

GREAT LAKES RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

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MEMORANDUM

RE: TaskForce Resolutions Recommendations to the AGM committee and the Board

TO: Board of Directors

DATE: February 16, 1993

FROM: Jack Manno

Report from John Jackson and Jack re: Task force meetings and resolutions....

The principal objective of the task force meetings is to provide an opportunity during the AGM for representatives of member organizations and individual GLU members to work on substantive issues facing the Great Lakes. All policy resolutions brought to the AGM should be first considered by a task force. The product of a task force meeting should be resolutions for presentation to the AGM and if possible, action steps to be considered by GLU and our member organizations. These are work sessions with the following purposes:

1. to provide a brief overview and analysis of the current state of an issue or set of issues,
2. to discuss the current activities of the member organizations and GLU regarding that issue(s)
3. to review previous AGM resolutions as to their current relevancy, with particular emphasis on if and how past resolutions reflect the current situation, and if GLU has carried out previous commitments.
4. to discuss policy resolutions which have been submitted to the task force chair
5. discuss specific recommendations in the form of action items that GLU staff, Board of Directors and/or member organizations will carry out in order achieve the objectives of the policy resolutions

The most important piece of organizing to be done by the AGM committee will be to recruit individuals to chair each group and to determine which task forces should meet. Task force meetings should be held by currently active task forces (like the labor and environment or human health task force) and task forces to be formed to support activities GLU is currently involved in (fisheries management, RAPs, lake levels, pollution prevention/zero discharge) Chairpersons should either be the chair of the currently active group, or be from a member organization actively engaged in working on the issue before the task group. Individuals recruited to chair the meetings should be informed of the purposes of the meeting as described above, and should be prepared to facilitate the meeting to achieve these purposes. A sub-committee of the Board (John and I could take this on) would recruit task forces and help them get organized. The task forces and the chairs should be decided on by the March meeting.

All information and promotional publicity about the AGM should include a description of the task forces, the resolutions and the name, address, phone #, fax # for each task force chair. Resolutions must be sent to the GLU Office which will make copies for the AGM. The office should send or fax a copy of all resolutions to the appropriate task force chair immediately when they are received. Communications with

member organizations should state that resolutions must be forwarded to the office at least two weeks prior to the AGM¹. Resolutions that do not easily belong with any of the task forces should be sent to the Task Force committee. The task force agenda will be built around the resolutions received. Emergency resolutions (fast-breaking issues) can be submitted to the Task Force Committee which will provide an opportunity during the presentation of resolutions to submit these resolutions. The Task Force/Resolutions committee will chair the Sunday session on resolutions.

In discussing the process with the task force chairs we will emphasize the importance of limiting the number of resolutions. We will ask that the chairs review past resolutions for redundancies, contradictions and overlaps with the current proposed resolutions. The chair will be responsible for bringing this information to the task force meeting and encouraging her or his task force to present only resolutions which provide new or significantly modified direction for GLU. If the number of resolutions is kept small, we will be able to have a real discussion on Sunday about how GLU can implement the proposed resolutions.

We also recommend that task force be set up to consider GLU/member organization relations. The resolutions we might get through that would help the Board in its strategic planning process.

¹ At the last AGM Rebecca Shriner of NWF offered a resolution to place a pre-meeting deadline on submittal of resolutions, with exceptions for emergencies. This motion passed. The resolution suggested that this requirement be made an amendment to the By-Laws. This resolution should have been forwarded to the By-Laws committee. We don't know if it ever was. We could discuss it at the AGM, perhaps during our suggested task force on GLU/Member Organization relations.

Pleasant Prairie water diversion hearing scheduled in Madison

By Patrik Vander Velden
Staff Writer

PLEASANT PRAIRIE — Questions of the legality and precedent set by diversion of Lake Michigan water to the village of Pleasant Prairie will be weighed Tuesday during a state committee hearing in Madison.

At the request of environmental groups, the Environmental Resource Committee will hear testimony from Village Administrator Michael Pollocoff, who claims the diversion was done by the book, and environmentalists ready to testify the diversion was not for health reasons but to supply water for economic growth.

The diversion set a bad example on an international scale and if followed could have disastrous natural consequences and create and financial complications later, says a national environmentalist group based in Buffalo, NY.

But Pollocoff says there were no improprieties and the concerns are misdirected.

"We never misrepresented what we asked for. I would encourage them to look at the northern suburbs of Chicago for diversions nobody sees. We flush 500 toilets and everybody gets all concerned about it," said Pollocoff.

At issue is whether all eight governors of the Great Lakes States and Canadian officials agreed to allow diversion of up to 3.2 million gallons daily of Lake Michigan water, as required by Federal law and Canadian charter, and whether that diversion was ever intended to be temporary or was made temporary only after investigation by environmentalists.

The area served allows for Lake Michigan water to be used and then sent to a different watershed; in the case of Pleasant Prairie, it is the Des Plaines River which flows

west to the Mississippi.

Through the State Department of Natural Resources, the village applied for the diversion to supply water to an area with well water contaminated with radium.

