

**Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body
Meeting Summary**

Avenue Crowne Plaza Hotel
160 E. Huron
Chicago, Illinois 60611
June 10, 2010
2:00 p.m. EDT

Notice:

Notice of the meeting was provided to the public through the Great Lakes Information Network's distribution list on May 10, 2010. Notice was also posted to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body (Regional Body) website at www.glsregionalbody.org. The notice included an announcement that the meeting agenda, draft resolutions and materials to be discussed during the meeting were available on the Regional Body's website.

Call of Meeting:

2:00 p.m. EDT—The meeting was called to order by Ken DeBeaussaert, designee of Regional Body Chair, Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Roll Call:

The following Regional Body members, constituting a quorum, were present:

Illinois (designee of Governor Pat Quinn): Gary Clark, Director, Office of Water Resources, Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Indiana (designee of Governor Mitch Daniels): Kari Evans, General Counsel, Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Michigan (designee of Governor Jennifer Granholm): Ken DeBeaussaert, Director, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes.

Minnesota (designee of Governor Tim Pawlenty): Jim Japs, Deputy Director, Division of Water, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

New York (designee of Governor David A. Paterson): Don Zelazny, Great Lakes Programs Coordinator, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Ohio (designee of Governor Ted Strickland): Sean Logan, Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Ontario (designee of Premier Dalton McGuinty): Eric Boysen¹, on behalf of Kevin Wilson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Labour.

Pennsylvania (designee of Governor Ed Rendell): John Booser¹, on behalf of Cathleen Curran Myers, Special Assistant for PA Recovery, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Québec (designee of Premier Jean Charest): Yvon Maranda, Chef de service, Service de la gestion intégrée de l'eau, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs.

¹ Signed proxy forms for individuals participating on behalf of official member designees are available upon request.

Wisconsin (designee of Governor Jim Doyle): Matt Frank, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Actions Taken

Review of December 8, 2009 Regional Body meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Ms. Evans of Indiana to formally approve the minutes of the December 8, 2009, Regional Body meeting. The motion was adopted without objection.

Reports

State and Provincial updates on implementation of the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (Agreement).

Each Regional Body designee provided an update on their jurisdiction's efforts to implement the Agreement including the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (Compact) legislation or other mechanisms as appropriate.

In addition, each of the States and Provinces was asked to report on the status of its: 1) Water Management Program Report; and, 2) Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Report. The States' reports were due on December 8, 2009, pursuant to the terms of the Compact.

Finally, each of the States was to report by December 8, 2009, all existing Withdrawals, Diversions and Consumptive Uses that existed as of December 8, 2008 ("the baseline"). All States submitting baseline information indicated that such submissions were subject to corrections and amendments.

Michigan

The State is moving forward to adopt further State legislation to implement its new water management program. Under the new program, already about 170 proposals have used the new process. Approximately 25% of the applicants have been required to take a follow-up step in the approval process, and one has been denied. The State is now working with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to better implement the program, including the online application process. The State is also developing online conservation measure questions, and will provide sector-specific information as appropriate.

Illinois

The amount of water diverted by the State of Illinois in 2006 pursuant to the consent decree entered into for Wisconsin et al. v. Illinois et al. was recently certified. The amount was below 3200 cubic feet per second (CFS). Unofficial tallies for 2009 also show that less than 3200 CFS have been diverted.

There have been 12 new requests for water use allocation under the State's allocation program. Ten are for new infrastructure projects, with costs of approximately \$250 million.

The State is also creating a Northeast Illinois Regional Plan, with a strong emphasis on demand management and conservation.

Indiana

Like Michigan, the State of Indiana adopted implementing legislation when the Compact was passed. The State finished its baseline reporting process last year. An effort is underway to create a process for appealing baseline determinations, and most of the outstanding issues have been resolved.

The State is now working on its conservation and efficiency goals and objectives. The efforts through a task force have involved substantial public outreach.

The State has not received any formal diversion applications under the Compact or Agreement. There have been some informal inquiries but nothing that would be considered serious to date.

Minnesota

Minnesota has in place a long-standing water management program. This last year, the legislative session ended on May 18. As part of legislation passed during this session, the Department of Natural Resources is now allowed to monitor impacts from approved groundwater withdrawals. The new provision mirrors surface water provision laws, with groundwater protection areas, thresholds and criteria for applications.

