

Spring 2007

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## Great Lakes Day brings united voice to Congress

More than 250 Great Lakes advocates came together on Capitol Hill on March 6-7 to deliver a strong message to Congress: the Great Lakes need protecting – now.

“A year ago, we came to Congress with our priorities but now, one year later, we return with an even greater sense of urgency,” said Todd Ambs, head of the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources’s Water Division and chair of the Great Lakes Commission’s Wisconsin Delegation.

With a theme of “Great Lakes Restoration: Five Lakes – One Voice,” the annual Great Lakes Day in Washington events drew record crowds to ask Congress to share in an investment to protect and enhance the Great Lakes. The Commission was joined by an alliance that included the Council of Great Lakes Governors, the mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, and conservation organizations under the Healing Our Waters – Great Lakes Coalition umbrella.

Five critical, near-term legislative priorities were presented, with stopping invasive species at the head of the list (see sidebar, page 5). Others called for measures to clean up toxic sediments,

restore Great Lakes wetlands, protect water quality and enact Great Lakes restoration legislation. All are consistent with the priorities of the governors of the Great Lakes states, reflect recom-

Ohio), speaking at a Great Lakes Day reception at the Canadian Consulate on March 6. He was referring to the need to enact Great Lakes restoration legislation such as the Great Lakes Col-



*Members of Congress and others speak at a Great Lakes Day press conference on March 7 regarding the introduction of the Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act of 2007 (H.R. 1350 and S. 791). At the podium is Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.); others, from left, are: Rep. Vern Ehlers (R-Mich.); Racine (Wis.) Mayor Gary Becker; Jeff Skelding, campaign director for the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition; and Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D-Ill.). Photo: Christine Manninen.*

mendations from the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, and are endorsed by the mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.

“We need to send a clear message to the country that there is a commitment to restoring the Great Lakes and protecting them from further deterioration,” said Sen. George Voinovich (R-

laboration Implementation Act of 2007 (H.R.1350). Introduced in the House earlier that day by Rep. Vern Ehlers (R-Mich.) and Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D-Ill.), the measure would help stop sewage contamination, prevent invasive species introductions and restore wetlands. A companion bill, S.791, was

**continued on page 5**



## Five lakes, one voice

Early in March, the Commission took its Great Lakes Program – our priorities for federal legislation and appropriations – to Washington. In many ways, our message had a familiar ring to it. Our requests were largely unchanged from last year. Like last year, they were consistent with those of the Council of Great Lakes Governors. Once again, we made the point to our elected officials in Washington that our Member states' needs and requests are urgent, consistent, and are based on short-term priorities that are realistic even with tight budgets.

But this year's Great Lakes Day was different in some very significant ways. First, there were more people – over 200 – in Washington to present our message, owing to a broad partnership with the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, the Healing Our Waters coalition, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the Chippewa-Ottawa Resource Authority. The Great Lakes Commission and the Healing Our Waters group led teams that spread out across the Hill and held meetings in nearly 100 congressional offices to personally deliver our message.

Though our coalition was larger than ever, our voices were also more unified than ever. Under a theme of “Five Lakes – One Voice,” the states and our partners came together to ask for congressional support in five key areas:

- shutting the door on invasive species, our number one priority;
- cleaning up toxic sediments;
- increasing the funding to restore coastal wetlands;
- increasing the funding to clean up outdated sewage systems that foul our drinking water and beaches, and;
- Implementing the promises of Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes.

Aligning so many interests in agreement on this short list of priorities bodes well for gaining congressional support this year. We're already seeing progress. The House of Representatives has already approved a bill to provide \$14 billion over four years to fund the cleanup of outdated sewer systems. Michigan Sen. Carl Levin and Maine Sen. Susan Collins have introduced legislation which, if enacted, would prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species from ballast water and other pathways. And Minnesota Rep. James Oberstar, chair of the key House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, has pledged to introduce legislation this spring to curb invasive species in ballast water.

While these signs are encouraging, being successful in Washington does not happen by sending a loud message in March and sitting back to wait. It will take a sustained effort over the year, especially in this era of tight budgets, to persuade Congress that the Great Lakes are truly a national treasure worthy of investment.

Tim Eder  
Executive Director

“Being successful in Washington does not happen by making a loud noise in March and then sitting back to wait.”

### Great Lakes Areas of Concern: Achieving Restoration Targets and Sustaining Stewardship

Participants from the 30 U.S. Areas of Concern will convene in Cleveland June 28-29 to review developments affecting the AOC program and consider actions that will strengthen the regional U.S. AOC program. For more information, contact: Matt Doss, 734-971-9135, [mdoss@glc.org](mailto:mdoss@glc.org).

