



2009 Annual Report

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View along the Lake Superior coast of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore near Munising, Michigan.
On the cover: running with the gulls at Pier Cove Beach on Lake Michigan, near Saugatuck, Michigan.



The enduring power of unity



Threats to Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River ecosystem health have come in many forms since humans first populated this freshwater heart of North America. From the direct discharge of industrial byproducts and municipal waste, to wafting emissions creating toxic rain, to widespread runoff from farms and cities and disruptive non-native species invading from land and sea, the Great Lakes have endured numerous assaults.

The year 2009 may well be remembered, however, as a critical turning point. Long-fought efforts by the Great Lakes Commission, its Member states and Canadian provinces, and an army of partner organizations, agencies and individuals to secure a federal commitment to Great Lakes protection and restoration were rewarded in 2009 as the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative was put into motion.

With a first-year appropriation of \$475 million and hope for similar support over a five-year agenda, the Initiative's kickoff in 2009 represented the most comprehensive program ever enacted to restore and sustain the environmental integrity of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence ecosystem.

How was this landmark achieved? Focus and vision were certainly factors, and leadership. Without the commitment of President (and fellow Great Lakes denizen) Barack Obama, and the consistent, unwavering support of the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation, the GLRI could never have succeeded. We will be forever grateful to these true Great Lakes heroes.

Neither could it have succeeded, though, without the unity of the states. By working together to develop consensus priorities, and ultimately a strategic plan in the form of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, the states spoke articulately and forcefully with one voice, and were heard.

The need for such a voice was largely behind creation of the Great Lakes Commission in 1955. In the decades since, the Commission has demonstrated time and again that when the states can identify shared interests and priorities in Great Lakes-St. Lawrence regional policy, and pursue them with singular purpose, few problems cannot be solved. And when our Canadian associate members Ontario and Québec join us, the impact becomes even more powerful.

Now we face yet another serious environmental threat: the Asian carp. The situation reached crisis proportions in 2009 with this potentially devastating invader apparently reaching – and perhaps broaching – the last barriers before entering the Great Lakes.

Now more than ever, states and provinces must work together, along with our U.S. and Canadian federal partners, mayors, tribes and First Nations, non-governmental organizations and all other stakeholders to address this threat. As it has from its formative days, the Great Lakes Commission stands ready to support the broad collaborative effort the crisis will require.

We know such collaboration can work, having seen proof in the historic year of 2009 when a long-held dream of meaningful Great Lakes restoration became reality.

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn
Chair

Tim A. Eder
Executive Director



PRESIDENT OBAMA'S HISTORIC PROPOSAL WILL RE-ENERGIZE GREAT LAKES CLEANUP AND RESTORATION

ILLINOIS GOVERNOR PAT QUINN

Left to right: Illinois Governor and Great Lakes Commission Chair Pat Quinn at the 2009 Great Lakes Commission Semiannual Meeting in Washington, D.C.; Nancy Sutley, chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, was a special guest at Great Lakes Day; Michigan Sen. Carl Levin at the Great Lakes Day Congressional Breakfast.

Restoration Initiative made 2009 a banner year

Flush with a resounding vote of commitment – and cash – from Washington in the form of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), Member states of the Great Lakes Commission, with support from Canadian Associate Member provinces, rolled up their sleeves in 2009 to seize full advantage of the opportunity.

The unprecedented \$475 million program was unveiled in February 2009 as part of President Barack Obama's FY 2010 budget proposal. It focused on the most critical environmental concerns facing the Great Lakes, including invasive species, toxic sediments, nonpoint source pollutants and wildlife habitat loss. There were also components covering accountability, education, monitoring, and communication.

"President Obama's historic proposal will re-energize Great Lakes cleanup and restoration," said Illinois Governor Great Lakes Commission Chair Pat Quinn. "The lakes are an economic force for the Great Lakes region. This initiative will comple-

ment work now underway by state and local governments and expedite cleanup and economic redevelopment efforts along the Great Lakes."

Led by a Great Lakes Congressional Delegation that included leadership in some key positions, the GLRI passed both the House and Senate, emerged from conference with its full \$475 million appropriation intact, and was signed by Obama late in the year.

