2010 Annual Report
2010 Board of Directors

James Tierney, Chair
Assistant Commissioner for Water Resources
New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Kari Bennett, Vice Chair
Commissioner
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

Todd Ambs
Administrator, Division of Water
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

Marc T. Boucher
Chargé d’Affaires
Government of Québec

Kelly Burch
Regional Director,
Northwest Regional Office
Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection

Bill Carr
Manager, International Relations Policy
Government of Ontario
Office of International Relations and Protocol

Ken DeBeaussaert
Director, Office of the Great Lakes
Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources and Environment

Alexander B. Grannis
Commissioner
New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Hon. Thomas Huntley, Ph.D.
State Representative
Minnesota Legislature

Sean Logan
Director
Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources

Marc Miller
Director
Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources

Gov. Patrick Quinn
Immediate Past Chair
State of Illinois

Photo: view along the Lake Michigan coastline of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Michigan.
For the Great Lakes, blue is the new green

“Green” has become a ubiquitous term in contemporary language, and one that has assumed an entirely new meaning. To be “green” used to infer rookie status, or a stage of early development, or a state of envy. Today, however, it is most often identified with environmental awareness: to be “green” in the modern sense is to be environmentally responsible, whether in business, policy development or lifestyle.

The Great Lakes Commission has long practiced “greenness” in its work representing member states’ and provinces’ interests in Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River water resources. But looking back over not only the year, but also the decade just passed, we see “blue” emerging as the more appropriate color to describe our regional priorities: blue, as in a freshwater resource unmatched in the world for its volume, accessibility, beauty and especially, its value.

In the first decade of the 21st century, it became increasingly apparent that access to fresh water will soon be one of the planet’s most important economic and geopolitical drivers, if it is not already. Thus, the blue gem that is our Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River system takes on a new preciousness, with the responsibilities of stewardship and wise use growing commensurately.

In 2010, the Great Lakes Commission’s blue priorities were reflected in activities both pre-emptive and remedial. In the face of one of the most potentially destructive aquatic invaders the Great Lakes has yet confronted, the Asian carp, the Commission stepped up to partner with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and six regional funders to initiate an independent, accelerated study of how to best stop the interbasin movement of invasive species by separating the Great Lakes and Mississippi watersheds where they connect at the Chicago Area Waterway System, while enhancing that system’s critical role in transportation, flood management and water quality.

The Commission continued in 2010 to pursue an aggressive advocacy program in support of one of the “blue-est” Great Lakes protective measures ever enacted by Congress, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. In addition to seeking full funding of the GLRI’s second year, the Commission supported legislation to formally authorize the GLRI and elevate the role of the eight Great Lakes states in guiding restoration efforts in partnership with the federal government. The Commission also joined regional partners in support of fixing failing sewers and drinking water infrastructure, strengthening science-based conservation efforts, and enhancing regional collaboration, all truly “blue” activities.

Reference is made with increasing frequency to the “blue economy.” This concept acknowledges the basin’s freshwater assets as a potent economic driver that can and should be integrated into a regional economy undergoing significant change. But what specifically is the “blue economy?” What products and services does it entail? How much investment does it attract compared to the region’s historic economic engines of manufacturing and heavy industry? And perhaps most important to GLC member states and provinces, how many jobs does it generate?

As we look ahead to a new year and a new decade, the Great Lakes Commission pledges to work with our members and partners to answer these and other challenging questions, as we build an environmentally sound and economically sustainable “blue” future in the region for our generation and the many to follow.

Tim A. Eder, Executive Director

James Tierney, Chair

Tim A. Eder, Executive Director
Toward a new Chicago waterway system: protective and improved

Responding to an ecological threat to the Great Lakes potentially as great as lamprey eels and zebra mussels, the Great Lakes Commission took a leadership position in 2010 to prevent Asian carp from being the next catastrophic invader.

At its 2010 semiannual meeting in Washington, D.C., the Commissioners adopted a resolution recognizing ecological separation as the best long-term solution to the threat of Asian carp and other species moving between the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes. The Commission then partnered with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative on a project that will identify engineering options for Chicago’s waterway system that will prevent interbasin movement of aquatic invasive species such as Asian carp, while also modernizing the system’s roles in commercial navigation, recreational boating, flood and stormwater management, and water quality.