# Lake Michigan chosen for national pilot study

Lake Michigan has been chosen as one of three pilot study sites for use in the development of the National Water Quality Monitoring Network for U.S. Coastal Waters and their Tributaries, commonly known as the National Monitoring Network (NMN).

The NMN is a response to a recommendation by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy for a national monitoring network that can provide the informa-

tion necessary for effective stewardship of ocean and coastal resources. The pilot study will test and refine the NMN design across a broad range of Lake Michigan resource components, from upland watersheds to offshore waters.

The project will be coordinated by the Great Lakes Commission, through the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council. Other partners include the four Lake Michigan states, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Great Lakes Observing System, among others.

“We’re pleased that the Great Lakes have been included in this important pilot program,” said Judy Beck, Lake Michigan manager for the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office. “Not only does this acknowledge the Great Lakes’ sta-

tus as the nation’s “Fresh Coast” and a valuable and distinctive element of our coastal resources, it’s also a recognition of the effectiveness of the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council as a collaborative venture and should leverage additional opportunities in the future.”

The pilot study will examine current Lake Michigan monitoring and gaps in relation to the proposed NMN design specifications. During the project, Lake Michigan monitoring stakeholders will test and refine the NMN design for nine resource components: 1) Estuaries; 2) Near Shore; 3) Off Shore; 4) Great Lakes; 5) Rivers; 6) Ground water; 7) Atmospheric deposition; 8) Beaches; and 9) Wetlands.

The other two pilot sites selected were the Delaware River Basin and San Francisco Bay.

The project may serve as a catalyst for enhanced monitoring coordination throughout the Great Lakes basin. Work on the pilot study is scheduled to be completed by January 2008.

For more information, visit <http://wi.water.usgs.gov/lmmcc> or contact: John Hummer, [jhummer@glc.org](mailto:jhummer@glc.org).



*Volunteer gathering samples for monitoring water quality indicators. Photo: John Hummer.*

## Database will track wetlands, habitat restoration

Drawing upon its expertise in database development and management, the Great Lakes Commission is assisting with two major initiatives to advance the restoration and protection of Great Lakes wetlands and habitat.

The Great Lakes Habitat Initiative of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. EPA’s Great Lakes Wetlands Restoration Initiative are complementary but distinct projects that support the wetlands- and habitat-related goals of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. The Commission will be de-

veloping a single database for tracking wetland and habitat restoration and protection activities that will be useful for both initiatives, as well as performing other tasks for each.

The Corp’s Great Lakes Habitat Initiative is a two-year project to develop an implementation plan for restoring and protecting wetlands and other habitat, building upon the recommendations of the Regional Collaboration.

The Great Lakes Wetlands Restoration Initiative is coordinating federal efforts toward achieving the Regional

Collaboration’s long-term goal of protecting or restoring 1 million acres of wetlands in the Great Lakes basin.

The Commission will provide a bridge between the two initiatives and a link with the Great Lakes states and other regional partners. The Commission also will leverage its expertise in information management and wetlands monitoring, building on the Great Lakes Information Network, Great Lakes Observing System and the Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium. Contact: Matt Doss, [mdoss@glc.org](mailto:mdoss@glc.org).

## Expanding the role and use of Great Lakes science vessels

Great Lakes science vessels are an important part of U.S. and Canadian research and monitoring efforts designed to protect the quality of the Great Lakes ecosystem. Approximately 80 of them are listed by the Great Lakes Association of Science Ships (GLASS) as stationed or available for potential duty on the Great Lakes. Together, they support a wide range of research and monitoring activities related to the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River system.

These vessels, operated by a variety of federal, state, provincial, university and private entities, represent a significant research asset and capability for the Great Lakes region. A partnership is now being developed between GLASS and the Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS) to help improve the capabilities of these vessels and link them into a coordinated monitoring and data reporting network now being developed for the Great Lakes.

A regional node of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) initiative, GLOS was established to coordinate and improve the collection and delivery of data and other information on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River system. GLASS was established in 1997 under the Council of Great Lakes Research Managers to help coordinate research efforts among Great Lakes science vessels. The Great Lakes Commission provides staff and logistical support to both initiatives.

The partnership is designed to meet a need for mobile research and data collection stations, for which science vessels operating upon the Great Lakes are well-suited. They travel to and operate at a variety of sites over the course of a research season, a marked contrast to buoys and other fixed sensor platforms. The science vessel fleet also offers spatial coverage unachiev-



*Great Lakes research vessel Shenehon. Photo courtesy of NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab (GLERL).*

able through buoy deployment, and provides the potential for continuous measurements while underway. Finally, this fleet allows investigation of short-term and localized phenomena detected by remote sensing tools and readings from fixed stations or nonresearch vessels.