New York

The State of New York did not pass implementing legislation with the Compact. The State is now considering a Statewide management program in legislation that should be introduced shortly. This new legislation should enhance the Compact implementation program.

Last year, the State altered its water registration program. The threshold is 100,000 gallons per day, which complements the 100,000 gallons per day registration threshold in the Agreement and Compact. Through this program, the State learned of a few irrigators who were not registered under the previous registration program. The State is also considering performing updates/corrections to the previously submitted baseline information.

The State's Great Lakes Advisory Council should be completing a report in the next month or so, and the State will share the report with the other Parties to the Agreement/Compact. The report will address science needs, cumulative impact assessments and thresholds.

Ohio

A 28-member advisory panel has been formed in the State to work on implementing the Compact. The deadline for recommendations from the panel has been extended from June to December. The meetings of the panel have been robust and the State should be in a position to submit its Water Conservation and Efficiency objectives to the Compact

Council and Regional Body by the deadline of December 8, 2010. In an effort to address other issues, the panel has broken down into smaller sub-groups. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources is assisting with steering these discussions.

Director Logan also indicated that he felt blessed to be part of the ground level discussions for implementing the Compact, and emphasized that the State is committed to seeing its full implementation.

Ontario

Ontario is continuing to implement the Agreement. The Province is in the process of putting in place regulations and guidance on intra-basin transfers. The Province is also updating its watershed mapping, ensuring that watershed boundaries are correctly interconnected across borders.

The Province has completed a consumptive use study and is developing implementing guidance.

Bill 72 (The Water Opportunities and Water Conservation Act) was introduced which would require cities to look at water infrastructure. It also encourages water use efficiency. Further toward this goal are amendments to the building code and other actions. The hope is that the bill will pass in the fall.

Separately, the Province has entered into an agreement with the Union of Ontario Indians for another three year period.

Finally, the Province noted that the Great Lakes Charter process has been followed for a proposal from the York region, and it has been implemented in the spirit of those sections of the Agreement that have not yet come into force. The intention is to make a decision on the proposal by the end of July.

Pennsylvania

The Compact enabling legislation in Pennsylvania was self-executing. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Office of the Great Lakes is now in the process of aligning programs to the meet the terms of the Compact.

In addition, the Commonwealth is initiating conservation and efficiency programs Statewide. To that end, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) recently issued a Request for Proposals with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council to create a conservation center. Furthermore, a study being performed on watersheds should help with the separate Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Pennsylvania Act 220 now requires registration of withdrawals over 10,000 gallons per day. The Commonwealth is now in the process of ensuring compliance.

The Commonwealth is also obtaining assistance from the SRBC and the Potomac River Commission, who in turn are working with The Nature Conservancy to do streamflow modeling.

Finally, it was noted that there was a recent spike in the Commonwealth to use water for natural gas exploration.

Québec

The Province passed a new Act related to implementing commitments in the Agreement last year. The plan now is to launch a public consultation process for determining how the baseline will be set and data gathered, followed by a process for determining how the prohibition of diversions and corresponding exceptions will be implemented. The Province will then do a cumulative impact assessment pilot on a small scale.

Water conservation and efficiency objectives as well as the permit authorization program for withdrawals will be used in all of Québec.

Wisconsin

The State is currently working on the development of rules addressing large water withdrawals in the State. The Natural Resources Board has authorized the WDNR to hold public hearings on proposed rules that focus on registration and reporting of large withdrawals (100,000 gallons per day or more averaged over any 30-day period), proposed water use fees, and the proposed water conservation and efficiency program. The program includes mandatory elements in the Great Lakes Basin, for proposed diverters of Great Lakes water, and for withdrawers with water losses greater than 2 MGD statewide. There are voluntary elements of the program statewide.

The State is also looking at the issue of climate change with a focus on human activity. It was noted that the State is looking to collaborate with others on this project. To that end, the State is working with the Nelson Institute to perform climate change impact research.

The State has received an application from the City of Waukesha for a proposal to divert water under the “community in a straddling county” exception to the general prohibition of diversions. It was reported that the State earlier today had returned the application to Waukesha for a variety of reasons. The letter outlining the reasons is available from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources upon request.