Originally the area was totally in Pleasant Prairie, but part of the area was annexed to the city. Bruce Kershner of the Great Lakes United contends the signed agreement between Pleasant Prairie and the DNR has been altered. Kershner contends a review of DNR and village documents shows that a clause making the diversion temporary until "no later than the year 2010" which appears on a copy sent to the village for signatures was deleted from the signed document kept on file.

Signed in February 1990, the agreement set the stage for a second diversion by the city of Kenosha that Kershner said is illegal.

The city tagged its diversion

onto the Pleasant Prairie one through annexation, not by any authorized track, said Kershner.

Kenosha was not a party to the original agreement between the state and village. The diversion, said Kershner, was associated with no health concerns but was expedient as the cheapest way to supply water for development and illegal under the agreements between the U.S. and Canada.

However, O. Fred Nelson, Kenosha Water Utility manager, said the city "not knowingly or willfully diverted any water."

Since September, a lift station has been returning the water used in the city corporate limits to the water treatment plant and back to Lake Michigan.

Nelson said he and City Attorney Donald Conway would be at the hearing scheduled for 2 p.m., Room 213 SE, in the Capitol.

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Top Great Lakes environmentalist addresses Quality Quest Coalition

Grand Island Quality Quest Coalition will feature Bruce Kershner, editor and field coordinator for Great Lakes United (GLU), at its monthly meeting at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 18, at the Grand Island Nike Base.

Great Lakes United is an international coalition to conserve and protect the Great Lakes ecosystem. The organization, which has a membership of 600,000, celebrated its 10th anniversary last May.

Kershner, who describes himself as a grassroots organizer, has been in the environmental field for more than 25 years. His efforts were recognized in 1988 when he was voted environmentalist of the year by the Sierra Club and the Adirondack Mountain Club. He has worked as the Wisconsin liaison to the National Parks Service and as the science and medical editor for the University

of Buffalo.

While Kershner works for an international organization, he ascribes to the philosophy "think globally-act locally," which is why he has lent his support to Quality Quest's aim to ensure a wise land use planning process for Grand Island.

"As the Great Lakes' largest environmental organization, we are painfully aware that ill-planned growth of urban and commercial development is responsible for much of the Great Lakes' environmental and community problems," said Kershner. "Since Grand Island is one of the largest fresh water islands, uniquely situated between two of the Great Lakes, its development will impact on the Great Lakes' ecosystem, as well as affect its citizens and its environment for generations to come."

All interested citizens are welcome to attend.

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CanAm eco-network eyes Erie

By ROBERT PREIDT
The Spectator

PORT MATTLAND — More Canadian groups need to get involved in environmental issues that impact on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border, says one of the founders of the Environmental Hazards Team.

"We tend not to think about what goes on on the other side of the border," even though many of the problems on the American side can have serious consequences on our side, Pat Potter said.

As part of the effort to encourage more co-operation between Canadian-American grassroots eco-groups, Pat and husband Chuck will open their home here to

Canadian groups urged to join forces with Yanks

host a meeting of the Lake Erie Alliance on April 3.

The alliance, which includes about 40 groups from the north and south shores of Lake Erie, was formed about a year ago.

Its goals include increasing public awareness about the lake and its watershed, establishment of an information network for environmental groups, and the preservation of the lake and its feeder sources such as Ontario's Grand River.

"One of the ideas is to get Canadians and Americans working together to get a network going on around the lake," Mrs. Potter said.

"We're going to be trying hard to get more Canadian groups that are in the Lake Erie watershed."

Many environmental organizations here aren't accustomed to combining resources with their American counterparts.

"People often feel intimidated about working with the American groups because they feel it's like the tail wagging the dog," Mrs. Potter said.

That lack of co-ordination and communication only benefits polluting companies, which can leave one community and relocate in another unsuspecting town. That's es-

pecially easy if they move from one country to another.

"The projects (that cause pollution) are the same and the players are just going back and forth across the border," Mrs. Potter said.

Establishing close cross-border environmental links across Lake Erie isn't beneficial only to Ontario groups. Support from this side could be a major boost to Americans in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York state struggling to protect the lake.

"The American government has written off that area as far as

pollution. That's the sacrificial area of the United States," Mrs. Potter said.

There are other organizations active in protecting the Great Lakes, but Lake Erie often ends up overshadowed by its sister lakes. Lake Erie is in fairly good shape, but there are many potential problems and industrial proposals that need to be closely watched.

"If we don't pay attention, it's going to get bad," Mrs. Potter said.

That would be a tragedy because it would waste the earlier intense international effort, started during the 1960s, to rehabilitate Lake Erie.

That campaign focused on reduction of phosphate discharges which fed huge algae blooms that threatened to deplete oxygen and smother most life in the lake.

"Lake Erie... is sort of the jewel in the crown. It's best we polish it up and take care of it," Mrs. Potter said.

The April meeting at the Potter's home will include discussions on priority issues related to the Lake Erie watershed, how best to establish an international grassroots information network around the lake, and organizing workshops and public meetings.

Any environmental groups interested in attending should contact the Environmental Hazards Team at 1-416-774-3769.