voice," he said, noting that the region has a long list of public agencies and nongovernmental organizations that speak to Great Lakes issues. "The question is, how do we combine all that to speak with one voice? It's a very difficult thing to do, but it's tremendously important."

So many voices make it difficult to send a clear message to Congress, Huntley said, where members are inundated with information and have asked that the region speak as one. He noted that this presents a challenge for the Commission in carrying out its legislatively mandated communications, coordination and advocacy role.

Outgoing chair Sam Speck expressed a similar view, saying that while the Commission should always strive to seek consensus among the range of regional interests, there will be issues that not everyone agrees on.

"Even on issues where there is disagreement, the Great Lakes Commission should take a stance and advocate that stance," he said, adding that absence of such a voice hurts the region.

One step in that direction was an action taken at the meeting to harmonize the Commission's ecosystem protection and restoration priorities with those of the region's gov-



Tom Huntley

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

Commission News & Views

From the desk of the president/CEO...

Great Lakes Commission

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

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Cover illustration: Lake Superior shore, courtesy of Travel Michigan.

Get the Picture?

Isn't it interesting how a number of people can look at the same picture, and each will see a very different image? This is fine if we're talking about abstract art but can be a problem for Great Lakes governance. A case in point is the data and information upon which we ostensibly rely to understand and influence ecological, economic and social processes.

Ask an elected official, a resource manager and a scientist about the "state of the art" in decision support and each is likely to sound certain themes. Elected officials often admit that they are overwhelmed with data and information, awash with so many facts and figures from so many sources (frequently unsolicited) that they cannot possibly process it all. Resource managers typically decry problems of data relevance, consistency and accessibility when decisions need to be made. Meanwhile, those in the research community tend to think that the quantity and quality of data needed to come to definitive conclusions are seldom available.

In his seminal article, "Problems of Organization in the the Science, Politics and Management of Water," Rich Thomas speaks to these differing perspectives. In so many words, he tells us that the primary difference between success and failure in resource management is data and information, and how we use them.

The reality is that we will never have *all* the data and information we ideally need to make the decisions that have to be made. It always has, and always will, come down to a matter of exercising best professional judgment based upon best available information. This is, indeed, the essence of policymaking. The challenge then, opens up on three fronts: we need to 1) make better use of the data and information that

do exist; 2) better integrate data and information acquisition and analysis – including monitoring – into management programs; and 3) continue the call for an adequate research infrastructure to support management decisions.

The Great Lakes Commission and its many partners have embraced this challenge with a series of initiatives that bode well for the future. Our recent Regional Data Exchange (RDX) Conference yielded recommendations to enhance data consistency and accessibility across basin jurisdictions. New dimensions are being added to the Great Lakes Information Network to enhance its role as a regional data clearinghouse and coordination mechanism. A just-completed business plan for the Great Lakes Observing System promises to enhance data and information generation and direct it at policy priorities. Decision support systems designed to access, integrate and direct data and information to topics such as water management, spill response, sustainable land use and aquatic invasive species prevention and control are being designed and refined. And, of course, the Commission remains a staunch advocate for the region's research institutions and associated monitoring and surveillance needs.

Rich Thomas maintains that, absent a strong research base, management institutions inevitably evolve toward a state of "senility" in which there is "a slowing of the generation of new data" and the "repetitious regurgitation of old ideas, concepts and data sets." That, I suspect, is a picture that no legislator, resource manager *or* scientist would like to see.



Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.

RDX Conference points way to better information systems

Access to diverse data holdings and information systems are key to effective resource management, as are interoperable computer models and decision support mechanisms. Coordinating these tools is a daunting task that the Great Lakes Commission has embraced in response to a policy directive from its membership. To address this challenge, the Commission assembled more than 150 Great Lakes information managers in Detroit, Mich., Oct. 26-28 for the Great Lakes Regional Data Exchange (RDX) Conference.



Keynote speaker G. Tracy Mehan, former U.S. EPA assistant administrator for water and onetime director of Michigan's Office of the Great Lakes.

