



Great Lakes
Commission
des Grands Lacs

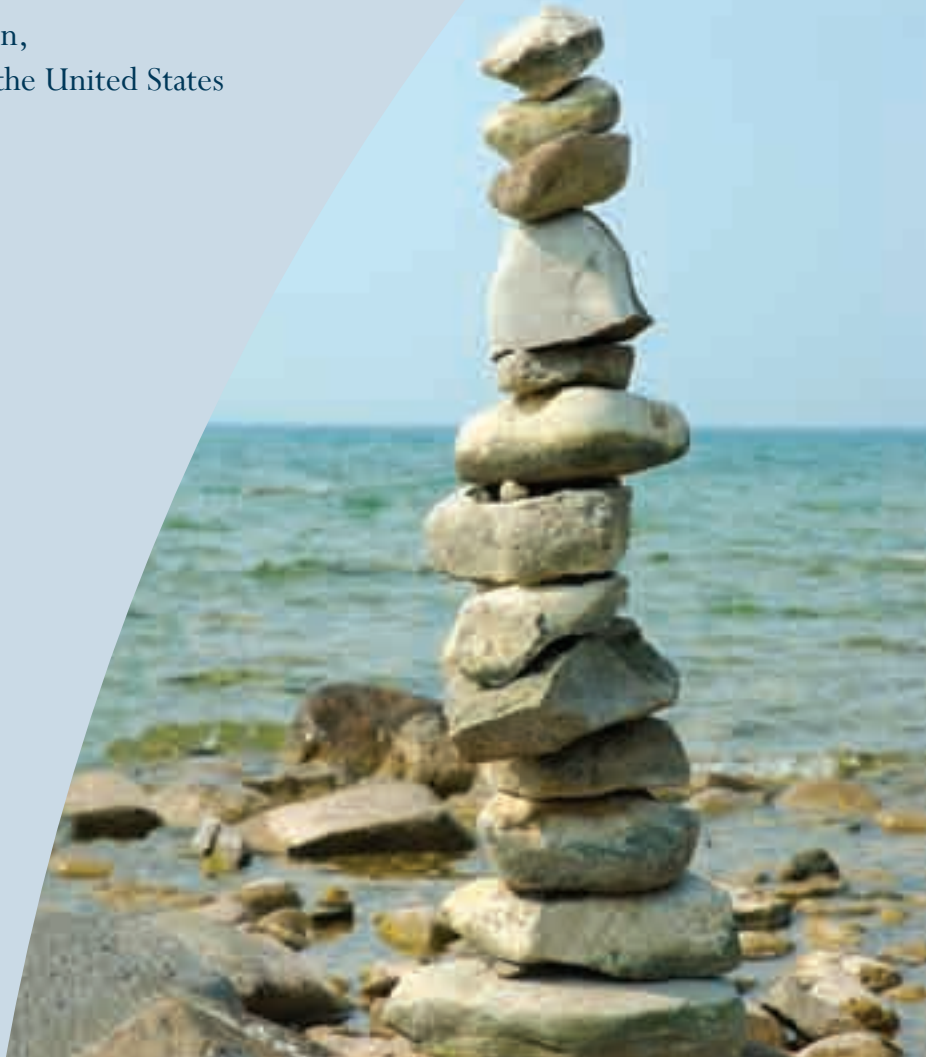
2005 Annual Report

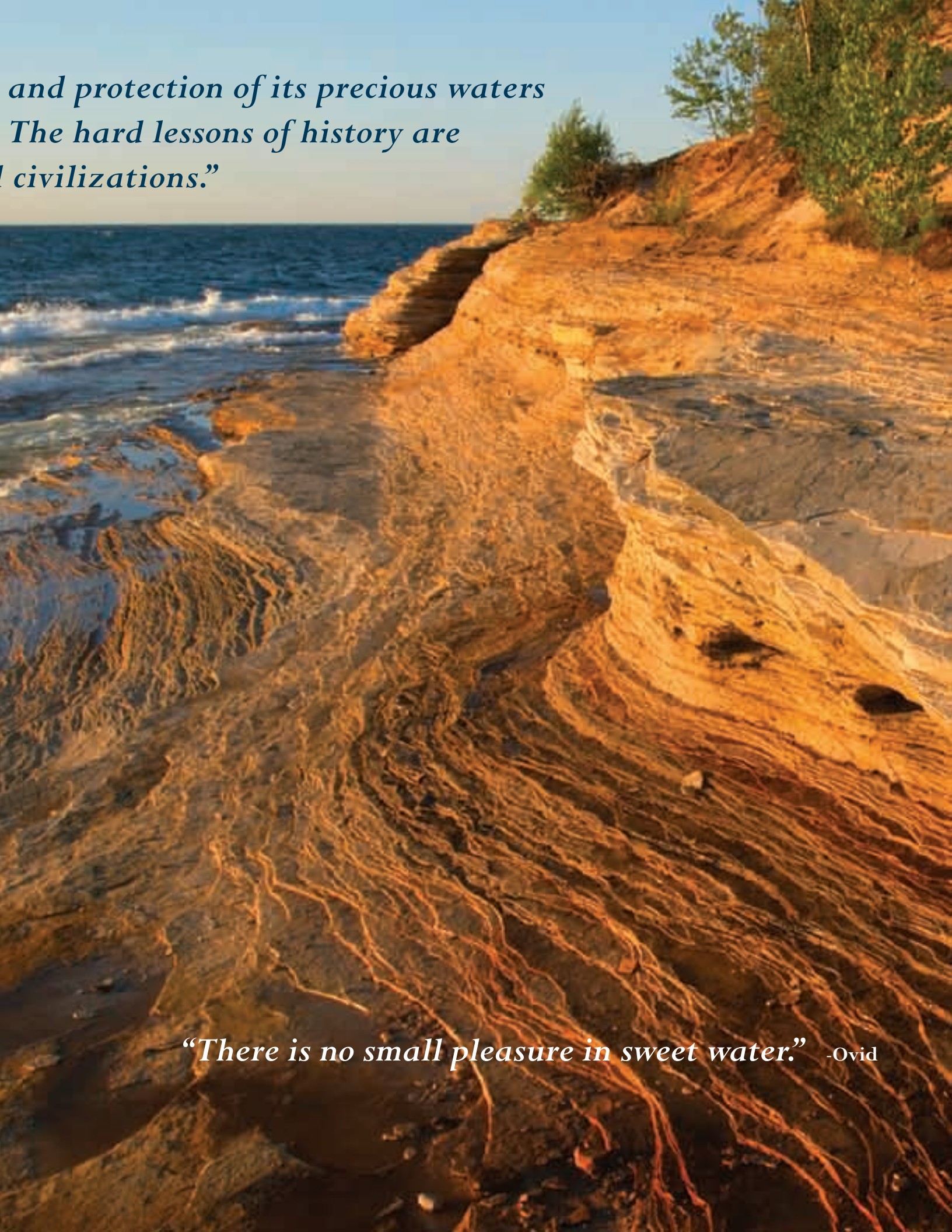
50th Anniversary of
the Great Lakes Commission
1955-2005



“A nation that fails to plan intelligently for the development will be condemned to wither because of its shortsightedness. clear, written on the deserted sands and ruins of once proud

-Lyndon B. Johnson,
36th President of the United States





*and protection of its precious waters
The hard lessons of history are
civilizations.”*

“There is no small pleasure in sweet water.” -Ovid



Fifty Years and Counting

The year 2005 marked the 50th anniversary of the Great Lakes Commission and of half a century of service to the Great Lakes states and the region itself. Founded in 1955 through the Great Lakes Basin Compact, the Commission was established in response to a perceived need for a regional organization to advise and assist its member states in the management of the region's water resources and to serve as an advocate for them on Great Lakes issues before the federal government. The Compact was granted congressional consent in 1968, thereby recognizing the Commission in U.S. federal law.

Navigation matters occupied much of the Commission's attention in its early years, and they continue to be an important concern to this day. As awareness of environmental concerns grew, the Commission's environmental mission grew as well, along with interests in tourism, recreation and land use. This embrace of both economic and environmental priorities has been one of the Commission's singular distinctions and strengths, as it strives to reconcile both interests and integrate them into a balanced approach to resource management.

At the time of its founding, a professional staff of four was adequate to address the material issues the Commission dealt with. Over the years, the issues facing the Commission have grown in both number and complexity, along with the sophistication of our tools for addressing them. Today, the Commission is supported by a professional staff of more than 30 specialists in such fields as resource management, policy, communications, data management, ecology, hydrology and more to meet those challenges.

Because the Great Lakes are a binational resource, the Commission has always sought to engage Canadian perspectives in its work. This relationship was formalized in 1999 through a "Declaration of Partnership" that established associate membership status for the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Québec.

