



MAKING WAVES

October 2, 2008

Regional Chair Peter Partington Joins the Great Lakes Wind Collaborative

Chair of the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Peter Partington, will participate on the Great Lakes Wind Collaborative (GLWC) Steering Committee as the GLSLCI and municipal interest representative. The GLWC was established to build consensus on identifying and addressing issues affecting the planning, development, and operation of wind power facilities in the Great Lakes region. The GLWC has created a bi-national forum for dialogue and an opportunity for analysis and exchange of information among key stakeholders. Melissa Soline of GLSLCI will continue to participate on the GLWC Advisory Committee. If your city is interested in getting involved in the GLWC, a number of work groups have been established to explore specific issues, such as transmission challenges, the economic benefits of wind energy, and the prospect of offshore wind. For more information, please visit www.glc.org/energy/wind/.

GLSLCI Challenges Elected Leaders

With both the U.S. and Canadian federal elections around the corner, GLSLCI has issued a challenge to U.S. Presidential Candidates and the five Canadian Federal Party leaders to demonstrate how they plan to make Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River protection and restoration a priority of federal government. The letters ask the candidates to outline policies they plan to enact, if they are elected, to address key Great Lakes and St. Lawrence issues, including the need for a new Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, comprehensive aquatic invasive species legislation, advancing Great Lakes and St. Lawrence restoration efforts and funding, and a strong climate change agenda. GLSLCI will make the responses available once all have been received. To read the letters that GLSLCI sent, please visit www.glslicities.org/news.htm.

Great Lakes Legacy Act Passed by Congress

The Great Lakes Legacy Reauthorization Act was passed by the U.S Congress and awaits President Bush's signature. Late last week, a final version of the bill was passed which continues the current authorized funding level of \$50 Million per year for the next two years (previous bills contemplated \$150 Million per year for the next five years). Passage of this Legacy Act bill, even at a flat funding level, is viewed as a success because the Legacy Act was about to expire. The Great Lakes Legacy Act provides funding to clean up contaminated

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sediment in Areas of Concern located wholly or partially in the United States. According to statistics provided by the Great Lakes Commission, nearly 1 million cubic yards of toxic sediments have been removed from the Great Lakes through the Legacy Act and the Act has leveraged nearly \$44 Million from non-federal partners.

Niagara Region – Bi-National Planning and Water Stewardship

The Regional Municipality of Niagara has proceeded with a number of actions to advance water stewardship and bi-national planning in the Niagara Region. The Regional Council declared 2009 the Year of Water Stewardship in the Region, committed to hold a “Shared Waters” Conference in 2009, further supported the “Niagara 10” recommendations, advanced the nomination of the International Joint Commission for the 2009 Stockholm Water Prize, and endorsed recommendations in the Brookings Institution’s “The Vital Connection” report concerning economic leadership in the Great Lakes Region of the United States and Canada. For further information, please visit www.glslcities.org/news.htm.

GLSLCI Annual Meeting Synopsis Now Available

The GLSLCI 2008 Annual Member Meeting and Conference in Toronto, Ontario was quite a success and we remain busy with follow-up items from the Board and Member meetings. For those who were unable to attend the conference, we have drafted a synopsis of conference proceedings and posted presentations online. To read the synopsis and to see presentations, please visit www.glslcities.org/annual2008.htm and click on *Overview of Conference Proceedings*.

Membership

The Village of Spring Lake, MI is our newest member – please help us welcome Village President William Filber and the Village of Spring Lake! Send in your membership dues today and join the 60 Cities Initiative member cities in protecting and restoring the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. If you are already a member, please encourage your neighboring communities to join, and be sure to renew your membership when you receive your notice.

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