



BRIEFING

June 1, 2007

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

The GLSLCI 2007 Annual Meeting is just around the corner! 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. Look for formal invitations in the mail soon. In the meantime, please visit www.gslscities.org/annual/ for registration and the meeting agenda and logistics.

GLSLCI comments on Ontario regulations, Great Lakes Agreement

GLSLCI submitted comments to the Ontario Government on the draft 2007 Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes basin ecosystem, and the Ontario Clean Water Act regulations. The COA comments underlined the importance of municipal representation at the COA table, as well as dedicated Great Lakes infrastructure funding, a review of the governance of the COA, and action on invasive species. The Cities Initiative comments on the CWA regulations stressed the need for stronger legal language around the municipal role on the proposed source protection committees and in developing the source protection terms of reference. Both sets of comments may be viewed at www.gslscities.org/statements.htm. GLSLCI staff followed up these comments with meetings with key provincial officials to further explain our position.

Interest growing in GLSLCI Water Conservation Framework

Twenty GLSLCI cities have signed onto the GLSLCI Water Conservation Framework and GLSLCI staff is in the process of gathering information from these cities about their water conservation activities and successes. The Framework webpage will be populated with this information moving forward so continue to periodically check into www.gslscities.org/watercons.htm as information is added. Please contact either David Ullrich (david.ullrich@gslscities.org) or Melissa Arjomand (melissa.arjomand@gslscities.org) if your city is interested in joining the Framework. GLSLCI plans to announce the Framework and identify participating cities at the Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids in July.



GLSLCI Needs Your Beach

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.

Membership

GLSLCI is pleased to welcome the Town of Wasaga Beach and the Niagara Region as new members of the organization. Grand Rapids, Highland Park, and Erie also recently renewed their memberships. Send in your membership dues today and join the 44 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.