THE GREAT LAKES UNITED

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Great Lakes Activists Meet Government Decision Makers

by Melanie L. Griffin, Sierra Club Great Lakes Project

Citizen activists from the eight Great Lakes states and Canada spent the first week of March in Washington, D.C., meeting with key policy makers to discuss environmental problems in the Great Lakes region. High on the agenda for the week were the issues of toxic air pollution, the lack of progress toward the goals of the 1978 Water Quality Agreement with Canada, and the implementation of the new Clean Water Act amendments.

Cosponsored by Great Lakes United and the Sierra Club, the week began with a well-attended news conference releasing a preliminary report entitled, "Toxic Air Pollution in the Great Lakes Basin: A Call for Action." Armed with the air toxics report and with GLU's new publication, *Unfulfilled Promises: A Citizens' Review of the International Water Quality Agreement*, the group met with officials at the Environmental Protection Agency, the State Department and the Canadian Embassy. The group called for new regulatory and research efforts to control toxic air pollutants at the source, and for enforcement of the zero-discharge goal in the WQA, which now has the power of law as part of the Clean Water Act reauthorization.

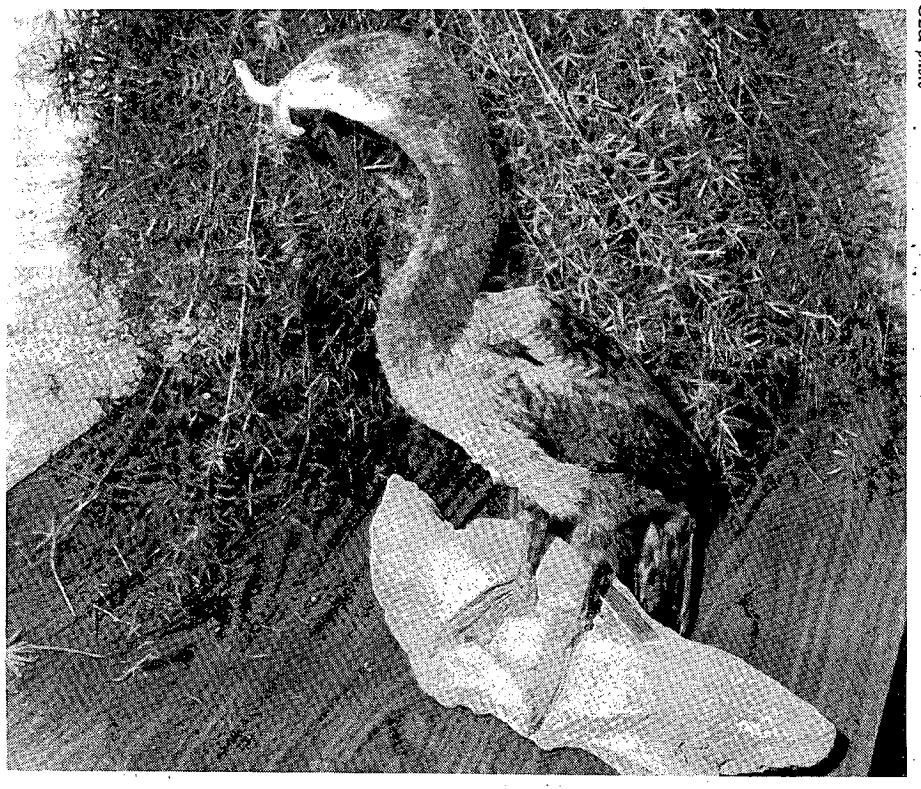
The activists showed up in force at a March 3 hearing of the House Public Works Oversight Subcommittee examining U.S. implementation of the WQA. Witness after witness told Subcommittee Chair James Oberstar (D-MN) that neither Canada nor the U.S. has lived up to commitments made under the Agreement. The WQA is up for review and possible renegotiation this year. Witnesses agreed that the Agreement is basically a strong document, and that enforcement and perhaps minor modifications, rather than renegotiation, are needed.

"Many residents of the Great Lakes area are afraid to have the agreement opened up for renegotiation at this time because of the poor environmental record of the Reagan and Mulroney governments," Tim Eder, GLU's field coordinator and co-author of the report, told Rep. Oberstar. Jane Elder, Midwest representative of the Sierra Club, was accompanied at the hearing by "Henrietta," a stuffed cormorant with a tragically twisted bill thought to be caused by toxic contamination. Hailing Henrietta as having made "the ultimate sacrifice," Rep. Oberstar told the panel that he hoped she had not died in vain.

Another message delivered to Capitol Hill by the Great Lakes visitors was one of opposition to new legislation designed to control lake levels. About 50 congressional offices received visits from constituents, and many were surprised to hear that the lake levels issue was not the reason for those visits. But while meeting with the members about toxics issues, the activists were able to diffuse support for H.R. 247, Rep. James Sensenbrenner's (R-WI) bill to increase the Chicago Diversion. Stressing that "quick fix" solutions are not the answer to the problem, the group promoted a long-term approach based on prudent coastal zone management.

The group also had lunch with Congressman David Bonoir (D-MI) and attended receptions held by the United Auto Workers and the Canadian Embassy. Participants agreed that the week was highly educational for both the activists and the policy makers with whom they met. □

Melanie Griffin is the Washington Specialists for the Sierra Club's Great Lakes Federal Policy Project, and serves as editor for the organization's legislative newsletter, National News Report.



GLU photo

Henrietta is a stuffed cormorant whose twisted beak is thought to be caused by toxic contamination.

GLU Releases Report on Water Quality Pact

by Tim Eder, Field Coordinator, GLU, and John Jackson, Vice-President, GLU

On February 25, 1987, at simultaneous press conferences in Lansing, Michigan; Buffalo, New York; Cleveland, Ohio; Syracuse, New York; and Toronto, Ontario, members of Great Lakes United released *Unfulfilled Promises: A Citizens' Review of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.* On March 3, we summarized the public's comments in the report before a Congressional subcommittee in Washington, stating: "The public believes that the contamination of the Great Lakes is so severe and that so little is known about the long-term health effects of toxics in the ecosystem, that zero discharge of persistent toxic substances is the only reasonable course of action to pursue."

The report concludes that despite substantial progress at controlling phosphorus and conventional pollutants, our governments have failed to live up to their promises in the 1978 Agreement.

Between July and October of last year, GLU's Water Quality Task Force held 19 hearings throughout the Basin. At these hearings nearly 400 citizens gave us their assessments of the progress that has been made and their suggestions for improved clean-up efforts. While visiting the cities where the hearings were held, local organizers took the Task Force and members of the media on tours to see first hand the toxic hot spots which surround the Great Lakes.

Unfulfilled Promises describes what citizens pointed out to the Task Force on the tour and at the hearings: plumes of black contaminants reaching into the Lakes; industrial smoke stacks belching contaminants into the air; toxic waste dumps which line the shores, leaking dioxins, PCBs, and numerous other contaminants into the Lakes; and toxic sediments being poured into open waters of the Lakes from dump trucks and dredging operations.

People told us that they fear that living amidst these toxins threatens their health and the health of their offspring. One speaker at the Toronto hearing told us "What we pump down the sewers this week will end up in our cornflakes next year and eventually in my

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Chicago Diversion Won't Solve Lake-Level Woes

by David Miller, Executive Director, GLU

Unfortunately, people seldom learn the lesson of living within the bounds of nature. Time and time again, we have ignored the threat of hurricanes, river flooding, and lake storms in order to be closer to the waterfront we all enjoy. Because of this, the Great Lakes' high water levels have caused millions of dollars in property damage. The answers to this dilemma are not, unfortunately, as simple as certain members of Congress would have us believe.

The 1987 Great Lakes Water Relief Act (HR 247) has been proposed to alleviate lake-level problems by tripling the Chicago diversion out of the Great Lakes basin from 3,200 cubic feet per second (cfs) to a level of 10,000 cfs. Dr. Charles Collinson, Principal Geologist of the Illinois State Water Survey, has concurred that the solution to lake level problems does not lie in the Chicago diversion: "Even if we were permitted to increase the diversion at Chicago to maximum capacity, the effect on lake levels would be delayed and modest: perhaps two or three inches over a period of 15 years. Furthermore, the impact in terms of downstream flooding along the Illinois River above the Peoria Dam would be tremendous."