Vessel operations are a significant component of the research and monitoring infrastructure for the Great Lakes, and offer resources that can be employed in support of GLOS and

other initiatives. While such opportunities are exciting, increased support to expand and maintain their functional role in the Great Lakes remains a big challenge that must be overcome. The emergence of GLOS offers an important means of overcoming this challenge through possible support of additional vessel coordination efforts.

For more information on GLOS or GLASS, see <http://glos.us> or [www.canamglass.org](http://www.canamglass.org). Contact: Tom Crane, [tcrane@glc.org](mailto:tcrane@glc.org).

## Great Lakes Aquatic Invasions

A new full-color publication, *Great Lakes Aquatic Invasions*, is now available from the Great Lakes Commission as part of its ongoing efforts to raise awareness and understanding of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in the Great Lakes region.

The 14-page booklet provides a broad, yet thorough, overview of the AIS situation, along with the challenges it poses and the approaches being taken to address it. The target audience includes state and federal legislators and other decisionmakers, as well as various user groups, with the goal of accelerating prevention and control efforts.

The Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species was closely involved in developing the booklet, which updates the Commission's *Biological Invasions* brochure, first published in 1996. Funding was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes National Program Office, with additional support from the U.S. Forest Service, Eastern Region.

The publication is available online at <http://glc.org/ans/aquatic-invasions>. Print copies may be ordered for a nominal fee.

Contact: Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, [shwayder@glc.org](mailto:shwayder@glc.org).

## Invasive species top list of priorities at Great Lakes Day (cont'd from page 1)

introduced in the Senate the next day by Sen. Voinovich and Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.)

Great Lakes Day events commenced on March 6 with an issues briefing, jointly sponsored by the Great Lakes Commission and the Healing Our Waters – Great Lakes Coalition. Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn, the Commission's vice chair, was the keynote speaker.

Discussions continued the next day at the Great Lakes Congressional Breakfast, co-hosted by the Great Lakes Commission and the Northeast-Midwest Institute. Both Senate and House members offered remarks, including

been too slow and that problems continue to mount. As a response, the state of Michigan now requires ocean-going vessels to treat ballast water and obtain a permit before discharging ballast water at Michigan ports.

"Individual state permitting is far from being a perfect solution to this complex problem," DeBeaussaert said. "We recognize, of course, that we cannot protect Michigan's Great Lakes waters from invasive species that could be introduced by ships discharging their ballast water in other parts of the lakes. But, we are resolute in our determination that we cannot sit by as we watch



*Ken DeBeaussaert, director of Michigan's Office of the Great Lakes and chair of the state's delegation to the Great Lakes Commission, testifies before the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment regarding the impact of aquatic invasive species on the Great Lakes. Also pictured is Racine (Wis.) Mayor Gary Becker, at left. Photo: Christine Manninen.*

first-term Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn) and Reps. Ehlers, Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), Steven LaTourette (R-Ohio) and Judy Biggert (R-Ill.).

That afternoon, a hearing on the impact of invasive species on the Great Lakes was held before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee - Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment, chaired by Rep. Jim Oberstar (D-Minn.).

Testifying on behalf of the Great Lakes states, Ken DeBeaussaert, director of the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes and chair of the Michigan Delegation to the Great Lakes Commission, noted that federal action to halt introductions of invasive species has

the Great Lakes teeter on what some scientists describe as the tipping point of ecological meltdown."

As part of outreach efforts by the Commission during this year's events, 15 Great Lakes Commissioners, representing seven states, visited the offices of 47 Great Lakes members of Congress to discuss regional needs.

The full list of FY2008 legislative priorities submitted to Congress by the Great Lakes Commission on behalf of its eight Member states is available at [www.glc.org/restore](http://www.glc.org/restore). For a Great Lakes Day recap, including photos and testimony, visit [www.glc.org/greatlakesday/slideshow07.html](http://www.glc.org/greatlakesday/slideshow07.html).

Contact: Tim Eder, [teder@glc.org](mailto:teder@glc.org).

The following are the five immediate legislative priorities presented to Congress at Great Lakes Day in Washington; March 7, 2007. All are consistent with the priorities of the governors of the Great Lakes states, reflect recommendations from the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, and are endorsed by the mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.

• **Stop Aquatic Invasive Species** by passing the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act, legislation (H.R. 553 and S. 336) that authorizes construction and maintenance of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal dispersal barrier to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful aquatic invasive species – such as the Asian carp – and appropriate \$20.2 million to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to control sea lamprey and manage fishery resources.

• **Clean Up Toxic Sediments** by appropriating \$54 million for the Great Lakes Legacy Act to clean up contaminated sediments and restore Great Lakes "toxic hot spots."

• **Restore Great Lakes Wetlands** by appropriating \$28.5 million to partner with the states in restoring 200,000 acres of valuable Great Lakes wetlands and \$16 million for the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act.