The $2 million project, Envisioning a Chicago Area Waterway System for the 21st Century, is being supported by six funders: the Frey Foundation, the Great Lakes Fishery Trust, the Great Lakes Protection Fund, the Joyce Foundation, the C.S. Mott Foundation, and the Wege Foundation.

HDR Engineering, Inc. was selected as the lead consultant for the project and has assembled a national, multidisciplinary technical team with expertise in hydrology and hydraulics; environmental engineering; lock, dam and canal engineering; ecology and fisheries biology; transportation planning and commercial logistics; sanitary engineering; regional planning; and economics.

Movement of two Asian carp species up the Mississippi River system over the past two decades has prompted measures to stop them from entering the Great Lakes via the Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal, the only direct link between the Mississippi and Great Lakes watersheds. The primary deterrent has been construction of two electronic fish barriers on the canal. Discovery of eDNA from the carp, and one live adult fish, beyond the barriers in 2010 brought a heightened sense of urgency to the situation.

Both the Great Lakes Commission and the Cities Initiative have taken positions favoring separation as the best approach to keep the invasive fish from entering the Great Lakes and threatening businesses, tourism and a $7 billion sport fishery. The Chicago waterway project will evaluate the economic, technical and ecological elements of separation, along with associated costs, impacts and potential benefits of a re-engineered hydrologic system.

The project is designed to support the work of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study, but is committed to produce findings on a more accelerated schedule with completion expected by January 2012.

Keeping on message in Washington

Great Lakes Day 2010 on Capitol Hill focused on opportunities, namely the second funding cycle of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), and issues, particularly the growing threat of Asian carp to the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Great Lakes Day events included the Great Lakes Commission’s 2010 Semiannual Meeting which was called to order by the then-chair of the Commission, Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn, and featured high level speakers including Cameron Davis, senior advisor to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson; Peter Silva, U.S. EPA assistant administrator for water; Jo-Ellen Darcy, assistant secretary for civil works, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and Ann Mills, deputy undersecretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In a unanimously supported resolution, the Commission called on Congress and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to embrace a clear goal of ecological separation...
The Great Lakes Commission took a leadership position in 2010 to prevent Asian carp from being the next catastrophic invader.

A number of members of the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation, including Reps. Vern Ehlers and Mark Schauer of Michigan, Marcy Kaptur of Ohio and Kathy Dahlkemper of Pennsylvania. One of the more distinguished, but most attention-grabbing attendees of the breakfast was an actual Asian carp on ice, displayed to highlight the concern in the Great Lakes over aquatic invasive species.

Wind Collaborative assesses ports for capabilities to handle turbines

With almost all of the Great Lakes Commission’s member states and provinces banking heavily on wind to meet their goals for alternative energy and to help rejuvenate economies, the Commission continued to provide leadership in 2010 in the regional discussion of this fast-emerging industry. The GLC’s activities in wind energy are anchored by its coordination of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds as the key, permanent strategy in the war against Asian carp and their threatened invasion of the Great Lakes. The measure also requested Congress to provide the Corps with authority and substantial resources to complete their study of ecological separation – defined as prevention of the movement of invasive species between the watersheds – and to accelerate completion of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal portion of the study to September 2011.

The annual Great Lakes Day Congressional Breakfast featured remarks from a multi-sector coalition of wind energy stakeholders working to facilitate the sustainable development of wind power in the binational Great Lakes region.

Responding to requests from its Offshore Wind Workgroup to learn more about the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence marine transportation system and its potential role in offshore wind energy development, GLC staff surveyed all major ports in the system to assess their readiness and willingness to handle wind turbine cargo. The resulting report, The Role of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway Ports in the Advancement of the Wind Energy Industry, provides a general overview of the Great Lakes wind energy industry as well as a comprehensive discussion of the role of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway ports in advancing the industry.

The document’s appendix provides detailed information about the individual ports and/or port operators who responded to the GLWC survey including contact information, infrastructure specifications (handling equipment, staging and
GLRI provides $5 million to Basin Program’s watershed-scale sediment reduction

With some $5 million in funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), the Great Lakes Commission was able to award nine major grants in 2011 to projects aimed at reducing sediment pollution in priority Great Lakes watersheds. The grants were awarded by the GLC and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) under the Commission-administrated Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. The GLRI-supported grants represented the largest single award cycle in the Basin Program’s 20-year history.