The Initiative's framework was largely derived from the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy completed in 2005 in which the states and governors joined with some 16 federal cabinet and agency organizations – including EPA, State, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, HUD, Transportation, Homeland Security, Army, CEQ, and Health and Human Services, tribes, non-government organizations and other stakeholders – to establish Great Lakes restoration priorities.

As the measure worked its way through Congress, the Great Lakes Commission assisted EPA in convening outreach meetings in July and August in all eight Great Lakes states. The meetings helped prepare the region for the upcoming

call for proposals and provided input to the federal agencies on how the GLRI could best be implemented. The sessions involved more than 1,000 participants and generated some 250 written comments on such issues as the role of the states, how priorities will be established, and maximizing administrative efficiency and accountability.

As the year closed, the first round of projects to be supported by the GLRI were being drafted in response to a request for proposals issued by the EPA, which is expected to award up to \$120 million for an estimated 400 projects. Another \$6.5 million was to be awarded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

Great Lakes Day featured high-level speakers

Two Cabinet-level speakers were the centerpiece of the combined 2009 GLC Semiannual Meeting and Great Lakes Day in Washington in February. Lisa Jackson, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Nancy Sutley,



AS THE GREAT LAKES GO, SO GOES THE NATIONAL POLICY AS TO WATER

U.S. EPA ADMINISTRATOR LISA JACKSON

Left to right: Executive Director Tim Eder, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson, and GLC Vice Chair Todd Ambis; student volunteers from Bunker School celebrate habitat restoration efforts at Muskegon Lake, Mich.

chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, were both on hand to underscore the Obama Administration’s commitment to fulfilling campaign promises involving Great Lakes restoration and protection.

“As the Great Lakes go, so goes the national policy as to water,” said Jackson, noting that Obama established his support for Great Lakes protection early in his campaign and was committed to following through with not only the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, but also other legislative vehicles such as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

With *Restoration as an Economic Development Strategy* as an underlying theme of the meeting, Commission Chair Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn exhorted Commission Member states and Canadian provinces to maximize the potential of the lakes to lure new business and investment. Joe Roman, director of the Greater Cleveland Partnership, presented the regional chamber’s “Business Agenda for Economic Transformation in the Great Lakes Region” at a panel session.

Among actions taken by the Commission were resolutions endorsing reauthoriza-

tion of the Coastal Zone Management Act, supporting reform of the Harbor Maintenance Tax and Trust Fund, and supporting the American Wind Energy Association’s Windpower Conference in Chicago in May 2009.

GLC stimulus-funded programs aid habitat, air quality

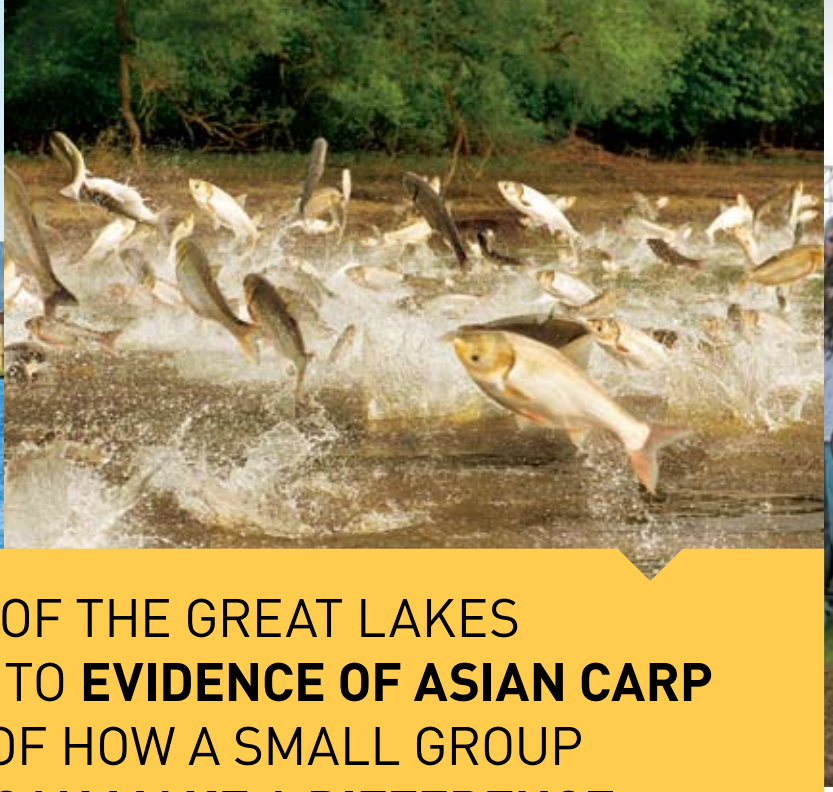
Two projects supported by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) were awarded to the Great Lakes Commission in 2009, the largest a \$10 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to stabilize shoreline and restore wildlife habitat on 24 acres of wetland on Muskegon Lake in west Michigan. The project was among 50 habitat restoration projects funded by NOAA nationally, with some \$167 million designated within ARRA for marine and coastal restoration.