• **Protect Water Quality** by appropriating \$1.35 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to update sewerage systems, safeguard drinking water and protect coastal health in the Great Lakes. Reauthorize the CWSRF in order to provide additional funding in future years.

• **Enact Great Lakes Restoration Legislation** by authorizing the recommendations from the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration restoration strategy and funding coordinated implementation actions.

# Meetings seek to move federal ballast water legislation

With heightened concern growing around the issue of ballast water and invasive species, from both an industry and environmental perspective, the Great Lakes Commission recently convened a group representing a broad range of Great Lakes interests to seek consensus on possible solutions.

Among those participating at an initial meeting Feb. 23 in metropolitan Detroit were representatives of the binational Great Lakes shipping industry, state resource management agencies, nongovernmental organizations, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Great Lakes Commission Board of Directors.

“There are a number of factors coming together right now that are driving this initiative,” said Tim Eder, executive director of the Great Lake Commission. “Congress appears more serious than ever about enacting ballast water legislation. Meanwhile, some of the Great Lakes states have grown tired of waiting and are exploring their own ballast water standards, Michigan in particular.

“Both of these concern the Great Lakes shipping industry, which has a keen interest in workable, uniform standards,” Eder continued. “Finally, the recent arrival of the non-native VHS

virus in Great Lakes waters and associated fish kills has brought renewed attention to the issue of ballast-borne invasive species.”

The meeting served two purposes: to explore areas of agreement among the participating interests and identify how the Commission can best apply itself to resolving the invasive species/ballast water problem. Former Commission Chair Sam Speck, recently retired as director of the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, was enlisted to facilitate the discussions.

The meeting was structured around a set of “crux issues,” including standards for ballast water discharge and when they would take effect, state regulations, relevance of the Clean Water Act, a Great Lakes vs. national approach, and a ballast-only law versus a comprehensive law covering all AIS sources. The effort was designed to build upon consensus points already established in the ballast water issue, such as those identified in the 2005 Regional Collaboration recommendations.

Agreement was reached around some basic areas of consensus and to



*Water discharge from a maritime vessel.  
Photo: Marine Invasions Laboratory,  
Smithsonian Environmental Research  
Center.*

continue the dialogue, with follow-up discussions to compare the meeting’s talking points with the recently reintroduced National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA), S. 725, a comprehensive bill addressing all known sources of aquatic invasive species in U.S. waters.

Contact: Tim Eder, [teder@glc.org](mailto:teder@glc.org).

## Marine Community Day attracts top federal maritime leaders

Some of Washington’s top federal maritime transportation leaders were on hand in Cleveland Feb. 28 for the annual Great Lakes Marine Community Day conference.

Sean Connaughton, maritime administrator for the U.S. Maritime Administration, and Collister Johnson Jr., administrator of the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, addressed some 225 representatives of the Great Lakes shipping industry at the conference, facilitated by the Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes/Seaway Review Magazine.

The annual event brings together representatives of U.S. and Canadian Great Lakes fleets, ports, labor organizations and industries, as well as U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Canadian Coast Guard and

other Canadian government agencies.

Topics on the agenda included ballast water management policy for aquatic invasive species, new Great Lakes marine transportation information systems, proposals for new cross-lake ferries and dredging needs of the Great Lakes navigation system.

At the annual Admiral’s Dinner on the eve of the conference, special “Friend of the Great Lakes” awards were presented to U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Randy Helland, whose retirement this year ends a 30-year Coast Guard career, most of it on the Great Lakes, and to Helen Brohl, former executive director of the U.S. Great Lakes Shipping Association and currently with the U.S. Dept. of Transportation.

Contact: Dave Knight, [dknight@glc.org](mailto:dknight@glc.org).

## Three new delegation chairs head large class of appointees

The Great Lakes Commission is pleased to announce the appointment of three new chairs to head Member state delegations, as well as several other representatives to the Commission.

Sean Logan is the new chair of the Ohio Delegation, having been appointed director of the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources by Gov. Ted Strickland in January. Logan, who succeeds former Commissioner Sam Speck in both capacities, previously served as president of the Columbia County Board of Commissioners and from 1990-2000 served in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Kari Evans, environmental affairs policy director for Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, has been appointed by him to be the new chair of the Indiana Delegation. Originally appointed as a Commissioner in spring 2006, she succeeds Kyle Hupfer, former director of the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources.

Alexander "Pete" Grannis is the new chair of the New York Delegation, having recently been appointed commissioner of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation by Gov. Eliot Spitzer. He succeeds former Commissioner Denise Sheehan in both capacities. Prior to his appointment, he served as a member of the New York State Assembly, to which he was first elected in 1974.