Project sites selected for funding included Blue Creek, the St. Marys River and Little Elkhart River in Indiana; the Pinenobog River, River Raisin, and Shiawassee River in Michigan; the Poplar River in Minnesota; Black and Oatka Creeks in New York; and Old Woman Creek and the Sandusky River in Ohio.

dockage area), bimodal transportation options, and past experience handling wind turbine components.

Energy and water initiatives inform Water Compact implementation

The Great Lakes Commission launched two new initiatives in 2010 with grants from the Great Lakes Protection Fund to generate information that can help the states collectively achieve the goals of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact and Agreement. The Great Lakes Energy-Water Nexus initiative will advance integration of energy and water resource decisionmaking and inform next generation energy development and deployment. The Commission is partnering with the U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratories, Cornell University, and a host of other institutions and individuals who are leaders on the relationships between water and energy.

The first phase of this initiative was an 18-month project to develop new tools and processes for integrating environmental considerations into energy planning and regulation. It included development of energy-water nexus maps, a modeling tool to demonstrate water resource impact tradeoffs under different energy production scenarios. It will also produce a report on the region’s energy-water nexus that analyzes relationships between energy and the Great Lakes environment. A final component of the project will be follow-on work to test and refine outputs from the planning phase.

The Value of Great Lakes Water initiative was launched in 2010 to study the pricing of public water in the Great Lakes region and look at ways that pricing can be used to better manage the water resource. The project will also help inform public water utilities looking to implement more sustainable practices for municipal water systems. An end goal of the 18-month planning phase will be to design a demonstration pilot comparing efficiency-oriented public water rate structures to more traditional rate structures to determine their potential for broader application in the region.

With some $5 million in funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), the Great Lakes Commission was able to award nine major grants in 2011 to projects aimed at reducing sediment pollution in priority Great Lakes watersheds. The grants were awarded by the GLC and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) under the Commission-administrated Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. The GLRI-supported grants represented the largest single award cycle in the Basin Program’s 20-year history.

Project sites selected for funding included Blue Creek, the St. Marys River and Little Elkhart River in Indiana; the Pinenobog River, River Raisin, and Shiawassee River in Michigan; the Poplar River in Minnesota; Black and Oatka Creeks in New York; and Old Woman Creek and the Sandusky River in Ohio.
Earth Day attracts special guest to inspect Muskegon Lake

NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco, under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere, spent Earth Day 2010 in Muskegon, Mich., celebrating an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)-funded wetland and shoreline restoration project managed by the Great Lakes Commission and the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission.

A $10 million stimulus grant awarded by NOAA is enabling the removal of more than 180,000 tons of sawmill waste and demolition materials from the Muskegon Lake shoreline and the restoration of almost two miles of hardened shoreline to native vegetation for fish and wildlife habitat.

“This is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce’s initiatives to bolster the economy and create jobs that promote blue-green growth while ensuring conservation,” said Lubchenco, who noted that the project has generated work for some 70 full-time employees while restoring almost 24 acres of wetland habitat.

Lubchenco joined GLC Commissioner and Michigan Office of the Great Lakes Director Ken DeBeausaert, GLC Executive Director Tim Eder, WMSRDC Environmental Planning Program Manager Kathy Evans and other project partners on a NOAA research vessel to inspect the project work sites by water.

The Muskegon Lake restoration project is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce’s initiatives to bolster the economy and create jobs that promote blue-green growth while ensuring conservation

NOAA ADMINISTRATOR DR. JANE LUBCHENCO

Webinar series showcases air quality research

The Great Lakes Commission kicked off a ten-part Atmospheric Toxics Webinar Series in 2010 featuring results of research conducted through the GLC’s Great Lakes Air Deposition (GLAD) program supported by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funding. 41 research grants have been awarded and managed by the Commission since 2004 under the direction of a team of senior air pollution control staff representing each of the eight Great Lakes states.

