



MAKING WAVES

September 23, 2009

Cities Initiative Lake Superior Regional Meeting

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative hosted a Lake Superior Regional Meeting in Duluth, MN on September 10, 2009. Member mayors in attendance included Mayor Don Ness of Duluth, Mayor Dave Ross of Superior, Mayor Richard Harvey of Nipigon, and Mayor Larry MacDonald of Bayfield. The members were joined by the Mayor of Marquette, John Kivela, and the Mayor of Two Harbors, Randy Bolen. Regional meetings are an opportunity for the Cities Initiative to meet with members and prospective members about issues pertinent to a particular locality or Lake. Topics discussed at the Lake Superior Regional Meeting included the Lake Superior Lakewide Management Plan, the work of the Superior Watershed Partnership, and shipping on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. Liz Laplante of US EPA, Carl Lindquist of the Superior Watershed Partnership and Adolph Ojard of the Duluth Seaway Port Authority made presentations to the mayors.

Save the Date – Cities Initiative Annual Member Meeting & Conference!

Mark your calendars - the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative 2010 Annual Member Meeting and Conference will be held June 16-18, 2010 in Milwaukee, WI! Stay tuned for more information on the 2010 Annual Member Meeting and Conference.

Effort Continues to Retrieve Barrels from Lake Superior

Mayor Don Ness of Duluth and Mayor Dave Ross of Superior joined the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa's environmental staff and a representative of the environmental contractor EMR, Inc. on August 5, 2009 to provide an update on the project to retrieve barrels containing unknown substances from Lake Superior. The barrels date back to the cold war era and are suspected of containing munitions waste. With the exact contents of the barrels unknown, and therefore the danger of the barrels and their effect on the water unknown, the tribe has worked to retrieve the barrels. Seventy of the approximately 1,400 barrels will be retrieved in 2010 and their contents will be sampled. Samples will also be taken of sediment and the water. A 2008 sonar and video survey of the Lake identified 591 targets that are likely to be barrels in the Talmadge River, Sucker River and Lester River areas.

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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



New Ontario Discussion Paper on Water Open for Comments

In August, the Ontario Ministries of Environment and Natural Resources jointly released a new water discussion paper for public comment. The paper describes three proposed provincial actions on water management: 1) proposed elements of a provincial water conservation strategy, 2) details on proposed implementation of intra basin transfers and 3) proposed water charges for medium and low industrial and commercial water users. (For a copy of the discussion paper, go to www.ebr.gov.on.ca and use EBR #010-6350). This proposal will be of interest to all Ontario municipalities, especially those with water takings from one Great Lake and distribution to another Great Lake basin. The Cities Initiative will be submitting comments, and so welcomes any suggestions from members by September 28 (comments due October 4 to Ministry of Environment). Please contact Sarah Rang at srang@enveei.com if you have comments or questions.

Province of Ontario Advancing Green Energy

As part of Ontario's Climate Action Plan, Ontario Power Generation is preparing to close four coal-fuelled power units in 2010, four years ahead of the Plan's 2014 target. A key component of the Province's Climate Action Plan is aimed at transitioning the Province to electricity generated from green energy. By closing these four units, and with the 2005 closure of the Lakeview Generating Station, Ontario's in-service coal capacity will have been reduced by 40% since 2003. Ontario Power Generation is assessing converting the eleven remaining units to other types of fuel such as biomass. For more information on the coal phase out plan, please visit <http://news.ontario.ca/mei/en/2009/09/ontarios-coal-phase-out-plan.html>. For more information on Ontario's Climate Action Plan, please visit www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/air/climatechange/doing.php.

Membership

Please join us in welcoming the City of Repentigny, Quebec to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative! Join the 68 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members in protecting and restoring the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River by clicking [here](#) for a membership application. 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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