

**Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body**  
**Meeting Summary**  
Conference Call Meeting  
June 27, 2007

**Notice:**

Notice of the meeting was provided to the public through the Great Lakes Information Network's distribution list on May 31, 2007. Notice was also posted to the Council of Great Lakes Governors' website at [www.cglg.org](http://www.cglg.org).

**Call of Meeting:**

12:00 p.m. EDT—The meeting was called to order by Kevin Wilson, designee of Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body (Regional Body) Chair, Premier Dalton McGuinty.

**Roll Call:**

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

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

**Indiana (designee of Governor Mitch Daniels):** Kari Evans, Policy Director, Environment, Office of Governor Daniels.

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

**Minnesota (designee of Governor Tim Pawlenty):** Jim Japs on behalf of Kent Lokkesmoe, Director, Division of Water, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

**New York (designee of Governor Eliot Spitzer):** Don Zelazny, Great Lakes Programs Coordinator, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

**Ohio (designee of Governor Ted Strickland):** Vicki Deisner, on behalf of Sean Logan, Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

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

**Pennsylvania (designee of Governor Ed Rendell):** Cathleen Curran Myers, Deputy Secretary, Office of Water Management, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

**Québec (designee of Premier Jean Charest):** Yvon Maranda, on behalf of Louise Lapierre, Conseillère, Bureau des relations intergouvernementales et des changements climatiques, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs.

**Wisconsin (designee of Governor Jim Doyle):** Charles Ledin on behalf of Todd Ambbs, Administrator for Water, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

## **Actions Taken**

### ***Review of December 13, 2006 Regional Body meeting minutes.***

A motion was made on behalf of Governor Granholm to formally approve the minutes of the August 17, 2006, Regional Body meeting. The motion was seconded on behalf of Governor Daniels and carried unanimously.

## **Reports**

### ***Council of Great Lakes Governors' Water Conservation and Efficiency Initiative***

The Chair then called on Rob Messervey, Manager, Water Resources Section, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, to provide an overview of the recent activities of the Council of Great Lakes Governors' Water Conservation and Efficiency Initiative. As part of this Initiative, the Council has organized a Water Conservation Committee consisting of representatives from each of the Great Lakes States and Provinces. The Committee's role is to develop broad, overarching regional water conservation and efficiency objectives that will ultimately be forwarded to the Regional Body for their review and consideration. Jill Jonas, Director, Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and, Rob Taylor, Director of the Lands and Waters Branch at the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources are Co-Chairs of this Committee.

The Conservation Committee released draft regional water conservation and efficiency objectives on March 15, 2007, for public comment. The public comment period ended on June 8, 2007. The Conservation Committee is currently reviewing the comments received and determining what, if any, revisions should be made prior to forwarding its final recommendations to the Regional Body.

The Designee of Governor Spitzer asked if there was an overview of comments received. In response, it was noted that representatives from the industry and agriculture sectors had generally indicated their support of the draft regional objectives as released for public comment. In particular, they supported the flexibility envisioned for each State and Province in implementing their jurisdictional water conservation and efficiency program. It was also noted that a coalition of environmental organizations had submitted multi-page comments requesting revisions to the draft objectives. Specifically, the organizations suggested adopting more measurable outcomes, increased accountability measures and more specificity in the draft objectives. Similarly, it was noted that the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence Cities Initiative had requested more measurable outcomes.

### ***International Association of Great Lakes Researchers 2007 meeting***

The Chair then called on Mr. Messervey to provide an overview of the May 2007 meeting of the International Association of Great Lakes Researchers (IAGLR). In response, it was reported that the Regional Body hosted a session at the meeting which focused on beginning to build the framework for a Regional Science Strategy referenced in the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and related decision making support. Lori Boughton, the Director of the Office of the Great Lakes at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection acted as Chair for this session.

It was also reported that one of the outcomes was a recommendation that another IAGLR session be hosted by the Regional Body at IAGLR's 2008 meeting in Peterborough, Ontario.

A number of session participants recommended that the Regional Body host a workshop of regional partners and science experts and that a Regional Science Advisory Committee be established to assist with the development of the Regional Science Strategy. The proposed Advisory Committee could include governmental, agency, and non-governmental scientists as well as representatives from Tribes and First Nations from across the Great Lakes Basin.

***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 legislation has been ratified by both the House and Senate and was recently sent to the Governor. The Compact bill is currently undergoing review for signature.

**Indiana**—Compact legislation will likely be introduced during the legislature's 2008 session, along with implementing legislation to address such issues as baselines and thresholds. These State-specific implementation policies will be developed in consultation with Indiana stakeholders. "Draft for discussion purposes" legislation is currently being developed to initiate these consultations.

