

Co-Chair's Letter

As spring turns into summer, thoughts increasingly turn to the outdoors and, in our region, the Great Lakes. For many, swimming, boating and fishing will be the centerpiece of summer vacations. For others, hiking on

the shores and watching sunsets will create memories that will last a lifetime. During the coming months, nearly every one of us will be reminded of our connection to our greatest natural resource.



Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle

Therefore, as we all begin to focus once again on the Lakes, I am pleased that we are making significant strides in our efforts to protect and restore them. On May 6, I joined Governor Taft in sending a clear message to the U.S. Coast Guard that stronger protections are needed against invasive species hitchhiking into the Great Lakes on vessels declaring no ballast on board.

More than 1,500 citizens are now hard at work drafting a strategy to protect and restore the Great Lakes through the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. On July 7, we look forward to publicly releasing the draft strategy for public comment. And, our efforts to implement Annex 2001 continue to move forward.

Of course, environmental protection and economic development go hand in hand. The Council of Great Lakes Governors continues to promote our region to tourists from around the world. And, the Council continues to help our small and medium sized companies export to foreign markets.

Despite many challenges, our region has a bright future as a result of working together. This summer, enjoy the Lakes, and be reminded of why we must persevere.

-Jim Doyle

Co-Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors
Governor, State of Wisconsin



Revised Draft Agreements Near Public Release

No one said it would be easy.

The challenge was to review the draft Annex 2001 Implementing Agreements, refine them and agree on an action plan for eight diverse Great Lakes States, Ontario and Québec.

Several months and more than 10,000 public comments later, we are nearing a major step forward in the process and should soon have revised agreements in the hands of the public. The staffs of the eight Governors and two Premiers have worked side-by-side, discussing the public comments, continuing an informative dialogue with advisory groups, Tribes and First Nations and modifying each other's revisions.

The process has been open, frank, instructive and gratifying. All viewpoints have been considered, and everyone involved is committed to reaching a final product through consensus—a product that all of us can embrace and put into action.

At the forefront of all of our discussions has been a common belief that what we do today must help preserve and protect the Great Lakes for many generations to come.

Our immediate goal is to present a revised agreement to the public in the coming weeks, hear from everyone that is interested over the summer and have final documents ready for the Governors and Premiers to consider for signature later this year.

Additional information is available at <http://cglg.org/projects/water/Annex2001Implementing.asp>

Great Lakes Exports to South Africa Skyrocket

Council of Great Lakes Governors' South African Trade Office Yields Results

Exports have soared in recent years from the Great Lakes States to South Africa, and they continue to improve.

In 2004, the Council's member States exported \$1.1 billion to countries in the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), which includes South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and Swaziland. This was an improvement of 34% over 2003 figures and 56% since 1999.

Comparatively, U.S. exports as a whole gained only 11% globally between 2003 and 2004 and just 20% from 1999 to 2004. Exports to SACU countries are becoming more important to Great Lakes State economies relative to the size of their total export base.

The trend shows no sign of slowing—free trade negotiations are underway between the U. S. and SACU which would allow most U.S. exports duty-free access.

Richard Zurba, Managing Director of the Council's South African Trade Office, said, "Good growth in exports from the Great Lakes region is set to continue, and this market is already shaping up to be the world's next development success story—similar to the Southeast Asian surge in the 1980s and 1990s."

The South African Trade Office

supports companies in the member States of Indiana, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania in their efforts to



Managing Director Richard Zurba.

reach SACU markets. For example, an Indiana firm recently sold projection equipment to the fast-growing tourism and conference sector in Mauritius. A New York firm was successful in selling public washroom fixtures.

Pennsylvania companies recently sold financial system software to major corporations, and an Ohio laboratory equipment manufacturer has made sales to the South African mining industry.

A physical presence in South Africa offers a level of personal assistance that leads to results. "Getting to the market is critical in making the final sales," said Zurba. "Familiarity with the markets on a personal basis leads to successful export growth in companies."

While opportunities for exporting to South Africa abound, mining is the largest industry sector followed by manufacturing, oil and gas, chemicals, agriculture and tourism. Mining equipment is a leading export item for U.S. firms because South Africa produces 65% of the world's

platinum and 15% of the world's gold.

Excellent economic management has created low inflation, good growth rates and low government debt. South Africa is experiencing its best economic boom in decades, and American business is taking notice.

Since democratic reform in 1994, South Africa's economy has grown rapidly from an insular, high-tariff environment to an open economy with low tariffs. Its geographic position provides an ideal gateway to sub-Saharan Africa. It is the economic powerhouse of Africa, comprising 35% of the continent's entire gross domestic product.

South Africa's English-speaking environment, stable democratic political system, rule of law and similarities in accounting and contracts combine to make South Africa an easy location for business.

Additionally, South Africa's cosmopolitan cities, safari parks and sporting facilities offer visiting business executives unique venues. South Africans are very hospitable to visitors, and there are many cultural and business similarities between South Africa and the U.S. For more information, visit <http://cglg.org/projects/trade/index.asp>.



Key Export Opportunities to South Africa:

- *Telecommunications and information technologies and equipment
- *Mining equipment, food processing equipment
- *Manufacturing equipment and component sales
- *Infrastructure systems
- *Environmental engineering
- *Household and consumer goods

Protecting the Lakes: Governors Say “NO” to AIS Introductions from NOBOB Vessels

Aquatic invasive species (AIS), such as the zebra mussel and the round goby, pose a persistent threat to the Great Lakes. In recognition of this threat, Council Co-Chairs Governor Jim Doyle and Governor Bob Taft sent a letter to the United States Coast Guard (USCG) on May 6 asking them to help protect the Great Lakes from AIS. The letter, written on behalf of the Council, called for strict regulations for vessels that declare no ballast on board (NOBOBs).

