



Vol. 2

Quarterly Newsletter

May 2005

## Merger of Mayors Organizations

**T**he Great Lakes Cities Initiative and the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors are scheduled to join together on May 26, 2005, at the annual conference being held in Quebec City,

Quebec. A group of six mayors from the United States and Canada developed a business plan for the new organization, which will provide and stronger and more effective voice for mayors in the protection and restora-

tion of the resource. The name planned for the new organization is the "Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative."

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## Great Lakes Regional Collaboration

**W**ork under the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration called for by President Bush in his May 2004 executive order continues to move forward on schedule, with strong leadership from local government. Mayor Daley is on the Executive Committee, along with governors, tribal leaders, congressmen, and fed-

eral officials, and three of the eight strategy teams have local government co-chairs. The Collaboration met at Maumee Bay in Ohio in February and Traverse City, Michigan, in April to work on recommended actions for the Lakes. The focus of the work will be on those highest priority actions to be taken by all levels of government and

the private sector over the next five years that are most likely to bring the greatest improvement for the resource. The schedule is for the draft to be released on July 7, 2005 in Duluth and the final on December 12, 2005 in Chicago.

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## Great Lakes Charter Annex 2001 – Water Management

**T**he Council of Great Lakes Governors has continued its work on the Agreement and Compact for water management on the Great Lakes over the past several months. In addition to meeting with many tribes and first nations to discuss the

documents, the Council has been reviewing comments and considering options for the next proposal. The Council expects to release the document some time in June. Expected changes are a prohibition on diversions, with very limited exceptions,

more aggressive water conservation measures, and changes to or elimination of the resource improvement standard.

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## Invasive Species

**T**he efforts continue to protect the Great Lakes from the further introduction of invasive species. Several congressmen have reintroduced the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act legislation, and co spon-

sors are joining in support. Because of delays at the Federal level, several states are considering legislation, and Michigan has made the most progress with this. Construction on the electronic carp barrier in the Chicago

Sanitary and Ship Canal is proceeding, and is scheduled for completion in the fall. The temporary barrier continues to operate.

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## Waterfront Revitalization

**E**xciting plans for improvements along the waterfronts of several Great Lakes cities are being released, and actions are being taken. Cleveland released its Lakefront Plan in December and is moving forward with it. The Marquette Plan for Northwest Indiana came out recently,

and several mayors joined in the announcement with Congressman Visklosky. In Chicago, work on Northerly Island continues with some interim projects and longer term plans. The City of Marquette recently acquired additional land for public use that will include trails for summer and winter

recreation. The City of Rochester has acquired the high speed ferry "Spirit of Ontario" and expects service across Lake Ontario to Toronto to begin in June.



## Mayor Daley and Mayor Miller Speak in Washington

**O**n March 2, 2005, Mayor Richard Daley and Mayor David Miller addressed a group of over 100 people, including several congressmen, at the annual Great Lakes Congressional Breakfast sponsored by the Northeast Midwest Institute and the

Great Lakes Commission. The Mayors highlighted the importance of local government involvement in the efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes, and emphasized how important the resource is to the quality of life in cities. The high visibility roles

given to mayors at this event is further evidence that cities have established a prominent role on Great Lakes matters.



## Reports

**M**ayors and their staffs may be interested in a recent report completed by the Northeast Midwest Institute about large scale ecosystem restoration. There is good

information that should be helpful in our restoration efforts on the Great Lakes. The report titled "Large-Scale Ecosystem Restoration: Lessons for Existing and Emerging Initiatives" can

be found at:  
[http://www.nemw.org/restoration\\_products.htm](http://www.nemw.org/restoration_products.htm)



## Calendar

- Great Lakes and St. Lawrence mayors conference in Quebec City May on 25, 26, and 27.
- Chicago area North Shore cities meeting in Highland Park, Illinois on June 3, 2005.
- Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Summit I in Duluth, Minnesota on July 7, 2005.
- Northern Michigan Great Lakes Cities meeting in Traverse City, Michigan on July 25, 2005.
- Great Lakes Regional Collaboration public meetings on the draft action plan at various locations around the basin in late July and early August.
- Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Summit II in Chicago, Illinois on December 12 and 13, 2005



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