



# Great Lakes Commission Advisor

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## Great Lakes Commission Semiannual Meeting: Setting our agenda

“Setting Our Agenda: State and Provincial Priorities for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region” was much more than a theme at the Great Lakes Commission’s Semiannual Meeting May 11-12 in Duluth, Minn. Hosted by the Minnesota Delegation and attended by more than 100 officials from every Great Lakes-St. Lawrence state and province, Commissioners reviewed legislative and appropriations priorities, adopted a five-year strategic plan, updated the Commission policy positions document, acted on a number of policy positions, and developed new initiatives that address the Commission’s mandate. Irene Brooks, Commission chair, opened the meeting noting, “This is a significant event because both Québec and Ontario are now officially Associate Members of the Great Lakes Commission and because this meeting is all about setting priorities for the future.” Nat Robinson, Commission vice chair, followed, adding “Today, perhaps more than ever before, this region is faced with tremendous challenges. The Great Lakes Commission — with a binational focus, an environmental conscience, an economic sensitivity and reputation for objectivity — is ideally positioned to ... forge consensus on critical issues and take a strategic look at the future of this region.”

Highlights of the meeting included the adoption of multiple resolutions; keynote addresses by Premier Gary Doer of Manitoba and Thomas Baldini, U.S. Section chair of the International Joint Commission (IJC); and a lively panel discussion on ballast management and aquatic nuisance species. Meeting sponsors included the Minnesota Delegation, Duluth Seaway Port Authority, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, Midwest Energy Resources Company, Potlatch Corporation, Minnesota Sea Grant and Hallett Dock Company. Meetings of the Great Lakes Dredging Team and Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species preceded the semiannual meeting in Duluth on May 10-11.

**SELECTED POLICY ACTIONS** (See [www.glc.org/about/resolutions/resMay00.html](http://www.glc.org/about/resolutions/resMay00.html) for full text of resolutions)

**Ballast management for the prevention and control of aquatic nuisance species.** This resolution endorses principles to guide any prospective legislation, management or research activity associated with ballast water management: among others, the need for consis-

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*Commission Chair Irene Brooks*

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## 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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## GLWQA review yields a blueprint for progress

Thanks to a recently completed review of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the Great Lakes community is now well-positioned to ensure that this landmark document will serve us for many years to come. The review, undertaken by the U.S. and Canadian federal governments, fulfills a requirement that Agreement “operations and effectiveness” be assessed every six years (Article 10, Paragraph 3). Assisted by volunteers drawn from all sectors of the Great Lakes community, working groups of the governments’ Binational Steering Committee have generated a number of significant recommendations that will enhance implementation of the current Agreement and help guide its future revision.

The pace of the review process was slower than many would have preferred, because some confused the term “review,” which is referenced in Article 10, with the term “renegotiation,” which is not. Hence, considerable effort in some quarters was directed at opposing, rather than contributing to, the much-needed review process. The rationale for such opposition is difficult to fathom. Indeed, how can we possibly find out where we need to go if we don’t know where we are? After all, this isn’t a minor agreement; it’s the centerpiece for the Great Lakes cleanup effort!

Thankfully, the review process proceeded in earnest, yielding a “blueprint” of solid recommendations. It concluded that the Agreement articles are fundamentally sound and will provide a foundation for Agreement updates and enhancements. Many of the recommendations can be applied immediately to strengthen Agreement implementation, while others offer guidance as the governments move toward Agreement revisions. Among others, recommendations call for:

- streamlining and updating language to ensure that Agreement principles, science and programs prepare us well for current and future needs;

- developing criteria for delisting Areas of Concern and means to show intermediate steps of progress;
- updating the Coast Guard annexes to recognize new international initiatives since the 1986 protocol to the Agreement was signed;
- adding language and mechanisms to recognize and preserve high quality areas;
- including measures that address the insidious problem of biological pollution through aquatic nuisance prevention and control;
- recognizing the relationship between water quality and land use, with an emphasis on measures for habitat protection;
- enhancing the Agreement’s role in fostering an ecosystem approach to Great Lakes management; and
- harmonizing Annexes 1,2 and 11 to provide a complete package for assessing the status of Great Lakes water quality.

These and related recommendations are testament to the careful thought and objectivity invested in the review process. As stewards of the resource, we must now take this process to the next level. How might the Agreement be strengthened, through updated or new articles and annexes? This must be accomplished, of course, without backsliding on current agreement provisions or compromising current implementation efforts.

The choice is a fundamental one. Do we want a strong, updated and enhanced Agreement that applies ecosystem principles and 21st century science to current and emerging needs? Or, do we want an Agreement that is a memorial to the issues, approaches and science of the 1980s? In my book, this is a “no brainer.” And, I hope it will be for anyone who truly places concern for the environment above all else.



Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.