AIS introductions have had enormous ecological and economic consequences for the Great Lakes. They are difficult to control and almost impossible to eradicate once established. AIS management strategies must focus on preventing new introductions.

Although ballast water introductions are the primary vector for AIS introductions, the majority of vessels entering the Great Lakes declare no ballast on

board. These vessels contain a substantial volume of residual water and sediments that can



Zebra mussels wreak havoc in Lake Michigan.

Photo courtesy NOAA, GLERL

harbor AIS. When these vessels unload cargo, ballast water is pumped aboard to compensate for the lost cargo weight and mixes with the residual ballast material. Therefore, without strict management requirements for these

vessels, AIS can be discharged into the Lakes through routine loading and unloading operations.

Mike Conlin, Chair of the Council’s AIS Task Force, joined Council staff and representatives

from the Great Lakes States at a USCG public meeting on May 9 to provide comments on this issue.

“While technology continues to emerge, the USCG must make enacting mandatory regulations for NOBOB vessels an immediate priority,” Conlin said.

“Mandatory regulations will encourage the development of technology and help realize the goal of zero discharge of living organisms from vessels entering the Great Lakes as soon as possible.”

Conlin said that any management plan should require vessels to employ an effective treatment protocol before discharging any water or materials from ballast tanks if NOBOB vessels cannot safely flush their ballast tanks in the open seas.

For more information, or to read the Governors’ letter, please visit <http://cglg.org/projects/ais/index.asp>

Great Lakes Restoration and Protection Strategy to be Unveiled

Since December, the Great Lakes Governors have led the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration along with the Administration, Great Lakes Mayors, Tribes and representatives of Congress. The Collaboration, which includes over 1,500 participants, will release a draft Great Lakes Protection and Restoration Strategy in Duluth, Minnesota on July 7.

Following the release of the draft Strategy, there will be an official 60-day public comment period. Public meetings will be held throughout the Great Lakes region to solicit input and feedback, including at least five meetings held by the Collaboration. The public comments will be used to inform revisions to the Strategy. The goal is to unveil the completed

Strategy in December 2005.

Recognizing that immediate actions still need to be taken before the Strategy is finalized, the Governors continue to urge Congress to approve appropriations that will address problems caused by an aging wastewater treatment infrastructure, the legacy of pollution hotspots and the threat of invasive species.

Further information on the Great Lakes Governors Priorities Initiative can be found at <http://www.cglg.org/projects/priorities/index.asp>. Further information on the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration can be found at <http://epa.gov/greatlakes/collaboration/>

Biomass Program Leads Public Education Efforts

Ever wonder how ethanol works? This summer, the Great Lakes Biomass State and Regional Partnership (GLBSRP) will provide informational displays and conduct workshops at renewable energy fairs in Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa.

The first of these, the Midwest Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Fair, is the largest event of its kind in the nation and will be held in Custer, Wisconsin, on June 17-19.

The Illinois Renewable Energy Fair will take place August 13 and 14 in Oregon, Illinois, and the I-RENEW Energy Expo will be held September 10 and 11 in Hiawatha, Iowa. State biomass energy offices will also provide speakers and displays as well as E-85 and biodiesel-fueled vehicles for each of these events.

These “grass-roots” fairs are some of the best venues for getting the bioenergy story out to everyone and the general public is welcome to attend.

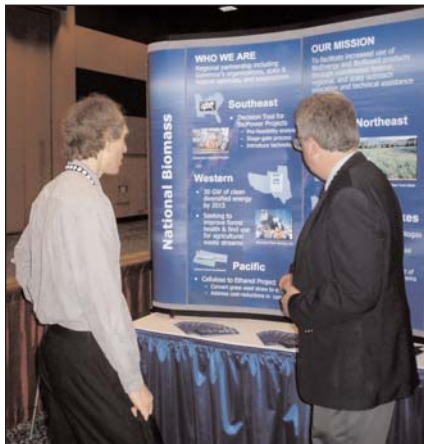
The GLBSRP often provides support, assists with planning and participates in a number of renewable energy events held throughout the region. Later this year, the Partnership will cosponsor the Fourth Annual Conference on Renewable Energy from Organics Recycling, presented by *BioCycle* magazine.

Partnership members also will serve on the planning team and make presentations at this major national event to be held September 12-14 in Madison, Wisconsin. This conference will also include tours of local bioenergy and bioproducts facilities.

The Partnership is always seeking opportunities to team up

with groups to conduct and sponsor workshops on biomass energy topics including biodiesel, ethanol, on-farm biogas, biorefineries and utilization of waste products.

For information about any of the events listed in this article or for assistance on planning an event in your State, please contact Partnership Director Fred Kuzel at fkuzel@cglg.org.



GLBSRP Director Fred Kuzel (right) explains renewable energy projects at a recent energy fair.

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Great Lakes North America (GLNA) exhibited at ITB in Berlin, one of the world's largest travel shows, with a trade and consumer booth. Participants included (from left): Kai Werner, TravelMarketing Romberg; R.J. Belanger, Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau; Shawn Corwin, Bloomington (MN) Convention and Visitors Bureau; L. Anthony “Toby” McCarrick, GLNA; Paul Sherburne, Explore Minnesota; and not shown, Doug Killian, Mall of America.

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