

JUNE 30, 2008 STAFF DRAFT  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

**Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body**  
**Meeting Summary**  
Conference Call Meeting  
June 18, 2008

**Notice:**

Notice of the meeting was provided to the public through the Great Lakes Information Network's distribution list on May 28, 2008. Notice was also posted to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body website at [www.glslregionalbody.org](http://www.glslregionalbody.org).

**Call of Meeting:**

1:00 p.m. EDT—The meeting was called to order by Kent Lokkesmoe, designee of Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body (Regional Body) Chair, Governor Tim Pawlenty.

**Roll Call:**

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

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

**Ohio (designee of Governor Ted Strickland):** Cathryn Loucas<sup>1</sup>, on behalf of Sean Logan, Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

**Ontario (designee of Premier Dalton McGuinty):** Dan Marinigh, on behalf of Kevin Wilson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

**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.

Pam Bishop and John Booser of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection participated in the discussions on behalf of Cathleen Curran-Myers, Deputy Secretary, Office of Water Management, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Jill Jonas, Director of the Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, participated in the discussions on behalf of Todd Ambs, Administrator for Water, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

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

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**Actions Taken**

***Review of December 4, 2007, Regional Body meeting minutes.***

A motion was made on behalf of Governor Blagojevich to formally approve the minutes of the December 4, 2007, Regional Body meeting. The motion was seconded on behalf of Governor Granholm and carried unanimously.

**Reports**

***Updates on new developments regarding implementation of the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement***

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

**Illinois**—Compact ratification legislation was signed by Governor Rod Blagojevich on August 17, 2007.

**Indiana**—Compact ratification legislation was signed by Governor Daniels on February 20, 2008.

**Michigan**—Both chambers unanimously approved the Compact. Legislative leaders in both chambers are now trying to reach final agreement by tomorrow (June 19, 2008) on companion legislation that was tie-barred to the Compact legislation. The Compact legislation will not be forwarded to the Governor until the tie-barred legislation is passed.

**Minnesota**—Compact legislation was passed by both the House and Senate, and was signed by Governor Pawlenty on February 20, 2007, making Minnesota the first State to ratify the Compact.

**New York**— Compact ratification legislation was signed by Governor Spitzer on March 4, 2008. The State will now work with legislators and others to develop an implementing program.

**Ohio**—Compact ratification legislation was passed by both the House and Senate on June 10, 2008. The legislation is now awaiting Governor Strickland's signature, who has indicated that he will sign it.

A board has been created to develop the implementation program. The membership of the board is still in the process of being appointed. Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director Logan will be chairing this board.

**Ontario**—*The Safeguarding and Sustaining Ontario's Water Act* received Royal Assent and was put into law on June 4, 2007. This action fulfills Ontario's commitment to pass legislation implementing the Agreement.

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The Province is now working on developing Water Conservation and Efficiency objectives. A stakeholder panel is also being engaged on addressing intra-basin transfer provisions. The intention is to engage in policy and planning work to give options to political leadership.

**Pennsylvania**—H.B. 1705, which would ratify the Compact, passed the House unanimously on January 28, 2008. The bill was then sent to the Senate for its consideration. It was voted out of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee unanimously, and has now been referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee. The hope is to have the bill ratified by the Senate before its summer recess.

**Québec**—Draft legislation was recently introduced that would fully implement the Agreement. The final legislation will go before the National Assembly for its approval by the end of the fall, 2008. The proposed legislation addresses a number of other issues in addition to the Agreement, such as the repair of ecological damage.

**Wisconsin**—Governor Doyle signed Compact ratification legislation on May 27, 2008. The State is now putting components into the Governor's budget. The State is also working on a pilot project to advance the Water Conservation and Efficiency objectives.

Up-to-date information regarding State and Provincial implementation is available at the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body website at <http://www.glslregionalbody.org/AgreementImplementationStatus.aspx>

***Science Strategy***

The Chair then noted that Article 302 of the Agreement committed the Governors and Premiers to provide leadership toward the development of a regional science strategy. To that end, the Regional Body sponsored a session of the International Association of Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) at its May 2008 meeting in Peterborough, Ontario. The Chair called on Rob Messervey, Manager, Water Resources Section, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Jill Jonas, Director, Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to provide a report on that session.