Other stimulus-funded habitat programs in the Great Lakes region included \$4.7

million to remove fish passage barriers and a dam on the Milwaukee River near Port Washington, Wis., and \$1.4 million to restore and reconnect six miles of stream spawning habitat in the Dunes Creek watershed near Hammond, Ind.

For the Muskegon Lake project, one of the largest in GLC history, the Commission is partnering with the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) to restore some 10,000 feet of shoreline “hardened” over several decades by broken concrete, foundry slag, sheet metal and other materials. The project will also remove more than 180,000 tons of degraded lake fill to improve aquatic habitat for fish and other species. The project includes a job creation commitment and is projected to generate almost 40,000 labor hours to support 125 jobs. More than \$20 million will be contributed by local sources through in-kind services, donations of land, and conservation easements.

In another ARRA-funded project, this one offered through the EPA’s National Clean Diesel Program, the GLC was awarded a \$1.2 million federal stimulus grant to help repower four 30-year-old generators



THE **UNIFIED RESPONSE** OF THE GREAT LAKES STATES AND PROVINCES TO **EVIDENCE OF ASIAN CARP** WAS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF HOW A SMALL GROUP OF COMMITTED PEOPLE **CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

ILLINOIS DNR DIRECTOR MARC MILLER

on two Great Lakes bulk carriers with cleaner, more fuel-efficient diesel engines. The project was carried out at Wisconsin shipyards in Sturgeon Bay and Superior on two self-unloading vessels owned and operated by the American Steamship Company (ASC) of Williamsville, N.Y.

The 900-horsepower diesel generator sets, two on each vessel, were original equipment on the 770-foot M/V *H. Lee White* built in 1976 and the 1,000-foot M/V *Indiana Harbor* built in 1979. The units are used to supply electrical power to the vessels. The two ASC vessels operate primarily in the iron ore, coal and stone trades between Lake Superior and the lower Great Lakes.

By replacing the old generator sets – unregulated by EPA because of their age – with new models that comply with EPA Tier 2 emissions regulations, nitrous oxide (NO_x) emissions will be reduced by 46 percent and carbon monoxide (CO) by 74 percent. This will result in some 9.1 tons less NO_x over a year and 2.8 tons less CO. Significant reductions will also be realized in hydrocarbons and particulate

matter, and greater fuel efficiency will save up to 8,500 gallons of fuel a year per engine. The repowering work was done during the winter lay-up season of 2010 and will fulfill ARRA objectives of job creation by generating over 12,000 labor hours, which translates to about 34 full-time jobs. Also supported will be jobs involved in manufacturing and shipping the new diesel units.

Threat of Asian carp drew a regional response

Concerns over Asian carp nearing Lake Michigan via the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal reached a crescendo in late 2009 as new detection technologies suggested the invasive fish had neared and possibly already gotten past electric barriers established to contain them. The situation became even more critical when one of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-operated barriers was scheduled to be

shut down for maintenance in December.

As a stop-gap measure, the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources developed a plan to apply a potent dosage of the toxic chemical rotenone to a six-mile stretch of the waterway to prevent migration of Asian carp upstream during the outage. Constrained by budgets and limited stocks of the chemical, the agency, working with the Great Lakes Commission and other agencies, asked for help. The response was swift and substantial, as GLC Member states and Associate Member provinces immediately provided the additional resources in the form of money, manpower, chemicals and equipment to assure the project's success.

“Operation Silver Screen” involved some 450 people and 30 watercraft in a joint operation carried out in difficult weather conditions, with no casualties and, most significantly, no evidence of Asian carp migration through the barriers during the shutdown.

