



BRIEFING

December 15, 2006

Great Lakes Mayors Help Sway Coast Guard Decision

The Coast Guard has announced that it will be terminating its live-fire weapons training program on the Great Lakes, in response to numerous comments and concerns raised by Great Lakes mayors and citizens. While the Coast Guard maintains the need for appropriate weapons training and added security capabilities on the Great Lakes, the Coast Guard will explore relocating trainees to a separate location for live-fire training or using simulators. Furthermore, the Coast Guard asserts that live-fire training will not be conducted to satisfy non-emergency training unless a rule is published. Any future decision to pursue a new rule would involve full consideration of the following:

- Popular recreational areas or ferry routes;
- All comments received during the public comment period for the original NPRM;
- Minimized on-water training through simulation or use of land ranges;
- A comprehensive means of providing the public with advanced notification of training dates; and
- Environmentally friendly ammunition and proper environmental analysis.

Mayor Miller Hosts Midyear Board Meeting

Mayor David Miller hosted the midyear meeting of the Board of Directors in Toronto on December 15, 2006 at the SAS building, a new, LEED certified building with many green features. At the meeting, the Directors voted to add Mayor Brian McMullan of St. Catharines and Mayor Rudy Clay of Gary to fill vacancies on the Board, and also elected Mayor Peterson as the new treasurer and Mayor McMullan as the Ontario Regional



Director. Mayor Miller presented outgoing Board member Terry Geddes with the “Tim Rigby Award for Leadership,” and also recognized former Mayor Rigby for his service to the organization. The Board discussed the terms of a Municipal Agenda and Strategy for the organization, and took additional steps on the water conservation and beach standards projects.



Mayor Duffy Promotes GLSLCI at HOW Conference in Rochester

The New York State Healing Our Waters Coalition held its conference in Rochester on Saturday December 2 at the Seneca Park Zoo. The event, co-sponsored by Audubon NY, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Great Lakes United, and Environmental Advocates of NY, attracted over 60 people. There was a jam-packed agenda with panels on the Great Lakes Restoration Campaign, local restoration projects, and developing the state legislative agenda for the Great Lakes. Mayor Robert J. Duffy, a featured speaker, spoke about the goals of the GLSLCI, and reminded attendees to hold the City accountable for its role in support of the HOW agenda. The luncheon address was given by Peter Annin, author of "The Great Lakes Water Wars" a book that explores the issue of diversions from the basin.

Carp Barrier Legislative Update

Last minute efforts to secure authorization and funding before the end of the 109th congressional session for the electric carp dispersal barrier were unsuccessful. However, the temporary barrier will continue to operate and assurance was given that it would be monitored on an ongoing basis. Proponents for the authorization and funding of the new dispersal barrier are hopeful the issue will be taken up quickly at the beginning of the next congressional session.

Membership Dues

We are now up to 31 dues paying members from the United States and Canada. The funds from dues are essential for our operations and to get matching money offered by the Mott Foundation. Please send in your dues promptly so you can participate fully as a member of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.