As a result of this effort, a substantial amount of new scientific knowledge concerning atmospheric contaminant loadings, fate and transport within the Great Lakes basin, and the associated adverse effects on wildlife and human health, has been accumulated. The webinars, which continued into 2011, allow GLAD award recipients to report their research findings, including follow-up measures and recommended policy actions. They are also aimed at promoting coordination and implementation of consistent regional policies and exploring future funding opportunities.

Total requests to the competitive watershed-scale grants program exceeded $20 million. The nine funded projects were selected by a regional Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Task Force made up of representatives of the eight Great Lakes states and are expected to save upwards of 24,000 tons of soil erosion on an annual basis.

The GLC’s Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control has funded 439 local small-scale projects since 1991, allocating over $15 million to control erosion and sediment. These projects have reduced soil erosion in the Great Lakes basin by more than 1.6 million tons and phosphorus loadings by over 1.6 million pounds.
2010 Funders and Supporters

The great majority of Commission programs and projects are pursued in partnership with other agencies and organizations, and benefit from their funding support. A listing of 2010 funders and supporters is provided below. Thanks to all for their assistance!

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Council of Great Lakes Governors
Ecology and Environment, Inc.
Frey Foundation
Great Lakes Fishery Trust
Great Lakes Observing System
Great Lakes Protection Fund
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
HDR, Inc.
Healing Our Waters® - Great Lakes Coalition
Industrial Economics, Inc.
International Joint Commission
Joyce Foundation
Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth
Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment
Michigan State University
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
(NOAA) Coastal Services Center
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service – ARRA
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service – Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (IFA)
NOAA National Sea Grant College Program
NOAA Restoration Center
National Wildlife Federation – Great Lakes Natural Resource Center
New York Power Authority
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
Northeast-Midwest Institute
Province of Ontario
Province of Québec
State of Illinois
State of Indiana
State of Indiana – Office of Energy and Defense Development
State of Michigan
State of Minnesota
State of New York
State of Ohio
State of Wisconsin
Superior Watershed Partnership
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Great Lakes National Program Office
U.S. EPA, Office of Air and Radiation – ARRA
U.S. EPA, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
U.S. EPA, Region 5, Air and Radiation Division
U.S. EPA, Region 5, Superfund Division
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Wege Foundation
Western Resource Advocates

Note: the funders listed above provided support to the GLC in calendar year 2010. The financial report on page 9 covers the GLC’s fiscal year only, which concluded June 30, 2010.
FY2010 Revenues and Expenses

The Great Lakes Commission concluded FY 2010 in sound financial condition, with operating revenues of $6.42 million. Expenses exceeded revenues by $42,495, less than 1 percent.

Overall, the Commission continues to effectively manage its general and restricted funds to achieve the goals and objectives of the organization.

These figures were confirmed by an independent audit, which is conducted each year to examine the Commission’s financial operations. The 2010 fiscal year ended June 30, 2010.

Revenues

Grants and contracts $ 5,895,108
State contributions 480,000
Meetings, publications, misc. 27,490
Interest income 20,883
Total $ 6,423,481

Expenses

Personnel $ 2,130,475
Grants and contracts 3,758,751
Office operations 354,655
Travel 120,846
Communications 61,704
Program activities 39,545
Total $ 6,465,976

Revenues

Grants and contracts 91.77%
State contributions 7.47%
Meetings, publications, misc. 0.43%
Interest income 0.33%

Expenses

Personnel 32.95%
Grants and contracts 58.13%
Office operations 5.49%
Travel 1.87%
Communications 0.95%
Program activities 0.61%
Delegation chairs are in **bold**.

### Illinois
- **Marc Miller**, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources
- **Joe Deal**, City of Chicago
- **Steven M. Powell**, United Food and Commercial Workers
- **Gov. Pat Quinn**
- **Douglas F. Scott**, Gov. Appointee
- **Kimberly J. Walz**, Illinois Fifth Congressional District
- **Pat Carey**, City of Chicago
- **Clark, Gary**, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources

### Indiana
- **Kari Bennett**, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
- **Robert E. Carter, Jr.**, Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources
- **Thomas W. Easterly**, Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management
- **Ron McNab**, Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources
- **Jody W. Peacock**, Ports of Indiana

