



MAKING WAVES

October 2, 2009

Mayor Heartwell addresses Union of Baltic Cities

At the invitation of the Union of Baltic Cities, an organization of 106 cities in 10 countries around the Baltic Sea, Mayor George Heartwell gave a keynote address to over 200 multinational, regional, national, and local officials at the UBC General Conference in Kristiansand, Norway on September 24, 2009. Mayor Heartwell explained the work of the Cities Initiative to the audience and told them about the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, the issues we face, and how cities are taking a major role in solving the problems. Mayor Heartwell's address was extremely well received, and was clearly one of the highlights of the conference. Dave Ullrich accompanied Mayor Heartwell, and visited several member cities to get a better sense of how the UBC operates and what is their key to success. For more information see www.ubc.net

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.

IJC Highlights Efforts in Milwaukee, Toronto, Windsor, and Chicago to control wastewater discharges

In a report released at the end of September 2009, the International Joint Commission (IJC) summarized the progress made in controlling wastewater discharges to the Great Lakes from municipalities as a result of major infrastructure investments, but noted the need for further work in the future. In particular, they recognized the major work underway and planned for the future in Milwaukee, Toronto, and Windsor to control wet weather flows, and the system of public notification of discharges by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. The IJC recommended that the U.S. and Canada use economic stimulus money for wastewater infrastructure, make more effective use of watershed management strategies, use third party audits to improve compliance, and encourage more use of green infrastructure. The Cities Initiative reported in 2008 that U.S. and Canadian local governments are investing over \$15 billion per year in protection of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence. To read the IJC report, visit <http://www.ijc.org/php/publications/pdf/ID1631.pdf>.

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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



Michigan Focusing Stimulus Funds on Energy Efficiency and Conservation

The state of Michigan plans to spend \$17.4 million in federal stimulus funds across the state for energy efficiency and conservation projects as part of a new grant program. The Michigan Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program will fund projects that cut fossil fuel usage, reduce energy bills, and invest in alternative energy and conservation industries. Local governments have two initial grant opportunities through the program. The first is multi-purpose grants aimed at assisting eligible cities, townships and counties in implementing energy efficiency and conservation strategies that reduce fossil fuel emissions and total energy use, and that improve energy efficiency in transportation, building and other sectors. The second is LED demonstration grants aimed at assisting local governments to implement projects that install Light Emitting Diode (LED) products, and to increase general public awareness about the technology. Grant applications are due by 5:00pm October 22, 2009. For more information, please click [here](#).

Canadian Revised Recreational Water Quality Guidelines for Public Comment

This week Health Canada released long-awaited draft revised recreational water quality guidelines for public comment. The Canadian Federal recreational water quality guidelines, which were last updated in the early 1990s, provide guidance to ensure public health and safety. The U.S. is stilling waiting on U.S. EPA to revise its recreational water quality standards which were last issued in 1986. U.S. EPA is under a court ordered deadline of 2012 to issue revised standards.

For more information on the draft Guidelines for Canadian Recreational Water Quality, please visit http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/consult/2009/water_rec-eau/draft-ebauche-eng.php. The public comment period is open until January 8, 2010.

Membership

Please join us in welcoming the City of Rimouski, Quebec to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative! Join the 69 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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