Secretary Frank finished his report by stating that he was proud to be part of this collaborative effort between eight States and two Provinces. He noted that this effort is an important opportunity to build capacity to cooperate and work together. He also noted that the States and Provinces will learn as they go along and that we shouldn’t overlook the substantial successes made to date. He also noted that the Regional Body and Compact Council are unique organizations and could serve as a model to help with other parts of the world.

Mr. DeBeaussaert of Michigan echoed Secretary Frank's comments and indicated his appreciation of the work of the Regional Body and Compact Council staff.

Overview of work related to the regional science strategy including the 2010 International Association for Great Lakes Research Conference.

Mr. Boysen of Ontario provided a report on the 2010 International Association for Great Lakes Research Conference. A copy of the written report read into the record is attached as Appendix "A" to these meeting minutes.

Water Resource Managers' Initiative update.

Mr. DeBeaussaert of Michigan noted that in support of the commitments made by the Governors and Premiers in the Agreement related to water use impacts, the Council of Great Lakes Governors has launched The Great Lakes Water Resource Managers' Initiative. He also noted that this Initiative is a collaboration with the Great Lakes States and Provinces, and project partners including The Nature Conservancy, with generous support provided by the Joyce Foundation.

Mr. DeBeaussaert then asked David Naftzger, Executive Director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, to provide an update on the initiative. Mr. Naftzger reported that a toolkit has been created that includes State and Provincial programs as well as best practices across the world. A corresponding website has also been created, which is available on the Council of Great Lakes Governors website. Furthermore, the Initiative held a meeting on January 13-14, 2010 to review the toolkit, and hear from a variety of experts on performing water use impact analysis. He indicated that a meeting had also been held on the day preceding the Regional Body and Compact Council meeting to discuss State and Provincial procedures for performing impact analysis. To that end, he also reported that it was likely that the States and Provinces were to begin developing a water budget for the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin and for the source watersheds. Further work will be undertaken with project partners, including USGS, to initiate this process.

Procedures Committee

Mr. DeBeaussaert asked Peter Johnson of the Secretariat staff to deliver a report of the Procedures Committee.

Mr. Johnson reported that the Procedures Committee has been meeting via conference call since the spring of 2009. The Procedures Committee has met jointly throughout the process with the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council's (Compact Council) Rules & Regulations Committee. The Joint Committee has made substantial steps forward in creating recommendations including the creating of draft "Contents of an Application" documents. It was further reported that early drafts of those documents were shared with the Joint Committees' Advisory Panels, Resource Groups and Observers, as well as Tribes and First Nations. Comments were received from those organizations and changes were made accordingly. Revised drafts were again shared with the Advisory Committee, Resource Group and Observers, as well as Tribes and First

Nations. Additional comments received were taken under consideration and changes were made accordingly.

Mr. Johnson also reported that draft “Procedures” had been developed, and similarly shared with the Advisory Committee, Resource Group and Observers, as well as Tribes and First Nations. Comments received were taken under consideration and changes were made accordingly.

As a result, draft Interim Procedures have been completed by the Procedures committee and given to the Regional Body with the recommendation that they be adopted during this meeting.

Mr. Johnson also reported that work has begun on drafting procedures for the Compact Council to follow if a decision is appealed, and other procedures related to enforcement of decisions.

Administrative

Mr. DeBeaussaert of Michigan then asked Mr. Naftzger, as Secretary of the Regional Body, to provide a report on the administration of the Regional Body.

Mr. Naftzger reported that expenditures over the last year were slightly over budget. He also reported that resources from the Great Lakes Protection Fund were being used to support the efforts of the Regional Body, and will be used for FY 2011 as well.

Opportunity for public comments.

Members of the public were given an opportunity to ask questions or provide comments.

- Sara Gosman, National Wildlife Federation: Ms. Gosman thanked the Procedures Committee for careful consideration of comments received from the National Wildlife Federation, Great Lakes United and the Alliance for the Great Lakes. She also indicated that the Interim Procedures before the Regional Body for its consideration were much improved, but that more work should be performed before they were adopted. Furthermore, she suggested that a public comment period should be held before procedures are adopted, even recognizing that the Regional Body cannot adopt rules.

She also indicated that she felt that there were problems with the current proposed Interim Procedures. For example, the draft Interim Procedures cover applications and significant procedures but do not have criteria for determining what would be a “regionally significant” proposal. Furthermore, she did not feel that the draft Interim Procedures are clear enough that the Originating Party be required to do a completeness review as well as a technical review.