# Semiannual Meeting Highlights

## Setting our agenda, continued from page 1

tency among the Great Lakes jurisdictions and the adoption of management technologies that are effective, environmentally safe and economically feasible. It also recommends that interim best management practices for ballast water be adopted to immediately reduce the risk of future invasions while short and long-term solutions are weighed. It calls upon the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation, in consultation with the Great Lakes states, to advance federal legislation that will enable the U.S. Coast Guard to more aggressively identify solutions to the introduction of aquatic nuisance species via ballast water. Also, it voices support for the Council of Great Lakes Governors in its efforts to develop regional and binational solutions.

**Water withdrawal, consumption, diversion and export.** This resolution commends the IJC on release of its reference report, *Protection of the Waters of the Great Lakes*. The Great Lakes Commission urges member jurisdictions and the federal governments to carefully consider and address the reference's recommendations and reaffirms the Commission's commitment to support, assist and advise member jurisdictions and the Council of Great Lakes Governors as a Great Lakes water management regime is developed.

**Use of marine sanitation devices on the Great Lakes.** The Commission commended the commercial navigation industry for its proactive approach in implementing the Great Lakes Industry Voluntary Testing Program for marine sanitation devices (MSDs). Based on discussion at a Commission-sponsored MSD workshop Nov. 10, the resolution recommends that further research be undertaken to identify sources of beach contamination, that offshore water quality monitoring complement inshore methods, that there be thorough consideration of the need for new "no-discharge" zones, and that state enforcement of sewage disposal laws for recreational boaters become a priority. Workshop findings, recommendations and identified unmet needs will

be presented to relevant state, provincial and federal agencies, among others.

**Beneficial use of dredged material.** The Commission resolved that beneficial use of dredged material in the Great Lakes should be considered a priority management option, and federal research and funding should be increased to expand its use. Further, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and in consultation with the Great Lakes states, should issue guidance on beneficial use to address the acknowledged uncertainties as to dredged material contaminant criteria and its subsequent use for particular purposes.

### Linking brownfields redevelopment and greenfields protection.

The Commission adopted a resolution recognizing the link between brownfields redevelopment and greenfields protection in efforts to advance sustainable development. The resolution urges member jurisdictions to provide for mutually supportive brownfields redevelopment and greenfields protection initiatives at the local level, to revise those policies that subsidize economic development in greenfields at the expense of development in areas with existing urban infrastructure, to direct new large-scale greenfields development projects away from prime farmland, and to require fiscal impact analyses to evaluate the costs and benefits of locating large-scale projects in urban areas ver-



Premier Gary Doer of Manitoba (center) enjoys dinner at the Congdon Estate with Chair Irene Brooks (right) and Vice Chair Nat Robinson (left). Premier Doer was the keynote speaker at the semiannual meeting dinner, addressing state/provincial cooperation in transboundary resource management.



Members of the Minnesota Delegation (left to right): Rep. George Cassel, Sen. Cal Larson, Rep. Thomas Huntley and Mark Ludlow.



Thomas Baldini, U.S. Section chair, IJC, presents findings and recommendations of the IJC's reference study, *Protecting the Waters of the Great Lakes*. The Great Lakes Commission later adopted a resolution supporting reference recommendations.

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# Semiannual Meeting Highlights

Setting our agenda, continued from page 3



Québec Associate Commissioner Hugues Morissette (right) and Alternate Commissioner Nicole McKinnon.

sus greenfields when public funding and/or tax incentives are involved.

## **Promoting further air deposition research in the Great Lakes.**

The Commission resolved to develop a long-term strategy, in partnership with each Great Lakes state, Ontario and the U.S. EPA, to incorporate air deposition monitoring into existing activities to reduce atmospheric deposition of toxics to the Great Lakes.

## **Promoting data sharing and usage among Great Lakes organizations.**

The Commission directed staff to work toward the development of a Great Lakes Geographic Information Systems (GIS) clearinghouse in collaboration with relevant agencies and organizations.

## **Promoting state/provincial legislative dialogue.**

The Commission will develop and pursue opportunities to promote interaction between state and provincial legislators in the interest of consistent and coordinated approaches to shared issues.

## **FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Commission adopted a new five-year strategic plan, which presents vision and mission statements, goals, objectives and strategic actions to guide the work of the Commission through 2005. Principal changes from the previous plan include an enhanced binational focus, emphasis on new objectives to recognize emerging priorities, a name change of one program area to "Transportation and Sustainable Development," and greater emphasis on communications and information management technology. The plan is the result of a year-long, inclusive review and revision process led by Vice Chair Nathaniel E. Robinson.

## **GAUTHIER, MILLER RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE**

Roger Gauthier, chief of the Watershed Hydrology Section with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, and Jan Miller, environmental engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, received Commission Outstanding Service Awards. Gauthier serves as co-chair of the Great Lakes Information Network Advisory Board, and Miller is active on the Commission-staffed Great Lakes Dredging Team. Congratulations to both of them!