Hydrologists have warned us that increasing diversions out of the Great Lakes would have devastating long-term environmental, social, and economic impacts to the region during low-lake-level years. It is important to consider these factors when making decisions today. According to Dr. Frank Quinn of the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, "The time lag between increasing the Chicago diversion and realizing the effects is substantial: three to three-and-a-half years will yield only one-half the total effect. The time lag holds true in times of low water levels as well. An increase now could potentially exacerbate low water level problems that may be years away."

Finally, the increase of the Chicago diversion would contradict the intent of the Great Lakes Charter. According to laws governing the regulation of water, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to turn off the Chicago diversion once it is turned on. A. Dan Tarlock, Professor of law at IIT/Chicago Kent College of Law stated: "Legally, this is a bad idea for three reasons. First, legislation would be inconsistent with the spirit of the Great Lakes Charter and ongoing state efforts to address diversion issues in the context of state and regional water management. Second, the only effective long-term solution to high lake levels is to view the problem as a land use one and to devise strategies that minimize the erosion exposure of existing and new buildings. Third, the United States Supreme Court decrees in the Chicago diversion case have struck a fair balance among all littoral states, and there is no need for Congress to exercise its power to modify the current decree."

There are no magical plugs we can pull on high water levels of the Great Lakes. We must learn to respect the power of the Great Lakes, live within their boundaries, and learn from other areas of the country that have suffered from poor coastal zone planning.

Solutions must be derived through long-term coastal zone planning, better understanding of water flows from one lake to another, and environmentally sound shoreline protective devices. In the short-term, we must consider federal flood emergency funds for relocation programs, government purchases for public access areas, and the establishment of flood-sensitive zones. Congress can best serve the Great Lakes by joining with the states to assist finan-

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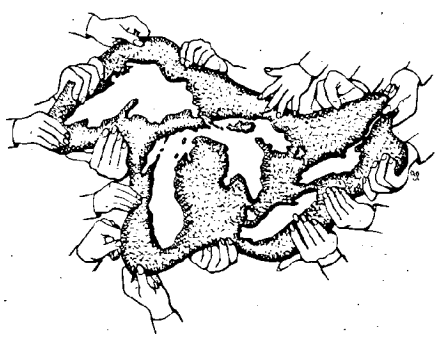
Great Lakes Institutions

By William Brah, Wisconsin Coastal Management Program

Eight states and two Canadian provinces border the Great Lakes. Well over a dozen federal agencies — on both sides of the border — have an interest in some aspect of the lakes. Hundreds of other government entities have limited resource management responsibility. There is also a constellation of research institutions and citizens' groups that want to exert influence.

This complex management structure presents policymakers with a challenge: To get existing institutions to work together on water issues facing the entire Great Lakes region. How is the challenge being met? Can the present system be improved?



Hundreds of agencies, federal, state, provincial, and local on both sides of the border have a hand in Great Lakes management. But the lakes are a single ecosystem and institutions are needed that supersede piecemeal approaches. Some agencies are beginning to realize this and loosen their grip.

The Council of Great Lakes Governors

The need for better coordination was one of the forces behind formation of the bipartisan Council of Great Lakes Governors in 1982. The governors take up economic and environmental policy issues common to the six member states — Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. When dealing with Great Lakes water problems, they also confer with New York, Pennsylvania, Ontario, and Quebec. Unique among Great Lakes organizations, the Council can generate consensus among chief executives and speak forcefully when national policy changes will affect the future of the region. The 1985 Great Lakes Charter setting up a regional water resource management strategy was one of its important accomplishments. While the Council exerts strong pressures and stimulates cooperation among various institutions, its influence is limited because it does not speak for all lake state governors.

The Great Lakes Commission

The Great Lakes Commission (GLC) is the only interstate organization with a statutory mandate to represent the collective views of all Great Lakes states. Its charge is to promote the orderly use and conservation of water resources in the Great Lakes basin. The GLC distributes information to the eight member states, coordinates their positions on various issues, and advocates these positions in Washington.

While the GLC and Council of Governors resemble one another and pursue similar activities, the Council focuses on policy while the Commission emphasizes data collection and information sharing. The Commission, however, has broader membership than the Council and more legal authority.

The Commission's effectiveness has been limited at times by members' lack of strong commitment to the institution and by the fact that its activities tend to be diffuse and generalized. A change that should help GLC activities become more focused and relevant was made in 1986 when key staff of the Governor's Council were assigned to sit on the Great Lakes Commission.

To achieve effective management of the Great Lakes as a total ecosystem will require coordinated action by a multitude of agencies. It's beginning to occur.

The International Joint Commission (IJC)

Over the years, the IJC has evolved from an institution that had as its main function the processing of applications for water diversion permits, to one that must deal with increasingly complex and politically sensitive transboundary environmental problems. Through the U.S.-Canadian Water Quality Agreement, the IJC has played a pivotal role in developing an international response to the basin's serious pollution problems. It is now starting a new study that deals with high water conditions on the Great Lakes.

It is difficult to overstate the significance of the IJC's role in Great Lakes management, or the positive effect it has had on U.S.-Canadian relations. The IJC is the only formally sanctioned, binational body with authority to address water quantity and quality concerns of the federal governments. Certain changes would greatly improve the Commission's effectiveness.

Increased interest in the IJC on the part of the federal governments, especially the U.S., is needed. Changes in the IJC's rules of procedure would encourage the Commission to act on its own in reviewing water diversion proposals, instead of waiting for an application to come through the federal governments, which may not refer the matter to the IJC.

More emphasis needs to be placed on state and provincial participation in the IJC's investigative boards and study groups.

Now, there is no formal path for this involvement. With respect to the Water Quality Agreement, the states must be given a greater role in renegotiation discussions because they have the responsibility for implementing the agreement.

The Future

Although significant institutional resistance to coordination still exists, a cooperative spirit is growing and several historic steps toward removing that resistance have been taken. It will be important to maintain this momentum. Fulfilling the promise of a basin-wide water resource protection strategy will rest on the personal commitment and initiative of the governors, premiers, and other leaders in the region.

But citizens and organizations outside of government are perhaps the most important Great Lakes institutions. They play a pivotal role in continuing to raise Great Lakes water issues and ask questions about progress toward a basin-wide water resource management program. Their continued enthusiasm and resolve is essential if this giant task is to be accomplished. □

William Brah is the director of the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, Department of Administration. This article is excerpted with permission from Wisconsin DNR.

From the President

by Frederick L. Brown

Great Lakes United's annual meeting May 1-3 at Niagara Falls, Ontario, will hear reports of the year's activities and will set the stage and provide direction for action during the ensuing twelve months. Additionally, delegates representing member organizations will elect officers, three Regional Directors, and five Directors-at-Large.

Last year's expectations became reality with completion of GLU's major project on the international Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The hearings around the Basin and the timely completion of the final report have generated a heightened awareness of citizen concern about toxic contamination of the Great Lakes resource. The project has caught the attention of local and national press, agencies of both the U.S. and Canadian federal governments, State and Provincial governments, and local planning agencies.

This citizen-driven concern will be a major force directing GLU's follow-up and member input at the annual meeting will be critical. Funds for the follow-up are assured, staff is on deck, and planning is underway.

The second annual Great Lakes Week in Washington, March 1-6, was another recent success *(see front-page article)*. Meetings with the Department of State, Environmental Protection Agency, Senate Great Lakes Task Force staff, and various Congressional members, committees, and staff were very beneficial. Again, follow-up is important and is underway on such subjects as import of PCB-containing materials, dredging systems being used in the Basin, legislative proposals on Great Lakes levels and funding of the Clean Water Act and its Great Lakes amendment.

Atmospheric deposition is a significant source of persistent toxics to the Basin. A working group of GLU member organizations has published a report, "Toxic Air Pollution in the Great Lakes Basin: A Call for Action," which will the basis for further discussion at the annual meeting.

Throughout the year GLU has been promoting increased public involvement in the decisions affecting the Great Lakes. Those of you who spoke at our hearings around the Basin confirmed the criticality of this involvement. Our annual meeting will provide still another opportunity for your input during task force sessions on the above and other subject areas. I invite your participation, urge you to attend, and hope to see you at Niagara Falls. □

1987 GLU Funders

The Joyce Foundation, Gund Foundation, Donner Foundation, Public Welfare Foundation, and Buffalo Foundation are all major contributors to Great Lakes United's activities in 1987. In March, GLU's executive director David Miller also announced the receipt of a major grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation to support the coordination of citizen action on Great Lakes water quality issues.