“Information systems are a vital, strategic component of environmental management, yet often overlooked, underappreciated and underfunded by policymakers at all levels of government,” said G. Tracy Mehan, former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) assistant administrator for water, in his opening keynote address. “The current policy dialogue on water diversions

and consumptive uses in the Great Lakes region, both inside and outside the basin, is an obvious example of public policy crying out for more and better data, modeling and information accessible to all stakeholders.”

The goal of the RDX Conference was to promote dialogue toward establishing a decision support system to help guide the region's sustainable development. A reliable data support mechanism for the Great Lakes would help direct public dialogue toward a useful debate over policy, rather than focusing on matters of fact which should be resolved by integrated, reliable and easily accessible data and information.

“Ensuring consistency in data standards, acquisition, management and analysis across all political boundaries is essential to achieving a shared vision for our natural and economic resources,” said Dennis Schornack, U.S. chair of the International Joint Commission (IJC). “Such a system should be cost-effective; enable proactive, preventive action to protect and enhance the region's natural and economic resources; and provide



Christine Manninen, manager of the Commission's Communications and Internet Technology Program, describes potential innovations for the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN).

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New projects boost regional data access and exchange

New information technologies are revolutionizing the ability to produce, manage and use data. As research and data collection play increasingly important roles in resource management and protection in the Great Lakes region, it is crucial that researchers and policymakers are able to access, share and exchange data.

The Great Lakes Commission is building its capacity to offer improved data access to researchers and policymakers investigating key issues in the Great Lakes region. This capacity is reflected in the development of Internet data

portals and the establishment of a substantial infrastructure to support them via distributed servers and database systems. Current projects include the development of Internet data portals for information on toxic air emissions in the Great Lakes region; water flows and related data for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River; and a broad range of other Great Lakes data.

The first of these is the newly completed “Centralized Air Emissions Repository On-Line” (CAROL) web portal (<http://mds.glc.org/>)

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Partnership to advance ANS prevention and control

Great Lakes Day in Washington

March 2, 2005
Washington, D.C.

IAGLR Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research

May 23-27, 2005
Ann Arbor, Mich.

2005 Great Lakes Conference and IJC Biennial Meeting on Water Quality

June 9-11, 2005
Kingston, Ontario

mark your calendar

Intergovernmental coordination and cooperation is a hallmark of successful aquatic nuisance species (ANS) management efforts, and state agencies have a particularly critical role in translating laws, policies and plans into viable prevention and control strategies. At the same time, they must harmonize their efforts with neighboring jurisdictions to ensure a cohesive regional approach. Add to this the complexity of the issue and funding limitations, and it is clear that Great Lakes states have no shortage of challenges – and opportunities – in advancing prevention and control initiatives.

To assist its member states in addressing these challenges, and embracing the opportunities, the Great Lakes Commission is partnering with the region's Sea Grant programs to help advance the continued development and implementation of state management plans called for under federal ANS legislation. Toward that end, a series of workshops is being conducted over the next

six months to review plan status, celebrate successes, identify unmet needs, and strategize on actions that can be taken to enhance ANS prevention and control efforts. A model state management plan, developed by the Commission and the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species in the mid-1990s will be used as a benchmark to guide the review. That model, which was used as a template by most states for their own plans, emphasized a coordinated, basinwide approach.

Great Lakes Commission staff will work with Sea Grant and state agency officials in designing the workshops to ensure state-specific relevance. A regional summit will be conducted at the end of the process to share success and unmet needs, and identify areas for collective state action.

For more information, contact: Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, shwayder@glc.org.

Data management and exchange tools *(continued from page 3)*

carol/), designed to better communicate the results of the Commission's Great Lakes Air Toxic Emissions Inventory. This inventory, compiled from information submitted by the eight Great Lakes states and Ontario, provides detailed information on 213 air toxic compounds in the Great Lakes basin. The CAROL portal enables a wide range of users to obtain data at an appropriate level and in an appropriate form to meet their needs, including tables, charts or interactive web-based Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping capabilities.