After five decades, the Commission looks at its past accomplishments with pride and at the future with optimism. The specific issues facing the lakes and the St. Lawrence River will continue to evolve, but the role of the Commission remains the same as it was in 1955 – to be a source of accurate and objective information on public policy issues; a forum for developing and coordinating public policy; and a unified, systemwide voice to advocate member interests. As Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "Greatness is not in where we stand, but in what direction we are moving."



Thomas E. Huntley is a member of the Minnesota Legislature. Contact him at rep.thomas.huntley@house.mn

Celebrations Past, Celebrations to Come

Thomas E. Huntley,
Chair, Great Lakes Commission

By any measure, 2005 was a landmark year from the perspective of the Great Lakes Commission. First of all, we celebrated our 50th anniversary of service to our member states and the region as a whole. That's a significant achievement for any organization and one we can take pride in.

More importantly, 2005 was the year our entire region celebrated two major achievements in Great Lakes policymaking. First, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration was convened and produced a comprehensive strategy to restore and protect the Great Lakes – something the Commission participated in and has long advocated. The year also saw the completion and approval, by the Great Lakes governors and premiers, of the Annex 2001 Implementing Agreements to protect the region's waters against overuse – again, an issue area the Commission has long been involved with.

With the Annex agreements, we now have the tools at hand to help us protect the waters of the Great Lakes basin. History is replete with examples of seemingly endless natural resources that were rapidly depleted once strong demand set in. Though few believe we could ever tap the Great Lakes dry, they could be significantly transformed by the drop of a few feet in their water levels. The Annex agreements offer us a way to guard against that possibility by establishing reasonable protections now before problems develop.

For many years, the Great Lakes Commission has been calling for our region to come together and form a consensus on a broad-ranging strategy to protect and restore the Great Lakes. Thanks to the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, we now have such a plan. More than 1,500 experts and stakeholders from our region answered a call from President Bush to develop a comprehensive assessment of the Great Lakes' restoration and protection needs and a clear set of consensus recommendations for meeting them.

Now it's Washington's turn to do its part, beginning with enacting the near-term priorities identified by our Great Lakes governors and mayors as an initial step in implementing the Regional Collaboration's Great Lakes strategy. We also need our state and provincial legislatures and Congress to ratify the Annex Implementing Agreements and make them legally binding.

Enacting the Regional Collaboration near-term priorities and ratifying the Annex agreements would give the Great Lakes Commission and the region as a whole even more cause to celebrate in 2006 than we had in 2005. Let's do all we can to work with our legislators and members of Congress to make it happen and keep the celebration going.

Thomas E. Huntley, Ph.D.

“Enacting the Regional Collaboration near-term priorities and ratifying the Annex agreements would give the Great Lakes Commission and the region as a whole even more cause to celebrate in 2006...”

2005 Board of Directors



Chair
Thomas Huntley
Minnesota

Chair Thomas Huntley, Ph.D., is a Minnesota state representative and an associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at the School of Medicine and Department of Chemistry at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. He also is director of institutional relations for the School of Medicine.



Vice Chair
John Cherry
Michigan

Michigan Lt. Gov. John Cherry is vice chair of the Great Lakes Commission. With more than 20 years of service in the Michigan legislature as a state representative and senator, including the post of Senate Minority Leader, he has authored and co-sponsored several milestone laws dealing with environmental protection and conservation. He was named 2005 Conservationist of the Year by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs.



Immediate Past Chair
Samuel Speck
Ohio

Immediate Past Chair Sam Speck, Ph.D., is director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. He is chair of the Council of Great Lakes Governor's Water Management Working Group, which developed the Annex 2001 Implementing Agreements, recently signed by the Great Lakes governors and premiers. He also served as associate director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency under President Ronald Reagan.



Patrick Quinn
Illinois

Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn has served the people of Illinois, both as citizen and public official, for more than 25 years. A long-time consumer advocate, he spearheaded the 1983 drive to create the Citizens Utility Board and was elected Illinois State Treasurer in 1990. As lieutenant governor, he has taken a strong interest in supporting regional tourism, including the Great Lakes Circle Tour, and chairs the Illinois River Coordinating Council and the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council.