She indicated that she was glad that public participation was improved in the current draft, and glad about the provisions for accessibility for documents. She also indicated that she appreciated that comments would be posted on the website.

Finally, Ms. Gosman thanked the Regional Body for meeting face-to-face.

- John Jackson, Great Lakes United: Mr. Jackson indicated that he was pleased to see the materials to be considered at today's meeting were made available on the Regional Body website. However, he indicated that he felt that there needed to be more time available for a public comment period. He suggested that any future public comment periods should not commence until related documents are available on the website. He provided examples of other organizations where public comment periods commenced before all documents were made available to the public on its website.
- Joel Brammeier, Alliance for the Great Lakes: Mr. Brammeier began by thanking the Regional Body for meeting face-to-face. He indicated that he recognized the challenge in meeting face-to-face and therefore greatly appreciated the added effort. He also thanked the members for taking on the scale and scope of what needed to be addressed.

Mr. Brammeier raised concerns that insufficient funds were being provided for the support of the Regional Body and Compact Council. He indicated that a quick review of other compact organizations across the United States such as the SRBC and Delaware River Basin Commission revealed budgets in the range of \$5 million. He suggested that the States and Provinces create a cross-cut budget, showing what the States and Provinces are spending in support of the Regional Body and Compact Council.

- David Ullrich, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Cities Initiative: Mr. Ullrich thanked the members for being present and providing an opportunity to address them.

With regard to conservation and efficiency programs, Mr. Ullrich recommended that the States and Provinces act aggressively on this front because climate change and lower lake levels make conservation and efficiency efforts that much more important. Mr. Ullrich indicated that the Cities had committed to reducing water usage, resulting in a savings already of 100 billion gallons and deferred infrastructure costs.

With regard to infrastructure, Mr. Ullrich suggested that in applications for withdrawals, the States and Provinces should look at how we can get more out of existing infrastructure rather than purchasing new infrastructure.

He closed by noting that climate change is an issue that will continue to be very important.

- Dale Phenicie, American Forest and Paper Association: Mr. Phenicie thanked the members for the opportunity to participate in a process that covers such a vast area. He stated that as the region goes forward with projects, keeping track of

them will be tough. He indicated that he would like to see list-servs used as much as possible so that the stakeholder community knows what is going on and can provide help. He also indicated that the Regional Body and Compact Council were doing a very good job on this front thus far, and was not being critical.

On the issue of regulation versus guidance, Mr. Phenicie urged the members to adopt guidance instead so that flexibility could be maintained. Furthermore, he felt that this would cut down on the bureaucracy and allow greater informality. He also indicated, however, that a clear project review process is needed.

Finally, he emphasized that there needs to be a recognition that most water use decisions will be made locally, and that flexibility is need for those local processes to play out. He noted that he thought the work of the Regional Body and Compact Council was sensitive to this concern and wanted to make the potential concern clear to the members.

- Sam Speck, International Joint Commission: Mr. Speck congratulated the members on their good work.
- Lyman Welch, Alliance for the Great Lakes: Mr. Welch thanked the members for meeting face-to-face.

Mr. Welch wanted to focus on the public participation process of the draft Interim Procedures to be considered by the Regional Body. He felt that this could potentially be a very litigious and contentious process, so felt that it was important to be clear to avoid litigation in the future.

Mr. Welch asked that the draft Interim Procedures be put out for public review and comment before consideration by the Regional Body. To that end, he felt that some areas of the draft Interim Procedures could be better clarified. For example, he felt that responses to public comments should be completed before a public meeting is held on a proposal subject to Regional Review. Furthermore, he felt that the timeframe for commenting on proposals is unclear. In addition, he felt that any public meeting on a proposal subject to Regional Review should take place both after and before the Regional Body takes action. He also raised concerns that not many details for public meetings were included in the draft Interim Procedures. He also indicated that a transcript of public meetings should be kept.

New Business

Consideration of Regional Body Fiscal Year 2011 (July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011) budget resolution.

Mr. DeBeaussaert introduced Resolution #15 which would adopt the Regional Body Fiscal Year 2011 budget. Mr. DeBeaussaert moved that a technical correction be made to the proposed resolution to correctly indicate that the fiscal year ran from July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011, and the motion was approved without objection.