The Commission also welcomes a large group of other recent appointees to represent our Member states and provinces. They are:

- Commissioner Robert Carter Jr., director of the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources
- Commissioner Jody Peacock, director of corporate affairs, Ports of Indiana
- Alternate Commissioner Kristine Profit, policy advisor, Office of Michigan Lt. Gov. John Cherry
- Commissioner Bill Ingebritsen, Minnesota state senator
- Commissioner Yvonne Prettnner



Grannis



Evans



Logan

Solon, Minnesota state senator

- Commissioner Morrie Lanning, Minnesota state representative
- Commissioner Phillip Reed, New York, Jefferson County legislator
- Commissioner Michael Elmenendorf, New York state director, National Federation of Independent Business, previously a member of the senior staff of former Gov. George Pataki
- Commissioner Timothy Grendell, Ohio state senator
- Commissioner Christopher Koleski, director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- Alternate Commissioner Vicki Deisner, environmental policy coordinator, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources
- Commissioner Robert Light, director, Pennsylvania Sea Grant
- Commissioner Pat Lupo, Pennsylvania, Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force
- Alternate Commissioner Nancy

Larson, Lake Superior basin educator, University of Wisconsin Extension

- Associate Commissioner Kevin Wilson, assistant deputy minister, Ontario Dept. of Natural Resources, Natural Resource Management Division
- Alternate Associate Commissioner Robert Taylor, director, Lands and Waters Branch, Ontario Dept. of Natural Resources
- Alternate Associate Commissioner Pat Boeckner, director, Transportation Planning Branch, Ontario Ministry of Transportation
- Alternate Associate Commissioner Pierre Brochu, maritime transportation analyst, Québec Ministry of Transportation.

A warm welcome to you all and we look forward to working with you on behalf of the Great Lakes!

Contact: Tim Eder, [teder@glc.org](mailto:teder@glc.org).

### E-newsletter debuts

A new communications tool debuted in January to help keep Commissioners and others informed on Commission activities.

The Great Lakes Commission News Briefs are a short summary of Commission news distributed once a month by e-mail. The bulletins feature updates on Commission activities, policy and advocacy developments and upcoming events, as well as an overview of a featured project every month.

The e-newsletter is sent out at mid-month to all Commissioners and Observers, as well as to a broader readership via the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN). For the current edition and links to archives, see [www.glc.org/email](http://www.glc.org/email). Contact: Kirk Haverkamp, [kirkh@glc.org](mailto:kirkh@glc.org).

# Upgraded GLIN data service clicks with thousands of users

New online tools that make Great Lakes geospatial data more widely available and convenient to use are now available on the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN).

The new GLIN Maps and GIS web pages (<http://gis.glin.net>) offer a centralized clearinghouse for Great Lakes data that can be accessed and explored using commonly available open-source software. Registered users can also upload and publish their own Great Lakes-related data without the need for expensive, specialized software.

The new web pages have been extremely popular, registering up to 10,000 unique visitors per month since their debut in February.

“The response to these pages has far, far exceeded our expectations,” said Christine Manninen, manager of the Great Lakes Commission’s Communications and Internet Technology Program, which operates GLIN. “Obviously, there’s been a real need for this kind of service, which puts this information and the tools needed to use it in the hands of everyone.”

The centerpiece of the new offerings is the Great Lakes Information Network Data Access Clearinghouse (GLINDA), a data portal providing access to Great Lakes GIS and geospatial data from a variety of sources, including federal, state and nongovernmental organizations. Datasets are organized by theme, owner and area of coverage, and are available in a variety of common formats.

The service provides access to a large amount of GIS data not previously available over the Internet. GLINDA also provides users and organizations the ability to upload their own spatial (GIS) data to the clearinghouse and have it hosted, without cost, using simple, web-based tools.

Data disseminated through GLINDA are broadly incorporated into the Great Lakes Information Network.

Through the GLIN Maps and GIS pages, users can view maps, images, and links pertaining to the Great Lakes region utilizing GLINDA data.

GLINDA datasets can also be broadly disseminated to other portals, both regionally and nationally. One such portal is Geospatial Onestop (GOS: <http://www.geodata.gov>), a na-

tional web-based portal providing onestop access to maps, data and other geospatial services for the United States.

Questions and comments can be routed through the GLINDA Feedback/Contact page at <http://gis.glin.net/glinContact.php>. Contact: Pete Giencke, [pgiencke@glc.org](mailto:pgiencke@glc.org).

## Study to identify, document municipal investments in Great Lakes restoration

A yearlong effort to document cities’ investments in Great Lakes protection and restoration has been undertaken by the Great Lakes Commission in partnership with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.

The project seeks to determine how much the region’s municipalities are investing in the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes on an annual basis. The 12-month effort is surveying Great Lakes cities, towns and villages in order to document local contributions toward achieving the goals of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration.