**Michigan**—There are currently two Compact bills in the House (one with Republican sponsors, the other with Democratic sponsors) that collectively have 40 sponsors. A bill is also pending in the Senate. Recently, budget issues have been the central focus of the legislative session but it is hoped that the Compact bills will be acted upon after a budget has been approved.

**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 pass the Compact.

**New York**—The New York Assembly unanimously passed the Compact on April 23, 2007. The Senate took up Compact legislation later and worked to reach consensus on a couple of New York-specific implementation issues (e.g. enforcement and how to relate to existing laws, and the role of the existing Great Lakes Advisory Council). The Governor's designee indicated that agreement was reached and that he was unaware of any outstanding issues. Unfortunately, the Senate was unable to take final action before

it recessed due to a drafting error. It is hoped that the legislature will take final action in July or August of this year during a special legislative session.

**Ohio**—It was noted that the Ohio House passed Compact legislation last year but that the Senate was unable to act before adjournment. It was reported that there are ongoing discussions regarding bill reintroduction and that further information is expected in coming weeks.

**Ontario**— *The Safeguarding and Sustaining Ontario's Water Act* received Royal Assent and was put into law on June 4, 2007. This action fulfils Ontario's commitment to pass legislation implementing the Agreement. The Province will now continue to work with its advisory panel and First Nations to develop the regulations needed to fully implement the remainder of its Agreement commitments.

**Pennsylvania**—Discussions have recently been convened by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council to develop Compact legislation. These discussions have included a number of stakeholder interests including industry, agriculture, local government, environmental and conservation groups, and others. Meetings have also been held with potential legislative sponsors. Further discussions are planned for the summer, with legislation anticipated for introduction and action this fall.

**Québec**—On November 30, 2006, the National Assembly approved the Agreement. The government is currently reviewing its various legal instruments (e.g. Statutes and regulations) to identify what aspects need to be modified. It is anticipated that an act making such modifications will be introduced by Spring of 2008.

**Wisconsin**—A special legislative committee has been organized and has met several times over the past few months. The committee is charged with submitting a report and recommendation to the legislature regarding Compact ratification and any corresponding implementing legislation to be introduced with the Compact. The deadline for this report was recently extended until mid-September, 2007. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for July 18, 2007.

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.gslregionalbody.org/AgreementImplementationStatus.aspx>

## **New Business**

### ***Review and vote on proposed FY 08 Budget***

Next, a motion was made on behalf of Governor Spitzer to adopt "Resolution #5—Adoption of Fiscal Year 2008 Budget." The motion was seconded on behalf of Governor Granholm.

Prior to the question being called, the representative for Governor Spitzer asked if there was an analysis of FY 07 activities. In response, Regional Body Secretariat staff indicated that a formal audit would be conducted after the end of the FY 07 Fiscal Year

(June 30, 2007), and that the analysis would be available upon the conclusion of the audit.

In a roll call vote, all members present voted in favor of the resolution. Dan Injerd, on behalf of Governor Blagojevich; Kent Lokkesmoe, on behalf of Governor Pawlenty; Sean Logan, on behalf of Governor Strickland; and, Louise Lapierre on behalf of Premier Charest, submitted their written approval of the resolution prior to the meeting.

At the Chair's motion, and without objection from the Regional Body designees, Governor Doyle's designee was given seven days to submit his vote in writing to the Council Secretariat. This arrangement was necessitated by an unexpected scheduling issue. On June 28, 2007, Todd Ambs, on behalf of Governor Doyle, submitted his written approval of the resolution.

#### ***Other Business***

The Chair announced that the Regional Body has a new website, which can be found at [www.gslsregionalbody.org](http://www.gslsregionalbody.org).

The Chair also announced that the next conference call of the Regional Body has been tentatively scheduled for December 13, 2007.

#### **Opportunity for public comments.**

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

- Dale Phenicie, Council of Great Lakes Industries: Mr. Phenicie suggested that a Science Advisory Group of interested stakeholders be formed as the Regional Body develops a science strategy. Mr. Phenicie also noted that the Bi-national Toxics Strategy had just scheduled their next meeting for December 12-13, which would conflict with the proposed next meeting of the Regional Body. He suggested that the Regional Body's meeting be rescheduled accordingly. Finally, Mr. Phenicie expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the Regional Body's activities, and in particular indicated his support for the Conversation Committee's activities.
- David Ullrich, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI): Mr. Ullrich wished to clarify the nature of the comments the GLSLCI had provided to the Conservation Committee regarding the draft regional Conservation and Efficiency Objectives. He indicated that GLSLCI recommended that the draft objectives be more aggressive and ambitious rather than descriptive.

Following these comments, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

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