Ontario Associate Commissioner Lorraine Ratnik (left) receives an Associate Commissioner certificate from Chair Irene Brooks.

## **Duluth-Superior Harbor focus of Dredging Team meeting**

The Great Lakes Dredging Team's meeting in Duluth, Minn., May 10-11 focused on dredging and dredged material disposal issues in the Duluth-Superior Harbor. The port is the largest on the Great Lakes, moving about 40 million tons of mostly bulk commodities, such as taconite, coal and grain. The 17 miles of federally maintained navigation channels generate an average of 120,000 cubic yards of dredged material each year. Much of this material is placed in the Erie Pier confined disposal facility (CDF) adjacent to the harbor.

The meeting included a field trip to this CDF, where innovative efforts are underway to conserve space and implement beneficial use. For several years, coarse material, which contains very little pollution, has been mined and used for construction purposes. Beginning this summer an experimental machine will be installed to "clean" the sediments with a hydrocyclone, which uses centrifugal force to separate particle sizes. The field trip also included site visits along the Nemadji River to observe bluff and bank slumping. The river has been the subject of modeling

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# Semiannual Meeting Highlights

## Panel adopts landmark ANS policy statement

On May 11, the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species endorsed a landmark policy statement to advance aquatic nuisance species (ANS) prevention and control at the binational level. The statement, comprised of a series of goals, objectives and strategic actions, is an addendum to a "Great Lakes Action Plan" approved by the panel late last year. The action plan and addendum provide Great Lakes-St. Lawrence jurisdictions and other interested parties with a framework for coordinated development and implementation of laws, policies and programs. The action plan has been provided to the governors and premiers of Great Lakes-St. Lawrence jurisdictions for their signatures.

The panel also made significant progress in revising its *Information/Education Strategy for Aquatic Nuisance Species Prevention and Control*. The updated version incorporates changes addressing new ANS programs, the expanding role of coordination, new species introductions, emerg-

ing complexities of control efforts and challenges to implementation. The panel recognizes the information/education strategy as a critical tool to advance ANS prevention and control activities on all fronts in the region.

Ballast water management, a leading vector for ANS introductions into the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system, also received significant attention. Panel members agreed to take aggressive, coordinated action on this issue, establishing a special committee on ballast management. The committee will develop a policy statement to guide regional efforts and contribute to national and international efforts underway at this time. Standards, regulations and best available technologies will be among topics addressed in the statement. The panel also agreed to assume a regional leadership role in the National Invasive Species Act reauthorization process. Contact: Katherine Glassner-Shwayder, [shwayder@glc.org](mailto:shwayder@glc.org).

Annual Meeting

Join the Great Lakes Commission for its annual meeting in Hamilton, Ontario, Oct. 15-16, 2000.

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



Commissioner George Ryan (second from left), president of the Lake Carriers' Association, prepares to make a point during a discussion on ballast management and aquatic nuisance species at the semiannual meeting. Other members of the discussion panel (left to right): George Robichon, senior vice president and general counsel, Fednav, Ltd.; Scott Smith, Department of Natural Resources, state of Washington; and state Sen. Ken Sikkema, Michigan.

## Dredging Team meeting, continued from page 4

research under the Great Lakes Sediment Management Program. The river runs through an extensive area of red clay prone to serious erosion. Silt from the watershed contributes to sedimentation in the Duluth-Superior Harbor.

Another presentation at the Dredging Team meeting described a beneficial use pilot program in which material from the Erie Pier CDF is used in mineland reclamation on the Minnesota Iron Range. This project, which began a year

ago and will be substantially expanded this year, is intended to reclaim wetlands in tailing basins. Three thousand cubic yards of dredged material will be railed from the Duluth-Superior Harbor to the site. The establishment of the exotic plant purple loosestrife is one potential problem of the project and will be closely monitored. Contact: Steve Thorp, [sthorp@glc.org](mailto:sthorp@glc.org).

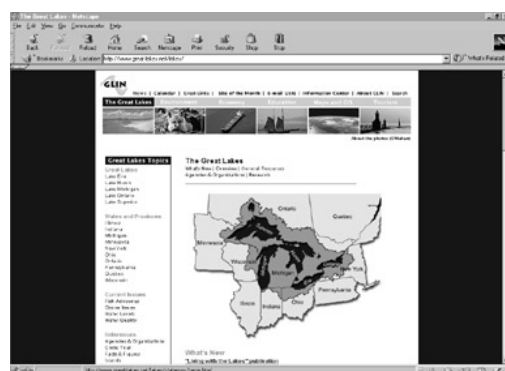


Frank Kudrna (left) presents a recognition award to Dan Injerd during the semiannual meeting for his many years of service as an Alternate Commissioner.

# Commission Briefs



The new GLIN home page. Below, the look of a GLIN topical page. Hits on the redesigned site totaled more than 2 million for May, a new record for GLIN.



