



MAKING WAVES

August 5, 2009

EPA Seeks Local Government Input on GLRI

US EPA hosted a briefing conference call for Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members on July 31, 2009 regarding the \$475 million 2010 funding and the multi-year plan for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Cities Initiative members in attendance on the call included Cities Initiative Chair, Mayor George Heartwell of Grand Rapids and Mayor John Dickert of Racine, as well as representatives from Duluth, Toledo, Ashland, Rochester and Erie. The Cities Initiative urged EPA to ensure transaction costs and administrative requirements associated with the grant process are minimized and to eliminate or significantly reduce the local match requirements for grants. The Cities Initiative plans to submit formal comments to EPA on the multi-year plan. If a member city has specific comments you'd like to include in the organization's formal submission, please forward them to Melissa Soline at melissa.soline@glslcities.org by August 15, 2009. Otherwise, anyone can submit comments directly to EPA by the deadline of August 19, 2009. Please visit www.epa.gov/glnpo/glri to get details, including information on GLRI and a federal agency funding guide that outlines anticipated upcoming RFPs for projects.

Additional Funding for Cities Initiative Local Investment Report

The Cities Initiative and the Great Lakes Commission received a \$60,000 grant from the Joyce Foundation to continue work on the local investment report of 2008. The study found that local governments invest more than \$15 billion annually in Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River protection and restoration activities. The new grant will fund additional work to develop targeted briefing papers that provide investment detail for specific activities such as water and wastewater infrastructure, beach and shoreline management, and water conservation, in addition to extrapolating the survey results for the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The Cities Initiative is looking forward to providing further information on the significant local government investment in the Lakes and River.

Mayors Respond to NRDC Beach Report

The Cities Initiative issued a statement on Wednesday, July 22, 2009 in response to the National Defense Council's 2009 *Testing the Waters Report*. NRDC reports annually on the state of beaches nationally and tends to focus primarily on closings and advisories. In the response, the Cities Initiative recognized the work being done by local governments to improve beaches and recreational waters. A number of municipalities such as Racine,

177 North State Street, Suite 500, Chicago, Illinois 60601 ~ (312) 201-4516 phone ~ (312) 553-4355 fax
www.glslcities.org

George K. Heartwell, Mayor of Grand Rapids, Chair

Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago, Founding United States Chair

David Miller, Mayor of Toronto, Founding Canadian Chair



Chicago, Milwaukee, Toronto and Ajax are working to identify sources of contamination at their beaches and remediate them. To see the Cities Initiative's response to the report, please visit www.glslcities.org/documents/Beaches-GLSLCISStatementFINAL072909.pdf.

Great Lakes Region 2nd Largest Economy

The Great Lakes regional economy is the second largest in the world, according to updated research conducted by World Business Chicago. With a gross domestic product of approximately \$4.6 trillion and comprised of the eight Great Lakes states and the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, the regional economy is second only to that of the United States. For more information on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence regional economy, please visit www.glslcities.org/documents/GreatLakesandStLawrenceEconomy2008extended.pdf.

Racine in the News!

The City of Racine was recently featured on Fox-6 Milwaukee in a story on beach and lake quality. Check out www.fox6now.com/news/witi-090719-c6-water-testing,0,6032703.story to see the segment. Racine was also recently featured on 190North, a Chicago-area show that highlights local and regional attractions and places of interest. Way to go Racine on such great news coverage!

Membership

Please join us in welcoming the City of Sarnia, Ontario to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative! Join the 65 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members in protecting and restoring the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River by clicking [here](#). 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.