The three-year grant enables GLU to retain the services of the field coordinator, Tim Eder, who will coordinate citizen action in the development and implementation of remedial action plans; organize regional meetings of existing and potential GLU member groups; and further foster citizen input into programs for the resolution of Great Lakes water quality issues on an international, regional, and local level.

Jennifer Ott will remain the editor of *The Great Lakes United* and will expand her involvement in Ohio to include remedial action plan development and other water quality priorities. Miller, who will continue his oversight role in these and other projects, is enthusiastic about developing solutions to water quality and water quantity problems. Great Lakes United thanks its major funders and all its supporters who make this important work possible. □

Great Lakes United
24 Agassiz Circle
Buffalo, NY 14214
(716) 886-0142

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Niagara River Accord Signed

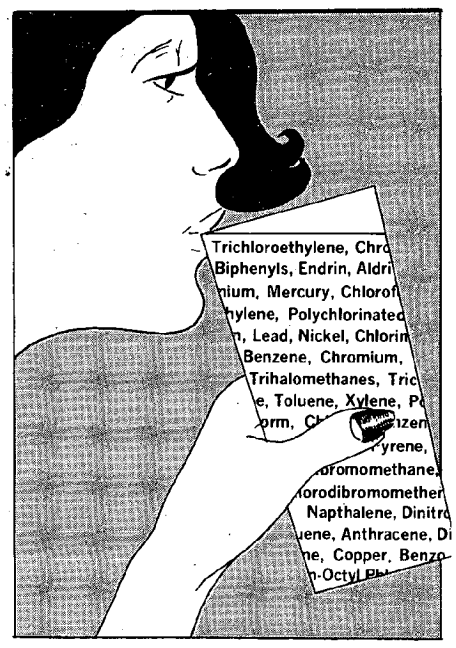
by Pam Millar, Pollution Probe

After years of negotiating, Canada and the United States signed a Niagara River agreement in February to cut persistent toxic chemicals in half by 1996. The agreement calls for the "consideration" of excavating some of many toxic dumps on the U.S. side, which include Love Canal and Hyde Park — the largest dioxin dump in the world. The Niagara River Four-Party Agreement was signed on February 4, 1987 by EPA Administrator Lee Thomas, Environment Canada Minister Thomas McMillan, Ontario Environment Minister Jim Bradley, and New York Environmental Commissioner Henry Williams.

The agreement appears stronger than the one that was rumoured for release last spring because it contains specific reduction targets and a timetable. It covers non-point sources such as dumps as well as point sources such as industries and sewage treatment plants. But it will take vigilant public scrutiny and pressure to ensure that this agreement, which falls against a backdrop of paper promises to clean up the Great Lakes dating back to the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909, is strictly carried out.

Beginning this July, Operation CLEAN Niagara and Great Lakes United will be among those keeping close tabs on the progress. But they have some serious reservations that the terms of the agreement will interfere with achieving its goals.

- The agreement depends on existing laws, which may not be strong enough to reach the 50% target reductions by 1996.
- The agreement does not oblige the parties to make their laws more stringent in order to achieve the goal of 50% reductions.



Courtesy of Bernard Bennell. Reproduced by permission from To the Last Drop by Michael Keating, Macmillan of Canada.

- The 50% target for reductions is a purely arbitrary figure which, according to Environment Canada estimates, could permit as much as 4.5 tonnes of chemicals to flow into the River every day. While a passable first step, further reductions may be necessary to achieve a truly healthy River.
- The funding may not be sufficient to perform all the monitoring required by the agreement.
- While the agreement commits the US. to consider excavation of hazardous waste sites along the River, they are not required to complete any actual excavations. Given that U.S. EPA has maintained in the past that it "considers" excavation for every site as a matter of policy, progress from this commitment may be more illusory than real.

For all its shortcomings, the goals and the targets in the agreement provide the first concrete tests of the political commitment to clean up the Niagara and will give the public a crack at evaluating the success of the programmes put in place to achieve the promised results. Our next step will be to assure that the reduction targets are set by July, 1987.

The public must continue to ask the hard questions so we can determine whether our current laws are strong enough to fulfill the promises of the Niagara River accord. □

Pam Millar is a researcher at Pollution Probe in Toronto and serves on GLU's Board of Directors.

Toxic Sturgeon Caught

By Ward Stone, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

An approximately 200-pound lake sturgeon caught in June of 1986 by Mohawk fishermen from the St. Lawrence River at Akwesasne (east of Messena, NY) was recently examined for toxicants. The edible flesh contained from 3.54 to over 11 ppm (parts per million) of PCBs, depending on the location on the carcass. The eggs had 8 ppm of PCBs. The federal government's tolerance level for PCBs in fish flesh for human consumption is 2 ppm.

In addition to the elevated PCBs, the mid-lateral flesh and eggs had high levels of dioxin and dibenzofurans. The mid-lateral flesh and eggs had 13 ppt (parts per trillion) and 18 ppt of 2,3,7,8-TCDD (dioxin) respectively. These levels exceed the New York State limit of 10 ppt of 2,3,7,8-TCDD for fish flesh to be consumed by humans.

The sturgeon meat also contained 167 ppt of the dibenzofuran 2,3,7,8-TCDF (the most toxic of the furans). This level of 2,3,7,8-TCDF is of even more concern than the dioxin. It appears from this and recent snapping turtle data that there is a serious contamination problem of the St. Lawrence River at Akwesasne with dioxins, dibenzofurans, and PCBs. More research is needed here on the extent and origin of these contaminants found in the biota.

Before the chemical data was available, the sturgeon flesh was consumed by Mohawks and the eggs were sold for caviar. In this case, then, the River's toxics have travelled through the food chain into human beings. From this and other data acquired on biota at Akwesasne, it is clear that the Mohawks can no longer freely depend upon the River fauna as a source of food. Contamination by adjacent industries such as General Motors, Reynolds Aluminum, ALCOA, Domtar, Paper, and other River and Great Lakes pollution sources threaten the very culture and welfare of the Mohawks at Akwesasne.

The elevated levels of dibenzofurans indicate a need for specific government guidelines, or tolerances, on these toxics in the flesh of fish and wildlife. At present there are no such standards in New York. We also need to know more about the extent of dibenzofuran contamination throughout the Great Lakes Basin as a whole. □

Ward Stone is a wildlife pathologist for New York's Department of Environmental Conservation.

Hyde Park Report Released

Pollution Probe pushed excavation of hazardous waste dumps to the top of the Niagara River clean-up agenda in February, when it released a report showing that it is technically feasible to excavate safely the 80,000 tons of dioxin-laced wastes at the Hyde Park dump. The report, prepared by four of the largest scientific and technical institutes in the Netherlands, concludes that proven technologies exist to:

- excavate the site under an air-tight cover;
- excavate the wastes from the dump using open pits, structured pits or container piles, which are large self-sealing steel pipes that, once driven into the wastes, can be removed, washed, and transported safely to a destruction or temporary storage site;
- store the wastes in individual containers in a fully inspectable temporary storage facility until acceptable destruction facilities are locally available; and
- use remote-controlled equipment or over-pressure cabins for worker protection during all phases of the operation.

The excavation study, which will be completed later this year, will provide new, safe clean-up options for sites across the continent from the Niagara River to the Rio Grande. □

Stiffer Penalties Announced in Ontario

Legislation to strengthen existing enforcement of the Environmental Protection Act, the Ontario Water Resources Act, and the Pesticides Act has been enacted in Ontario. The changes provide for jail sentences and quintuple fines for pollution offenses. They also give the courts the power to strip polluters of ill-gotten gains, according to Jim Bradley, Ontario Minister of the Environment.

Bill 112 will remove barriers to conviction of corporate offenders and make it easier to introduce evidence. It will improve the efficiency of enforcement by ensuring that simple requirements to improve environmental quality can be imposed by the court that convicts polluters.

Said Bradley, "These changes are needed because the current penalty structure is little more than a license to pollute our air, our water, and our food chain. The changes I am introducing today will make it cheaper to comply with our laws than to violate them."

One area where the bill could be strengthened, according to the Canadian Environmental Law Association of Toronto, is minimum fines. CELA notes that Bill 112 addresses itself primarily to maximum fines, and that minimum fines exist for only some offenses.