“Though Great Lakes restoration is often thought of as a federal and state concern, municipalities play a significant role as well,” said Dave Ullrich, executive director of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. “Projects such as sewage treatment, storm water management, shoreline restoration and enhancement, beach maintenance and adjacent open space protection and waterfront revitalization all have impacts on Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health.”

Tim Eder, executive director of the Great Lakes Commission, said the project will help facilitate informed decisionmaking and advocacy efforts in implementing the restoration plan developed through the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC).

“We hope the project will help advance the GLRC initiative by documenting that local communities are ready, willing and, in many cases, are already sharing in Great Lakes restoration and protection efforts,” Eder said.

He added that the Commission’s research will document successful local projects that other Great Lakes communities may seek to emulate. The survey will also aid in evaluating the feasibility of a more comprehensive approach to identifying state government and private sector investments in Great Lakes protection and restoration.

Contact: Becky Lameka, [blameka@glc.org](mailto:blameka@glc.org).

### Did you know

The Great Lakes are the third most populated coastal region in the United States, with 18 percent of the U.S. coastal population, or 27.5 million residents, in 2003. Source: *Population Trends Along the Coastal United States 1980-2008*, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



## Great Lakes revival

### Substantial assets could drive economic renewal

The Great Lakes lie at the heart of a unique geographic, cultural and economic region. This region\* faces a profound transition from its dominance of the industrial era – to economic success in today’s global knowledge economy.

How we make that transition is the focus of a recent report from The Brookings Institution, *The Vital Center: A Federal State Compact to Renew the Great Lakes Region* (available at [www.brookings.edu/metro](http://www.brookings.edu/metro)).

This report is candid regarding the challenges the oft-labeled “Rust Belt” faces. Much of the region’s population lacks the advanced education needed today; its network of old industrial cities is tired and beat-up; and its young people are leaving for more dynamic urban centers elsewhere. But there are also significant economic assets that can be built on and leveraged to support the region’s economic success.

At a time when highly educated people drive economic development, the Great Lakes states are the nation’s largest talent producers. Great Lakes institutions include 19 of the world’s 100 top-ranked universities and graduate nearly two-fifths of all U.S. bachelor- and advanced science and engineering degrees. More than 300 of the Fortune 1000 firms and bountiful private sector research and development centers are headquartered in the region. All told, the Great Lakes states create 32 percent of the United States’ new intellectual property, driving new technologies in key sectors important to the nation’s future competitiveness – energy, transportation, bio/life sciences, information technology and advanced manufacturing.

Alongside these advantages, one of the region’s central economic engines for development are the Great Lakes

and other natural features of the region. As talented people look to live and work in locations that offer high quality of life and access to the outdoors, water and recreation activities, the Great Lakes region – as the U.S. “North Coast” – possesses unique advantages.

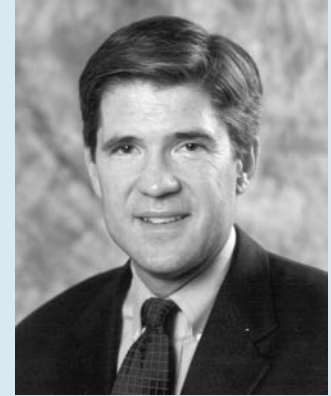
Not only do the Great Lakes include one-fifth of the world’s freshwater, its 10,900 miles of coastline, along with rivers, forests, and scenic and recreation areas make it an attractive location for today’s knowledge workers. It has the natural infrastructure (including bountiful freshwater) to support long-term sustainable growth, and its lack of natural disasters (hurricanes, earthquakes) make it less vulnerable and more sustainable than much of the Sunbelt and other U.S. coasts.

The region’s many lakes, waterways, resorts and outdoor recreation areas are also a source of recreation/environment-based economic activity (tourism, boating, fishing, outdoor sports, etc.). The region’s lakes and rivers also afford plentiful locales for water-based commercial and residential development.

In *The Vital Center*, Brookings makes specific recommendations concerning how to build on all the region’s strengths, including:

- Cross-state branding and promoting the “North Coast” – its waters, forests, parks, and natural scenic assets – as tourism, lifestyle and historical attractions;
- Expanding public access to the shoreline, and enhancing preservation of natural/recreational areas;
- Extending water-based economic development, natural and scenic environmental amenity development, ecotourism, and water-based technologies and industries; and

### John Austin, Brookings Institute



*John Austin is a nonresident senior fellow with the Brookings Institute and co-author of The Vital Center: A Federal-State Compact to Renew the Great Lakes Region.*

*\*The Brookings report identifies the Great Lakes region as the area generally outlined by the Great Lakes, Allegheny Mountains and the Ohio and Mississippi river valleys, including parts or all of 12 states. See [www.brookings.edu/metro](http://www.brookings.edu/metro).*