Kyle Hupfer
Indiana

Kyle Hupfer is director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. A native Hoosier outdoorsman and hunter, he understands that our natural, historical and cultural resources represent some of the most significant assets available to all of us. He specialized in corporate law as a partner in the Indianapolis law firm of Ice Miller and brings to his post both a business sense and love of the outdoors.



Ken DeBeaussaert
Michigan

Ken DeBeaussaert is director of the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes, Department of Environmental Quality. A member of Gov. Jennifer Granholm's cabinet, he also serves on the board of directors of the Great Lakes Protection Fund and the Water Quality Board of the International Joint Commission. A former state legislator, this is his second appointment to the Commission, where he previously served as vice chair.



Denise Sheehan is Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. She began her service with NYSDEC in 1998, overseeing implementation of the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act, and later became executive deputy commissioner. She also spent 11 years with the NYS Division of the Budget, where she was responsible for overseeing the budgets of the state's environmental, recreational and energy agencies.

Denise Sheehan
New York



Bill Carr is Western Hemisphere team leader, Office of International Relations & Protocol, Ontario Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs. A former senior policy adviser and policy analyst in that office and at the Ministry of the Environment, his background is in the development and analysis of policy options on issues affecting international relations. He played an active role in the negotiations leading to the Great Lakes Charter Annex Implementing Agreements.

William Carr
Ontario



Cathy Curran Myers is deputy secretary for water management with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, where she is responsible for the protection of surface and groundwater and drinking water supplies, and represents the commonwealth on seven major interstate river or lake basin commissions. She brings to public policymaking more than 25 years of environmental law practice, split evenly between environmental agency counseling and private practice.

Cathy Curran Myers
Pennsylvania



Michel Lafleur is the Québec Government representative of the Québec Delegation in Chicago, which seeks to broaden the institutional, economic, academic and cultural links between Québec and the 12 Midwest states. An economist by training, he has considerable experience in economics and international business, including serving as director of economic affairs at the Québec delegations in Brussels, Belgium, and Boston, Mass. He also led a team at the Québec Ministry of Finance.

Michel Lafleur
Québec



Todd Ambs is administrator of the Division of Water, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and has more than two decades of experience working on natural resource policy issues. He serves on the boards of the Great Lakes Protection Fund and Upper Mississippi River Basin Association, and the Water Quality Board of the International Joint Commission.

Todd Ambs
Wisconsin





Thomas R. Crane is
Interim Executive
Director of the
Great Lakes
Commission.
Contact him at
tcrane@glc.org

A Year of Change

Thomas R. Crane, Interim Executive Director

For nearly two decades, you have seen the name and the picture of long-time President/CEO Michael Donahue in this space. Mike, who left the employ of the Commission in early 2005, always had a special way of inspiring the reader to believe in the “greatness” of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River region and made each coming year sound more promising and hopeful than the last one for the Great Lakes Commission and the region that we serve.

For this year’s report, my name and picture appear with the column. Writing it has given me pause to reflect on the challenge of the task and the privilege of sharing my views with you. It is with great humility that I endeavor to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Donahue to recap the past year and try to inspire your thoughts for the future.

As the pages of this annual report show, 2005 was a productive year for the Commission in terms of fiscal management, programmatic achievement and services to member states and provinces during a time of transition. We celebrated our 50th anniversary in September at our annual meeting in Ann Arbor, Mich., which provided an occasion to appreciate long-standing partnerships and reflect on the Commission’s half-century of building regional consensus, influencing public policy and providing substantive leadership and support to a variety of Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River programs and initiatives.

In the summer and fall, an organizational assessment and strategic review of the organization was conducted by a private consultant to provide guidance to the Great Lakes Commissioners as they begin the search for a new executive director and to inform future strategic planning efforts. The study was completed in December and can be found on the Commission’s web site, www.glc.org.

On the operational front, the Commission concluded FY2005 in sound financial condition, showing a continued ability to manage its general and restricted fund revenues to achieve the goals and objectives of the organization.

Gen. George S. Patton used to say “always do more than is required of you.” In 2005, this exhortation was certainly exemplified by the dedicated and hard-working men and women of the Commission staff and Board. My belief in the Commission’s bright future can be attributed to the high level of competence, enthusiasm and expertise of our staff and in the strong leadership of the Board, whose members are knowledgeable, caring and committed to the future of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River region and the Great Lakes Commission.

