



MAKING WAVES

October 18th, 2011

Public Meetings on Chicago Waterway Study

In conjunction with the Great Lakes Commission, the Cities Initiative would like to announce a series of public meetings and a webinar to present information and gather input on their project “Envisioning a Chicago Area Waterway System for the 21st Century.” The initiative is developing and evaluating options for separating the Mississippi River and Great Lakes basins in the Chicago region to prevent the transfer of aquatic invasive species like Asian Carp, while improving transportation, water quality and flood control in the area. There will be three public meetings in the next two weeks in addition to one webinar:

Chicago, Illinois

Thursday October 20th
9:00am – 12:00pm (central)
John G. Shedd Aquarium

Hammond, Indiana

Thursday October 20th
3:00pm – 6:00pm (central)
Purdue University Calumet

WEBINAR

Monday October 24th
1:00pm – 4:00pm (eastern)
Advanced registration required:
<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/877386902>

Toronto, Ontario

Tuesday October 25th
1:30- 4:30pm (eastern)
One King West Hotel

Volunteers Help Clean Up Grand River

Residents from around the area volunteered their Saturday time at the Mayors Grand River Clean Up. Mayor George Heartwell was joined by other neighboring mayors for this 8th annual event. Students from Calvin College, Aquinas University, Grand Valley State University and the Davenport University men’s basketball team were just a few of the 370 volunteers who participated in the effort. Many local companies also contributed to the event that collected over 16,000 pounds of trash over a 12 mile stretch of the river.

Great Lakes Echo Highlights Mayors’ Panel

The Great Lakes Echo highlighted the important work showcased by Cities Initiative Mayors George Heartwell, Randy Hope and Denis Lapointe at last week’s *Healing Our Waters* conference in Detroit, MI. The mayors’ panel “Green Returns on Blue Investments” demonstrated the effectiveness of waterfront improvements in Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, wastewater infrastructure investments in Grand Rapids and water quality improvements in Chatham-Kent.

Highlights of Great Lakes Week: EPA and IJC priorities

Over 400 people, including GLSLCI mayors and staff, gathered in Detroit last week to discuss new actions on Great Lakes and St. Lawrence. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson outlined the top three priorities for EPA which include: restore tributaries to reduce nutrients (focus on Lower Fox,



Maumee and Saginaw rivers), prevention of invasive species and to focus on “finishing the job” in five areas of concern, Deer Lake, Manistique river, St. Mary’s river, St. Clair river and Waukegan Harbor. The International Joint Commission also presented its new priorities for 2011-2013 which include indicators, prevention, adaptive management and tools, coordination and capacity. These are open for public comment until October 31st. For more information please visit <http://glri.us/glweek.html>.

City of Montreal Unveils New Strategy for Managing Water

Last October 11th, the City of Montreal released its Report on water consumption and network optimization. The Report presents an overview of the situation of water management and an action plan for continuous improvement in the state of infrastructure in Montreal. The Montreal Water Strategy proposes an action plan that includes 160 programs or activities, including six major projects: the detection and correction of leaks; catch up of the maintenance deficit, the installation of meters for the ICI sectors (industrial, commercial and institutions), the implementation of the strategy loop distribution networks, the introduction of wastewater disinfection by ozone and storm water management and master plan of drainage basins.

A funding plan over ten years is also proposed to ensure the implementation of major projects identified, with a capital budget of \$4.6 billion and an operating budget of \$3.9 billion. To help finance these measures, an annual increase of 9% of own revenues of the Water Fund is expected (1.2% of the general tax) and obtain an additional government contribution of \$836 million, with a goal of self-financing by 2020. The Report also recommends the revival, on a new basis, the initial meter installation and network optimization.

Canadian-American Vision for Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

The architectural firm of Skidmore Owings Merrill (SOM) presented a vision for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence as a cohesive bi-national region. The vision includes making a case for the environmental and economic importance of the area and its ability to flourish when viewed as one cohesive region. SOM architect Philip Enquist showcased the vision at Toronto’s Green Build conference. Dave Ullrich of GLSLCI and Lynn McClure joined Mr. Enquist in the presentation. The vision would allow the preservation of its most vital assets by looking at the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence as larger than a national park, improve transportation networks, revitalize cities, connect universities, and much more. For more information on the vision please visit www.som.com/content.cfm/recognizing_a_global_resource.

U.S. National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has scheduled a National Take Back Day for prescription drugs on Saturday, October 29, 2011 from 10am to 2pm. During this time law enforcement agencies from around the country will conduct take back events for prescription drugs from citizens. Please visit http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/ to learn more and to find a take back location in your area. Many municipalities, through their law enforcement entities, will be participating in this national effort.



Maritime Industry Study Shows Economic Impact on Region

The Great Lakes maritime industry released the results of a year-long study of the economic impacts of the entire Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway navigation system. The study was commissioned by members of the marine shipping industry, in partnership with U.S. and Canadian government agencies. The study found that maritime commerce along this waterway supported 227,000 jobs; contributed \$14.1 billion in annual personal income, \$33.5 billion in business revenue, and \$6.4 billion in local purchases; and added \$4.6 billion to federal, state/provincial, and local tax revenues. Marine shipping saves companies approximately \$3.6 billion per year in transportation costs compared to the next least-costly land-based alternative. For full results of the study please visit <http://www.marinedelivers.com/economic-impact-study-results-released>.

Membership

Join the 82 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.