*The views expressed are those of the authors or the organizations they represent and do not necessarily reflect those of the Great Lakes Commission or its member jurisdictions.*

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## Great Lakes Calendar

### 50th Annual IAGLR Conference on Great Lakes Research

May 28-June 1, 2007, University Park, Pa.  
Contact: Hunter Carrick, 814-865-9219,  
[07chair@iaglr.org](mailto:07chair@iaglr.org)  
[www.iaglr.org/conference](http://www.iaglr.org/conference)

### 2007 IJC Great Lakes Conference and Biennial Meeting

June 6-8, 2007, Chicago, Ill.  
Contact: Bruce Brown, 519-257-6733,  
[BrownB@windSOR.ijc.org](mailto:BrownB@windSOR.ijc.org)  
[www.ijc.org/rel/2007biennial/index.html](http://www.ijc.org/rel/2007biennial/index.html)

### Great Lakes United 25th Anniversary Meeting

June 15-17, 2007, Toronto, Ontario  
Contact: 716-886-0142 (Buffalo) or 514-396-3333 (Montreal), [glu@glu.org](mailto:glu@glu.org)  
[www.glu.org/english/agm2007/index.htm](http://www.glu.org/english/agm2007/index.htm)

### Great Lakes Areas of Concern: Achieving Restoration Targets and Sustaining Stewardship

June 28-29, 2007, Cleveland, Ohio  
Contact: Matt Doss, 734-971-9135,  
[mdoss@glc.org](mailto:mdoss@glc.org)  
[www.glc.org/rap/aocconference](http://www.glc.org/rap/aocconference)

### Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative 2007 Annual Meeting

July 11-13, 2007, Grand Rapids, Mich.  
Contact: Melissa Arjomand, 312-201-4517,  
[melissa.arjomand@glslcities.org](mailto:melissa.arjomand@glslcities.org)  
[www.nemw.org/glci/glci\\_conference\\_2006.htm](http://www.nemw.org/glci/glci_conference_2006.htm)

### 2007 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission

Sept. 30- Oct. 2, 2007, Chicago, Ill.  
Contact: Tim Eder, 734-971-9135,  
[teder@glc.org](mailto:teder@glc.org)  
[www.glc.org/meeting](http://www.glc.org/meeting)

## Minnesota first to ratify water pact

Minnesota became the first Great Lakes state to ratify the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact on Feb. 20, when Gov. Tim Pawlenty signed the enabling legislation into law. Since then, the measure has also passed the Illinois legislature while at least three other states have active bills under consideration.

"This compact will improve and protect the health of the Great Lakes and our economy," Gov. Pawlenty said in signing the measure. "I commend our legislature and, in particular, Rep. Tom Huntley and Sen. Ann Rest for continuing Minnesota's legacy of regional Great Lakes leadership."

Rep. Huntley is Immediate Past Chair of the Great Lakes Commission; Sen. Rest is a former member of the Minnesota Delegation to the Commission.

Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle, chair of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, was quick to praise his neighboring state and governor.

"I applaud Gov. Pawlenty and the state of Minnesota for their action," Gov. Doyle said. "Implementing this compact is critical to our efforts to restore and protect the Great Lakes. I look forward to the state of Wisconsin similarly enacting these protections."

Enabling legislation was also passed by the Illinois House on March 29 and the state Senate on April 25;

differences between the two bills will need to be reconciled before going to Gov. Rod Blagojevich for his signature. Similar legislation was passed by the New York State Assembly on April 23 and is now before the state Senate; and has been introduced in both legislative chambers in Michigan and the Indiana state senate. A special legislative committee is addressing the Compact in Wisconsin.

The Québec National Assembly approved a companion accord, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement, on Nov. 30; other legislation will be required to put its provisions into effect. Legislation to approve the Agreement was introduced in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario on April 3.

The Sustainable Water Resources Agreement is a good-faith arrangement among the Great Lakes states and provinces that sets forth a structure for protecting the water resources of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River system and restricting diversions outside the basin. It is implemented among the eight Great Lakes states by ratifying the Great Lakes Compact, and by Ontario and Québec through legislative action. The Compact must also be approved by Congress after ratification by all eight states.

The Great Lakes governors and premiers approved the agreements in December 2005. For more information, visit the Council of Great Lakes Governors web site, [www.cglg.org](http://www.cglg.org).

## Great Lakes revival (cont'd from page 9)

- Enhancing natural resource/environment based-business, and promoting new green, sustainable technology and products.

Finally, a central tenet of regional economic development based on a clean, green environment is cleaning the Great Lakes themselves. A major recommendation, therefore, is to follow through on the Great Lakes res-

toration compact. In the Vital Center, the federal government is called upon, as well as all aspirants for President in 2008 (another election that will be decided by the swing states of the region) to fully fund the \$20 billion Great Lakes Restoration effort agreed upon by the region's governors and the current Administration.

