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RECEIVED JUL 13 1994

MEMORANDUM

**TO: GREAT LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL, COMMUNITY AND LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS**

**FROM:** Karen Murphy (Great Lakes United), Jack Weinberg (Greenpeace -- U.S.), Tracy Easthope (Ecology Center of Ann Arbor), Dorreen Carey (Grand Cal Task Force), Tim Eder (National Wildlife Federation), Diane Heminway (Citizens' Environmental Coalition), Brett Hulsey (Sierra Club), Paul Muldoon (Canadian Environmental Law Association), and Jay Palter (Greenpeace -- Canada) €

**RE: PROGRESS ON BASINWIDE COORDINATED CAMPAIGN**

DATE: July 8, 1994

On April 19-21, 1994, 22 environmental groups met at Wingspread for a workshop to discuss strategies for furthering debates and discussions around the formation of a coordinated campaign focussing on persistent toxic substances. Attached you will find the "Summary of Findings" from that meeting.

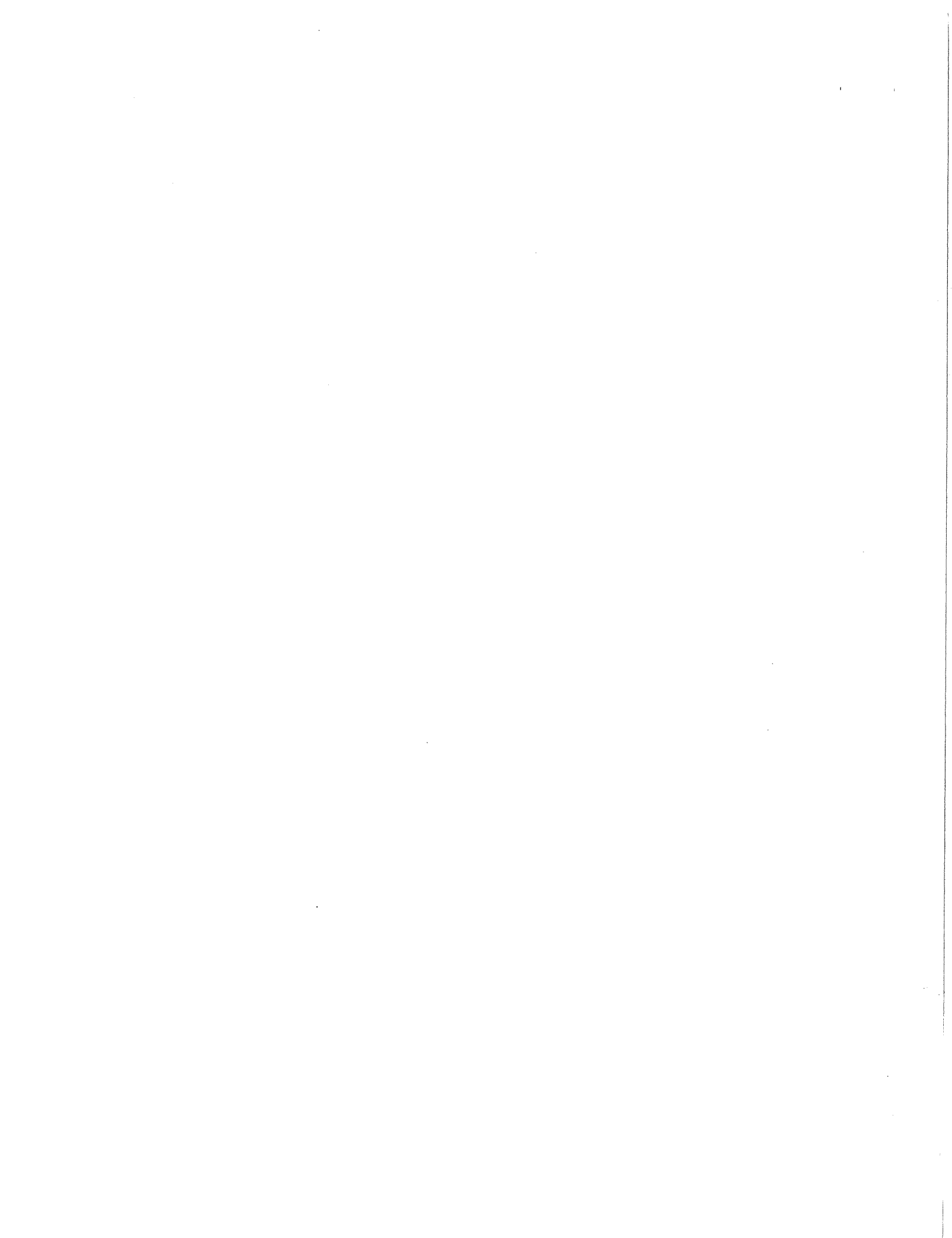
The general consensus from the meeting was that we should initiate a coordinated campaign to sunset chlorine-containing compounds. A small group volunteered to create a framework for this campaign. We drafted a background and mission statement -- an initial discussion document to be reviewed by environmental, community, labor and other interested groups across the Basin. We also agreed on next steps to take.