[www.great-lakes.net](http://www.great-lakes.net) or [www.glin.net](http://www.glin.net)

## GLIN redesign completed: Catch the new wave!

The Great Lakes Commission is pleased to announce a new look and enhanced navigation for the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN). The new design was officially unveiled to the public May 15.

The site features a condensed Daily News page that includes Great Lakes news and media stories, new Great Lakes web sites of interest, a fast-forecast weather link, and Site of the Month profiles. Other enhancements to GLIN include an advanced search engine that allows visitors to narrow their searches by agency, keyword or GLIN topical section, greatly increasing the visibility of web offerings from GLIN partner agencies.

A major part of the GLIN redesign effort was development of a database interface for the web server. Using a database query, the body of GLIN pages is now generated each time an HTML page is requested.

While transparent to the user, the database application greatly simplifies the maintenance of the thousands of GLIN links to external web pages and allows for development of two new components of GLIN: The Education and Curriculum Homesite (TEACH Great Lakes) and Maps and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

TEACH focuses on assembling and distributing Great Lakes-related educational materials to the broad audience of educators and students in the Great Lakes region and beyond. The TEACH site will be a “virtual library” of curriculum and related educational materials, as well as an educators’ information exchange corner, image gallery, expert speakers bureau and more.

“Maps and GIS” is a new portal for managing and maintaining digital data at a regional level. Users can browse and download images in the map gallery, access datasets that can be used with GIS software, or sample online GIS mapping tools. Contact: Christine Manninen, [manninen@glc.org](mailto:manninen@glc.org).

## Volunteers key to water quality monitoring

Comprehensive, accurate and timely water quality data is the cornerstone of informed public policy, yet local, state and federal agencies often lack complete resources to obtain all the necessary data. For this reason, volunteer monitoring programs and networks have emerged as a critically important citizen/public agency partnership.

The Lake Michigan basin is the locus for much of this activity, thanks to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-supported projects at the Great Lakes Commission that established the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council and Tributary Monitoring Project. The latter is producing a searchable, web-based inventory of monitoring activities underway at 14 tributar-

ies to the lake. Release of a report on that inventory is scheduled for June.

The Tributary Project participants, Coordination Council and Lake Michigan Forum met jointly April 10-11 in Kalamazoo, Mich., to discuss progress in monitoring programs and to plan future initiatives, including a volunteer monitoring network. Later that month, Commission staff participated in the National Water Quality Monitoring Council Conference and the National Volunteer Monitoring Conference, both held in Austin, Texas. These conferences reaffirmed the importance of Lake Michigan programs and suggested their application to other Great Lakes. Contact: Ric Lawson, [rlawson@glc.org](mailto:rlawson@glc.org).

## Mayors' conference unites local decisionmakers

Mayors and representatives from Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River communities convened May 17-19 in northwest Indiana to explore issues of mutual interest and refine a shared regional vision. Hosted by Scott King, mayor of Gary, Ind., the International Great Lakes St. Lawrence Mayors' Conference featured a tour of U.S. Steel's Gary Works and presentations on the area's industrial history and city/business relations, a waterfront redevelopment discussion at the Hammond Marina, and a focus on regional maritime issues at the port of Burns Harbor.

The mayors acted on several resolutions addressing the Canada-Ontario Agreement, ballast water management, commercial navigation, water levels, Indiana's participation in the Great Lakes Protection

Fund, and support for Great Lakes cleanup funding. Additionally, the mayors voted to change the name of the organization to the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors, and Chicago Mayor Richard Daley announced his city's new membership in the organization.

A plenary session at the Marquette Park Pavilion in Gary included presentations by Bill Testa, vice president of research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; Susan Bayh, U.S. commissioner on the International Joint Commission; John Jamian, Detroit port director; and Vera Danyluk, executive committee chair for the Montreal Urban Community. The next annual conference will be held in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, June 6-8, 2001. Contact: Steve Thorp, [sthorp@glc.org](mailto:sthorp@glc.org).

## Commission to advance watershed management training

The Great Lakes Commission has launched a new initiative that will help local watershed groups acquire the technical, educational and organizational tools needed to sustain their efforts. Thanks to an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant under the state's Section 319 Program, the Commission will team up with several project partners to conduct a series of workshops over a two-year period.

One anticipated key outcome of the five planned workshops is the ability of local watershed management groups to successfully write comprehensive

watershed management plans for approval by Ohio EPA. In addition, the project will help watershed groups throughout Ohio and the Great Lakes region communicate with each other on effective approaches to watershed management, greenfields preservation and habitat protection.

Project partners include Ohio EPA, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio State University-Cooperative Extension, the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service and Tetra Tech, Inc. Contact: Tom Crane, [tcrane@glc.org](mailto:tcrane@glc.org).