Using GIS technologies to present the information enables CAROL to present data in interactive, intuitive formats that encourage visual interpretation and exploration. It also provides the ability to offer the inventory holdings to all Internet users via Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards such as Web Map Services (WMS) and Web Feature Services (WFS). This enables data to be presented in a manner that allows browsing and querying

of otherwise unconnected data elsewhere on the Internet, using a range of geospatial mapping technologies.

The Commission is also applying these technologies to two other projects now being developed. A data portal being developed for the International Joint Commission's (IJC) Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study Board will provide access to data on water levels and flows in those systems. This will assist the board in making recommendations to the IJC on water levels and flows that will address environmental, economic and social considerations.

The second is the Great Lakes Data Directory, a metadata search engine that will enable users to find sources of geospatial data on the Great Lakes. As with the other applications, users will be able to import a wide range of geospatial data from the web portal onto to their own desktop applications and to other web-mapping applications.

Contact: Kevin Yam, kyam@glc.org.

Resource managers learn to use erosion and sedimentation models

The Great Lakes Commission's contribution to science-based watershed management continues, with a successful conclusion to a Pennsylvania initiative and a new-start effort in Michigan.

A workshop in mid-September marked the culmination of sedimentation and erosion modeling efforts for the Mill and Cascade creeks watershed in Pennsylvania and served to transfer technological tools and lessons learned from the project to the local watershed community.

Led by Dr. Rick Diz of Gannon University's Department of Environmental Science and Engineering, the workshop provided training on Geographic Information System (GIS) software, the BASINS (Better Assessment Science Integrating Point and Nonpoint Sources) multipurpose environmental analysis system, and SWAT (Soil and Water Assessment Tool) software used

to quantify the impact of land management practices at a river basin scale.

Commission staff subsequently convened an initial stakeholders workshop to begin development of a modeling effort for Michigan's Sebawaing River. Actual modeling work will begin in 2005 or 2006, depending on funding availability.

Both modeling efforts are part of the ongoing Great Lakes Tributary Modeling Program, a federally authorized initiative to aid state and local resource agencies in predicting the effects of various actions upon soil erosion and sedimentation. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which funds the effort, is partnering with the Great Lakes Commission and other parties in the development of the computer models.

Contact: Tom Crane, tcrane@glc.org; or Laura Kaminski, laurak@glc.org.

Great Lakes Regional Collaboration to convene Dec. 3

A collaboration to restore and protect the Great Lakes ecosystem will be convened in Chicago Dec. 3 by U.S. EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt. With invitations issued to hundreds of regional leaders and stakeholders, the meeting marks the start of a process to design a strategy to protect and restore the Great Lakes, as directed by presidential executive order. Look for details in the next issue of the Advisor.

RDX Conference (continued from page 3)

political legitimacy for sound policy decisions."

Panel discussions featured Brian Maloney, Ontario's chief information officer (CIO), and Ken Theis, deputy CIO with the Michigan Department of Information Technology. E-mail spam and Internet security were discussed by Karl Jacob, a well-known entrepreneur and CEO/co-founder of Cloudmark, Inc. A strategic plan for the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN), managed since 1993 by the Great Lakes Commission, was also highlighted during the three-day agenda.

Great Lakes Information Management Achievement awards were presented to Eric Swanson, Michigan Dept. of Information Technology, Center for Geographic Information; and Mike Robertson, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Land Information Office.

The conference was co-sponsored by the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office and the Great Lakes Commission, with support from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (Western & Eastern Great Lakes regions and Central New York),

IJC, and dozens of other project partners.

With attendees from all eight Great Lakes states and the provinces of Ontario and Québec, the event featured more than 45 contributed papers,

as well as plenary sessions, training seminars and focus group discussions.

The RDX Conference is envisioned as a biennial event, with the next conference tentatively planned for spring 2006 in New York State.

Conference proceedings will be available at <http://rdx.glc.org/> and on CD by Dec. 15. Contact: Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org.



Regional Data Exchange challenges and opportunities are debated by (l. to r.): Roger Gauthier, Great Lakes Commission; Mike Robertson, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources; and Greg Buehler, Open Geospatial Consortium.

Commission Briefs

2004 Annual Meeting (continued from page one)

ernors. The Commission's seven priorities, first introduced in 2001 with the inaugural edition of its *Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity*, have provided a foundation for multiple regional initiatives in recent years.