### Michigan
- **Ken DeBeaussaert**, Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources and Environment
- **Hon. Patricia Birkofer**, State Senator
- **Hon. Mike Cox**, Attorney General
- **Curtis Hertel**, Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority

### Minnesota
- **Hon. Thomas Huntley**, State Representative
- **Hon. Bill G. Ingebritsen**, State Senator
- **Hon. Morrie Lanning**, State Representative
- **Ed Oliver**, Gov. Appointee
- **Hon. Yvonne Prettner Solon**, State Senator

### New York
- **Alexander B. Grannis**, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
- **Philip Reed**, Gov. Appointee
- **James M. Tierney**, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
- **Donald Zelasny**, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

### Ohio
- **Sean D. Logan**, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources
- **Hon. Timothy J. Grendell**, State Senator
- **Christopher Koleski**, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- **Hon. Dennis Murray**, State Representative
- **James Weakley**, Lake Carriers’ Association
- **Alternates**
- **John D. Baker**, International Longshoremans’ Association
- **Ed Hammett**, Ohio Lake Erie Commission
- **Cathryn Loucas**, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources

### Ontario
- **William Carr**, Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs
- **Rosalyn Lawrence**, Ministry of Natural Resources
- **John Lieou**, Ministry of the Environment
- **Scott Thompson**, Ministry of Transportation

### Pennsylvania
- **Kelly Burch**, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection
- **Robert W. Light**, Pennsylvania Sea Grant
- **Pat Lupo**, Earth Action
- **Alternates**
- **John Booser**, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection
- **Lori Boughton**, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection

### Québec
- **Marc T. Boucher**, Government of Québec
- **Pierre Bertrand**, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks
- **Nathalie Camden**, Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune
- **Marc Gagnon**, Fednav Limited
- **André Meloche**, Ministry of Transportation

### Wisconsin
- **Todd Ambs**, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
- **Hon. Dave Hansen**, State Senator
- **Fred Schnowk**, Foth & Van Dyke and Assoc., Inc.

### Observers
- **Alliance for the Great Lakes, Joel Branamier**, Canadian Embassy
- **Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, Mike Ridley**
- **Coastal States Organization, Kristen Fletcher**
- **Council of Great Lakes Governors, David Naftzger**
- **Council of Great Lakes Industries, George Kaper**
- **Ducks Unlimited, Gilde M. Tori**
- **John C. Shedd Aquarium, Melanie Napoleon**
- **Great Lakes Environmental Law Center, Nick Schroeck**
- **Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Christopher Goold**
- **Great Lakes Observing System, Jennifer Read**
- **Great Lakes Sea Grant Network, Jeff Gunderson**
- **Great Lakes United, Jennifer Nalbone**
- **Helsinki Commission, Anne Christine Brusendorff**
- **International Joint Commission, Dr. Saad Y. Jasim**
- **Maritime Administration, Great Lakes Region, Floyd Miras**
- **National Association of Conservation Districts, Bradley Rogers**
- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, Marie Colton**
- **NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, David Kennedy**
- **National Park Service, Gary Vogt**
- **St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp., Terry Johnson, Jr.**

### Commission staff

### Credits
- Copyright © 2011 Great Lakes Commission
- Editor: Dave Knight; Designer: Laura Andrews
- Managing Editor: Christine Manninen
- Printed on 100% recycled paper, 50% post-consumer waste, processed chlorine free.
About the Commission

The Great Lakes Commission was established in 1955 with a mandate to “promote the orderly, integrated and comprehensive development, use and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes basin.” Founded in state law with U.S. federal consent, with membership consisting of the eight Great Lakes states and associate member status for the provinces of Ontario and Québec, the Commission pursues four primary functions: communication and education, information integration and reporting, facilitation and consensus building, and policy coordination and advocacy.

Each Member jurisdiction is represented by a delegation consisting of three to five members who are appointees of the respective governor or premier, legislators or senior agency officials. A board of directors, consisting of the chair of each delegation, is the Commission’s executive body.

In carrying out its initiatives, the Commission works in close cooperation with many partner organizations, including U.S. and Canadian federal agencies, binational institutions, tribal/First Nation governments and other regional interests. Representatives appointed by partner entities participate extensively in Commission activities through a formal Observer program. The Commission is supported by a professional staff in Ann Arbor, Mich.