## Ratza Memorial Scholarship winner announced

The Great Lakes Commission is pleased to announce that Ivona Lerman, a master's student in environmental journalism at Michigan State University (MSU), is the winner of the 2000 Carol A. Ratza Memorial Scholarship.

A native of Zagreb, Croatia, Lerman holds a bachelor's degree in marine biology from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla. Her previous work includes positions with the University of Natural Sciences in Zagreb, Florida's Clearwater Marine Aquarium, and as a freelance photojournalist. At

MSU, Lerman is editor of the *EJ News*, newsletter of the Environmental Journalism Program, and maintains the program's web site.

The scholarship is in memory of Carol A. Ratza, a veteran employee of the Great Lakes Commission and a dedicated advocate for the protection of the Great Lakes. To honor her vision, the Carol A. Ratza Memorial Scholarship was established to provide support for students interested in information technology and the Great Lakes. Contact: Mike Donahue, [mdonahue@glc.org](mailto:mdonahue@glc.org).

Fellowship opportunity

The Great Lakes Commission-Sea Grant Fellowship is a highly competitive program that brings a graduate student to the Commission for a year-long assignment to work on key science and related public policy issues. For more information or to apply, contact Mike Donahue, [mdonahue@glc.org](mailto:mdonahue@glc.org).



Ivona Lerman, winner of the 2000 Carol A. Ratza Memorial Scholarship

# Commission Briefs

## Commission Policy Actions

View the full text of policy actions adopted at the Great Lakes Commission's Semiannual Meeting at [www.glc.org/about/resolutions/resMay00.html](http://www.glc.org/about/resolutions/resMay00.html)

## IJC Final Report on Protection of the Waters of the Great Lakes

[www.ijc.org/boards/cde/finalreport/finalreport.html](http://www.ijc.org/boards/cde/finalreport/finalreport.html)

## Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species Publications

[www.glc.org/ans/anspubs.html](http://www.glc.org/ans/anspubs.html)

## Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN)

Check out GLIN's new design and features at [www.great-lakes.net](http://www.great-lakes.net) or [www.glin.net](http://www.glin.net)

## Great Lakes Dredging Team

View the new look of the Dredging Team's web site (GLIN's Site of the Month for April) at [www.glc.org/projects/dredging/](http://www.glc.org/projects/dredging/)

## Living with the Lakes

This booklet offers a broad overview of how water levels on the Great Lakes change and how the changes affect riparian property owners, boaters and others who live or play along the Great Lakes. View it online ([www.glc.org/docs/lakelevels/lakelevels.html](http://www.glc.org/docs/lakelevels/lakelevels.html)) or order a free hard copy from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ([huron.lre.usace.army.mil/order/lwls.html](http://huron.lre.usace.army.mil/order/lwls.html))

## State of the Great Lakes 1999 Annual Report

This report, prepared by the Office of the Great Lakes-Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, covers the continued decline of toxic chemicals in fish and wildlife, the sustainable business movement, and much more. View it online at [www.deq.state.mi.us/ogl](http://www.deq.state.mi.us/ogl) or order a hard copy by calling 517-335-4056.

## Commission highlights appropriations priorities

Following the mid-March release of its annual legislative and appropriations policy statement, the Great Lakes Commission has been communicating regularly with Congress on regional priorities. Through carefully targeted correspondence, personal contact and coalition building, the statement's 34 priorities have been communicated to the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation and members of relevant committees and subcommittees.

Among others, advocacy efforts have focused on:

- enhancing support for key federally funded institutions, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, U.S. Geological Survey's Great Lakes Science Center, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, International Joint Commission, National Sea Grant Program and Water Resources Research Institutes
- supporting the president's budget request of \$50 million in grants for Areas of Concern cleanup
- enhancing support for National Invasive Species Act implementation, including funds for the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species and a grant program for implementing state management plans
- opposing Coast Guard user fees for navigation assistance and ice breaking user taxes
- opposing the planned entry-exit control system

tem at the U.S./Canada border, as embodied in Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996

- supporting a \$1 million appropriation for Soo Lock design work, to be followed by construction appropriations next year
- calling for a \$3 million appropriation (nationally) for the Clean Air Act Great Waters Program, with no less than \$1.5 million directed to the Great Lakes
- funding the Commission's Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control at \$.75 million annually
- reauthorizing the Coastal Zone Management Act
- authorizing/funding numerous programs that advance environmental and transportation priorities via the Water Resources Development Act of 2000

In recent weeks, the Commission also has communicated with Michigan's Congressional Delegation concerning the establishment of a "Center for Large Lakes Research and Policy" in Ann Arbor, Mich. This proposed multi-institutional facility, also known as the "Great Lakes Center," would house the Commission and numerous other public institutions, providing a focal point for scientific and policy research on the Great Lakes and other large lakes of the world.

Copies of all correspondence to Congress are available upon request. The next issue of the *Advisor* will include the status of congressional action on these and other Commission priorities. Contact: Mike Donahue, [mdonahue@glc.org](mailto:mdonahue@glc.org).