State delegations committed to work more closely with their Washington offices to effectively convey the region's priorities. Accelerating efforts to raise the Commission's profile and advance its views in Washington and in the region should also be a priority, according to Illinois Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, chair of his state's delegation.

"I think it's important for the Great Lakes Commission to become more prominent in letting people know what we're doing," he said, recognizing the challenge of communicating with a large and diverse community of Great Lakes-St. Lawrence interests.

Huntley also noted the large number of newly appointed Commissioners and the tremendous expertise, influence and enthusiasm they bring to the Commission. To fully tap this great potential, Commissioners agreed to develop a strategy to enhance direct involvement of all Commissioners in priority setting, policy development and advocacy.

"We have an excellent foundation on which to build," observed Commission president/CEO Dr. Mike Donahue. "The Commission is engaged in vibrant and growing policy research and development initiatives, responding to member priorities in a range of areas that showcase ecosystem protection, restoration and sustainable use."

He presented the Commission with a descriptive inventory of nearly 60 distinct programs and projects that address those priorities. "The Commission is unique in that it embraces a

'sustainability' philosophy," Donahue said. "It is founded on the principle that true success can be achieved only by recognizing the complementary nature and interconnectedness of environmental and economic goals."

The annual meeting also featured reports on three major binational initiatives and their relevance to ecosystem restoration and protection: the upcoming review of the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, and the ongoing Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway Study.

Presentations by the host province of Ontario, whose delegation is chaired by Bill Carr, addressed current provincial initiatives, includ-



Bill Carr, chair of the Ontario Delegation and avid hockey fan, offers some additional priorities for consideration.



Gail Krantzberg, director of the International Joint Commission's Great Lakes Regional Office, awaits her turn to discuss strategic plan development during the comment session for Observer agencies and partners.

ing a study of a proposed integrated transportation network for the "Golden Horseshoe" region encircling Lake Ontario that will support environmental and open space objectives.

Immediately following the conclusion of the meeting, the Commission co-hosted the opening reception for the biennial State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOELC), held Oct. 6-8 at the same location, Toronto's Delta Chelsea Hotel.

Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.

Huntley elected chair of Great Lakes Commission

Minnesota state Rep. Thomas Huntley (D-Duluth), a 12-year veteran of the Great Lakes Commission, was elected chair of the organization by his fellow Commissioners at the conclusion of the 2004 Annual Meeting, Oct. 4-5 in Toronto. John Goss, director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), was elected vice chair.

Huntley, who served as vice chair the past two years, succeeds Ohio DNR Director Sam Speck, who under Commission bylaws now assumes the post of Immediate Past Chair.

“The Great Lakes are in a crucial period right now, as we face decisions on a broad range of critical issues regarding water use, water quality, invasive species, shipping, national policy and more,” Huntley said. “It’s essential that the Great Lakes community speak with a single voice regarding these issues, and I’m deeply honored that my colleagues have placed me in a role to help harmonize our message as chair of the Great Lakes Commission.”

An associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology in the School of Medicine and Department of Chemistry at the University of Minnesota, Huntley was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1992. A former chair of the Duluth-Seaway Port Author-

ity, a post he has held three times, he has a strong interest in maritime issues.

He is also director of institutional relations for the U-M School of Medicine; and has served on the Governor’s Joint Health Care Task Force and the Minnesota Terrorism Preparedness Advisory Committee.

Goss was named by the late Gov. Frank O’Bannon to head the Indiana DNR in January 2002. Prior to that, he served a nine-year tenure as head of the Indiana Department of Tourism and concurrently on the Indiana Natural Resources Commission. He earlier served as O’Bannon’s chief of staff and was deputy mayor of the city of Bloomington.

Contact: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org.



From left, Wisconsin Commissioner Todd Ambs, Vice Chair John Goss, Chair Tom Huntley, and Immediate Past Chair Sam Speck in conversation following the conclusion of the meeting.

Tools for water conservation released

An online water conservation directory, with more than 150 links to tools, data and information, has been completed by the Great Lakes Commission and is now available for public use.