Wrote Illinois DNR Director Marc Miller, GLC commissioner, of the experience,



Left to right: the 1,000 foot M/V *Indiana Harbor*, recipient of two new, cleaner operating diesel generators under an ARRA grant administered by the GLC; Asian carp jumping; groundbreaking ceremonies for the Soo Lock Expansion Project at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., including, from right, Michigan Rep. Bart Stupak, Michigan Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, Brig. Gen. John Peabody, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, Lt. Col. James Davis, Commander of the Corps of Engineers Detroit District, and Kirk Stuedle, Secretary of the Michigan Department of Transportation.

“The unified response of the Great Lakes states and provinces to evidence of Asian Carp near the electric barrier system on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship canal this past December was a shining leadership moment for our region, and a prime example of how a small group of committed people can make a difference.”

GLIN Labs: New online tools to aid Great Lakes decisionmaking

The GLC-led Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN: www.glin.net) launched GLIN Labs in September 2009, a new research and development portal to leverage the latest and greatest web applications to benefit the Great Lakes.

Supported by a grant from the Great Lakes Protection Fund, GLIN Labs provides an online meeting space where beta applications are being researched,

designed, tested and launched, including the platform for GLINv2.0. The vision is to allow users to integrate multiple sets of data into applications that display information of value to Great Lakes decision-makers, businesses and other interests. The project is also scoping out the future path for GLIN, assisted by an advisory team, which includes experts from Google, Yahoo and a variety of regional data providers and Internet technologists.

Visit labs.glin.net to view and comment on the latest applications! Similar to Google Labs, GLIN visitors are encouraged to test drive the products and tools under development and provide feedback.

Soo Lock project saw long-awaited construction start

The Great Lakes Commission involvement in the Soo Locks expansion project dates back to 1983 when the Commission first called for replacement of the

outmoded Davis and Sabin locks with a new large lock. Over a quarter-century later, ground was broken in summer 2009 for the project which will create a second large lock between Lake Superior and the lower Great Lakes.

The lock is designed to accommodate the largest classes of Great Lakes bulk carriers, including the 13 thousand-foot vessels that comprise over 70 percent of the U.S.-flag carrying capacity on the lakes. At present there is only one lock at the Soo, the Poe Lock, large enough for these vessels which operate largely in the iron ore, coal and stone trades.

A festive spirit surrounded groundbreaking ceremonies held at the construction site, which drew Michigan Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, Michigan Congressman Bart Stupak, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Assistant Secretary for Civil Works Terrance Salt, and Great Lakes Commissioner and Lake Carriers’ Association President James Weakley. Also on hand were USACE Great Lakes and Ohio River District Commander Brig. Gen. John Peabody and USACE Detroit District Commander Lt. Col. James Davis.

“For the State of Michigan this represents a much needed infusion of jobs and economic impact, particularly for the eastern Upper Peninsula where it will be welcome indeed,” said Michigan Lt. Gov. John Cherry, GLC immediate past chair. “For the Great Lakes region as a whole, it represents a significant investment in a navigational infrastructure that is critical to such core industries as steel manufacturing, power generation and construction.”

The first phase of construction, building cofferdams to de-water the site, was enabled by a \$17 million appropriation in the omnibus spending bill enacted by Congress and signed by the President earlier in the year. The total project cost is estimated at \$485 million and with sufficient funding could be completed in about 10 years.

2009 Funders

Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – EPA
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – NOAA
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – New York
The Brookings Institution
Chase Real Estate Insurance & Financial Services
The CollegeBound Network
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Duke Energy Foundation
Ecology and Environment, Inc.
Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc.
Government of Ontario
Government of Québec
Great Lakes Observing System
Great Lakes Protection Fund
Healing Our Waters® - Great Lakes Coalition
Industrial Economics, Inc.
International Joint Commission
The Joyce Foundation
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
New York Power Authority
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center
NOAA National Sea Grant College Program
NOAA Restoration Center
Northeast-Midwest Institute
Public Sector Consultants, Inc.
State of Illinois
State of Indiana
State of Michigan
State of Minnesota
State of New York
State of Ohio
State of Wisconsin
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Energy,
National Renewable Energy Laboratory
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA),
Great Lakes National Program Office
U.S. EPA, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
U.S. EPA, Region 5, Air and Radiological Division
U.S. EPA, Region 5, Superfund Division
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
We Energies
Wege Foundation
Windustry

2009 Funders

The great majority of Commission programs and projects are pursued in partnership with other agencies and organizations, and benefit from their funding support. A listing of 2009 funders is provided to the right. Thanks to all for their assistance!

