

Chair's Letter

This summer represents a time of tremendous



Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle

opportunity for the Great Lakes and for those who live along its shores.

To begin with, I would like to invite each and every one of you to the first meeting of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body on June 6, 2006.

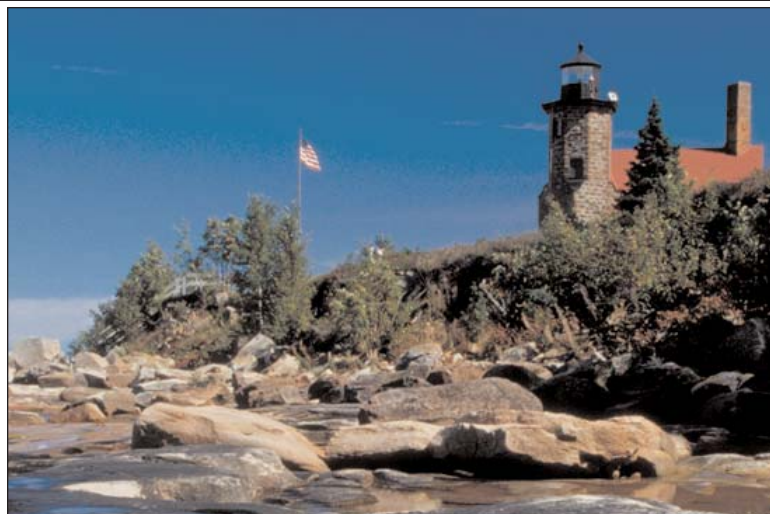
For those who cannot join us in Chicago on that important day, there remain additional opportunities to protect and restore the Great Lakes. The Governors encourage you to join us in urging Congress to pass authorizations and appropriations to fully fund construction, maintenance and operations for the Asian carp barriers in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. We also encourage you to join us in supporting Congressional efforts to codify the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration.

Separately, the Governors' shared trade offices continue to promote the region's economic development. In May, the Council led a delegation of 15 companies from a wide range of business sectors in an export mission to Australia with assistance from the Council's Australia and New Zealand Trade Office.

This summer promises to be an exciting time for those who live and work in the Great Lakes region. We look forward to continuing our work together.

—Jim Doyle

*Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors
Governor, State of Wisconsin*



Sand Island Lighthouse, Lake Superior. Photo courtesy Great Lakes North America.

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Regional Body Holds Inaugural Meeting

All are welcome to witness an important day in Great Lakes history on June 6, 2006, when the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body holds its first meeting in Chicago, Illinois. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. It will be open to the public and include an opportunity for public comment.

The Regional Body was established by the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers when they signed the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement in 2005. The Agreement details how the States and Provinces will work together to manage and protect the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin and provides a framework for each State and Province to enact laws protecting the Basin.

During the meeting, Regional Body members will elect a Chair and Vice Chair. Each member will provide an update on their jurisdiction's implementation of the Agreements. An update will be provided on the timeframe for deliverables outlined in the Agreement including the development of regional conservation goals and objectives.

For additional information, please visit www.cglg.org.

Council leads Australia Trade Mission

The Council recently led a 22-member delegation on a week-long trade mission to Sydney and Melbourne, Australia.

The mission's goal was to assist small and medium-sized Great Lakes companies export goods and services to Australia. Currently, Council member States export \$3.4 billion annually to the Australia region.

Increasingly, many U.S. companies are taking advantage of the recent U.S./Australia Free Trade Agreement, which eliminated 99 percent of tariffs on U.S. manufactured exports to Australia.

The delegation included representatives from 15 companies from Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. These companies encompass a broad range of sectors including technology, industry, food, biotechnology, medicine and agriculture.

The Council's Australia and New Zealand Trade Office organized extensive market research and scheduled individualized business meetings for all participants.

Delegates also benefited from a roundtable business briefing in Sydney and a networking reception in Melbourne hosted in collaboration with AMCHAM and Invest Victoria. The reception provided an opportunity for delegates to promote their products and services to representatives of the Victorian business community in an informal setting.

Governors Advance Great Lakes Restoration Efforts

On March 16, Ohio Governor Bob Taft testified before the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee regarding the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes.

Governor Taft said, "...without your support in this critical first year, there is a danger that the plan will be for naught and our momentum will be undermined."

In response, members of the U.S. House and Senate Great Lakes Congressional Delegation introduced the Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act (S. 2545 and H.R. 5100). The bills, sponsored by Senator Mike DeWine (R-Ohio) and Senator Carl Levin (D-Michigan), Congressman Vernon Ehlers (R-Michigan 3rd) and Congressman Rahm Emanuel (D-Illinois 5th),

would implement the recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. 38 Congressional representatives from the Great Lakes Basin have signed on to the bills.

In a statement of strong support, Council Chair Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle applauded the bill's sponsors and co-sponsors. He said, "We are very encouraged to see bipartisan support in Congress for large-scale, long-term funding for the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Governors have repeatedly requested this funding and are eager to work together toward enactment. The Great Lakes are threatened by many environmental pressures. A national response is needed to protect and restore this national treasure."

More information can be found at www.cglg.org/projects/priorities.



