

ANNUAL REPORTS

1984



GREAT LAKES UNITED

2nd ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 11- 13, 1984

TRINITY COLLEGE
TORONTO, ONTARIO
CANADA

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Appreciation: It is essential to begin this report by extending my sincere thanks to everyone assisting in the development and growth of Great Lakes United. From the inception of the idea for the meeting at Mackinac Island in May 1982; the deliberations of the Charter and Steering Committees; the first annual meeting in Detroit, May 1983, when G.L.U. was officially organized; through this past year's operations there has been a tremendous personal commitment in time, money and energy by many. To all of you, particularly the officers and directors, my personal thanks for your cooperation and dedication.

On behalf of Great Lakes United, I wish to offer a special tribute to the organization responsible for initiating the idea and providing the opportunity for Great Lakes United to be founded. This tribute goes to the Michigan United Conservation Clubs of Lansing, Michigan. The foresight and commitment of M.U.C.C.'s officers, directors and staff along with the monetary grant received from the Joyce Foundation, through a request made by M.U.C.C., made the birth of this Great Lakes environmental conservation coalition possible. In addition, on behalf of G.L.U., I wish to recognize an individual who has been actively involved and dedicated to the development of Great Lakes United from its beginning, a member of the M.U.C.C. staff -- Mr. Wayne Schmidt. To Wayne and the entire M.U.C.C. organization we offer our appreciation.

Finances: Great Lakes United, an organization attempting to span an international area of some 500,000 square miles involving a population of some 50 million people, will succeed or fail depending on its ability to develop a sound financial foundation. This past year, G.L.U. operated on an operating budget of under \$10,000. All monies spent were for organizational operations. No funds were used to reimburse any officer or director for travel expenses. Although a policy was adopted to allow for reimbursement no requests were received. The treasurer's report will give a more accurate picture of our financial standing; however, you can be assured even with the conservative program conducted this past year and with present commitments, we are locked in to an austerity budget.

Considering the cost involved, in attending annual meetings, board meetings, press conferences, committee meetings, attendance at other conferences on the Great Lakes representing G.L.U., plus donations of materials, printing, labor and general office functions, your officers and directors conservatively donated over \$40,000.00 to this past year's operation. Please don't misunderstand my intentions, I only cite these figures to point out the scope of the financial need of this organization and this is without consideration of a permanent staff. Most certainly we cannot continue to expect people of moderate means to continue this kind of financial contribution.

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Original estimates of the need for an annual budget of \$100,000 plus was quite accurate. Your Board of Directors is working to achieve this goal. We solicit your suggestions and ideas to help us in this endeavor. At the present time we have made an application for a foundation grant and are considering several fund raising ideas.

Incorporation & 501-C 3 Status: During the past year we did become incorporated in the State of Michigan and also were granted the tax-exempt status under 501-C 3. Both of these achievements should give us additional leverage in our fund raising efforts. We are presently seeking similar status for our organization in Canada.

Communications: Equally as important as finances is the development of reliable and creditable communications. Initially, a brief of the board minutes were sent to all members and recently this was discontinued in favor of a one page flyer entitled "Action Update." Eventually we will need to develop a more comprehensive newsletter, however this will call for additional finances. At present we are in need of a volunteer editor for the newsletter. We could expand the present "Action Update" to two or three pages and not increase our postal cost.

Task Force Organization: Hopefully at this annual meeting more of the task force groups will attain greater development. Several task force groups still need leadership and an active membership. Although all task force groups may not have the media advantage or the notoriety given winter navigation this past year, I do see those issues such as toxic wastes, acid deposition and ground water quality as active environmental concerns demanding our immediate attention and action similar to the action taken by the G.L.U. membership on winter navigation.

Evaluation: Looking back at the past twelve months I am pleased with the accomplishments of this fledgling organization. We have made a positive contribution and I am more firmly convinced than ever of the need for this coalition. With everyone's help and cooperation coupled with the overriding desire to promote and develop team effort we can succeed.



Robert A. Boice

President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The year and a half I have served as secretary for Great Lakes United -- first of the steering committee and later for the board of directors -- have been most interesting and challenging. It has been a unique opportunity to be at the center of communications for an evolving organization -- an organization with enormous potential and proportions. I have met people and learned lessons I will never forget, and I wish my successor an equally rewarding experience.