## Dikmen named new Commissioner



F. Ned Dikmen has been appointed to the Great Lakes Commission's Illinois Delegation by Gov. George Ryan. He will replace Don Vonnahme, who will remain active as an alternate to Brent Manning, director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Dikmen is publisher of *Great Lakes Boating Magazine* and

founder and principle of International Marina Consultants, a firm that specializes in waterfront land and marina development. Dikmen holds a doctorate in experimental high energy physics from the University of Michigan. He was recently appointed by Chicago Mayor Richard Daley to the Lake Michigan Committee and serves as advisor to the chairman of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.



## Natural recovery vs. remediation:

**What is the most appropriate means of addressing contaminated sediments as efforts to delist AOCs move forward?**

### The case for source control and natural recovery

*by Dr. Gail Krantzberg, Senior Policy Analyst, Great Lakes Programs, Ontario Ministry of Environment\**

A major step toward delisting an Area of Concern (AOC) is the complete implementation of its Remedial Action Plan (RAP). In many AOCs, decision-making about contaminated sediment has slowed the completion of RAP implementation. Sediment removal by dredging or in-place capping may be viable options to reduce contaminant mobility in the ecosystem. Controlling the sources of contamination and allowing sediment quality to recover over time via natural processes also can be a viable option. Source control and natural recovery is a management action that must be adopted with stringency, however, so it is not misused as a justification for inaction. I advance several principles to ensure clarity and rigor in the selection of natural recovery as a management action.

- Stating that sediment or an AOC is in a mode of “recovery” is not delisting. Delisting means impaired beneficial uses of the area have met local restoration targets.
- Being in recovery mode should be based on

an evaluation of the ecological consequences of contaminants in sediment and an assessment of alternative actions that represent reasonable and practical intervention.

- Monitoring and surveillance must occur to measure progress toward delisting targets.
- Communities and governments must agree that all reasonable intervention has been taken and agree on the time scale for recovery.
- A process should be developed to respond to future pressures and emerging technologies such that recovery is sustainable and further intervention can occur, if warranted.

A major victory toward ultimate delisting is the completion of RAP implementation. Governments and stakeholders could celebrate this notable accomplishment by redesignating such locations as Areas of Recovery. Provision for such a designation would be a huge boost to AOC communities as they continue their quest toward environmental excellence.

POINT



### The case for remediation

*by Bruce Kirschner, RAP and LaMP Coordinator, International Joint Commission\**

Reliance on natural processes for the attenuation of certain environmental problems should receive full consideration as a potential alternative to more costly remediation options. However, a major concern of natural recovery is the possible impact of persistent toxic substances (PTs) on human health. If elevated levels of PTs remain in the sediment, sensitive subpopulations (human as well as fish and wildlife) may not be fully protected from environmental contaminants. Substances such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) possess a long half-life and bioaccumulate in fish. Additionally, recent research shows that low levels of mercury act synergistically with PCB contamination. Accordingly, there are human health concerns for certain anglers, particularly low income individuals who may subsist on highly contaminated fish. Sometimes these individuals can not read fish consumption advisories or do not obtain fishing

licenses. They may not even be aware of the existence of an AOC or the RAP process. Yet, any objective comparison of remedial options should consider impacts — both negative and positive — on these populations.

To date, some discussions of the natural recovery option have centered on the desire to complete currently planned activities and eliminate further government expenditures, rather than on first confirming that beneficial uses have been restored to the affected area. Restoration and protection of beneficial uses and subsequent delisting are notable goals that, hopefully, will be achieved in numerous AOCs over the coming years. However, satisfactory monitoring data should support the decision-making process, and outreach efforts should be conducted to affirm that the often less vocal and more impacted portions of our populations are adequately consulted during the RAP processes.

counterpoint



*\*Views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of their affiliated organizations.*

## Brownfields workshops: A step toward neighborhood renewal



Mayor John Norquist (right) talks with neighborhood residents in Milwaukee. Below, a neighborhood resident shares her experience with brownfields at the Detroit workshop. Photo credits: Rachel Cohen.



What are the effects of brownfields on local economies and community health, and how can neighborhood residents become involved in redeveloping brownfields to revitalize their neighborhoods? These questions were the focus of two recent workshops sponsored by the

National Wildlife Federation in partnership with the Great Lakes Commission in Milwaukee, Wis., Feb. 12 and Detroit, Mich., March 25.

At the Milwaukee workshop, Mayor John Norquist, a well-known supporter of New Urbanism, engaged in frank discussions with neighborhood residents about how they can overcome obstacles to revitalize the Walnut Hill/Washington Park neighborhoods in the city. New Urbanism espouses traditional neighborhood development with houses built on relatively small lots; narrow, pedestrian

friendly streets; and places to shop, work and recreate within close proximity. The Detroit workshop, equally successful with more than 35 participants from a variety of neighborhood groups, received coverage on the local evening news.

