



BRIEFING

May 15, 2007

Join Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Mayors in Grand Rapids!

Don't miss out on this once-a-year opportunity to gather with mayors and other officials from around the Basin to focus on protecting and restoring the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. Formal invitations will be sent out soon. Please visit www.glslcities.org/annual.htm for more information regarding the meeting and registration.

Cities Lead Water Conservation Efforts

Mayor David Miller, Mayor Richard M. Daley, and Mayor Gary Becker recently reached out to GLSLCI cities to encourage participation in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Water Conservation Framework. The initiative is a great way for cities to make a tangible difference within the Basin. Fifteen cities have already signed up to the Framework. GLSLCI asks that cities interested in participating notify us by **June 1, 2007**. GLSLCI plans to announce the Framework and identify participating cities at the Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids in July. Please visit www.glslcities.org/watercons.htm to learn more about the details of the effort.

GLSLCI Focus on Beaches

GLSLCI is looking for volunteer cities to become better acquainted with their beaches and the possible sources of contamination. The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration partnership has developed a sanitary survey tool that will be piloted this summer. Sanitary surveys are a means to better understand beaches and their sources of contamination; a necessary initial step in the effort to ensure clean and safe beaches. GLSLCI encourages cities to conduct sanitary surveys because they are a proactive way to find out about and address beach contamination. If your city would be interested in piloting the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration sanitary survey tool, please contact Melissa Arjomand at 312-201-4517 or melissa.arjomand@glslcities.org.

Mayor McMullan Testifies on Ontario Water Act

Mayor Brian McMullan of St. Catharines, Ontario recently testified to the Ontario Standing Committee on Justice Policy regarding the *Safeguarding and Sustaining Ontario's Water Act, 2007*. The Act will implement the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Agreement and make into law the province's existing

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David Miller, Mayor of Toronto, Chair

Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago, Founding Chair



ban on diversion of water out of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River, Nelson and Hudson Bay basins. Mayor McMullan emphasized municipal support for the effort, citing the importance of water on the local level and the growing impact of water quantity issues for municipalities and communities. To read Mayor McMullan’s comments, please visit www.glslcities.org/statements.htm.

City of Windsor Tackles Water Infrastructure

The City of Windsor is updating its water infrastructure to ensure the city uses water more efficiently and provides its citizens with safe drinking water. With about 60 percent of the City’s water mains at or beyond their expected engineered life expectancy, the replacement of the infrastructure is essential. Mayor Eddie Francis, a supporter of the infrastructure update, noted that the city loses on average about 15 percent of its water as a result of the aging pipes. The Windsor Utilities Commission maintains that the old infrastructure requires additional chemicals and water treatment, lowers water pressure, and elevates the risk of bacterial occurrences and system shutdowns. Windsor will invest \$600 million over the next 30 years in the infrastructure update project, part of which will be paid through an increase in water rates. To learn more about Windsor’s effort to update its water infrastructure, please visit www.glslcities.org/news.htm.

Membership

Send in your membership dues today and join the 42 GLSLCI member cities in protecting and restoring the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence! Join before the Annual Meeting in July and you will have the opportunity to vote on resolutions and develop the policy direction of the organization at the Members Meeting. Membership continues to be very important, so if you are already a member, please get your neighboring communities to join, and be sure to renew your membership when you receive your notice.

Call for Stormwater Ordinances

GLSLCI is calling for examples of municipal stormwater ordinances to be highlighted in our website’s Best Practices section. If you feel your city has a best practice stormwater ordinance, please send an electronic version to melissa.arjomand@glslcities.org (other Best Practices are always welcomed as well). If you don’t have an electronic version or web link to the ordinance, please mail a hard copy to Melissa Arjomand at GLSLCI.