# Trio of new films have a Great Lakes focus

The Great Lakes as a star of the silver screen?

That might be overstating things a bit, but there are several Great Lakes-related movies and documentaries now in development and making the rounds. Topics include the lakes themselves, the recently retired *Mackinaw* icebreaker and a problem facing the lakes' largest tributary and the region in general.

The biggest of them all, at least in format, is *Wonders of the Great Lakes*, an IMAX film now in production on the history, commerce and environment of the Great Lakes. The 40-minute film will follow the ships that move cargo through the waterways, along with elements that touch on geography, ecology, science and history, as well as the Americans and Canadians who live on the Great Lakes.

The film is being produced by Science North Large Format Films of Sudbury, Ontario, with sponsorships that include Fednav; Presque Isle State Park; the St. Lawrence Seaway development and management corporations; and several Great Lakes Port authorities, as well as support from the Ontario Science Center and Great Lakes Science Center. Release is scheduled for spring 2008. For more information, visit <http://sciencenorth.ca>.

A documentary, *A Watershed Mentality*, focuses on the problems of sediment and erosion in the basin of the Maumee River, the Great Lakes' largest tributary. Partly funded by a grant from the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, the documentary looks at a problem that plagues nearly all Great Lakes tributaries. Special debut screenings are scheduled for May 31 at Indiana Tech University in Fort Wayne, Ind.; and June 14 at the University of Toledo-Lake Erie Center in Oregon, Ohio. Public television airings are due to begin in late June.

The transition from the original Coast Guard icebreaker *Mackinaw* to its modern replacement is the sub-



ject of *Breaking Ice: Mackinaw – The Changing of the Watch*, an hour-long documentary that debuted on Detroit Public Television in February.

Narrated by veteran Detroit broadcaster Mort Crim, the documentary follows the 60-year-old Mackinaw on its final icebreaking mission as its successor prepared to take its place. Crews spent two and a half weeks film-

ing documentary, much of it following the older ship breaking ice in the St. Marys River and Whitefish Bay. No further airings on Great Lakes public television stations have been scheduled as yet, though DVDs are available from the film's underwriter, Acheson Adventures of Port Huron, Mich.; through their web site at [www.achesonventures.com](http://www.achesonventures.com).

*The final icebreaking cruise of the original Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw is the subject of a recent public television documentary, one of several new cinematic productions with Great Lakes themes.*

## Where in the Great Lakes?

The dark silhouette in this photo is a 3-D relief map of Lake Michigan, but can you tell us where it was taken? E-mail your answer, along with your name, address and phone number to [kirkh@glc.org](mailto:kirkh@glc.org) or mail it to the Advisor at the address on the back page. All correct responses received by June 22, 2007, will be entered into a drawing for the winner's choice of either a Great Lakes Commission t-shirt or oversized coffee mug.



Our previous winner is Anthony Kizlauskas of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes National Program Office in Chicago, who correctly identified this photo of one of the "flowerpot" rock formations on Flowerpot Island, just off the tip of Bruce Peninsula at the entrance to Lake Huron's Georgian Bay. Thanks to everyone who entered!

*Photos: Top, Christine Manninen, Great Lakes Commission. Right, Robert A. Walker, Kent State Univ.*





# Commissioners' Corner

Michigan Lt. Gov. John Cherry Jr., Chair

## Seize the moment

This spring the Great Lakes Commission and its delegation traveled to Washington, D.C., to articulate for members of Congress the urgency needed to respond to the many threats facing our Great Lakes. Over the past several years, thousands of hours of work have been put into drafting the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy, developing a plan for dealing with invasive species, and building the public consensus needed to effectively raise these issues with policymakers, stakeholders and the public.

This year we have the opportunity to seize the moment that these thousands of hours of work have given us. In our 2006 Annual Report, I wrote that we are entering 2007 "with a great sense of urgency and an even greater sense of optimism." It is in that spirit that the Commission, its partners and Member states will work quickly to garner the attention these pressing issues require. If we are successful in articulating our urgency we will validate the hope of our optimism.

With the stakes this high, one cannot help but feel the vigor and energy with this opportunity. With our priorities clear and attainable, our expectations for success should be and are high. It is an exciting time for the Great Lakes. Yet with success this close, I would remind everyone that, even though the moment has arrived, our work has truly just begun.

Michigan Lt. Gov. John Cherry Jr.  
Chair, Great Lakes Commission

### ADVISOR

The *ADVISOR* is published quarterly 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.

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Cover photo: Canoeing in northwest lower Michigan; Traverse City CVB (courtesy Michigan Travel Bureau).



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