It was noted in the report that the speakers focused on current research and case studies. It was also noted that there were opportunities for collaboration. Mr. Messervey then noted that there was an interest in starting to build a framework of existing information resources and begin to identify gaps in research. It was suggested that staff members within the Great Lakes States and Provinces develop proposals for the Regional Body's consideration prior to a future meeting of the Regional Body. Lastly, it was noted that the 2009 IAGLR meeting is being hosted by the University of Toledo (Ohio) and that this would be a further opportunity, building on the 2007 and 2008 sessions, to advance the science strategy development.

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The Chair recognized Howard Reeves from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to provide a brief update on recent research and USGS reports related to the consumptive use of Great Lakes water and, separately, groundwater. Mr. Reeves provided a brief overview, noted that he participated in the recent IAGLR session and indicated that additional information is available on the USGS website.

***Water Use Information Initiative***

Dave Naftzger, Regional Body Secretary, provided an update on a Water Use Information Initiative that is being launched to help develop recommendations for the States and Provinces to improve the quality and consistency of water use data and information. The Council of Great Lakes Governors in partnership with the Great Lakes Commission was recently awarded a grant from the Great Lakes Protection Fund to undertake this important work. A 12-month workplan is envisioned including a committee of State and Provincial experts, a stakeholder advisory committee and a technical resource group. Additional information will be available in coming weeks and months.

**New Business**

***Review and vote on proposed FY 09 Budget***

Next, a motion was made on behalf of Governor Granholm to adopt “Resolution #7—Adoption of Fiscal Year 2009 Budget.” The motion was seconded on behalf of Governor Blagojevich.

All members present voted in favor of the resolution. It was noted that written votes in favor of the motion were submitted prior to the meeting on behalf of Governor Paterson, Governor Strickland and Premier McGuinty<sup>2</sup>. At the Chair’s motion, and without objection from the Regional Body designees, Governor Daniels’s designee, Governor Rendell’s Designee, and Governor Doyle’s Designee were given seven days to submit their vote in writing to the Council Secretariat. This arrangement was necessitated by unexpected scheduling issues.

On June 18, 2008, Governor Doyle submitted his written approval of the resolution.

On June 18, 2008, David Phippen on behalf of Governor Daniels, submitted his written approval of the resolution.

On June 19, 2008, Cathleen Curran-Myers on behalf of Governor Rendell, submitted her written approval of the resolution.

With the receipt of the three written approvals, the budget was adopted as proposed.

***Other Business***

Governor Blagojevich’s designee provided an update on the Illinois diversion, noting that the State is reviewing all of the water allocation permits under the U.S. Supreme Court

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<sup>2</sup> Copies of these written submissions are available upon request.

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Consent Decree entered into under WI. et al. v. IL et al. During the review of the permits, it has been noticed that there is a decrease in water use in communities with stable populations. In 1998, it was estimated that 160 million gallons per day would be used by these communities by 2020. The new estimate is that 120 million gallons per day will be used by these communities by 2030. The conclusion is that permittees must be seeing a substantial improvement regarding the efficient use of existing water resources.

A question was raised about the prospects for obtaining federal consent of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. In response, it was noted that more than 25 members of Congress have expressed their support for the Compact including the presumptive Presidential nominees of both major parties. More generally, Members of Congress from the Great Lakes region have been getting more interested in the Compact. Finally, various NGOs have expressed interest in promoting passage of the Compact, and the Regional Body secretariat has asked that any organization so interested please contact staff so that everyone is aware of communication with Congress.

**Opportunity for public comments.**

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

- Tim Eder, Great Lakes Commission: Mr. Eder noted that the Great Lakes Commission currently maintains the regional water use database pursuant to the terms of the Great Lakes Charter of 1985. He noted that there are real limitations with the current database, and therefore he is pleased to be part of the process for updating it. Mr. Eder also raised a question about the impact of climate change and it was suggested that Regional Body members follow up with him offline to discuss his question.
- Dale Phenicie, Council of Great Lakes Industries: Mr. Phenicie had a question about the status of the Consumptive Use report released by the USGS. Specifically, he asked if there was time to provide comment on the report. It was suggested that the USGS staff would follow up with Mr. Phenicie offline to discuss his question.

Following these comments, a motion was made on behalf of Governor Blagojevich to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded on behalf of Governor Granholm. The motion was accepted by the Regional Body without objection.

The full text of the materials discussed on the call are available online at [www.glsrregionalbody.org](http://www.glsrregionalbody.org).