



## **MAKING WAVES**

**February 1, 2010**

***Mayor Lynn Peterson, Deputy Director Nicola Crawhall appointed to Water Quality Agreement Advisory Panel*** – Environment Canada has appointed former Chair and current Thunder Bay Mayor Lynn Peterson and GLSLCI Deputy Director Nicola Crawhall to a Stakeholder Advisory Panel on the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The Panel will advise the government of Canada on what should be included in the new Water Quality Agreement. Most importantly, the Cities Initiative is seeking full recognition of the critical role played by local governments in protecting the Great Lakes. Discussions have commenced on the Canadian side already and are expected to begin on the U.S. side shortly, with negotiations anticipated to be completed by December 2010.

### ***Racine Receives Funding For Beach Monitoring Study***

The City of Racine's Dr. Julie Kinzelman will lead a research team to compare current water quality monitoring methods to rapid molecular techniques. The primary purpose of this is to provide more timely results on water quality to local officials. The study will look specifically at quantitative polymerase chain reaction (QPCR), a molecular-based rapid testing method, and how it matches up with traditional culture based methods for the evaluation of fecal indicator bacteria in inland recreational waters impacted by stormwater and wastewater discharge as well as the wastewater treatment process itself. The team will assess the measurement, interpretation, and limitations of QPCR, evaluate the method for precision/accuracy, and examine the relationship between what is measured and human health effects. The project research team includes the University of Illinois at Chicago, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the United States Geological Survey (Columbus, OH). Project partners include the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, the NE Ohio Regional Sewer District, the Racine Water and Wastewater Utility, and the Johnson Foundation. The team received \$300,000 from the Water Environment Research Foundation to perform the study.

### ***Historic Brownfield Development in Duluth***

The Duluth Seaway Port Authority has approved the purchase of a 123 acre United States Steel Corporation land parcel. The area is one of the largest Superfund sites in Minnesota and sits near the Morgan Park area of Duluth. The Port Authority hopes the redevelopment of the area will assist in delisting the location. The acquisition would allow for various large scale industrial developments within the port district. After further soil investigation and possible cleanup of the Superfund site, the Port Authority hopes building can proceed by 2012.

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[www.glslicities.org](http://www.glslicities.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*



### ***Cities Initiative Seeks GLRI Funding***

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative submitted a project proposal last week for President Obama's FY2010 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding. For this first GLRI Request for Proposals (RFPs), issued by US EPA, \$120 million of the \$475 million will be distributed through competitive grants for restoration work. Additional RFPs will be issued later in the year by EPA and other involved federal agencies (some have already been issued by US Fish and Wildlife and NOAA – see [www.gslscities.org/grants.htm](http://www.gslscities.org/grants.htm)).

The Cities Initiative's proposed project – *Municipal Action for Watershed Restoration* – contemplates the implementation of watershed restoration best practice demonstrations in municipalities and then the broad distribution and promotion of the best practices to other municipalities in the region for replication. The participating Cities Initiative members include: Grand Rapids, MI; Huron-Kinloss, ON; Marquette, MI; Niagara Region, ON; Racine, WI; Rochester, NY; Thunder Bay, ON; and Toronto, ON. Demonstration best practices to be implemented include rain garden installations, green street demonstrations, streambank stabilization, and implementation of natural channel design. To learn about all the best practice demonstrations and to receive a copy of the full Cities Initiative proposal, please contact Melissa Soline at [melissa.soline@gslscities.org](mailto:melissa.soline@gslscities.org) or 312-201-4517. We expect to hear sometime in March or April on whether we will be awarded the grant.

### ***Grant Opportunities***

We have been notified of a variety of grant opportunities for our members. Details on opportunities in Quebec, Ontario, and in the U.S. can be found at our website [www.gslscities.org/grants.htm](http://www.gslscities.org/grants.htm). Please visit to see if any funding is right for your Great Lakes or St. Lawrence municipality!

### ***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! Visit the Conference website at [www.gslsci2010milwaukee.org](http://www.gslsci2010milwaukee.org) for the latest news and updates on the Annual Meeting and Conference.

### ***Membership***

Please join us in welcoming the City of Two Harbors, Minnesota to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative! Join the 71 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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