Revenues and expenses

The Great Lakes Commission concluded FY 2009 in sound financial condition, with operating revenues of \$4.37 million.

Expenses exceeded revenues by \$239,657, slightly over five percent. This was largely due to higher than anticipated personnel costs under the general fund and higher than expected costs related to Commission-sponsored meetings as well as increases in staff travel.

Overall, the Commission continues to effectively manage its general and restricted funds to achieve the goals and objectives of the organization.

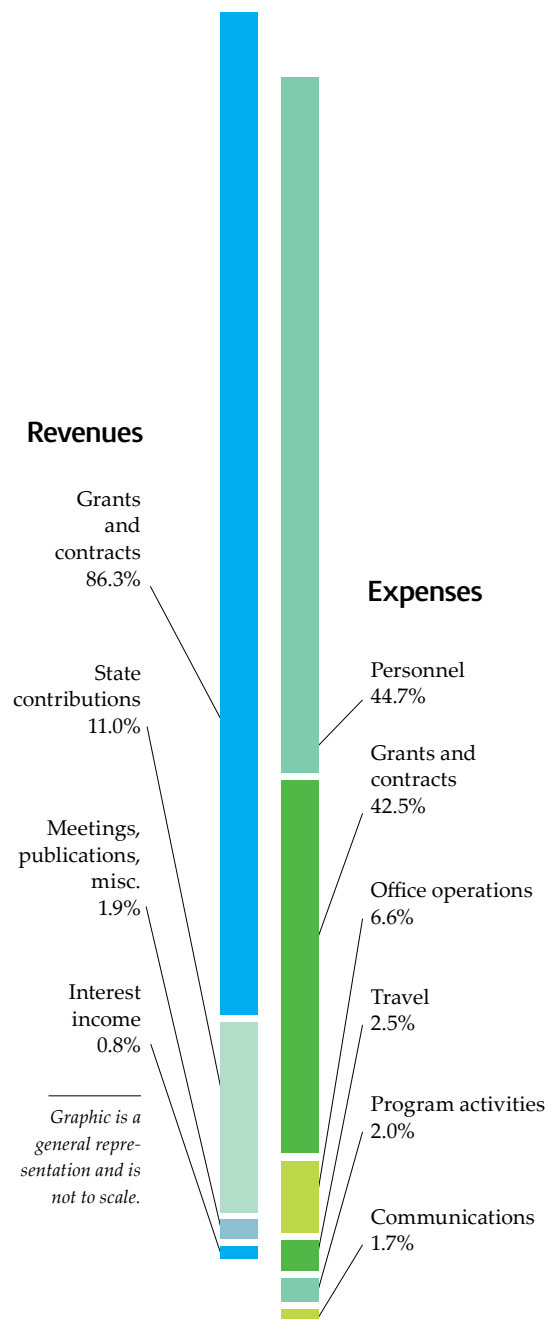
These figures were confirmed by an independent audit, which is conducted each year to examine the Commission's financial operations. The 2009 fiscal year ended June 30, 2009.

Revenues

Grants and contracts	\$ 3,769,993
State contributions	480,000
Meetings, publications, mis.	82,368
Interest income	33,983
Total	\$ 4,366,344

Expenses

Personnel	\$ 2,059,496
Grants and Contracts	1,959,043
Office Operations	304,648
Travel	113,744
Program activities	91,542
Communications	77,528
Total	\$ 4,606,001



Commissioners, Alternates and Observers

Delegation chairs are in **bold**.