In the capacity of recording secretary, I took minutes of all steering committee and board of directors meetings, as well as the first annual meeting. I trust that these are an accurate reflection of the actions we took and the matters we discussed and deliberated. I hope that future officers and board members will find them useful in reviewing where we have come from and determining the future direction of GLU.

Until we established the "newsletter-update" format, I distilled the major board actions into a summary "Board Briefs" for distribution to all member organizations. I expect such communications with members will be an ever-evolving process and hope that member organizations will use them to make GLU real to their own members.

As corresponding secretary, I received a steady stream of interesting mail from all parts of the Great Lakes Basin and beyond. Inquiries about the Great Lakes in general and GLU in particular came from school teachers, students, workers, government employees, member organizations, politicians, sportsmen and other folks concerned about the lakes. Hundreds of people returned the form from the GLU brochure. I treated each inquiry as a potential member and believe we recruited several additional individual ones thusly. I also supplied additions to our mailing list to those working specifically on membership recruiting.

One of the larger and most rewarding undertakings I attempted this year was to establish initial contact with officials at various levels of government in Canada and the United States. With considerable secretarial support from a member organization, a local vocational school, and volunteers, we sent an introductory letter to each member of Congress from the Great Lakes states, including copies of our resolutions, informing them of our concerns about funding for Great Lakes research. Later we sent a similar letter including the summary of our resolutions to members of the Canadian Parliament from Ontario and Quebec, as well as to all members of the Ontario Legislative Assembly. Finally, we sent the introductory package to selected staff of the US Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Some of the response has been gratifying. As we followed up with more specific mailings about Winter Navigation, I believe we made an impression at those levels of government. I hope that we can soon develop similar contacts with Great Lakes state legislators.

Carol Y. Swinehart
Secretary

ANNUAL REPORT
REGION 5, ONTARIO

The first year of Great Lakes United was full of action for the Board members and organizations in the Lake Ontario Region. After the first annual meeting in Detroit, we were just getting our first year off the ground when a major crisis and challenge - winter navigation - presented itself. The U.S. House of Representatives Public Works subcommittee included in its Water Resources Bill a section (1123) that provided for 12-month shipping on the Upper Lakes and 10 months on the St. Lawrence River. This proposal had potential to adversely affect over 8,000 acres of prime habitat on the St. Lawrence River. With GLU's resolution opposing this project fresh in hand from Detroit, we set out to try to help stop the project.

The Ontario Region sponsored a Board meeting and news conference in Niagara Falls, New York, on October 1 to address our concerns for winter navigation. Hosted by New York Power Authority, and arranged by William Hilts of the Authority and the New York State Conservation Council, Alex Cukin of the Sierra Club, and Robert Bachman of Cheektowaga, New York, the event was a major success. Congressman Henry Nowak was our special guest speaker and pledged his opposition to the project. GLU organizations from all over the basin sent representatives who lent their outstanding support. Media coverage was excellent and the success of that meeting spurred us on to further efforts in opposition to the project.

We also began negotiations, still in progress, to obtain office space for GLU in the Environmental Studies Center of the State University of New York at Buffalo. Located on the Amherst campus, this space has great potential for future GLU activities, providing a needed facility in a location which is well-suited for future meetings and conferences. The Environmental Studies Center is a focal point for environmental programs at the University, providing excellent potential for collaborative efforts.

At the request of Dr. Lester Milbrath, Director of the Environmental Studies Center, we represented GLU at a session of his "Decisions for the Great Lakes" course. This was a **Great Lakes Tomorrow** program that was extremely impressive and is highly recommended.

We were also involved in numerous other activities. Working with Dr. William Robinson, Director of Region 1, Superior, we developed guidelines to aid the task forces. These were adopted by the Board.

Together with Canadian Director-at-Large Kai Millyard and Save the River's Executive Director, Tim Eder, we attended a conference in Rochester, New York -

"Lake Ontario: A Resource in Demand." We attended a Sierra Club reception in Buffalo, where we all had a long talk with David Brower, founder of Friends of the Earth, which resulted in our spreading the word about GLU and getting many good ideas for the future. We left with an increased understanding of the uniqueness and significance of Great Lakes United to the conservation movement in North America.