Director Logan of Ohio moved that the corrected resolution be adopted. The motion was adopted unanimously pursuant to roll call vote.

Illinois—Yes
Indiana—Yes
Michigan—Yes
Minnesota—Yes
New York—Yes
Ohio—Yes
Ontario—Yes
Pennsylvania—Yes
Québec—Yes
Wisconsin—Yes

Consideration of Procedures resolution.

Director Logan of Ohio moved to adopt “Resolution #16—Adoption of Interim Procedures.” During the discussion following the motion, Mr. DeBeaussaert of Michigan indicated that he was going to vote no on the motion. He indicated that he did not object to the substance of the Interim Procedures, but felt that it would be useful to provide the public with more time to review and comment on the Interim Procedures before their adoption at today’s meeting.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion:

Illinois—Yes
Indiana—Yes
Michigan—No
Minnesota—Yes
New York—Yes
Ohio—Yes
Ontario—Yes
Pennsylvania—Yes
Québec—Yes
Wisconsin—Yes

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Boysen of Ontario to adjourn. The motion carried without objection. The next meeting of the Regional Body will be set and noticed at a future date.

The full text of the materials discussed at the meeting is available online at www.gslsregionalbody.org.

**Attachment “A”
JULY 8, 2010, DRAFT**

**International Association for Great Lakes Research
Conference on Great Lakes Research
May 17-21, 2010 Toronto, Ontario**

Session: Building a Collaborative Science Strategy for the Great Lakes Basin

On December 13, 2005, the eight Great Lakes States, Ontario and Québec signed the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (Agreement). This session focused on issues related to the information and science commitments as they are outlined in Articles 301 and 302 of the Agreement, and in particular on initiatives related to the assessment of cumulative water use impacts.

Presentations*

Laura Seaman of the Council of Great Lakes Governors presented “*Assessing and Managing Water Use Impacts in the Great Lakes Basin.*” Ms. Seaman gave an overview and introduction to the Agreement and companion U.S. interstate Compact. She also provided a description of how the Council of Great Lakes Governors is collaborating with water managers from the Great lakes States, Ontario and Québec to develop a resource “toolkit” to highlight what each State and Province is doing related to assessing cumulative/individual impacts and to provide water managers with tools and processes to assist in their assessments. Next steps include the development of guidance, programs in each State and Province and the development of a mechanism and process to collaboratively assess the cumulative impacts of water use on the Basin and the watersheds of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River.

Sam Bellamy of AquaResource Inc. presented “*Development of a Climate Change Hydrologic Assessment Framework for the Province of Ontario.*” This project provides the ability for water managers to assess the possible impacts of climate change on the hydrology of the Great Lakes and contributing watersheds. The objectives of the project include developing a hydrologic impact assessment that focuses on water budget studies, building connections between the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and local water resource practitioners, and standardizing the assessment of hydrologic impacts of climate change. The study investigated many future climate scenarios covering a wide range of potential outcomes and scaled global climate models down to the local climate level. The recommended approach was the Change Field method, due to its ability to easily generate large numbers of local climates to determine the range of possible impacts. A case study in the Orangeville, Ontario, area was presented. Using impact assessment probabilities can better inform decision-makers for future development of a climate change framework.

David Van Vliet of AquaResource Inc. presented, “*Conjunctive Models and the Assessment of Cumulative Hydrologic Impacts.*” The objective of the project is to understand the benefits of utilizing conjunctive models (models of groundwater and surface water interaction) in Ontario, which coordinates with Article 302 of the Agreement. Benefits of conjunctive modeling are that physical representation of all hydrologic processes will lead to more reliable assessment of cumulative impacts (water

Attachment “A”
JULY 8, 2010, DRAFT

takings, land use change, climate change), lows flows are well represented, water budgets associated with wetlands and other complex features are well represented, existing model data and models can be utilized and solution time is manageable. MIKE SHE is the recommended model because it properly reflects the influence of wetlands and hummocky terrain on recharge and is best for predicting ecological impacts.