"Fines, particularly heavy ones, are the most effective penalties for virtually all types of offenders. The deterrent value of a fine, however, is largely dependent upon the size of the available fine and the willingness of judges to impose large fines. Fines which are limited will have little or no deterrent effect on potential offenders," CELA argues. □

REPORT

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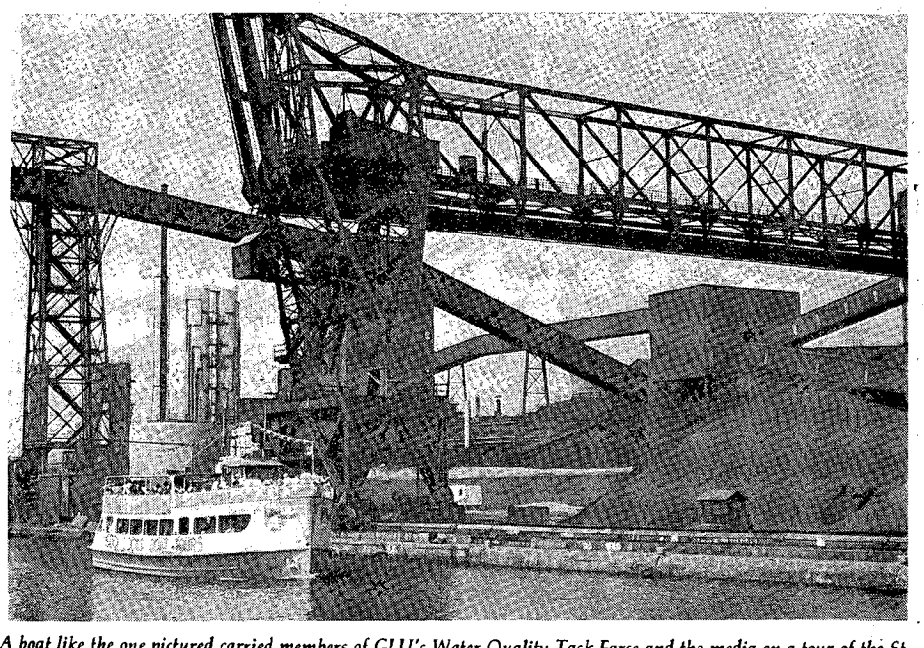
blood and fatty tissues."

The full report contains a one- to two-page description of the problems in each of the 19 hearing locations and the people working to address the issues. The Findings and Recommendations section includes the public's suggestions in the form of 90 recommendations to government, industry, and the region's residents.

A seemingly endless parade of speakers came forward at every hearing to unequivocally state, "No more toxics should be discharged into the Great Lakes." "We want zero discharge period and no more excuses," said one speaker in Sarnia. We recommend that the IJC develop programs and timelines for zero discharge and that the IJC and governments use zero discharge as the primary criterion for assessing progress under the Agreement.

The testimony in Washington was the first step in making sure the public's message in *Unfulfilled Promises* is heard by policy makers. In the coming weeks, GLU will be meeting with officials and distributing the report in Ottawa and throughout the region. We will be urging the U.S. and Canada *not* to renegotiate the entire Agreement when they will have that opportunity later this year. The report does, however, suggest three amendments.

A 10-page summary of the report has been published along with the full 100-page report. To obtain your copies, send $2.00 ($2.50 Canadian) for the Summary or $5.00 ($6.50 Canadian) for the full report, to GLU, at 24 Agassiz Circle, Buffalo, NY 14214. □



A boat like the one pictured carried members of GLU's Water Quality Task Force and the media on a tour of the St. Mary's River area to observe pollution problems first hand.

Lakeshore Eagles Fail to Reproduce

by Charlene M. Gieck, Bureau of Endangered Resources

Wisconsin's bald eagle population has been increasing ever since the first breeding survey in 1962. In 1985, 214 active territories were found concentrated in the northern third of the state.

But while there has been successful inland reproduction in the four counties that edge the south shore of Lake Superior — Bayfield, Ashland, Douglas, and Iron — shoreline nest sites have had continued reproductive failure. In 1985, only five territories (down from nine in 1984) were occupied along the mainland shore and on the Apostle Islands. Three others showed some degree of activity. Only four young were produced in 1985. There were 13 in 1984.

Eagle reproductive failure appears to be associated with environmental contaminants. Eggs collected from the south shore of Lake Superior between 1976 and 1982 show higher levels of organochlorine pesticides, PCBs, and mercury than those from the remainder of the state. Studies also found young bald eagles that died mysteriously in the nest prior to fledging. Carcasses and addled eggs have been collected for analysis in an effort to determine the cause. Feeding behavior and commonly consumed food items of Apostle Island eagles are also being studied.

Wisconsin DNR

Further investigation of Lake Superior eagles is necessary. The DNR bureaus of Endangered Resources, Research, and Wildlife Management along with the University System, U.S. Park Service, Forest Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service will be working together to monitor the status of this population. □

Charlene Gieck is a non-game biologist at WDNR's Bureau of Endangered Resources. This article is reproduced with permission from Wisconsin DNR.

Great Lakes United and Center for the Great Lakes Discuss Goals

by Frederick L. Brown, President, GLU and William G. Milliken, Chairman, CGL

Leaders of Great Lakes United and the Center for the Great Lakes met recently in Chicago to discuss goals and directions of the two organizations and means to coordinate as shared objectives are pursued.

Key to the discussion was recognition of the organizations' shared interests, yet distinctly different approaches in addressing critical issues.

Great Lakes United (GLU) is a coalition of widely diverse groups and individuals. On-site, grass-roots definition of problems forms the basis for GLU actions. Positions are developed through contacts with organizations and individuals who comprise the coalition and through citizen involvement throughout the Basin.

Advocacy follows, and is the major reason for GLU's existence. GLU has and will continue to work for consideration of its positions whenever and wherever that advocacy may be beneficial. Parallel efforts will be maintained in both the United States and Canada. GLU has benefitted from and will continue to utilize information made available through the collative and disseminative activities of the Center for the Great Lakes.

The Center for the Great Lakes is a private, binational organization dedicated to the promotion of sound public policy decisions on critical environmental, resource management, and economic development issues and opportunities confronting the U.S. — Canadian Great Lakes region. Unlike GLU, The Center is not a membership organization and focuses more on identifying policy options than advocating specific positions. The Center underprovides a forum for discussion and consensus building among all Great Lakes interests, and serves as an information clearinghouse.

Central to The Center's philosophy is the idea that environmental quality and economic development goals are not mutually exclusive and, in fact, must be pursued in concert if the region's full potential is to be realized.

Great Lakes United's active, citizen-based role provides The Center with valuable insight into issues addressed and an excellent vehicle to disseminate its work to citizen interests throughout the region. In turn, The Center's role as a forum for discussion and catalyst for action provides GLU with sound research and a vehicle to present its positions to the diversity of Great Lakes interests.

Inevitably, the two organizations will reach different conclusions on some issues, and recommendations and means of presenting them to decision makers and opinion leaders will vary. Because they share a common vision for a cleaner, healthier, more vital Great Lakes resource, however, the region stands to benefit from their collective efforts. □

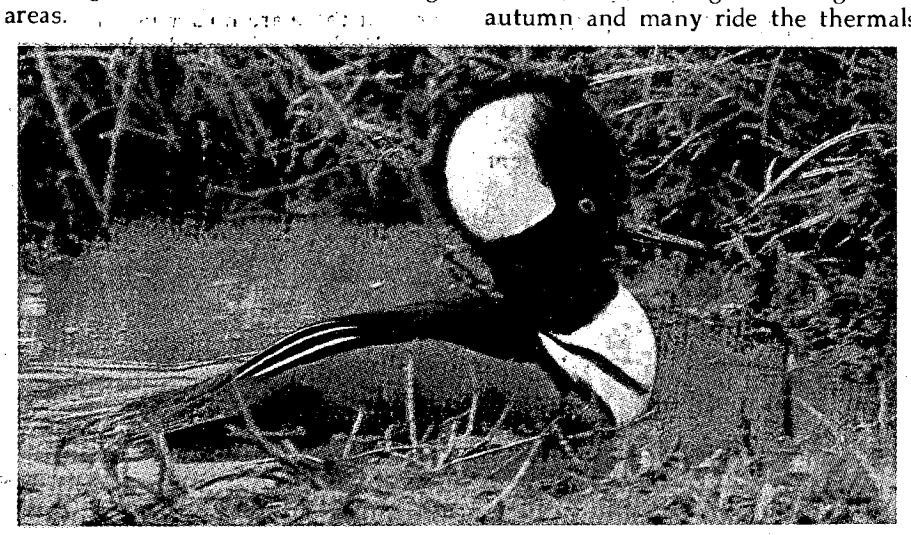
Lake Michigan is Alive with Ducks

by William E. Ishmael, Pike Lake State Park

Lake Michigan has been called the greatest freshwater fishing hole in the entire world, yet few people realize that the shoreline and outlying waters are a veritable menagerie of non-aquatic wildlife. This is especially true of the Wisconsin shore.