We have enclosed the draft background and mission statement. We are looking for your thoughts and ideas about what we have developed so far. We are at the stage of defining the framework for this campaign, so it is important that we have input from a broad diversity of people.

A provisional working group has been formed to proceed with the planning. The first meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 22 in the morning in the Ann Arbor, Michigan area. Anyone interested in attending this meeting should contact Karen Murphy at (716)886-0142 or Jack Weinberg at (312)563-6060.

Please review the draft background and mission statement and get your comments back to us by July 20 so we can incorporate them prior to this first meeting. Send comments to Great Lakes United at SUCB, 1300 Elmwood Ave., Cassety Hall, Buffalo, N.Y. 14222 or by FAX at (716)886-0303.

Thanks for your help!



# Great Lakes Campaign to Phase Out Industrial Use of Chlorinated Compounds

## Background

On April 19–21, 1994, a diverse body of environmental organizations met at Wingspread to talk about the potential of forming a basinwide coordinated campaign and alliance aimed at sunsetting a class of persistent toxic compounds. As reported in the “Summary of Findings” from that meeting, participants at the Strategy Planning Meeting concluded there is need for a Great Lakes basinwide “coordinated multiorganization campaign to sunset the use of chlorine and chlorine-containing industrial feedstocks.”

To further this end, the meeting recognized the “need for a coordinating committee on the chlorine campaign to encourage mutual assistance between Great Lakes groups” which, among other charges, would help coordinate efforts and develop multigroup projects. It was further agreed that the next step would be a discussion document to elaborate the “nature, scope and organizational framework for the coordinating committee” that could then be used to prepare funding proposals to allow the effort to move forward.

The Wingspread conclusions became a major topic of discussion at the Great Lakes United Annual Meeting in May, at which a resolution was unanimously adopted stating that Great Lakes United:

- ◆ Endorses the proposal to create a multiorganization, Great Lakes Basin campaign to sunset chlorine-containing industrial feedstocks;
- ◆ Seeks active and equal participation in this effort from both professional environmental groups and grassroots, community-based groups; and
- ◆ Will endeavor to provide as much leadership and coordination to this effort as is appropriate and acceptable to other participants in the campaign.

## Why the Great Lakes?

The multigroup campaign is organized in the Great Lakes region because of the special role this region has played in the movement to sunset sources of persistent toxic pollution. The Great Lakes leads other regions of the United States and Canada in defining programs to eliminate environmental sources of chlorinated toxic substances because:

- ◆ The Great Lakes ecosystem provides an early warning about chlorinated toxic pollution which injures fish and wildlife here earlier and with greater force than elsewhere;
- ◆ The injury has been more extensively studied and is better understood in the Great Lakes than anywhere else;
- ◆ There is such a large concentration of population, industry and agriculture here; and

- ◆ Identify potential longer term funding sources for a range of activities appropriate to a multigroup, Great Lakes chlorine campaign;
- ◆ Seek involvement and participation beyond the traditional Great Lakes environmental movement. Identify potential projects appropriate to new constituencies including:
  - ≈ Representatives of the medical, public health and scientific communities;
  - ≈ Organizations concerned about agricultural and/or economic issues; and
  - ≈ Organizations that focus on human rights and justice issues.
- ◆ Seek consensus prior to the conference on proposed operating structure and rules for the alliance and identify mechanisms to facilitate joint action, joint planning and joint strategy development;
- ◆ Identify whether there is a desire for the alliance itself to establish communications, education, training or technical assistance programs. If so, identify potential resources and mechanisms for implementation; and
- ◆ Identify potential longer term projects that fit under the alliance umbrella. Identify organizations interested in working on those projects. Where needed, help organizations explore potential resource availability and develop project proposals.

# ***Summary of Findings***

**Great Lakes Strategy Planning Meeting**

**Held at Wingspread**

**Racine, Wisconsin**

**April 19-21, 1994**

*(3rd Draft - May 12, 1994)*

## Introduction

The Great Lakes ecosystem has been the focus of scientific attention and environmental concern for some time. Now this unique ecosystem is emerging as the centre of a public health and environmental policy debate with profound implications for the region and the world.

For the past decade, Great Lakes groups and activists have mobilized around the Biennial meetings of the International Joint Commission (IJC). These coordinated multi-group strategies have contributed to winning strong recommendations toward eliminating persistent toxic substances.