I look forward to being part of the Commission as it begins its next 50 years of service. The future awaits – let’s go meet it.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Thomas R. Crane". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Thomas R. Crane

Who We Are

The Great Lakes Commission was established in 1955 with a mandate to “promote the orderly, integrated and comprehensive development, use and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes basin.” Founded in state law with U.S. federal consent, with membership consisting of the eight Great Lakes states and associate member status for the provinces of Ontario and Québec, the Commission pursues three primary functions: communications, policy research and analysis, and advocacy.

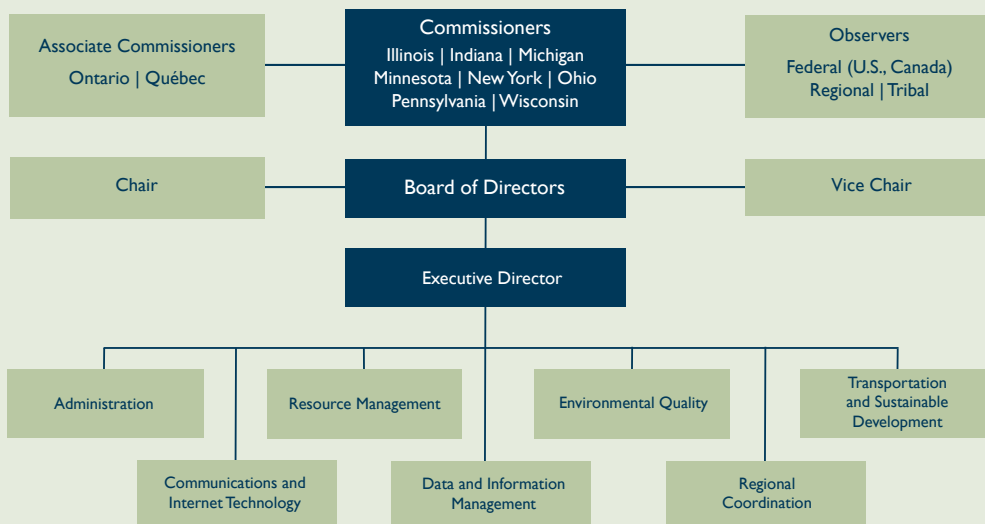
The Commission addresses a range of issues involving environmental protection, resource management, transportation and sustainable economic development. All activities are directed at realizing the vision of a prosperous economy, a healthy environment and a high quality of life for citizens of the region.

Each member jurisdiction is represented by a delegation consisting of three to five members who are legislators, senior agency officials or appointees of the respective governor or premier. A board of directors, consisting of the chairs of each delegation, is the Commission’s executive body.

In carrying out its initiatives, the Commission works in close cooperation with many partner organizations, including U.S. and Canadian federal agencies, binational institutions, tribal/First Nation governments and other regional interests. Representatives appointed by partner entities participate extensively in Commission activities through a formal Observer program.

The Commission is supported by a professional staff in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Commission Structure



Regional Initiatives

A number of major regional initiatives focusing on the Great Lakes were taking place in 2005, with ramifications for the Great Lakes Commission and its work. These activities illustrate some of the major challenges currently facing the Great Lakes and play a considerable role in setting the regional agenda, thereby establishing the issues the Commission and its partners will be addressing. The following are four of the most significant examples from 2005.

Great Lakes Regional Collaboration

This initiative, responding to an executive order by President Bush, brought together more than 1,500 Great Lakes experts and stakeholders to identify the most critical needs facing the Great Lakes. The result, the Great Lakes Strategy, outlines a comprehensive restoration plan organized around eight issue areas corresponding to priorities established by the governors. See the special supplement beginning on the opposite page.

Great Lakes Water Management

A major step toward preserving the waters of the Great Lakes basin for future generations was the completion of the Annex 2001 Implementing Agreements, including the signing of the Sustainable Water Resources Agreement by the Great Lakes governors and premiers. Upon the enactment of the accompanying Water Resources Compact by each state and with the consent of Congress, and other supporting legislation in Ontario and in Québec, these agreements will establish a review process and legal structure to guard against the depletion of the basin's water resources. Great Lakes Commission support for the process has included advocacy on behalf of the agreements and developing tools for water conservation and evaluating water demands.

Integrated Ocean Observing System

The Integrated Ocean Observing System is a NOAA initiative to develop a system for providing improved real-time and historical data on multiple aspects of U.S. coastal and ocean resources, including the Great Lakes. The system will feature 11 regional nodes, one of which will be the Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS). Benefits will include improved data integration and information on weather, waves, environmental health, beach conditions and more. The Great Lakes Commission is coordinating GLOS development.

Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Study

The Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Study (LOSLRS), a five-year effort supporting the development of revised outflow regulation plans for Lake Ontario, was completed in 2005 and delivered to the International Joint Commission (IJC). A massive effort involving thousands of stakeholders, LOSLRS was established to identify outflow regulations that would provide net economic and environmental improvements over the current regulation plan. The final report is scheduled to be released in spring 2006, after which the IJC will hold additional public meetings. Great Lakes Commission involvement included working to assemble, standardize and disseminate data collected as part of the study.





Great Lakes Regional Collaboration: *Recommendations for restoring and protecting the Great Lakes ecosystem*



In May 2004, U.S. President George W. Bush, responding to state and federal restoration initiatives, signed an Executive Order calling the Great Lakes a “national treasure” and directing the federal government to work with the region’s leaders to create a Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) to address significant challenges that have arisen from past and current environmental impacts to the Great Lakes. The Collaboration is a unique partnership of Great Lakes stakeholders, key members from the federal government, eight states, and the numerous tribal authorities, regional binational agencies and municipal governments that share policymaking and management authority over Great Lakes basin. Representatives of Canadian federal and provincial governments also participated as observers. Launched in December 2004, the GLRC was charged with developing a strategic plan for the region that would build upon the extensive regional efforts to date, working together toward a common goal of restoring and protecting the Great Lakes ecosystem for this and future generations.

More than 1,500 people - representing federal, state, local and tribal governments; nongovernmental entities; and private citizens - participated on eight issue-specific strategy teams to develop this strategic plan. On Dec. 12, 2005, the final Great Lakes Strategy was released.

Strategy Team Recommendations

The GLRC Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes includes eight sections, each of which corresponds to a priority identified by the Council of Great Lakes Governors. (A ninth priority focusing on Great Lakes water management, is being addressed separately through the Annex 2001 Implementing Agreements under the leadership of the Great Lakes states and provinces.) Each section was developed by a strategy team that characterized the problems faced in the Great Lakes, established goals and mile-

stones, and made recommendations for actions that focus on the steps needed over the next five years to achieve the greatest results for Great Lakes restoration.

The strategy teams considered the overarching issues of human health, tribal interests and perspectives, and research, and factored them in to the extent possible. The actions identified by the strategy teams address only the highest priorities recommended for early implementation – much more will need to be done to fully restore and protect the Great Lakes.

This was a collaborative process that engendered a new spirit of shared responsibility and optimism. Most importantly, the Regional Collaboration has rallied around a shared vision of a restored, sustainable Great Lakes ecosystem. It has reaffirmed a number of important underlying principles to guide not only decisionmakers as they move forward in implementing key actions, but also every Great Lakes citizen as they carry out everyday activities.

While the Strategy is a best effort to identify some means of moving closer to that shared vision, the Regional Collaboration recognizes that it cannot possibly identify every action or funding avenue that will help achieve the desired end. The members of the Regional Collaboration hope that those whose activities impact the Great Lakes basin will use the Strategy as a benchmark to guide their decisions in a way that supports the ultimate shared vision. The Strategy will succeed only if it is fully utilized in a dynamic, adaptive fashion to leverage even more and greater opportunities to protect and restore this national treasure.

The key recommendations crafted by each strategy team are set forth below. Additional actions, as well as supplemental information, are included in the appendices to the Strategy, which are available online at www.gllrc.us.

Great Lakes Regional Collaboration



Full text of the report is available at
www.girc.us

Aquatic Invasive Species

Immediate action to stop the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) can prevent significant ecological and economic damage to the Great Lakes. The steps needed to do this include:

- ◆ Prevention of AIS introductions by ships through ballast water and other means;
- ◆ Stopping invasions of species through canals and waterways;
- ◆ Restricting trade in live organisms;
- ◆ Passage of comprehensive federal AIS legislation;
- ◆ Establishing a program for rapid response and management; and
- ◆ Education and outreach on AIS introduction and prevention.

Habitat/Species

The plants and animals of the Great Lakes region need habitat to survive in the future, and there is a need for significantly more habitat conservation and species management. The strategy team recommendations focus on:

- ◆ Native fish communities in open waters and near-shore habitats;
- ◆ Wetlands;
- ◆ Riparian (streams) habitats in tributaries to the Great Lakes; and
- ◆ Coastal shore and upland habitats.

