

Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body
Meeting Summary
Conference Call Meeting
August 17, 2006

Notice:

Notice of the meeting was provided to the public through the Council's e-mail distribution list and the Great Lakes Information Network's distribution list on August 3, 2006. Notice was also posted to the Council of Great Lakes Governors' website at www.cglg.org.

Call of Meeting:

3:00 p.m. CDT—Meeting called to order by Sam Speck, designee of Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body (Regional Body) Chair, Governor Bob Taft.

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.

Indiana (designee of Governor Mitch Daniels): Ron McAhron, Deputy Director, Regulatory Team, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, representing 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): Kent Lokkesmoe, Director, Division of Water, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

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

Ohio (designee of Governor Bob Taft): Sam Speck, 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): 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): Todd Ambs, Administrator for Water, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Actions Taken:

A motion was made on behalf of Governor Doyle to formally approve the minutes of the June 6, 2006 Regional Body meeting. The motion was seconded on behalf of Governor Blagojevich and carried unanimously.

Next, the Regional Body reviewed a report submitted on behalf of Governor Taft with the recommendation that the Regional Body not incorporate at this time.

A motion was made on behalf of Governor Blagojevich and seconded on behalf of Governor Doyle that the Regional Body should adopt the proposed Memorandum of Understanding which would name the Council of Great Lakes Governors as the Regional Body Secretariat. The motion carried unanimously.

The Chair called Lisa Wojnarowski, Program Manager for the Council of Great Lakes Governors, to provide an overview of the Council's Water Conservation and Efficiency Initiative. It was noted that representatives of Tribes and First Nations as well as regional stakeholders have been invited to participate collaboratively in the Initiative. Meetings of the Initiative's Conservation Committee will begin this fall.

The Chair next called Tim Eder, Executive Director of the Great Lakes Commission, as well as Tom Crane and Marilyn Ratliff from the Great Lakes Commission staff to provide a report on Great Lakes water withdrawal data collection efforts and the Great Lakes Water Use Database Repository.

Next, Jan Miller with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided a report on its Biohydrological Information study. This study inventoried data on Great Lakes surface water, groundwater and biological systems in collaboration with policy and technical experts across the region. The draft study is available for review and comment at www.lre.usace.army.mil/ under the John Glenn Great Lakes Basin Program.

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 introduced in the House and “shell legislation” has been introduced into the Senate. However, it is unlikely that the legislation will be acted on this year due to the short legislative calendar.

Indiana—The legislature has adjourned for the year and will not reconvene until January 2007. Indiana will develop State-specific implementation policies in consultation with Indiana stakeholders before seeking to enact Compact enactment legislation. Therefore, it is unlikely that legislation would be introduced before 2008.

Michigan—Water management legislation that is “Compact friendly” has recently been enacted into law. Compact legislation has not yet been introduced. It is unlikely that

there will be legislative activity related to the Compact until 2007 due to the short legislative calendar.

Minnesota—The legislative session has ended for 2006. It is anticipated that the Minnesota legislature will seek to pass Compact legislation that includes Minnesota's State-specific implementation policies sometime after it reconvenes in 2007.

New York—On May 25, Governor Pataki proposed Compact adoption legislation and on June 23, 2006, it was passed by the State Assembly. The Senate is considering action before it recesses for the year. It is anticipated that once the Compact is passed, New York would consider separate legislation as needed to implement State-specific elements.

Ohio—Compact legislation has been introduced in both legislative chambers. Committee hearings have been held. The legislature is in recess until November and will consider action at that time.

Ontario—Efforts to implement the Agreement are underway, including the review of laws and regulations by all relevant Ontario ministries as necessary in order to identify needed revisions. It is anticipated that a legislative implementation package may be introduced as early as fall 2006.

Pennsylvania—Legislation has not yet been introduced. It is uncertain if legislation will be introduced this year because of the short legislative schedule.

Québec—The Agreement is expected to be approved by the National Assembly which is required before further steps can be taken to enact the specific terms of the Agreement.

Wisconsin—Legislation to implement the compact will be reviewed by a legislative study committee that will be convening this fall. It is unlikely that Compact legislation will be introduced this year due to the short legislative calendar.

Up-to-date Compact implementation information is available at the Council of Great Lakes Governors' Website at <http://cglg.org/projects/water/CompactImplementation.asp>.

The Chair next noted that the Regional Body's FY2007 budget is still under discussion and will be considered at a future Regional Body meeting.

The Chair then stated that the option of formally creating a Regional Body Advisory Committee is still under discussion.

The floor was then opened for public comments.

The following individuals commented to the Regional Body:

- Sara Miller, Canadian Environmental Law Association: Ms. Miller asked a question about the potential for the town of New Berlin, Wisconsin, to submit an application for a water diversion through the process outlined in the Agreement.

It was noted that the Compact has not yet been ratified and that discussions are ongoing regarding the New Berlin proposal.

- Blaine Belleau, Gaden River Indian Nation: Mr. Belleau stated that he appreciated the opportunity to participate and that he looks forward to future opportunities for involvement.
- Dale Phenicie, Council of Great Lakes Industries: Mr. Phenicie thanked the Regional Body for the opportunity to participate. He stated his interest in continuing to participate as a member of an Advisory Committee, if one is formed, or through the broader public participation process.
- Kelly McKnight and Ann McCammon Soltis, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission: Mr. McKnight and Ms. McCammon Soltis asked about the level of Tribal involvement and outreach in the Council of Great Lakes Governors' Great Lakes Water Conservation and Efficiency Initiative. It was noted that hard copy and electronic letters of invitation to participate in the Initiative had been sent to each of the Great Lakes First Nations and the Federally recognized Tribes and that participation is encouraged.

Following public comments, a motion was made on behalf of Governor Taft to adjourn. The motion was seconded on behalf of Premier McGuinty and carried unanimously.

The full text of the materials discussed on the call are available online at www.cglg.org.