Alex Mayer of Michigan Technological University presented “*Modeling and Analyzing the Use, Efficiency, Value and Governance of Water in the Great Lakes Region through an Integrated Approach.*” The objective of this multi-year project is to determine the impact of direct and indirect drivers on water quality, quantity and availability in the Great Lakes region. This project is studying various scenarios of population growth, climate change, land use and emissions, and analyzing the underlying factors affecting water use and allocation decisions. The project is also developing cost frameworks for capturing the value of having a specific amount of water available at a given purity, time and location. Current work involves studying surface water availability, groundwater availability and surface water quality.

Mary Khoury of The Nature Conservancy presented “*Principles of Environmental Flows in the Great Lakes Region.*” The first principle refers to the quality, quantity and timing of water flows required to maintain the components, functions, processes, and resilience of aquatic ecosystems that provide goods and services to people. The second principle focuses on equitable distribution of and access to water and services provided by aquatic ecosystems. Equitable distribution should factor in eco-efficiency, environmental stewardship, social progress, socio-environmental, socio-economic and economic growth factors to meet in the middle and achieve sustainability. These two principles, flow and distribution, place an emphasis on accounting for multiple benefits, indirect effects, coordinated and consistent approaches, and promoting efficiency, which all compounded should result in a higher standard. Ms. Khoury stressed that there cannot be a focus on only minimum flow requirements. Finally, as a whole we must learn from one another and lean on each other for solutions.

Lenore Keeshig Tobias, University of Toronto presented “*Geomythology and the Great Lakes.*” Geomythology is the study of geological occurrences and events documented in myth and legend. Aboriginal peoples were the first to inhabit the Great Lakes watershed and hold meaningful knowledge about the geologic history of the area. Their knowledge is embedded into their myths and legends, which potentially store a vast amount of scientific information. Using geomythology can provide new insight into geologic research, provide a model for the use of traditional knowledge and allow for a contemporary position for Aboriginal storytellers. The presentation highlighted how Aboriginal traditional knowledge can interface with western science and contribute to a greater understanding of the Great Lakes.

Henry Lickers of the *Mohawk Council of Akwesasne* presented “*Lessons from the Past – Solutions for the Future. Naturalized Knowledge System: An Old Idea Made New.*” Mr. Lickers stated that First Nations and Provincial government representatives have been discussing resource management issues for years and would like to continue the dialogue.

Attachment “A”
JULY 8, 2010, DRAFT

However, as of late there is a more structured “consultation” between the Province and First Nations as opposed to open and casual dialogue which can be as effective if not more effective. Mr. Lickers emphasized that the concept of “peace and respect” should be applied regarding how the relationship/dialogue between First Nations and the Provincial government should proceed.

Shaili Pfeiffer of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources presented “*Water Quantity and Ecological Impact Assessment in Wisconsin.*” Ms. Pfeiffer gave an overview of the water use program in Wisconsin. The objective of the program is water quantity management and sustainable water availability including public health, ecological health and economic health. The program was implemented in 2008 to adhere to the Great Lakes Compact. Ms. Pfeiffer discussed the importance of water use registration and reporting in order to assess cumulative impacts. Thus, Wisconsin developed a permit system in order to better monitor and allocate water. Individual water use permits are required for uses over one million U.S. gallons per day. Each permit contains the withdrawal amount, water loss monitoring and estimating, water conservation requirement and monitoring and reporting requirements. Limits are placed on location, dates, season, use etc. In addition, Wisconsin has developed a three-tiered approach to water conservation. Next steps include the revision of Wisconsin groundwater law, integration with existing programs and aquifer mapping.

Poster Presentations:

The session also had three poster presentations:

- Jim Nicholas from the U.S. Geological Survey prepared a poster presentation on a “*Great Lakes Basin Framework for Ecological Flow.*”
- Andrew Piggott from Environment Canada prepared a poster on “*Groundwater Discharge to Surface Water in Southern Ontario and the Great Lakes Basin.*”
- Fabio Tonto (formerly of Pollution Probe) prepared a poster called “*The Weather- Water Information Gateway.*”

Suggested Steps Forward:

- It is suggested that the Regional Body host a session once again focused on the information and science commitments of the Agreement at the IAGLR 2011 conference in Duluth, Minnesota; consideration should be given to including a panel discussion following the presentations.
- It is suggested that an analysis be performed of the presentations given at the Agreement-focused IAGLR sessions from the past four years. This will determine how the presentations may help to inform the individual and collective efforts of Great Lakes jurisdictions in meeting the commitments of the Agreement and the Compact.