Coastal Health

The near-shore waters and the coastal areas are the region's largest source of drinking water and support a variety of recreational activities. To minimize the risk to human health resulting from contact with near-shore waters, needed actions include:

- ◆ Major improvements in wet weather discharge controls from combined and sanitary sewers;
- ◆ Identification and control of releases from indirect sources of contamination;



- ◆ Implementation of a “risk-based approach” to manage recreational water;
- ◆ Protection of drinking water sources; and
- ◆ Improvements to drinking water infrastructure and support for source water protections.

AOC/Sediments

The United States identified the 31 most contaminated U.S. and transborder locations on the Great Lakes under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement with Canada nearly 20 years ago. None of them have been fully restored to date. To remedy this situation, a dramatic acceleration of the cleanup process at these areas of concern (AOC) is needed. The actions recommended by the strategy team are to:

- ◆ Amend the Great Lakes Legacy Act to increase funding and streamline the cleanup process;
- ◆ Improve federal, state and local capacity to manage the AOC cleanups;
- ◆ Create a federal-state AOC coordinating committee to work with local and tribal interests to speed cleanups; and
- ◆ Promote clean treatment and disposal technologies as well as better beneficial use and disposal options.

Nonpoint Source

Nonpoint sources of pollution contribute significantly to problems in the Areas of Concern, as well as to other locations in the Great Lakes, including the open waters. Actions needed to address these problems include:

- ◆ Restoration of wetlands;
- ◆ Restoration of buffer strips;
- ◆ Improvement of cropland soil management;
- ◆ Implementation of comprehensive nutrient and manure management plans for livestock operations; and
- ◆ Improvements to the hydrology in watersheds.

Toxic Pollutants

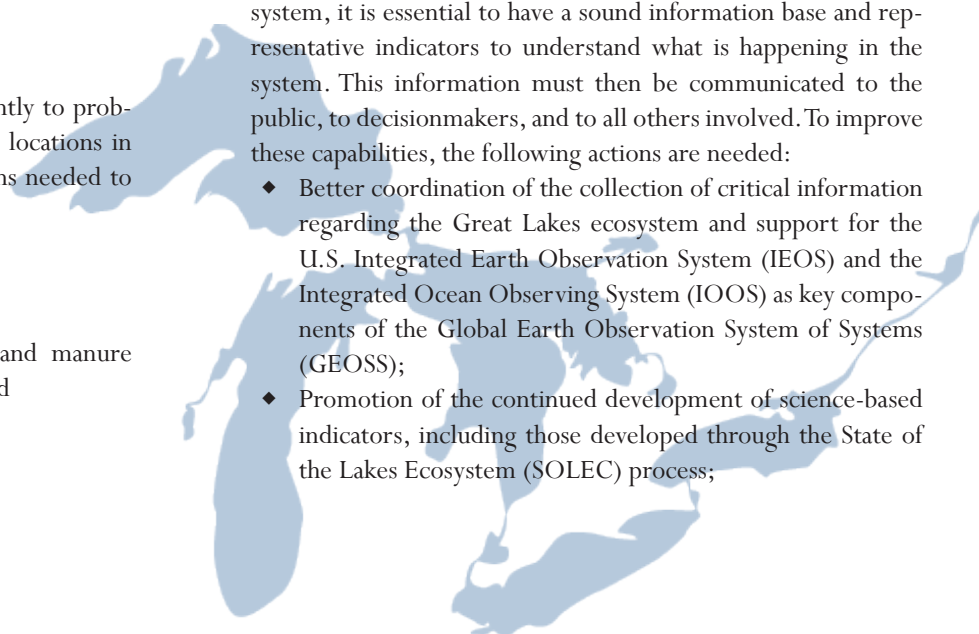
Toxic pollutants continue to stress the Great Lakes ecosystem, posing threats to human and wildlife health. Persistent toxic substances such as mercury and PCBs remain present in fish at levels that warrant advisories and restrict consumption throughout the Great Lakes basin. To address this ongoing problem, actions are needed to:

- ◆ Reduce and virtually eliminate the discharge of mercury, PCBs, dioxins, pesticides and other toxic substances to the Great Lakes;
- ◆ Prevent new toxic substances from entering the Great Lakes;
- ◆ Institute a comprehensive research, surveillance and forecasting capability;
- ◆ Create consistent, accessible basin-wide messages on fish consumption and toxic reduction methods and choices; and
- ◆ Support efforts to reduce continental and global sources of toxics to the Great Lakes.