Great Lakes of North America (GLNA) partnered with delegates from Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin recently at ITB Berlin, one of the world's largest travel trade fairs. Toby McCarrick (right), GLNA Executive Director, joined staff from the Great Lakes States to promote tourism to the region.

Illinois and Pennsylvania also had booths at the fair, which included 163,000 visitors and 11,000 exhibitors from 180 countries and regions.

Great Lakes Region Leads Nation in Biomass Energy

Biogas Recovery

As rural populations increase, farmers and ranchers must look for creative ways to address new environmental issues. Livestock producers throughout the country are looking to the Great Lakes region as an example of how to successfully meet these challenges, as the Great Lakes region currently leads the nation in the recovery and use of biogas from on-farm anaerobic digestion systems.

Biogas contains about 70 percent methane and 30 percent carbon dioxide and is produced naturally when bacteria break down manure in an oxygen-free environment. When captured, biogas can be used to generate heat, hot water and electricity.

Because biogas is a renewable energy source, farmers can save considerably on the cost of electricity and other fuels.

Additionally, revenue can be realized through the sale of excess electricity to the local utility; sale of the digested fiber as animal bedding and soil amendments; and, the sale of environmental or carbon credits to global financial markets. Environmental benefits include odor control, greenhouse gas reduction, ammonia control and water quality protection.

The number of installed biogas systems has increased dramatically in recent years, and additional opportunities exist. While current technology is best suited for farms with at least 500 dairy cattle or 2,000 swine, new systems are under development that can serve smaller farms. Michigan and Iowa are also investigating the use of a centralized biogas system that would serve several farms.

The Agricultural Biogas Casebook, produced by the Great Lakes Biomass State and Regional Partnership and available on the CGLG website, can be a valuable source of information for anyone interested in learning more about biogas systems. Partnership staff can provide additional assistance including information about State and federal funding opportunities and links to the U.S. EPA's AgSTAR program and its many decision making tools.

For more information, visit

<http://cglg.org/biomass/index.asp>.



Photo courtesy of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Indiana Wins World's Largest Biodiesel Plant

Indiana took another step toward energy self-sufficiency recently as Governor Mitch Daniels announced that Louis Dreyfus Agriculture Industries LLC plans to build the world's largest biodiesel plant near Claypool, Indiana. With this facility, two other biodiesel and six ethanol plants currently under construction, Indiana will become a leading producer in the biofuels industry.

"It's been a hectic year of dramatic progress in renewable fuels development in our state," Governor Daniels said at the 2nd National Agriculture/Forestry Renewable Energy Summit in Washington, D.C.

He said, "In just one year, we're growing from one alternative fuels plant to nine, with more to come."

Upon completion, the Louis Dreyfus facility will be one of the world's first biodiesel production plants to be fully integrated with a soybean processing plant. About 260,000 metric tons of soybean oil from the plant will be used each year for biodiesel production. The biodiesel plant will produce up to 250,000 gallons of biodiesel per day, or more than 80 million gallons per year. Eighty-five ongoing jobs will be created at the plant, and it is estimated that 300 people will be employed during the 12 to 18 month construction phase.

Among the 50 States, Indiana has the fifth greatest corn production and the fourth greatest soybean production. With the facilities under construction, Indiana will annually produce an additional 400 million gallons of ethanol and 95 million gallons of biodiesel.

Upstream Battle: Great Lakes States Need Support to Fight Asian Carp

It sounds like the jacket-cover to a science fiction novel: “Flying fish prepare to attack the Great Lakes! Boaters injured! Native fish starve to death! An entire ecosystem hangs in the balance!”

Unfortunately, that outlandish scenario could become reality if more is not done to prevent the spread of the Asian carp from the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal into Lake Michigan. Currently, all that



A family fishes on the Illinois River near Starved Rock. Asian carp have outcompeted native fish in many parts of the River.

stands between the carp and the Lakes is an electric barrier system in the Canal.

A temporary barrier is currently in place, but is operating beyond its intended design life and could wear out in the near future. Future operating funding is uncertain.

A second, permanent barrier is under construction but not yet completed through a partnership between the State of Illinois and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Great Lakes States also



Staff from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources demonstrate the differences between silver and bighead Asian carp caught on the Illinois River. If adequate funds are not obtained from Congress, these voracious fish could migrate to the Great Lakes.

contributed funding towards this project. However, additional funds are needed to complete construction on the second barrier. Funds are also needed to maintain and operate the barriers at federal cost.

You can help by writing or phoning your United States Senators and Representative and asking them to support funding to halt the Asian carp.

For more information on the Governors’ fight against aquatic invasive species such as the Asian carp, visit the Council’s website at <http://cglg.org/projects/ais/index.asp>

Barrier Status at a glance:

*The current, temporary “demonstration barrier” is running past its scheduled design life while construction and safety tests are completed on the permanent barrier. Funds for the permanent barrier are being diverted to operate the demonstration barrier.

*Costs for the construction of the permanent barrier continue to rise. The final cost proposal for the full construction of the barrier system is expected to exceed available funding. Additional funds may be needed to complete construction so that the Great Lakes are adequately protected.

*The Great Lakes Governors continue to call for full federal funding to continue operation of the temporary barrier and complete construction of the permanent barrier. Because the barrier is intended to protect the entire Great Lakes, the barrier system should be maintained and operated at full federal cost.

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