Not only do the bays, harbors, and open waters provide important feeding and resting areas for migratory and wintering waterfowl but the shoreline itself acts as a migration corridor for a wide variety of raptors and songbirds. The lake and shoreline seem to act as a migration "funnel" between northern breeding sites and southern wintering areas.

Highest waterfowl use comes in fall when great numbers of ducks and geese head south from the Canadian breeding grounds and local birds gather in staging areas to prepare for departure. Bufflehead, greater scaup, and ruddy ducks that winter on the Atlantic coast cross Lake Michigan in migration. Its protected bays and harbors offer a welcome rest area midway in their journey. Lesser scaup, common mergansers, and Canada geese tend to follow the shoreline. In November, rafts of scaup numbering over 3,000 are often seen offshore at Sheboygan and Milwaukee. Hawks, owls, and eagles also migrate in autumn and many ride the thermals along the lakeshore on their way south. Kestrels and sharp-shins tend to leave first, in late summer, followed by ospreys, falcons, and broad-winged hawks in September. Finally the red-tails, roughlegs, goshawks, and eagles travel through. At Cedar Grove, south of Sheboygan, more than 32,000 birds of 117 different species have been banded in the past 30 years. In 1985 alone, 732 raptors and 71 owls were banded there.



Herbert Lange

Bufflehead. Numerous waterfowl including this one fly the lakes. At Cedar Grove, south of Sheboygan, 117 different species have been banded in the past 30 years.

Among the waterfowl that fly the lake are oldsquaws, common and red-breasted mergansers, greater and lesser scaup, ruddy ducks, common goldeneye, and bufflehead. Canada geese often home in on the shoreline before swinging south to Illinois and Kentucky. Occasionally, even "sea ducks" such as the surf scoter or white-winged scoter and tundra swans stop off en route to northern Canada or the mid-Atlantic coast.

page 4

Although fewer species are present in winter, the population of oldsquaws may number 12,000 and the bulk of these are found off the Milwaukee shore. These birds prefer deep water and at times form huge flocks several miles out. Because of this they are not as commonly seen as overwintering red-breasted mergansers and goldeneye that frequent shallow bays, river mouths, and power plant outlets.

The return to Lake Michigan starts in March. Oldsquaws may remain well into April before departing for arctic nesting grounds.

By early summer the migrants are gone and resident waterfowl move inland to nest. Now, songbirds, particularly grassland nesting species such as bobolinks and dickcissels, are common on the remnant prairies and grassy areas of the shoreline. As summer progresses, resident broods of ducks and geese again show up in the bays and harbors.

This cycle repeats itself annually off the Wisconsin shore to continually remind us of how lucky we are to have such a resource in "our own backyard."

William Ishmael is the Assistant Wildlife Manager at Pike Lake State Park in Hartford, Wisconsin. The article is reproduced with permission from Wisconsin: Grateful for the Great Lakes.

Milwaukee RAP Forum

Citizens for a Better Environment and the Sierra Club John Muir Chapter — Kettle Morain Group are sponsoring a forum, "Toxics in the Harbor: The Milwaukee Remedial Action Plan — A Call to Action." The Milwaukee RAP will be developed during 1987 and 1988 by the Wisconsin DNR and the U.S. EPA, and organizers want to maximize citizen input into the planning process and the content of the final plans, as the IJC has mandated.

The forum will take place May 9 in Milwaukee, and will consist of two panel discussions and a choice of follow-up workshops. The first panel will highlight successful experiences elsewhere (Green Bay, WI and the Grand Calumet, IN) with RAPs. The second will outline the probable formats to be followed here in Milwaukee. Each will be followed by questions from the audience. The workshops will focus on specific aspects of the Milwaukee Harbor RAP, leading to formation of working groups to coordinate public involvement in the process.

For more information, contact Susan Mudd at CBE, 150 E. Juneau Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53202, (414) 271-7474, or Frank Shaw at the Sierra Club, 3273 N. Bartlett Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211, (414) 962-1086. □

Groundwater Conference

A FOCUS Conference on Midwestern Groundwater Issues will be held in Indianapolis, IN, on April 21-23. Topics include groundwater management, investigative techniques in groundwater, and monitoring and aquifer restoration. To register, write FOCUS Conference, National Water Well Association, P.O. Box 182039, Dept. 017, Columbus OH 43218, or call (614) 761-1711.

Ladies of the Lakes (Women of the Waters)

by Carol Y. Swinehart, Michigan Sea Grant

Lake Erie — Requiem or Reprieve? may sound like the title of a sequel to Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. In a way it was, though it was published by the League of Women Voters in an attempt to educate both its members and the public on the need for a major clean-up and pollution control effort in the Great Lakes.

It was several years before "Earth Day," the Clean Water Act, the Great Lakes Basin Commission, or the U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. However, the League's concern for water quality began even earlier. LWV members first tackled this tough issue in the mid-50's when local units across the country recognized the significance of the subject and recommended it as a national study item.

It was the mid-1960's, just before Betty Friedan published her world-renowned treatise on women's liberation. That a group of women would study such a "technical" issue was certainly non-traditional in those days. That, having scrutinized it from various perspectives and having arrived at a "consensus" on a position from the grass roots up, they would then work to implement that position through legislation and government action was a really radical departure from the "bridge club" routine and "golf league" circuit of that prosperous post-war era.

The League of Women Voters of the United States encouraged the local organizations to follow the natural boundaries of their ecosystems and to form "river basin organizations" in order to act more effectively on resource issues and problems.

So in 1963, Carolyn Moore of Lake County, Ohio, began organizing local Leagues in the Lake Erie basin for more effective action on behalf of the "dying" lake. By 1966 the group called the Lake Erie Basin Committee was serving as an inspiration and model for Leagues in other parts of the Great Lakes. Jeanne Bonynge of Illinois met Lake Erie Basin members at the LWVUS national convention and was compelled to form a similar group around Lake Michigan, the Lake Michigan Inter-League Group.

Both groups took pages from the basic LWV textbook on grassroots involvement in study and decision-making, as well as what they had learned from national studies on water, and began developing positions that they could use to work on Great Lakes issues.

The Lake Erie Basin Committee established positions on domestic water supply, regional cooperation along watershed lines, enforceable water quality standards, strong state water policy and coordinated programs, adequate financing for pollution abatement, enforcement and modernization of legislation and regulations, pollution prevention, inter-relationship of environmental problems, improved wastewater treatment, monitoring and training of personnel, disposal of solid waste in the lake or tributaries, control of run-off from nonpoint sources, and disposal of dredge materials. It supports a ban on phosphates in detergents and opposes drilling for oil and/or gas in the lake. It has also been active in radioactive waste issues in the Lake Erie basin. Most recently, the group has studied the issue of inter-basin transfers (diversions) and consumptive uses of Great Lakes water, and expects to adopt a position this spring.

The Lake Michigan Inter-League Group has positions on public education, public participation in planning, better communication in government, coordination of research, separation of authority in project proposal and issuing of permits, criteria for filling in Lake Michigan, practices to minimize dredging and provide safe disposal of dredgings, coordinated shoreline erosion management techniques, coordinated shoreline management planning and implementation, limitations on electric power generation in the Lake Michigan Basin, limitation of pesticide use, a detergent phosphate ban, and inter-basin transfers of water.

Both groups communicate regularly with state and federal legislators about Great Lakes issues. Whether it's 90-year-old Bea Waterbury of Ohio speaking at a Great Lakes United citizen meeting on the Water Quality Agreement or Carol Holder (half her age) in Green Bay taking leadership on a Remedial Action Plan committee, the "Ladies of the Lakes" are using what they've learned through study, positions they've agreed upon in consensus, and public participation skills they've honed through LWV work and putting them to work on behalf of the Great Lakes.

