

Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body
Meeting Summary
Conference Call Special Meeting
September 22, 2009
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 September 1, 2009. Notice was also posted to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body (Regional Body) website at www.glsregionalbody.org.

A notice was provided through the same means on September 15 announcing that the meeting agenda, draft resolutions and materials to be discussed were available at www.glsregionalbody.org.

Call of Meeting:

2:00 p.m. EDT—The meeting was called to order by Charlie White on behalf of Ron McAhron, designee of Regional Body Chair, Governor Mitch Daniels.

Roll Call:

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

Illinois (designee of Governor Pat Quinn): Daniel Injerd, Manager, Lake Michigan Management Section, Illinois Department of Natural Resources-Office of Water Resources.

Indiana (designee of Governor Mitch Daniels): Charlie White¹, on behalf of Ron McAhron, Deputy Director, 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): Kent Lokkesmoe, Director, Division of Water, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

New York (designee of Governor David 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): Dan Marinigh¹, on behalf of Kevin Wilson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Labour.

Pennsylvania (designee of Governor Ed Rendell): Pam Bishop¹ 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): Eric Ebersberger¹, on behalf of Matt Frank, Director, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Actions Taken

Review of June 17, 2009, Regional Body meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Mr. DeBeaussaert of Michigan to formally approve the minutes of the June 17, 2009, Regional Body meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Zelazny of New York and adopted without objection.

Opportunity for public comments.

Members of the public were given an opportunity to ask questions or provide comments. No comments were provided.

New Business

Review and vote on proposed FY10 2nd Quarter Budget

David Naftzger, Executive Director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors and Secretary of the Regional Body, provided an overview of the proposed interim FY10 budget. As Secretariat, the Council of Great Lakes Governors continues to provide administrative support to the Regional Body by planning meetings and conference calls, coordinating public outreach and providing technical assistance. Because longer-term funding has not yet been identified, Secretariat staff was asked by the Chair to draft a budget for the 2nd quarter of FY2010 (October 1-December 31, 2009) paid for using monies contributed by the States to the Council of Great Lakes Governors for other purposes. It is expected that funding decisions will be made during this time for the remaining 6 months of FY2010.

A motion was made by Mr. Ebersberger of Wisconsin to adopt “Resolution #12—Adoption of Fiscal Year 2010 Second Quarter Budget (October 1-December 31, 2009).” The motion was seconded Mr. Maranda of Québec and adopted unanimously pursuant to roll call vote.

Illinois—Yes

Indiana—Yes²

Michigan—Yes

Minnesota—Yes

New York—Yes

Ohio—Yes

Ontario—Yes²

Pennsylvania—Yes²

Québec—Yes

Wisconsin—Yes²

Other Business

² Written pre-approval by the Regional Body designee was also submitted prior to the meeting and is available upon request.

Mr. Logan of Ohio asked for an update on the potential threat of Asian Carp entering the Great Lakes via the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal or other means. He also asked if there was any indication as to how far up the canal the carp may have moved. In response, Mr. Injerd of Illinois noted that eDNA tests had been performed and that Asian Carp DNA had been found around the Lockport pool below the Asian Carp barrier. In addition, eDNA tests had indicated that Asian Carp DNA had been found in the nearby Des Plaines river ten miles above the Asian Carp barrier. He also noted concerns that if the Des Plaines river floods, there would be a confluence between the two rivers and that the Asian Carp could then bypass the barrier. Mr. Injerd pointed out that, while there had been two visual sightings of Asian Carp south of Lockport, there have been no visual sightings to confirm the eDNA results. Furthermore, there was no indication of migration beyond the barrier system which is operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Regardless, Mr. Injerd noted that the State of Illinois is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a rapid response plan and other potential actions including the use of piscicides.

Mr. Logan then asked about the status of the proposed U.S. Coast Guard rules on ballast water. In response, Mr. Naftzger noted that the States were still reviewing the proposed rules and had not taken a position. Marc Smith of the National Wildlife Federation noted that the proposed standard included in the proposed rules are eventually 1000 times greater than those proposed by the International Maritime Organization.

Mr. Logan then asked about the status of the interim report issued by the White House Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force. In response, Mr. Naftzger noted that the States were still reviewing the report and may provide comments.

George Kuper of the Council of Great Lakes Industries asked if the Regional Body, its members, or the Secretariat was aware of proposed U.S. EPA rules regarding ship fuels. In response, Mr. Naftzger indicated that the Secretariat was not aware of the proposed rules and invited Mr. Kuper or any other participant to provide relevant information to the Secretariat staff or Regional Body as appropriate.

Adjournment

The Chair thanked everyone for their participation and expressed his appreciation for everyone's continued involvement in protecting the Great Lakes.

The next meeting of the Regional Body will be set and noticed at a future date.

Following these actions, a motion was made by Mr. Injerd of Illinois to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeBeaussaert of Michigan and adopted without objection.

The full text of the materials discussed are available online at www.glsregionalbody.org.