These workshops are part of the BRIDGES project, a collaborative initiative of the Great Lakes Commission, National Wildlife Federation and Council of Great Lakes Industries to identify and promote linkages between brownfields redevelopment and greenfields protection in the interest of sustainable development. Issues and ideas raised at the workshops will be incorporated into a final project report that will include recommendations on ways to improve public participation policy and ensure greater community involvement in the revitalization of urban areas. Contact: Rachel Cohen, National Wildlife Federation, [cohen@nwf.org](mailto:cohen@nwf.org); or Victoria Pebbles, [vpebbles@glc.org](mailto:vpebbles@glc.org).

## Congress acts on border problem

On May 25, the Senate approved The Immigration and Naturalization Service Data Management Improvement Act of 2000, which eliminates a requirement that the U.S. Attorney General develop an automated entry-exit control system to register all aliens entering and departing the United States by March 30, 2001. This requirement was imposed by Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. The

Great Lakes Commission opposed this entry-exit control at the U.S.-Canada border, which could have resulted in significant congestion and delays at land crossings and prompted smugglers to cross the border using maritime routes. The new Act also establishes a task force to study cross-border transportation. An identical bill has passed in the House. Contact: Steve Thorp, [sthorp@glc.org](mailto:sthorp@glc.org).

## DID YOU KNOW?

Manitoulin Island in Lake Huron is the largest freshwater island in the world. It is 100 miles long and has an area of 1,068 square miles.

[www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)

## Record start to Great Lakes shipping season

The 2000 Great Lakes navigation season scored a record early start as a result of an exceptionally mild winter. Coal shipments began on March 3 from Ashtabula, Ohio, and the three other Ohio Lake Erie coal ports — Conneaut, Sandusky and Toledo — were all in operation in March. Superior, Wis., at the head of Lake Superior, began coal shipments on March 15, also a record early start. March 2000 coal shipments for the lakes were 1.8 million net tons compared to 1 million in March 1999.

During last season, the seven Great Lakes coal terminals loaded 40.6 million tons for distribution to about 60 U.S. and Canadian ports. Shipments

from Superior were a record 16.2 million tons and amounted to 40 percent of the Great Lakes total. This season marks the terminal's 25th year transshipping low-sulphur Montana and Wyoming coal. Chicago shipped 2 million tons of western coal last year. Nanticoke, Ontario, on the north shore of Lake Erie, was the leading coal receiving port last season. A total of 9.1 million tons of eastern and western fuels were used by the Nanticoke utility plant and steel mill.

Through May this year, the coal terminals shipped 10.5 million tons, or 9.5 percent more than in March-May 1999. Contact: Al Ballert, [aballert@glc.org](mailto:aballert@glc.org).

[www.glc.org](http://www.glc.org)

## Lake Michigan bottom life declining, zebra mussel is suspect

The rapid decline of a tiny organism on the bottom of Lake Michigan serves as a reminder of both the fragility and interconnectedness of the ecosystem and its inhabitants.

*Diporeia* is a tiny, shrimp-like organism that has inhabited the Great Lakes since the lakes were formed some 5,000 to 10,000 years ago. This amphipod normally constitutes 70 percent of living organisms in a healthy lake bottom. However, in recent years this animal has disappeared entirely from large areas of Lake Michigan, according to monitoring conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL). The decline could lead to reductions in fish — including perch, alewives, sculpin, bloater and smelt — that feed on *Diporeia*, with possible secondary effects on trout and salmon. "If that food is gone, everything up the food chain is affected one way or the other," says Tom Nalepa, GLERL biologist.

The decline was first noted in the early 1990s in southern Lake Michigan but now has spread as far north as Grand Traverse Bay. "If the trend continues, in five to 10 years we may see very few numbers throughout the whole lake," says Nalepa. Similar declines have been observed in Lake Ontario by other researchers. Scientists suspect the amphipod's decline is linked to the introduction of zebra mussels. Both amphipods and zebra mussels feed on plant material and debris that settles out of the overlying lake water. Researchers also are investigating other potential causes for the decline, such as pathogens. Contact: Tom Nalepa, [nalepa@glerl.noaa.gov](mailto:nalepa@glerl.noaa.gov).



Photo courtesy of NOAA, GLERL.