It's not surprising, then, that Secretary of State George Schultz — when he spoke to the League of Women Voters National Convention in Detroit in 1984 — was welcomed to the Great Lakes region with one breath, and asked with the next whether the Reagan administration's action on Great Lakes research, monitoring and surveillance didn't constitute an "abrogation" of the international Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. It's also natural that League members all across the basin appeared at Great Lakes United's citizens' hearings to register their concern for this important instrument. It was no accident that these women feel quite at home in hot water.

They know their positions because they've studied; they can act in unison because they've come to consensus; and they make "waves" because they're willing to stick to their positions and work on them until they're achieved. □

Carol Swinehart is a director of Communications at Michigan Sea Grant College Program in East Lansing, and also serves on GLU's Board of Directors.

Setting Priorities in Ohio

On February 21, GLU's Lake Erie Coordinator, Jennifer Ott, met in Cleveland with Ohioans concerned with water quality in Lake Erie. Attendees included representatives from environmental, academic, union, and citizens' groups. The group identified three issues of greatest concern to those present, and then split into subgroups to determine how best to address them.

One focused on the issue of developing remedial action plans for Ohio's four Areas of Concern (the Ashtabula, Black, Cuyahoga, and Maumee Rivers). The group agreed on the importance of citizen involvement in the planning process of these RAPs. It was felt that local residents need to make clear to policy makers how valuable citizen contribution can be in defining environmental problems, identifying beneficial uses that are impaired, and providing other kinds of input. (The ability of the state to accomplish the basic tasks required to develop and implement RAPs will be severely hampered if some state programs are not funded; see accompanying article).

In response to one of the major concerns of the group, Ott has prepared a packet of materials designed for those interested in learning more about RAPs in general, Ohio's Areas of Concern, and how citizens can have an impact in their area; contact her at GLU, (716) 886-0142, for more information.

Another subgroup focused on the state's environmental budget. Techniques to get the attention of legislators were discussed, the most ambitious of which was a plan to set an Environmental Budget Day in Columbus. Stephen Sedam of the Ohio Environmental Council may be contacted for more information on how to get involved in expressing your environmental priorities to budget planners; call (614) 224-4900. Sedam hopes that citizens from across the state will converge on the capital to demonstrate how important they consider environmental problems.

The third group addressed the issues of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, phosphates, and toxics. It was agreed that the group should actively support SB 39, the 2.2% detergent phosphorus limit bill, promote agroecology research and enhanced education and extension regarding agrichemical application, and support the Great Lakes Toxic Substances Control Agreement. □

Great Lakes Directories

SUNY at Buffalo's Great Lakes Program has issued a second edition of their *New York State Great Lakes Directory*. It includes researchers and others who are working to resolve Great Lakes basin issues or improve our use of this great resource, and lists names, addresses, phone numbers, individuals' areas of expertise, and other pertinent information. A *Province of Ontario Great Lakes Directory* is currently being developed. Write the Great Lakes Program, 212 Engineering West, SUNY at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14260, or call (716) 636-2088.

Call to Action for Ohioans: Lake Erie Programs at Risk

By Mimi Becker, Environmental Resource Center

The Ohio House of Representatives proposes severe cuts in Governor Celeste's budget submission for Ohio EPA programs critical to improving the health of the Great Lakes. Implementation of the Great Lakes Toxics Agreement, the Groundwater Protection Strategy, and Community Right-to-Know programs will occur on very limited levels. These programs are all new initiatives for the next biennium.

The Great Lakes Toxics Program represents Ohio's commitment to implementing the Great Lakes Toxics Agreement. The proposed total of $392,000 for the biennium would support four full-time staff to carry out specific program tasks ($189,000 for FY 88 and $203,000 for FY 89). The legislature has cut the funding to support only two staff.

The current budget does *not* include money for remedial action plans. These cuts will affect setting of toxic standards, issuance of revised NPDES permits, monitoring programs, and the ability of Ohio EPA to take a regulatory approach for Lake Erie toxics that addresses inputs from all sources: air, land, and water.

The other two programs at risk not only impact Lake Erie but have direct impacts on the ability of local governments to protect the health and safety of their citizens.

The Groundwater Protection Strategy is a multi-agency program. Its implementation requires that each agency contribute information and develop programs within its regulatory jurisdiction. OEPA's portion of the Strategy requires it to develop an adequate data base: screening and computerizing data so it is accessible and monitoring and assessing pollution impacts. Inaccessibility or lack of data currently hampers both local government ability to protect drinking water and OEPA's ability to effectively monitor water quality and regulate solid and hazardous waste. The Governor's budget allocated ten positions to initiate this priority program. The cost for the biennium was $435,967 ($43,397 for FY 88 and $392,570 for FY 89). The House cut these positions to four.

The Community Right-to-Know Program is intended to provide technical assistance to local communities with high risks because they have hazardous materials on site, or are impacted by transportation routes used for moving hazardous materials. It would improve their ability to manage or prevent spills or fires. The Program would help reduce risks, assist in training local personnel in emergency response, and provide the basis for informed decisions about community health and safety regulations. The budget proposal of $496,439 ($202,513 for FY 88 and $293,926 for FY 89) would support eight staff to develop the program with local communities. The funding has essentially been eliminated.

If you want these programs restored, contact your state legislators immediately, and tell them to restore cuts in OEPA's budget. Arrange to testify at the Senate hearings, send letters to the editor of your local paper, tell your friends.

Ohioans need to meet commitments to improve Great Lakes ecosystem health. We want water that is safe to drink, fish that are safe to eat, and communities that are environmentally healthy! We *know* that the maintenance of the economic value of the water, the fishery, and the real estate requires this investment. □

Mimi Becker is Co-Director of Hiram College Environmental Resource Center and Chair, Ohio EPA Water Programs Advisory Group Surface Water Task Force.

Janet Knoche

The Kimberley-Clark Control Order

by Jim Bradley, Minister of the Environment, Ontario

The pollution discharged by Kimberley-Clark's Terrace Bay pulp mill is a serious environmental hazard which needed to be addressed.

Toxic mill effluent has flowed for nearly 40 years into Blackbird Creek and then into Lake Superior. This polluted discharge has killed virtually all life in the 22-kilometer stretch of the creek, and then it degrades Moberly Bay on Lake Superior.

That is why I insisted that toxicity reduction be the keystone of K-C's new Control Order, even though the financially troubled company put a pricetag of $20 million on one way to deal with the problem — secondary treatment — and said it simply did not have the money.

Some later complained that because the Control Order did not specify secondary treatment, and therefore did not necessarily require a $20 million expenditure, it was somehow not tough enough.

I am not committed to imposing the most expensive remedies on the shelf. I am committed to requiring polluters to clean up. In the case of Kimberley-Clark — and other polluters, too — I would prefer to see process changes that avoid the production of toxic wastes, than to have a company employ methods which create hazardous by-products, which then have to be removed from waste water and incinerated, or disposed of in landfills, creating new environmental problems. If K-C can reduce its toxic discharge to the Great Lakes system more cheaply by internal process changes then by installing secondary treatment, more profit to them.

In any case, our effort to protect the Great Lakes, by controlling both the toxicity of K-C's effluent and its suspended solids, biological oxygen demand and spills, will cost the firm estimated $4.5 million to $5.5 million, plus whatever it costs to meet the acute toxicity requirement by October 1989.

So, as tough as some of the reviews of the episode were, I invite you to look for yourself at the three outcomes which I feel are most significant:

First, the Control Order. Much maligned, the fact is the Control Order gives Kimberley-Clark no more time than it will take the company to (a) choose the best method of reducing the acute toxicity of its discharge and (b) construct the works necessary to implement (a). If the toxicity is the issue at Kimberley-Clark's Terrace Bay mill, and I believe it is, then this Control Order, unlike what the company wanted, requires that toxicity be reduced so it passes the fish toxicity test.

Second, the stage has been set for Ontario's Municipal-Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA) to be successfully applied to the pulp and paper sector. Kimberley-Clark agreed, as an adjunct of the Control Order, to participate in an expert study of how to mesh the acute toxicity reduction demands currently being made with the more pollutant-specific requirements soon to be in force under the MISA program. In the aftermath of the K-C affair, the entire pulp and paper industry, through the Ontario Forest Industry Association, has joined in this study to find the best approach for this sector in meeting both the acute toxicity test and MISA's goal of working toward the virtual elimination of persistent toxic substances from discharges to Ontario's waterways.

