

**GREAT LAKES UNITED**

MEMO

TO: Executive Committee and Karen

FROM: Mary

DATE: February 18, 1994

RE: SOLEC and GLU's involvement with it

At the last GLU Board Meeting, Jeanne raised the issue of GLU's involvement in SOLEC. No decision was made at that time. Since that Board meeting, I have been contacted by Lee Botts, who is acting in the ED position for LMF. Lee (as did Glenda) feels strongly that GLU should actively participate on the steering committee to keep abreast of what is going on with SOLEC and counterbalance Grace Weaver and industries' influence in the whole thing. The next SOLEC meeting was being held in Chicago on February 16/17 and Lee wanted me to attend this meeting.

Lee also contacted Terry about GLU's involvement, and Terry told Lee that based on the Board's motion at the 10/3/92 Board meeting and subsequent letter (both enclosed), the Board needed to grant permission for me (or anyone of GLU) to attend these SOLEC meetings. I relayed all of this information to Jeanne, who advised me to get in writing the role GLU is expected to play on the steering committee, the intent of SOLEC and the target audience of the conference.

I was also contacted by Harvey Shear about GLU's involvement in SOLEC. I explained that GLU had serious reservations in '92 about the conference and would like to have a more complete understanding of what was expected of GLU, i.e. the role we were to play, etc. I also explained that travel to attend these meetings was not in our budget and that expense needed to be compensated for. I asked if he would define the role of ENGOs in this conference and I would, in turn, get that letter to the Executive Committee for their review. The Executive Committee would then make the final decision on my participation on the steering committee of SOLEC and GLU's involvement in the conference.

So.....here is the letter from Harvey Shear.

Please advise.

An international organization dedicated to conserving and protecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River
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Great Lakes United
Board Meeting
October 3 - 4, 1992
Toronto, Ontario

- A committee to establish a RAP Project Advisory Board was created with members including: Carol Mills, Dorreen Carey, Sarah Miller, John Jackson, Rick Coronado, Camilla Smith, Jack Manno, and Mike Dickman.

- Bi-National State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference - Mary reported on the current state of the plan for the conference. The board discussed a variety of issues including:

- 1) conflict with IJC biennial meeting
- 2) concerns about the government reporting on its own progress
- 3) concerns about letting the governments take over the functions of the IJC.

Motion: Sarah motioned and Glenda seconded. Great Lakes United recommends that the two governments be urged not to hold their proposed State of the Lakes Conference in April of 1993 for the following reasons: 1) the huge costs associated with convening another large basin-wide meeting cannot be justified at this time of recession when funds for clean-up and continuation of the RAP initiative are so desperately needed. Further, the GLU feels the IJC biennial meeting process which allows the governments to report publicly to the commission and the public is a forum for the governments to demonstrate the State of the Lakes by their actions to fulfill the obligations under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

Motion passed unanimously with Jack Manno abstaining.



October 21, 1992

Christopher Grundler, Director
Great Lakes National Program Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Harvey Shear, Director
Great Lakes Environment Office
Conservation and Protection
Environment Canada
25 St. Clair Avenue, East
Toronto, Ontario M4T 1M2

Dear Messrs. Grundler and Shear:

After considerable debate and input from our Windsor and Buffalo offices, the Board of Directors of Great Lakes United (GLU) adopted a resolution that formally withdraws GLU from participation on the Binational Steering Committee for the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference scheduled to be held in Detroit during April, 1993. Further, GLU recommends that the two Parties not hold the proposed State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference. GLU is concerned that the huge costs associated with convening yet another basin-wide meeting cannot be justified in a time of recession when funds for clean-up and for continuation of the RAP initiative are so desperately needed.

Finally, it is the position of Great Lakes United that the International Joint Commission Biennial Meeting process, which allows the Parties to report directly to the Commission and to the public, is the appropriate forum for the Parties to demonstrate the state of the lakes by reporting on the actions they have taken to fulfill their obligations under the Great

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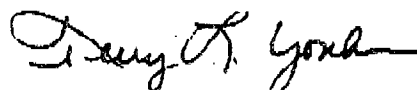
Lakes Water Quality Agreement. GLU will support and participate actively in the IJC Biennial Meeting next scheduled to be held in Windsor during October 21, 1993.

Kind regards.

sincerely,



Richard Kubiak
President



Terry L. Yonker
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable William Reilly
The Honourable Jean Charest
Madelyn Webb, GLEO
Paul Horvatin, GLNPO
Great Lakes United Member Groups



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February 18, 1994

Mary Ginnebaugh,
Great Lakes United,
P.O. Box 548, Station A,
Windsor, Ontario,
N9A 6M6

Dear Mary,

This is further to our telephone conversation today regarding GLU's role in the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC). As we discussed, the aims and objectives of SOLEC have evolved over the past one and a half years. The objectives of the Conference as set forth at its inception are:

To provide information on the state of the Great Lakes ecosystem for the purpose of strengthening decision making and management within the Basin;

To develop support for an integrated system of environmental information to direct plans and programs;

To provide information on existing Great Lakes strategies and to build cooperative actions needed to strengthen and implement them; and

To provide a forum for improved communications and network building within the Basin.

In addition to these early objectives, the SOLEC steering committee has developed some additional objectives for the Conference:

To reflect on the conclusions about the state of the Lakes ecosystem and to support or refute these conclusions with the provision of supporting evidence in the case where the attendees disagree with the conclusion;

To identify information needed by decision makers to strengthen management decisions;

To consider where we are going in our Great Lakes program, and whether the

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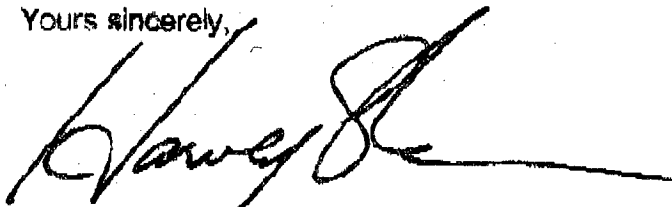
track that we are on is appropriate and the goals achievable; and

To provide an action agenda for governments, and other sectors of society, leading up to the next SOLFC in 1996.

The Conference, as presently planned, will have 400 key decision makers from the Basin, including governments at all levels, First Nations, ENGOs, industry, and professional associations in attendance. They will listen to the conclusions that governments have made about the state of the Lakes ecosystem, and in interactive breakout sessions, will address the objectives set out above. The conference steering committee wants all participants, including ENGOs to be as constructive as possible in terms of commenting on the conclusions reached. We also believe that the conference will act as a valuable learning experience for a number of attendees who may have had very little appreciation of the implications of their day to day work on that of others. The networking and dialogue that will occur at this conference will be invaluable to the ultimate attainment of an ecosystem approach to Great Lakes management.

We see the ENGO community as equal participants in this conference, with all other attendees. Your role will be as outlined above in the various objective statements. As well, we had hoped to have GLU help us design the conference, hence your membership on the Steering Committee. You have explained the reasons for not participating earlier, but I hope that with the outline I have given you in this letter, you and the GLU Executive will feel more comfortable about your participation in the Steering Committee. As indicated, I will cover your travel costs to Steering Committee meetings.

Yours sincerely,



Harvey Shear, Ph.D.,
Regional Science Advisor/SOLEC CoChair

cc. Paul Horvath