The searchable directory is the final element in a water conservation “tool kit” developed by the Commission for use by public water suppliers, as well as state and provincial agencies. The tool kit provides information on technology, educational resources, organizations, international resources, and municipal water conservation programs within and outside the Great Lakes region.

Other elements of the tool kit include a series of three reports on water conservation practices

and technologies in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region and worldwide. All are available at www.glc.org/wateruse/conservation.

The tool kit is one of a series of Great Lakes Protection Fund projects undertaken by the Commission to provide practical and scientific support toward meeting the Great Lakes governors’ and premiers’ commitments under Annex 2001 of the Great Lakes Charter, including measures to promote the efficient use and conservation of the waters of the Great Lakes basin.

More information is available on the Council of Great Lakes Governors web site, www.cglg.org.

Contact: Becky Lameka, blameka@glc.org.

Beach access: Should the Great Lakes shore be open to all?

Larry Mitchell, Sr., League of Ohio Sportsmen

POINT
BOUNT



Larry Mitchell, Sr., is president of the League of Ohio Sportsmen, the Ohio affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.

“You don’t belong here.”

That is a common refrain from landowners who have decided that the beaches of the Great Lakes are theirs alone.

Across the Great Lakes states there is a growing movement to add an “admission charge” to the beaches of the lakes. The charge is land ownership, and very few citizens will be fortunate enough to enjoy what is truly theirs.

From the founding of our country, the shores and waters of the Great Lakes have been in the public trust. In this area – codified in federal law as the beach below the ordinary high water mark – the general public has had the right to walk, fish, birdwatch and enjoy the Great Lakes for more than 200 years.

But now, in this period of low water levels, some landowners – and developers – want to use the public trust lands to extend their prop-

erties. To build exclusive developments where the general public is neither welcome nor wanted. To “groom” the beaches and get rid of the “weeds.” To destroy the critical habitat that is the nesting grounds for waterfowl today and will be our fisheries when the waters rise again.

Protecting the Public Trust is not only about walking the beach. It’s about protecting the habitat that is exposed today. Taxpayers have spent millions of dollars to restore these critical habitats for both fish and waterfowl, money that will be wasted if they are given to private landowners. And these critical habitats will be in great danger of destruction.

It is time for both sportsmen and the general public to stand up and demand that the public trust and its critical habitats be protected – for us, for our children and grandchildren.

counterpoint

Diane Katz, Mackinac Center for Public Policy



Diane Katz is director of science, environment and technology policy for the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a research and educational institute in Midland, Mich.

Great Lakes devotees have nothing to fear from legislative and judicial efforts to protect property rights along the water’s edge. Private ownership of land yields greater environmental, economic and social benefits than government control.

Both Michigan and Ohio have lately debated whether the public can demand access to shoreline exposed by low lake levels adjoining private property. The Michigan Court of Appeals in *Glass v. Goeckel* upheld legal precedent in recognizing “the exclusive right [of property owners] to the use and enjoyment of the land that, once submerged, has now become exposed by receding waters.” In Ohio, legislation approved by the state House and pending in the Senate would likewise affirm the rights of owners to control access to their beach property.

The Michigan decision is under appeal, while the outcome in Ohio is uncertain. But the essence of the riparian rights tradition in both states is a property owner’s exclusive access to water. State control is rightly limited to submerged lands for

purposes of protecting navigation.

This position is consistent with numerous legal opinions dating as far back as 1896 and as recently as 1994. Moreover, both the ruling and the Ohio legislation are compatible with laws in neighboring states as well as in Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin.

The public can still enjoy strolling our beloved beaches. As the Michigan Court of Appeals noted, “The state has several means available to it in order to preserve Great Lakes beaches for public use without interfering with a riparian owner’s property rights.”

There is ample evidence that property owners are superior stewards. Unlike government, property owners have a direct stake in protecting their investment. Collectivism, on the other hand, has repeatedly wrought environmental ruin.

Even if the state proved to be a faultless caretaker, citizens benefit more from privately held property. As John Adams said, “Property must be secured or liberty cannot exist.”

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.