Finally, a bellweather. Kimberley-Clark, part of what in the past has been one of Canada's most environmentally recalcitrant industries, has hired an environmentalist lawyer. Roger Cotton, president of the Canadian Environmental Defense Fund, has been retained. I believe this is a clear signal that K-C has seen the environmental dawn and is intending to put in a full day's environmental work. □

GLU Retains General Counsel

Great Lakes United has retained the services of well-known environmental lawyer Richard J. Lippes, Esq. of Buffalo, New York, to act as its General Counsel. Mr. Lippes, most noted for his successful representation of citizens exposed to toxic waste emanating from the Love Canal, will provide general counsel and advice to GLU, handle its corporate affairs, and provide specific legal representation on matters which impact upon quality of Great Lakes waters. He will also establish and chair a lawyers' committee for GLU, made up of lawyers practicing around the Great Lakes Basin, which will provide volunteer representation to GLU and advice to member groups.

When Mr. Lippes was questioned concerning the legal needs of GLU, he indicated that "GLU must take a multi-dimensional approach to environmental problems. Besides organizational and educational efforts, many environmental problems can best be solved by applying environmental protection laws to benefit citizens, and where government refuses to provide the level of protection needed, GLU may be able to step in and bring citizens' suits to enforce these laws."

Mr. Lippes, who specializes in environmental law and representing citizens who have been exposed to hazardous substances, has had long involvement as an environmental activist. He was formerly chair of the Atlantic Chapter (New York State) of the Sierra Club, as well as the founder and first chair of the Sierra Club's national Hazardous and Toxic Materials Committee. He is the founder and General Counsel to Fund for the Environment, Inc., and General Counsel to Atlantic States Legal Foundation and the American Clean Water Project.

This issue of *The Great Lakes United* introduces what will become a regular feature in future issues, "In the Public Interest" (see box). Mr. Lippes' column will answer legal questions submitted by readers to GLU's offices. □

In the Public Interest

by Richard J. Lippes, Esq.

Q. If I suspect that a company is discharging pollution into the Lake, is there anything I can do to stop it?

A. For a company to discharge any material into a navigable waterway, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act requires that the company obtain a permit for that discharge. Most companies have obtained such permits, which allow a laundry list of what substances and in what amounts the company can discharge. The Law also requires that the Company actually test the material it discharges, and file with the State Environmental agency and EPA a list of what it discharges. Both the permit and the discharge report (called a discharge monitoring report or DMR) are open to public inspection, and you can therefore compare the DMR with the permit to see if the company is discharging materials in greater or different amounts than the permit allows.

In the event that the company is violating its permit by non-allowed discharges, the law allows a citizen, after giving notice to EPA and the State Environmental Agency, to step in and enforce the law to stop the discharge if EPA or the State Agency refuses to enforce it. Moreover, the law allows the Court to fine the company up to $10,000 per day and per violation of the permit. Finally, the law also allows attorney fees and costs of the lawsuit to be awarded to a successful citizen, so that many lawyers are willing to take these cases based upon an application to the Court for fees, rather than being paid by you.

Many environmental organizations have projects to bring these citizen enforcement lawsuits, and if you do not want to bring it yourself, you could contact one of them to do it for you. Some of these organizations are:

Atlantic States Legal Foundation
107 West Newell Street
Syracuse, NY 13205
(315) 475-1170

Natural Resources Defense Counsel
122 East 47th Street
New York, NY 10017
(212) 949-0049

The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund
311 California Street, Suite 311
San Francisco, CA 94104
(415) 567-6100

Richard Lippes is Senior Partner in the law firm of Allen, Lippes and Shonn, Buffalo, NY. Readers are encouraged to send questions of environmental law to Jennifer Ott, editor at GLU. All inquiries will be forwarded to Mr. Lippes, who will determine which questions will be addressed.

IJC Releases Third Biennial Report

The governments of the United States and Canada have not devoted adequate resources or taken the tough steps needed to address the problem of toxic chemicals in the Great Lakes, according to the International Joint Commission. In its third biennial report under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the Commission informed the governments of the United States and Canada that pollution problems are actually getting worse, despite the Agreement's goal of "virtually eliminating" the discharge of toxic substances.

Despite the Commission's finding that progress has been inadequate under the Agreement, they reach the same conclusion as Great Lakes United's Water Quality Task Force in *Unfulfilled Promises* that the Agreement should not be completely renegotiated. The report includes 36 recommendations to governments.

The report's release on March 18 triggers a review by the two governments. For further information, contact Sally Cole-Misch at the IJC Great Lakes Regional Office, 100 Oullette Avenue, Windsor, ON N9A 6T3. □

Toxic Liability Suits

Environmental Action Foundation announced the publication of a workbook, *Making Polluters Pay: A Citizens' Guide to Legal Action and Organizing*. It is designed to serve a broad audience, and includes information on the types of lawsuits individuals and groups can file when toxic contamination causes injury or disease. It also explains the uses of litigation, provides suggestions on gathering information, conducting community health surveys, seeking medical tests, and working with the media. To order, write EAF Workbook, 1525 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036.

CZMA Guide Released

A guide to the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) and its use in protecting America's fragile coasts is available from the Coast Alliance. The guide, *And Two If By Sea: Fighting the Attack on America's Coasts*, examines the impacts on the coastal zone from residential and industrial development, dumping of hazardous wastes, and energy development, and how CZMA can be used to protect the ocean and Great Lakes coasts from these and emerging threats.

For a copy, send $2.00 to Beth Millemann, Coast Alliance, 218 D Street, SE, Washington, D.C. 20003, (202) 466-5045.

GLU Annual Meeting

GLU's 1987 Annual Meeting will be held May 1-3 in Niagara Falls, Ontario, at the Best Western Hotel. The weekend will begin with a bus tour of Love Canal, Hyde Park landfill, and S.C.A.'s treatment facility. Presenters and panelists include representatives from organizations and agencies across the basin; Governor Cuomo of New York and Premier Peterson have also been invited. For further information, contact GLU at (716) 886-0142.

Clean Air Act Needs Air Toxics Section

During Great Lakes Week in Washington, organizations, including Citizens for a Better Environment, Pollution Probe, West Michigan Environmental Action Council, Lake Michigan Federation, Sierra Club, and Great Lakes United released a report recommending changes in the Clean Air Act.

The changes would address airborne toxic failout into the Great Lakes, and the report notes that "overall, 20-25% of all pollutants in the lakes now reach the lakes from the atmosphere." In the upper lakes that percentage is estimated as high as 80% for certain chemicals, such as PCBs.

The report recommends the development of across-the-board, technology-based standards to control the emissions from significant sources of volatile organic chemicals, particulate matter, volatile inorganic compounds, toxic gases, and PCBs. These controls based on pollutant categories would be implemented within four years, unless EPA finds that the pollutant is not a problem in the Great Lakes or that it adversely impacts other clean air goals for ambient standard or ozone depletion. In conjunction with this control-at-the-source approach, the report recommends major research initiatives, to be undertaken by both the United States and Canada, to understand the amount of toxic pollutants entering the lakes and increase our knowledge of the potential sources.

The toxic air pollution falling out into our Great Lakes comes from sources throughout the nation. Only national and international programs can truly address this problem. We urge you to write the Energy and Commerce Committee requesting field hearings on airborne toxic pollution to the lakes in relation to their reauthorization procedures for the federal Clean Air Act. Hopefully, an amendment will be created and a congressional champion found to bring this critical issue through the Clean Air Act process this year. □

Buffalo RAP Committee Named

In February, New York State Environmental Commissioner Henry G. Williams named an 18-member panel to work with state officials in devising ways to clean up the polluted Buffalo River. The committee will be directly responsible for preparing the Buffalo River Remedial Action Plan as required by the International Joint Commission.

"The Buffalo River, identified by the IJC as one of the 42 Areas of Concern throughout the Great Lakes, is an area where significant and diverse problems exist," Williams said. "It is important that the views of local citizens are an integral part of efforts to revitalize the river and restore beneficial uses."

The group is comprised of individuals with a range of viewpoints, from environmental and sportsmen's leaders to city and county officials, from community leaders to union representatives. Members of the committee held their first meeting on March 10, and elected David Miller of GLU and Kenneth Sherman of NYPIRG as co-chairs.