Besides the Board meeting in Niagara Falls, we had two other Board meetings in the Ontario Region, both hosted by Pollution Probe in Toronto. As well, Directors Anne Wordsworth and Kai Millyard did an exemplary job in organizing and securing speakers for the 1984 annual meeting.

We were also busy with housekeeping chores and communications with our member organizations. Two major mailings went out regarding the winter navigation issue and we maintained frequent contact with our member organizations in the Region. We computerized the GLU mailing lists and continue to provide mailing labels for the organization. We have been actively soliciting contributions of office equipment which will be greatly helped by our newly acquired non-profit status.

Capping off the year was a dinner-fundraiser organized by a member organization, the Cortland County Environmental Management Council and co-sponsored by numerous organizations and businesses, including Great Lakes United. The guest speakers were the Honorable Henry G. Williams, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and Great Lakes United President, Robert A. Boice. Proceeds from this event, attended by over 120 people, were used to sponsor organization memberships in Great Lakes United.

The financial resources of many individuals and organizations supported our efforts throughout the year and it is impossible to know what the total contributions may be.

Thanks to everyone for all the help this first year.

John Hickey
Director, Region V

NAVIGATION TASK FORCE REPORT

May 1984

In August 1983, the U.S. House Committee on Public Works and Transportation approved an Omnibus Water Projects Bill by a vote of 49-0. Section 1123 of this bill, HR 3678, authorized extending the navigation season on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River per the recommendations of the Detroit District Engineer, Army Corps of Engineers, in his August of 1979 report.

This proposal had been studied extensively in the late 1970's. Because of known and unknown environmental impacts, and dubious economic benefits, it was vehemently opposed by conservation interests throughout the basin, particularly in Michigan and Northern New York.

One of the primary reasons for the formation of **Great Lakes United**, was to provide a unified front in opposition to winter navigation. The Great Lakes United annual meeting in 1983 approved the attached resolution in opposition to winter navigation and other unwise navigation projects.

Because of the Congressional Committee's unanimous vote and the fact that this was the first omnibus water projects bill in seven years, there was tremendous momentum for passage of the bill. Great Lakes United and its member organizations made several significant contributions which ultimately helped turn the momentum around:

- 1) Largely in response to pressure from Canadian members of GLU, the Canadian Embassy delivered a strongly worded diplomatic note to the U.S. State Department, voicing opposition to winter navigation on September 30, 1983.

- 2) At a press conference sponsored by GLU in Niagara Falls on October 1, 1983, Senior Congressman Henry Nowak stated his "unequivocal opposition" to winter navigation. Nowak helped defeat the proposal in the late 1970's but was on the committee which voted in favor of the omnibus bill 49-0.

- 3) At a Congressional Field Hearing held in Detroit in September, Great Lakes United and several member organizations submitted testimony in opposition to the legislation.

- 4) On February 9, 1984 Great Lakes United, and member organization, Save The River, testified before Congress in Washington and spent three days lobbying on Capitol Hill.

The committee which sponsored the hearings in Michigan and Washington approved an amendment to delete the winter navigation section on April 11th.

- 5) In Chicago, at a press conference organized by Great Lakes United on March 5, 1984, an unfavorable "compromise" proposed by the State of Illinois was attacked. Illinois Governor Thompson later dropped his support for the compromise.

Equally significant as the above, was the communication link Great Lakes United provided its members fighting this issue. The steady stream of "intelligence" to and from GLU members and their political connections was crucial.

On April 10th a letter with signatures of 225 Congressmen opposed to winter navigation was delivered to the House Rules Committee chairman Claude Pepper. The number of signatures means that if the bill goes to the floor for a vote, a majority of Congressmen are on our side.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TASK FORCE REPORT

The Hazardous Materials Task Force, relying upon the Resolution adopted at the Annual Meeting in Detroit, in 1983, has recruited its members from the participants at that initial workshop. Additions have come from the known activists in all the states and provinces within the Great Lakes watershed. Peggy Johnson, a member of the Eastern Michigan Environmental Action Council, serves as chair, and has organized the Task Force members to prepare additional materials for the Toronto conference.