## Great Lakes Calendar

### **National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)-Great Lakes Committee Meeting**

July 10-11; Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan  
Contact: Jennifer Read, 734-665-9135, [jread@glc.org](mailto:jread@glc.org)

### **Heavy Metals Conference**

August 6-10; Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Contact: University of Michigan School of Public Health, 734-615-2596, [Heavy.metals@umich.edu](mailto:Heavy.metals@umich.edu)

### **Millennium Wetland Event**

August 6-12; Québec City, Québec  
Contact: Secretariat Millennium Wetland Event, 418-657-3853, [cqvb@cqvbc.qc.ca](mailto:cqvb@cqvbc.qc.ca)

### **Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable Conference**

August 29-30; Indianapolis, Indiana  
Contact: Carla Blue, 217-244-8901, [cblue@wmrc.uiuc.edu](mailto:cblue@wmrc.uiuc.edu)

### **Ohio Lake Erie Commission Meeting**

September 6; Sandusky, Ohio  
Contact: Ohio Lake Erie Commission Office, [oleo@www.epa.state.oh.us](mailto:oleo@www.epa.state.oh.us)

### **9th Annual Ohio Lake Erie Conference**

September 7; Sandusky, Ohio  
Contact: Jill Woodyard, 419-245-2514, [jill.woodyard@www.epa.state.oh.us](mailto:jill.woodyard@www.epa.state.oh.us)

### **Ohio Inland Spills**

September 18-20; Toledo, Ohio  
Contact: Linda Fields, [linda.fields@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:linda.fields@epa.state.oh.us)

### **Great Lakes Commission Beneficial Use Task Force Meeting**

October 4-5; Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Contact: Victoria Pebbles, 734-665-9135, [vpebbles@glc.org](mailto:vpebbles@glc.org)

### **NACD-Great Lakes Committee Meeting**

October 4-5; Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Contact: Jennifer Read, 734-665-9135, [jread@glc.org](mailto:jread@glc.org)

### **Great Lakes Dredging Team Meeting**

October 5-6; Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Contact: Steve Thorp, 734-665-9135, [sthorp@glc.org](mailto:sthorp@glc.org)

### **Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Task Force Meeting**

October 5-6; Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Contact: Tom Crane, 734-665-9135, [tcrane@glc.org](mailto:tcrane@glc.org)

### **Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting**

October 15-16; Hamilton, Ontario  
Contact: Mike Donahue, 734-665-9135, [mdonahue@glc.org](mailto:mdonahue@glc.org)

### **State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference**

October 17-19; Hamilton, Ontario  
Contacts: Harvey Shear, 416-739-4704, [harvey.shear@ec.gc.ca](mailto:harvey.shear@ec.gc.ca); Paul Horvatin, 312-353-3612, [horvatin.paul@epa.gov](mailto:horvatin.paul@epa.gov)

### **Society of Environmental Journalists' National Conference**

October 19-22; East Lansing, Michigan  
Contact: CVM Outreach, 517-355-4466, [whiting@cvm.msu.edu](mailto:whiting@cvm.msu.edu)

Further details and a more extensive calendar are available online via the Great Lakes Information Network ([www.great-lakes.net](http://www.great-lakes.net)). If you have an event you'd like us to include, please contact Courtney Shosh, Advisor editor, at 734-665-9135 or [cshosh@glc.org](mailto:cshosh@glc.org).

### **Save trees and money!**

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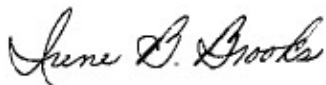
# The Last Word

## Thinking regionally .... and acting locally

The Great Lakes Commission is well-prepared for future opportunities and challenges, thanks to a new five-year strategic plan adopted at its recent semi-annual meeting. The plan offers a vision for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region: “a prosperous economy, a healthy environment and a high quality of life.” To achieve that vision, the plan builds upon past success, but also adds important new dimensions by significantly expanding the organization’s binational focus and placing added emphasis on water quantity management, aquatic nuisance species prevention and control, and land use/water quality linkages.

How can we, as a regional organization, achieve our vision? To revise an old adage, we need to “think regionally and act locally.” Individual actions — even at the local watershed level — collectively have a tremendous influence on the environmental and economic health of the entire region. Thus, we have to ensure that there is a local dimension to all that we do. An excellent model is our Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, which over the past decade has supported 158 local demonstration and information/education projects. We’re also becoming more involved in brown-fields redevelopment/greenfields preservation initiatives, watershed management training and Areas of Concern cleanup, among others. All such activities yield regionwide benefits, but require local leadership to ensure success.

My priority as chair is to build the partnerships needed to achieve the common vision expressed in our strategic plan. Partnerships come in all shapes and sizes, and those at the local level are as critical as those at the regional, national and international levels.



Irene B. Brooks  
Commission Chair

  
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Photo credit: Courtney Shosh

## Where in the Great Lakes?

Guess the location pictured in this Great Lakes photo, and you could win a prize! Send your guess via e-mail to [cshosh@glc.org](mailto:cshosh@glc.org) along with your name, address and daytime phone number (or call Courtney Shosh at 734-665-9135). All correct responses received by Aug. 1 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.



The location of last issue’s “Where in the Great Lakes?” photo was the Portage Canal Lift Bridge between Houghton and Hancock, Mich., on Lake Superior. The contest winner was Cynthia Kring of Williamsburg, Mich.

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