In its first official action, the committee voted to urge the U.S. EPA to immediately utilize the Great Lakes Amendment funds under the Clean Water Act to provide demonstration projects to treat the River's contaminated sediment. "We want our plan to further drive the clean-up needs of the river, not hold them up," Sherman said. For more information on RAP development in your area, contact GLU. □

Environment 2000

The second Western New York Environment 2000 Mini-Conference will be held April 28 in outside of Buffalo in Amherst, New York. It is co-sponsored by New York's DEC, the Ecumenical Task Force, and the Niagara and Erie County Environmental Management Councils. The purpose of this conference is to provide information about two environmental issues — the permit process and recycling — and to give citizens the opportunity to discuss these programs with DEC. □

Join Us!

United! Together we can protect and promote our common treasure—the Great Lakes Basin.

Name _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Phone: ( ) _____

□ Individual Membership ($15.00)
□ Organizational Membership ($100.00)

Information Request:

□ By-Laws □ Member Organizations
□ Resolutions □ Other (Please Specify)

_____

Would you be interested in volunteering for Great Lakes United?

□ Yes □ No

Time Available?: _____

Please return this form with checks payable to:

Great Lakes United
24 Agassiz Circle
Buffalo, New York 14214

For additional information, send request to the above address or contact:

David J. Miller, *Executive Director*
(716) 886-0142

Governor Cuomo, right, discusses regional cooperation with GLU's president Fred Brown, left, and other Great Lakes environmental leaders.

New York Requests Council Entry

On February 25, 1987, Governor Mario Cuomo requested that New York State become a member of the Council of Great Lakes Governors. In letters to Governors Celeste of Ohio and Thompson of Illinois, Cuomo stated that "it is now appropriate to request that our formal relationship be strengthened by the inclusion of New York State as a full member of the Council."

The format request came two months after the leaders from Great Lakes United met with Governor Cuomo on Great Lakes issues. GLU has long advocated the position that all Great Lakes Governors must be full members of the Council if the Great Lakes region is to chart responsibly its environmental and economic future. With the second largest coastline and watershed on the Great Lakes ecosystem, New York's inclusion on the Council would be entirely appropriate. □

Environmental Professionals Conference

"Managing the Environment: National Issues, Regional Approaches" will be the theme for the 1987 Annual Conference of the National Association of Environmental Professionals. The meeting will take place in Chicago, April 27-29. Over fifty leading experts from the United States and Canada will discuss Great Lakes water levels; new developments in environmental law; regional approaches to water quality management; human health and risk assessment; toxic and hazardous waste management; environmental mediation; state water planning; employment opportunities in environmental management; and many others. The Great Lakes region will be showcased, demonstrating how management of this binational resource challenges today's environmental professionals and the general public.

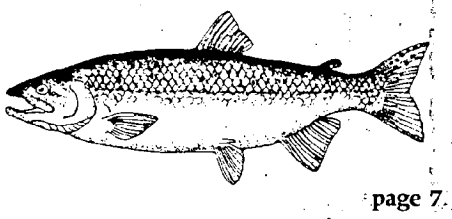
For further information, please contact Dr. Michael J. Donahue at the Center for the Great Lakes, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1408, Chicago, IL 60611, (312) 645-0901. □

International Meeting on the St. Lawrence River

Société pour Vaincre la Pollution will hold an International Meeting on the St. Lawrence River on May 29 - 31 in Montreal. The goal of this meeting, according to organizers, is "to initiate a movement for the protection of the River as an international resource, uniting both sides of the border."

Major themes of discussion include involvement of citizens' groups, role of government, industrial discharge and Great Lakes pollutants, effects of toxic waste on fauna and drinking water and health risks, contaminated sediment, and national and international agreements.

Contact Carole Potter at the SVP, P.O. Box 65, Place D'Armes, Montreal, Quebec H2Y 3E9; tel. (514) 844-5477 for information on fees and accommodations. □



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THE GREAT LAKES UNITED

EPA Committed to a Strong Great Lakes Program

Pollution of the Great Lakes Basin and the multi-faceted problems associated with that pollution clearly demonstrate the need to have a coordinated and comprehensive clean water program in effect throughout this nation. In doing so, from a federal standpoint, we are not only protecting a most valuable national resource but we are also ensuring a healthy environment for future Americans..

The problems we face in this endeavor are enormous. Combatting the pollution of the Great Lakes is a difficult proposition because it incorporates every environmental medium — air, land, and water.

Although we have seen a great deal of progress during the past 16 years in each environmental medium, we cannot afford to become complacent. Much remains to be done. Fortunately, we are equipped with a range of tough laws designed to protect human health and the environment from air and water pollutants, toxic chemicals, and hazardous wastes.

EPA is totally committed to the concept of identifying pollutants in the Great Lakes and taking care of those problems at their sources. Because every environmental medium is called into play, we are pursuing a multi-media approach to the pollution problem — there is no choice.

Restoration of the Great Lakes also requires the cooperative efforts of national governments — Canada and the United States. That is why EPA remains committed to the goals of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. In cooperation with the Canadian government we are pursuing a logical, systematic, and multi-media approach to restoring and protecting the ecosystem of the Great Lakes.

At the national, regional, and state levels, EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office is implementing, among other programs, a 5-year strategy to tackle various environmental problems associated with the control of toxic chemicals. By this summer, for example, we hope to have a reliable estimate of the amount of toxics from nonpoint sources entering the Niagara River. At that point we will be instituting specific reduction targets for toxic loadings originating from these sources.

This year, our Great Lakes office will establish a work group representing federal agencies, state governments, and citizen groups to direct a planned demonstration program. In addition, a number of projects are underway that include an inventory of sediment problems, development of biological and chemical testing protocols, and establishment of a ranking scheme.

To fully coordinate all EPA Great Lakes activities that pertain to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, I have appointed A. James Barnes, Deputy Administrator of EPA, to head an EPA Task Force on the Great Lakes. He will be assisted by the Associate Administrator for International Activities, the Assistant Administrator for Water, and the Regional Administrators of the EPA Regions bordering the Great Lakes. One of the jobs of the task force will be to review the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in light of on-going requirements of environmental legislation passed by Congress.

At the local level, EPA is working to strengthen its commitment to public participation in the clean-up process. One such effort is EPA's participation in the Citizens' Advisory Forum.

I have asked the Regional Administrator of EPA Region II, Christopher Daggett, to participate on my behalf in the forum. Meeting on a quarterly basis, this group of government officials and private citizens is providing useful dialogue needed to explore thoroughly the issues of the Great Lakes Basin.

With concerns that range from basic health impacts to social and economic impacts, the idea behind this advisory group is to plug citizen groups directly into the policy-making level of EPA. I personally believe that every side needs to be heard — that is the only way that we can ensure that every concern that needs to be addressed is indeed addressed.

At EPA we are working on programs to streamline reporting procedures and programs to "get the word out" to the public at large. I am personally committed to this obligation and I consider it an integral part of agency policy.

It took a long time to get the Great Lakes into the threatening ecosystem we have now. It will take an equally long time to correct this situation.

What is needed is a concerted effort by all parties involved — federal governments, state and provincial governments, industrial concerns, and private citizens — to solve problems. As the Administrator of EPA, I can assure all interested parties that we will continue in this direction. The Great Lakes will continue to be truly a national resource.

Lee M. Thomas, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

DIVERSION

Continued from page 1

cially the shoreline communities in their time of need and prevent the future development of our sensitive coastal resources.

Great Lakes United testified before the House Public Works Sub-committee on Water Resources on March 17, 1987. The testimony opposed utilizing diversions or major restructuring of our natural hydrological system. To emphasize the international nature of this issue, GLU also brought to the attention of the Committee Premier Peterson of Ontario's strong opposition to any increases in the Chicago diversion. The committee hopes to hold public field hearings this summer.

Let's not fool ourselves by thinking that HR 247 will solve the high water level problems of the Great Lakes. It will haunt us with long-term water management problems and provide no real short-term benefits. The Great Lakes Water Relief Act of 1987 is the ultimate red herring for this region. When will we learn? □

GLU photo

A dramatic example of shoreline erosion.

Great Lakes Week 1987

Great Lakes Week will be July 19-26 this year. GLU needs the support of all member organizations in finding groups who are willing to put on activities during that week. Kits are available for those wishing to request that their jurisdiction (state, province, or city) officially proclaim the week. It is hoped that member organizations will help to publicize Great Lakes Week in their own localities, as well as commit to sponsoring one or more educational activity during the Week. Contact organizer Sally Shearer at (315) 963-8904 for information or to let her know what your group is planning. □

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GREAT LAKES UNITED
24 Agassiz Circle
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