

Local Investment in the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
2008 Annual Meeting
Toronto, Ontario

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Chairman*

July 17, 2008



Local Investment in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence
 - Global fresh water treasure
 - Much work and investment to protect and restore
 - Not enough to ensure the future, but how much more?



Local Investment in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

- Better understanding of current investment
 - Start with the local level
 - Later get more information on federal, state, provincial, and tribal levels
 - Compare with longer term needs for the future
 - How will we close the gap?



Local Investment in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

- The 2007 local investment survey
 - Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative joint venture – Joyce Foundation funding
 - Questionnaires to 688 local governments with 143 responses
 - Questions on water quality management and ecosystem protection



Local Investment in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

- Cities on the front lines
 - See the resource every day
 - Live with the people who expect it to be clean
 - Deal with all the difficult budget decisions that must be made



Local Investment in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

- Local government investments
 - Local governments in the U.S. and Canada are investing **over \$15 billion each year** on protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence
 - Based on survey responses from 143 local governments showing almost \$3.3 billion in 2006
 - Includes \$2.5 billion for water quality management and \$0.8 billion for ecosystem protection



Local Investment in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

- Water quality management
 - Over 33% or **\$5 billion per year** goes to capital improvements for wastewater
 - Over 25% or almost **\$4 billion per year** goes to operation and maintenance
 - Even with these investments, very hard to keep pace with growth of communities and depreciation of assets



Local Investment in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

- U.S. Federal investment in wastewater infrastructure
 - Clean Water Act of 1972 provided for 75% Federal, 15% State, and 10 % local funding
 - Almost all systems brought up to secondary treatment and some to tertiary
 - Much work done 30 years ago and needs to be replaced



Local Investment in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

- Declining Federal investment in the U.S.
 - Shift from a grant program to loans
 - Declining Federal investment in State revolving fund
 - ***Drop of 49% since 2004*** to under \$0.7 billion for entire country



Local Investment in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

- Clean water deficit
 - Lack of U.S. Federal investment is creating a huge clean water deficit, especially in the Great Lakes
 - National need is over \$200 billion with about ***\$73 billion needed in the eight Great Lakes states***
 - The longer we wait, the larger the deficit
 - Just look at New Orleans



Local Investment in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

- Investments in ecosystem protection
 - Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy outlines needed investments in the ecosystem in addition to wastewater
 - Since 2005 signing, Federal investment has been stagnant
 - Local governments continue to invest more, with about ***20 percent of budgets going to environmental improvements***



Local Investment in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

- Importance of ecosystem protection
 - Ecosystem protection is very important because so much of what happens on the land affects the water
 - Green spaces and wetlands provide habitat for many plants and animals and also cleans the water before it flows back into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence
 - Proper waste management keeps toxic waste and other contaminants out of the water



Local Investment in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

- Local governments are doing their part
 - Local governments have been doing their part all along and will continue
 - Recent Racine projects



North Beach - 2006



North Beach - 2002

Lost Spending from Beach Advisories in the Great Lakes

Study	Location	Method	Description	Estimates
Murray and Sohngen (2001)	Lake Erie	Lost spending from Beach Advisories per Year	Per Advisory	\$131,000
			Total for all Advisories	\$4.91 million
Shaikh (2006)	Lake Michigan (Chicago)	Lost spending from Beach Advisories per Year	Total for all advisories	\$2.35 million





Root River Stream Bank Stabilization Projects



Island Park, 2005



Island Park, 2006



Local Investment in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

■ The future

- Value of fresh water will increase significantly
- The longer we wait to invest, the more damage to the resource and the more expensive the solutions
- Federal governments need to show much more leadership and investment



Local Investment in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

- Conclusion
 - Local governments in Canada and the U.S. on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence **invest billions every year** to protect and restore this international fresh water treasure
 - We are prepared to continue this, but ***the federal governments and other orders of government must all do their part*** if we are to preserve this resource for future generations