First Great Lakes Legacy Act cleanup begins on the Detroit River

An inlet called the Black Lagoon, one of the most toxic hot spots on the Detroit River, is the first Great Lakes Area of Concern (AOC) to benefit from cleanup funds under the Great Lakes Legacy Act.

On a bright, September morning, U.S. EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt joined federal and state agency leaders and local officials in Trenton, Mich., to formally kick off the cleanup effort. The project is being implemented with \$4.2 million in Legacy Act funding and \$2.3 million in states funds from the Clean Michigan Initiative bond program.

The cleanup will remove approximately 90,000 cubic yards of sediment contaminated with mercury, PCBs, oil and grease, lead and zinc from the bottom of the lagoon, which is a source of pollution to the Detroit River and, ultimately, Lake Erie. The city of Trenton plans to redevelop the area, and Mayor Gerald Brown has estimated the cleanup could boost nearby property values by \$60 million or more.

The cleanup is expected to be completed by January 2005.

The Black Lagoon cleanup is an important precedent for federal, state and local governments working together to fund and implement complex, costly and large-scale contaminated sediment cleanups. Passage of the Legacy Act and funding for AOC cleanups have been long-standing priorities of the Great Lakes Commission and the many local advisory groups in the AOCs.

The Great Lakes Legacy Act, signed into law in 2002, authorizes \$270 million over five years to remediate contaminated sediments in the 31 U.S. and binational Great Lakes Areas of Concern. Congress appropriated \$10 million for the Legacy Act in fiscal year 2004; fiscal year 2005 funding remains unresolved. The Great Lakes Commission has been a leading advocate for full appropriations, noting the Legacy Act's critical role in large-scale ecosystem protection and restoration efforts.

For more information, see www.epa.gov/grtlakes/sediment/legacy/index.html.

Contact: Matt Doss, mdoss@glc.org.



Marc Tuchman, U.S. EPA, Great Lakes National Program Office, left, and U.S. EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt examine a sample of toxic sediment taken from the Detroit River's Black Lagoon. A U.S. EPA sediment sampling vessel, the Mud-puppy, is in the background.

GAO calls for clearly defined restoration goals

Current Great Lakes monitoring efforts are inadequate for assessing restoration progress and compliance with the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA), according to a recently released report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO).

The report, released in September, found that current monitoring does not provide the comprehensive information needed to assess overall conditions in the Great Lakes basin. It notes that a binational monitoring program required under the GLWQA has yet to be fully developed, while other state and federal monitoring efforts, though useful, are limited in scope to specific purposes or geographic areas.

The GAO reported that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has relied heavily on the binational State of the Lakes Ecosystem Confer-

ence (SOLEC) process to develop indicators for reporting on environmental conditions in the Great Lakes basin. However, it said the SOLEC indicators tend to be based on research, rather than decisionmaking needs, and do not assess whether conditions are improving or deteriorating based on measurable restoration goals.

It also found there is confusion as to whether primary responsibility for leading restoration efforts lies with U.S. EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) or with the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, recently established within U.S. EPA by executive order.

The GAO recommended that Congress clarify the issue and direct the entity it selects to develop and prioritize measurable goals for the Great Lakes basin.

The full report, GAO-04-1024, is available at www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-1024.

Daniels, Obama head list of newly elected Great Lakes leaders

Centralized Air Emissions Repository Online (CAROL)
<http://mds.glc.org/carol/>

RDX Conference Proceedings (available Dec. 15)
<http://rdx.glc.org>

Water Conservation Tool Kit
www.glc.org/wateruse/conservation

Council of Great Lakes Governors
www.cglg.org

Mackinac Center for Public Policy
www.mackinac.org

League of Ohio Sportsmen
www.leagueofohiosportsmen.org

Great Lakes Legacy Act
www.epa.gov/grtlakes/sediment/legacy/

GAO Report on Great Lakes Monitoring and Restoration
www.gao.gov/new.items/d041024.pdf

State of the Lakes (SOLEC) 2005 Draft Report
www.binational.net

The Nov. 2 election brought a number of new faces to the Great Lakes political landscape, with one new governor, a new U.S. senator and nine new members of the House of Representatives.