In their Seventh Biennial Report released in February of 1994, the IJC reaffirmed an earlier recommendation to sunset the use of chlorine and chlorine-containing compounds in industrial processes as a necessary step toward addressing persistent toxic pollution. Together with an ambitious set of recommendations for the governments and industries of the Great Lakes, the stage is set in the Great Lakes region for a major economic and social transformation.

This is a propitious time in the Great Lakes ecosystem. Events of the past several years have moved the debate from IF we must sunset chlorinated and other persistent toxins to HOW we should plan a transition to clean production systems. Growing concern about human health impacts of these toxins is merging discussions of precautionary environmental policy with preventive public health policy.

It is with this context that, with the support of a number of foundations<sup>1</sup>, representatives from some 22 environmental groups met at Wingspread for workshop to discuss strategies for furthering these debates and discussions. This summary of findings is the results from that workshop.<sup>2</sup> The purpose of these findings is to act as a catalyst for discussion with a broader community of groups to seek input and support for the direction of the findings.

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<sup>1</sup> The Johnson Foundation, The Joyce Foundation and the Laidlaw Foundation.

<sup>2</sup> No effort is made at this time to relay the discussions that resulted in this summary of findings. However, some rough notes and background material is available from the workshop organizers.

## Summary of Findings

The participants concluded that there is a need for a coordinated multi-organization campaign to sunset the use of chlorine and chlorine-containing industrial feedstocks. While recognizing and supporting vital work in other issue areas, as well as other important work on toxic issues, the groups agreed that prioritizing work on a chlorine phase-out provided strategic organizational and other opportunities and advantages.

The groups assembled invite other groups working in the basin to join with them in the development of a coordinated chlorine free campaign. Signatory groups, who represent groups of all sizes, missions and resources, believe the diversity of the groups working on this issue will define the campaign's strength and success. A process for collaboration is now being discussed.

To best summarize the findings, they are organized under the following heads:

- (a) Why Now? Why Chlorine?
- (b) What should be the Goals to be Furthered over the Next Few Years?
- (c) How Efforts should be Coordinated?
- (d) What are Some Proactive Strategies that Could be Pursued?
- (e) What Short Term Actions Should Be Pursued?

### ***Why Now? Why Chlorine?***

After two days of discussion to develop a joint agenda, participants summarized some of the reasons why a collaboration on this issue offered strategic and other advantages:

***Because the IJC, in reaffirming this goal in their Seventh Biennial report, provides a unifying framework and an opportunity to gain new allies:***

The IJC's years of research provides a strong basis for action, their discussion of a framework to plan for a transition facilitates the development of allies who might otherwise oppose environmental initiatives and the Commission provides a forum for those discussions.

***Because people care about their health and the health of their children:***

Sperm counts, breast cancer, endometriosis, prostate cancer, damaged immune systems, developmental problems, learning disabilities. These are what people care about and emerging evidence suggest chlorinated compounds may play a role. The revolution of new information could create a public demand for action.

**Short-Term Strategies**

Although the development of a coordinating committee and substantive strategies provide the basis for an effective campaign, there are many short-term activities that must be furthered at this time. These include:

1. Immediate policy opportunities include:

- (a) Clean Water Act reauthorization is an important event and support is needed for the Senate chlorine bill sponsored by Metzgerbaum and a House bill sponsored by Richardson;
- (b) Elections in various jurisdictions;
- (c) Parliamentary Review of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act;
- (d) Reaction to EPA Great Lakes Water Study;
- (e) EPA/ Environment Canada Conference on State of the Great Lakes;
- (f) Sierra Club Great Lakes voters scoreboard;

2. Offensive initiatives in this regard include:

- (a) coordinate the release of high impact information, including:
  - \* EPA dioxin study
  - \* National Wildlife Federation's report "Fertility on the Brink"
  - \* Greenpeace/ Pollution Probe report on dry cleaning: "Dressed to Kill"
- (b) activate canvasses and develop material for them;
- (c) attend President's Council on Sustainable Development meeting in Chicago in July;
- (d) attend Sierra Club Great Lakes Washington Week
- (e) develop campaign to demand TIME magazine use chlorine-free paper.



*Summary of Findings*

Participants from the following groups attended the Wingspread Conference

Canadian Environmental Law Association  
Citizens for a Better Environment  
Citizens' Environmental Coalition  
Ecology Center of Ann Arbor  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Environmental Law and Policy Center  
Grand Cal Task Force  
Great Lakes United  
Greenpeace  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
Lake Erie Alliance  
Lake Michigan Federation  
National Audubon  
National Wildlife Federation  
Pollution Probe  
Sierra Club  
Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition  
World Wildlife Fund