An experimental conference in Ashtabula, Ohio, the "fiberglass capitol of the free world," brought together local activists and members of several GLU member organizations. Ellen Knox, who is Board Liaison for the Hazardous Materials Task Force as well as Regional Director for the Lake Erie Region, proposes further meetings, organized county by county, as a means to build up our understanding of the geography of toxic hot spots throughout the basin. Most states and provinces develop their files on a county basis, so that technical assistance is accessible in such forms as county maps of ground water resources, county listings of the generators of hazardous materials, or of the permitted storage, treatment and disposal facilities.

Close cooperation with the programs of the Task Force on Water is anticipated, with particular concern for the emerging issues of ground water protection, in both nations. Nuclear issues become the concern of this Task Force, with the reauthorization of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, in the States, tied closely to the concerns over highway shipments of spent irradiated fuel rod assemblies that pass from West Valley, New York through Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana to the power plant where they were originally generated at Point Beach, in Wisconsin. The participation of local governments, in Canada, in making decisions over the scheduling and routing of hazardous shipments, allows for a flexibility that is threatened by the emphasis, in the United States, on "uniformity" which is being sought by the industry and the shippers.

Ellen Knox
Director
Region IV (Lake Erie)

G R E A T L A K E S U N I T E D

ANNUAL R E P O R T

Sol P. Baltimore
U.S. Director-At-Large

Herewith is my report as a U.S. Director-At-Large for the program year ending with this convention. I am pleased to report that I have attended all Board meetings, and at no cost to Great Lakes United.

The major accomplishment was the establishment of the Task Force on Atmospheric Deposition. Task Force Chairperson is Ms. Lee Botts, Director, Great Lakes Project, Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Research, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. I am honored to serve as liaison between the Board and this Task Force.

In keeping with my viewpoint of the essential democratic nature of GLU, I sent a letter inviting every member organization to have a member on this vital Task Force, and participate in its decision making. Enclosed with the letter were the Task Force Guidelines adopted by the Board, and the Resolution dealing with Atmospheric Deposition adopted by the Convention in May 1983 at the Annual Meeting. (The reproduction and mailing costs were donated by the American Lung Association of Michigan.) The names of Ms. Botts and everyone who wanted to serve were submitted to the Board as required by Article VI, Membership, of the Guidelines, and they were all approved. Those now serving on the Task Force as constituted March 4, 1984 are:

- Ms. Lee Botts, Chairperson, Great Lakes Project, Northwestern Univ.
- Ms. Cathy Alpaugh, Great Lakes Institute, Univ. of Windsor
- Mr. Steve Chester, East Michigan Environmental Action Council
- Mr. Blair Hodgman, Ohio Sierra Club
- Mr. Bud Slingerland, pH 5.6 Rain Society
- Mr. Steve Uptegraft, UAW Local 652
- Ms. Judith White, Lake St. Clair Advisory Committee
- Mr. Ron Wilson, Flint Environmental Action Team

It is anticipated that others will join at the May 1984 Annual Meeting.

I was pleased to serve as the coordinator for the GLU booth at Outdoorama, a sportsman's show and exhibition held at the Michigan State Fairgrounds and sponsored by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs. (It should be noted that MUCC donated the booth space to GLU.) Also working at the booth were Ms. Sherry Finkbeiner, GLU Treasurer; Mr. Dan Harbison, Michigan Duckhunters; Bill Anderson, active MUCC member; Bud Slingerland, pH 5.6 Rain Society, and Cathy Alpaugh, Great Lakes Institute, University of Windsor.

It was my honor to represent GLU at a public hearing on the winter navigation provision of a public works bill now in the U.S. Congress. The hearing was conducted by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Navigation in Detroit, Michigan, October 14, 1983. The hearing, one of two held in Michigan, dealt with that state's response to the proposed extension of the navigation season on the Great Lakes; the winter navigation proposal. You will be interested to know that no person or organization representative present, whether business, labor, industry, elected or appointed governmental official, or environmental group, supported this patently ecologically unsound concept.