In Indiana, the region's only gubernatorial race saw the team of Mitch Daniels and state Sen. Becky Skillman (R) defeat incumbent Gov. Joe Kernan and Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis (D). Kernan, the former lieutenant governor, was sworn in following the sudden passing of Gov. Frank O'Bannon in September 2003.

Daniels is the former director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget under President George W. Bush, a post he held until June 2003, when he resigned to return to Indiana. During his tenure, he also served as a member of the National Security Council and the Homeland Security Council. Prior to joining the Bush Administration, he was president of the Indianapolis-based pharmaceutical firm Eli Lilly Co.

Skillman is the third-ranking member of the Indiana Senate, holding the post of majority caucus chair. She has been a member of the state Senate since 1992, representing the 44th District in southern Indiana.

The Illinois race for the U.S. Senate drew national attention, as state Sen. Barack Obama (D) defeated author and former radio host Alan Keyes (R) in a race for the seat currently held by retiring Sen. Peter Fitzgerald (R). Elected to the Illinois Senate in 1996, Obama represents the 13th District on Chicago's south side and is chair of the Public Health and Welfare Committee. A graduate of Harvard Law School, he was a civil

rights attorney and community organizer prior to his election to the state senate.

In the five other races for the U.S. Senate in Great Lakes states, the incumbents were re-elected to another term – Sens. Evan Bayh (D-Ind.), Russ Feingold (D-Wis.), Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), Arlan Specter (R-Pa.) and George Voinovich (R-Ohio).

Two upsets were reported in races for the U.S. House of Representatives. In Illinois' 8th District, business owner Melissa Bean (D) defeated incumbent Rep. Phillip Crane (R) in the 8th District, while in Indiana's 9th District, business owner Mike Sobrel (R) apparently defeated incumbent Rep. Baron Hill, (D) pending a recount.

The other seven new members of Congress from Great Lakes states were elected in districts where the incumbent chose not to run. They are (with retiring representative in brackets):

Michigan:

7th Dist. – Former state Sen. Joseph Schwarz (R) def. paralegal and organic farmer Sharon Renier (D) [Rep. Nick Smith-R]

New York:

27th Dist. – Erie Co. Comptroller Nancy Naples (R) def. Atty. Brian Higgins (D) [Rep. Jack Quinn-R]

29th Dist. – State Sen. Randy Kuhl (R) def. nonprofit executive Samara Barend (D) [Rep. Amory Houghton Jr.-R]

Pennsylvania:

8th Dist. – Atty. Mike Fitzpatrick (R) def. Atty. Virginia Schrader (D) [Rep. Jim Greenwood-R]

13th Dist. – State Sen. Allyson Schwartz (D) def. ophthalmologist Melissa Brown (R) [Rep. Joseph Hoeffel -D]

15th Dist. – State Sen. Charles Dent (R) def. business owner Joe Driscoll (D) [Rep. Pat Toomey-R]



Mitch Daniels



Barack Obama



Becky Skillman

SOLEC 2004: “State of the Lakes” mixed

With a theme of Physical Integrity, the sixth biennial State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC) attracted hundreds of delegates and lively debate Oct. 6-8 in Toronto, Ontario.

Hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada, the event presented a comprehensive assessment of the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem, based on assessments of 56 indicators. The assessments are now based on indicator “bundles,” the result of peer reviews held over the past two years to identify strengths and weaknesses of the SOLEC process and products.

The revised indicator framework now features the following nine categories: contamination, biotic communities, invasive species, coastal zones, aquatic habitats, human health, land use/cover, resource utilization, and climate change. Other categories (and sub-categories) may be incorporated in the future.

Under the revised suite of indicators, overall assessments for all lake systems were mixed. A “mixed” ranking indicates the ecosystem component(s) display both good and degraded features. The most recurring stresses on the

overall Great Lakes system include invasive species, shoreline development, habitat loss, overfishing, land use change, use restrictions due to bacterial contamination, and emerging chemical contaminants.