ILLINOIS

Gov. Patrick Quinn

Joe Deal, *City of Chicago*
Marc Miller, *Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources*
Steven M. Powell,
United Food and Commercial Workers
Douglas P. Scott, *Gov. Appointee*
Kimberly J. Walz,
Illinois Fifth Congressional District

Alternates

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Gary Clark, *Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources*
Dan Injerd, *Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources*

INDIANA

David Pippen,

Office of the Governor (through 3.2010)

Kari Evans, *Indiana Dept. of
Natural Resources (appointed 3.2010)*

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Dept. of Environmental Management*
Ron McAhron,
Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources
Jody W. Peacock, *Ports of Indiana*

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Lt. Gov. John D. Cherry, Jr. (*Immediate Past Chair*)
Hon. Mike Cox, *Attorney General*
Curtis Hertel,
Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority

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Hon. Morrie Lanning, *State Representative*
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John Francis O'Mara, *Gov. Appointee*
Philip Reed, *Gov. Appointee*

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Dept. of Environmental Conservation*

OHIO

Sean D. Logan,

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Hon. Timothy J. Grendell, *State Senator*
Christopher Korleski,
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Hon. Chris Redfern, *State Representative*
James Weakley, *Lake Carriers' Association*

Alternates

John Baker,
International Longshoremen's Association
Ed Hammett, *Ohio Lake Erie Commission*
Cathryn Loucas,
Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources

ONTARIO

William Carr,

Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs
John Lieou, *Ministry of the Environment*
David O'Toole, *Ministry of Transportation*
Kevin J. Wilson, *Ministry of Natural Resources*

Alternates

Sharon Bailey, *Ministry of the Environment*
Linda McAusland, *Ministry of Transportation*
Ranissah Samah,
Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs

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Dept. of Environmental Protection
Robert W. Light, *Pennsylvania Sea Grant*
Pat Lupo, *Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force*

Alternates

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Dept. of Environmental Protection*
Lori Boughton, *Pennsylvania
Dept. of Environmental Protection*
John Hines, *Pennsylvania
Dept. of Environmental Protection*

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Pierre Bertrand, *Ministry of Sustainable
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Nathalie Camden, *Ministère des
Ressources naturelles et de la Faune*
André Meloche, *Ministry of Transportation*

Alternates

Marcel Bernard, *Ministère des
Ressources naturelles et de la Faune*
Ève Jospeh, *Ministère des Transports du Québec*
Louise Lapierre, *Ministry of Sustainable
Development, Environment and Parks*

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Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
Hon. Dave Hansen, *State Senator*
Fred Schnook, *Foth & Van Dyke and Assoc., Inc.*

Alternate

Nancy Larson,
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

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Managing Editor: Christine Manninen

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Sunset on Lake Huron.



Sailing on Lake Michigan.



STAFF

Front row (*from left*): Anjali Patel, Hao Zhuang, Erika Jensen, Heather Braun, Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, Rita Straiith, Pat Gable, Sarah-Émilie Hebert-Marcoux. Second row: Laura Andrews, Michael Schneider, Vitaliy Peker, Richard Garcia, Tom Crane, Ron Hasselbring, Matt Doss, Stuart Eddy. Third row: Tim Eder, Victoria Pebbles, Laura Kaminski, Christine Manninen, Becky Pearson. Back row: Guan Wang, Dave Knight, John Hummer, Roger Gauthier, Hugh Brennan, Gary Overmier.



A mallard family on Lake Superior.



M/V Canadian Transfer in Hamilton, Ont.



Toronto's Humber Bay Park on Lake Ontario.



Golfers on Mackinac Island enjoy Lake Michigan views.

View of Lake Michigan from Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore near Chesterton, Indiana.



About the Commission

The Great Lakes Commission was established in 1955 with a mandate to “promote the orderly, integrated and comprehensive development, use and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes basin.” Founded in state law with U.S. federal consent, with membership consisting of the eight Great Lakes states and associate member status

for the provinces of Ontario and Québec, the Commission pursues four primary functions: communication and education, information integration and reporting, facilitation and consensus building, and policy coordination and advocacy.

Each Member jurisdiction is represented by a delegation consisting of three to five members who are appointees of the respective governor or premier, legislators or senior agency officials. A board of directors, consisting of the chair of each

delegation, is the Commission’s executive body.

In carrying out its initiatives, the Commission works in close cooperation with many partner organizations, including U.S. and Canadian federal agencies, binational institutions, tribal/ First Nation governments and other regional interests. Representatives appointed by partner entities participate extensively in Commission activities through a formal Observer program. The Commission is supported by a professional staff in Ann Arbor, Mich.