The Great Lakes Commission played a significant role in the meeting, with staff organizing sessions and making presentations on subjects such as coastal wetlands monitoring, information management, beach health, urbanization impacts on water quality, and watershed monitoring.

Other highlights of SOLEC included a presentation on the “Ecological Footprint of the Great Lakes Basin,” presented by Dr. William Rees, a renowned researcher from the University of British Columbia.

“The Great Lakes region is fairly typical of wealthy regions around the world that have exceeded their local biocapacity and impose a heavy ecological load on the rest of the planet,” Rees said. “We need to step back and question what we are gaining in the mad rush to accumulate ever-greater quantities of material goods.”

The draft State of the Lakes 2005 report is available on CD or via www.binational.net.

Did you know

Asian carp aren't only found in the Mississippi and Illinois rivers in the U.S. – sometimes they turn up on the table as well! Live fish markets have been known to offer it and other potential invasive species. For more information, see the current ANS Update insert in this issue of the Advisor.

Great Lakes Calendar

Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research

January 6-9, 2005, Windsor, Ontario
Contact: Daniel Heath, 519-253-3000, ext.3762
dheath@uwindsor.ca

2005 Science Vessel Coordination Workshop and Great Lakes Conference

January 18-22, 2005, Traverse City, Mich.
Contact: Mark Burrows, 519-257-6709,
burrowsm@windsor.ijc.org

International Conference on Remediation of Contaminated Sediments

January 24-27, 2005, New Orleans, La.
Contact: Joan Purvis, 800-783-6338,
info@confgroupinc.com

Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Science Forum

January 26-27, 2005, Green Bay, Wis.
Contact: Laura England, 608-250-9971,
programs@wiscwetlands.org

Great Lakes Day in Washington

March 2, 2005, Washington, D.C.
Contact: Mike Donahue, 734-971-9135,
mdonahue@glc.org

Annual International Conference on the St. Lawrence River Ecosystem

May 16-18, 2005, Cornwall, Ontario
Contact: Christina Collard, 613-936-6620,
ccollard@riverinstitute.com

IAGLR Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research

May 23-27, 2005, Ann Arbor, Mich.
Contact: Tom Johengen, 734-764-2426,
05chairs@iaglr.org

2005 Great Lakes Conference and IJC Biennial Meeting on Water Quality

June 9 -11, 2005, Kingston, Ontario
Contact: Jennifer Day, 519-257-6733,
dayj@windsor.ijc.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

Making a great organization greater



Tom Huntley

What an honor it is to be elected chair of the Great Lakes Commission! I look forward to working with Vice Chair John Goss, our Board of Directors and the entire membership to make a great organization even greater.

Immediate Past Chair Sam Speck has worked relentlessly over the past two years to harmonize the region's priorities and position the organization to serve as *the* source for data, information and objective policy analysis.

Based on that success, my chairmanship will feature three primary themes:

- Member involvement: The Commission has many new members, all with impressive credentials, influence and expertise. We must – and will – tap their full potential as we work together for a clean environment and a prosperous economy.

- Advocacy: Tight federal budgets will present special challenges this year for the Great Lakes. We will elevate our profile in Washington and partner in new ways to make sure the region speaks with one voice to get what it needs – and deserves.

- Sustainability: The Great Lakes Commission is unique in that it recognizes the complementary nature of environmental and economic goals. We need to celebrate that uniqueness, and will work to bring disparate sectors of the Great Lakes- St. Lawrence community together to advance the notion of sustainability in resource management.

Some things of course, will not change: our binational focus, our dedication to objective research and policy analysis, and the growth curve for our technical and decision support capabilities.

Let's get started!

Hon. Thomas E. Huntley, chair, Great Lakes Commission

Where in the Great Lakes?



Can you identify this Great Lakes landmark? If you think you know, e-mail your answer, along with your name, address and phone number to kirkh@glc.org or mail it to the *Advisor* at the address on the mailing panel below. All correct responses received by **Dec. 17, 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.



Last issue's winner was Christine Rohn-Tielke, of Avon, Ohio, who identified this photo of the annual Labor Day Mackinac Bridge Walk. Thanks to everyone who entered! Photo: Mackinac Bridge Authority.

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