Indicators and Information

With a resource as large and complex as the Great Lakes ecosystem, it is essential to have a sound information base and representative indicators to understand what is happening in the system. This information must then be communicated to the public, to decisionmakers, and to all others involved. To improve these capabilities, the following actions are needed:

- ◆ Better coordination of the collection of critical information regarding the Great Lakes ecosystem and support for the U.S. Integrated Earth Observation System (IEOS) and the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) as key components of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS);
- ◆ Promotion of the continued development of science-based indicators, including those developed through the State of the Lakes Ecosystem (SOLEC) process;





- ◆ Doubling of the funding for Great Lakes research over the next five years;
- ◆ Establishment of a regional information management infrastructure; and
- ◆ Creation of a Great Lakes communications work group to manage scientific and technical information.

Sustainable Development

Ensuring the long-term sustainability of Great Lakes resources will require a number of significant changes in the way we approach such things as land use, agriculture and forestry, transportation, industrial activity, and many others. To start this process, we need to:

- ◆ Adapt and maintain programs that promote sustainability across all sectors;
- ◆ Align governance to enhance sustainable planning and management of resources;
- ◆ Build outreach that brands the Great Lakes as an exceptional and competitive place to live, work, invest and play; and
- ◆ Provide leadership for sustainable development through implementation of the Strategy recommendations.

Photo credits:

Page 1: Put-in-Bay, Ohio, K. Haverkamp

Page 2: Glen Lake, Mich., S. McKendall

Final Report Cover, U.S. EPA

Page 3: Photo of entire Conveners group, including federal government and tribal representatives, Great Lakes governors, mayors, and other officials in attendance at the Dec. 3, 2004 Regional Collaboration Conveners meeting in Chicago.

Page 4: Petoskey, Mich., Michigan Travel Bureau

The Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration

This special supplement to the Great Lakes Commission 2005 Annual Report is published as a service to the region in order to raise awareness of and build support for the strategy recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. The Great Lakes Commission played a number of supporting roles with the GLRC and in the development of the Great Lakes Strategy. Commissioners or staff co-chaired four of the eight strategy teams, and Commission staff participated on all eight, providing technical support, and drafting and reviewing language, among other roles. The Commission also developed and operated, on behalf of U.S. EPA, the GLRC web site – where the draft and final reports were posted and public comments accepted – as well as a series of online discussion forums for the use of the eight strategy teams.

GLRC Strategy Teams with co-chairs affiliated with the Great Lakes Commission were: 1) Aquatic Invasive Species – Commissioner Ken DeBeaussaert, director, Office of the Great Lakes, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality; 2) Coastal Health – Alternate Commissioner Don Zelazny, Great Lakes program coordinator, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; 3) Areas of Concern – Commissioner Joe Koncelik, director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; and 4) Indicators and Information – Roger Gauthier, manager, Great Lakes Commission Data and Information Management Program.

For additional information contact:

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Program Areas

Communications and Internet Technology

The Communications and Internet Technology Program oversees the writing, design and marketing of all Commission products, including both online and print publications. Among these are the Commission's annual report, quarterly *Advisor* newsletter, media advisories and web sites, including the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN), the region's premier source for Great Lakes news and information. Program staff have training and experience in journalism, print/web design and data management. Program manager: Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org

Data and Information Management

The Data and Information Management Program promotes the development and application of decision support systems and procedures, including databases, regional networks, information inventories, geographic information systems (GIS) and related tools. The program facilitates regional GIS coordination to benefit Great Lakes coastal wetlands studies, biological and hydrological monitoring programs, multimedia pollution studies, emergency response planning, and regional water quantity and quality management. Program manager: Roger Gauthier, gauthier@glc.org

Environmental Quality

The Environmental Quality Program supports efforts to restore beneficial uses in Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs) and other degraded areas; strengthen environmental monitoring programs; improve management of coastal wetlands; and protect high-quality areas. Program staff employ cutting-edge information technologies to advance project goals, and leverage and coordinate the resources and expertise of public agencies and other stakeholders to achieve a healthy and sustainable Great Lakes ecosystem. Program manager: Matt Doss, mdoss@glc.org

Regional Coordination

The Regional Coordination Program carries out the Commission's mandate for regional advocacy as embodied in its enabling legislation, the Great Lakes Basin Compact. This includes building consensus among members; forming coalitions with regional, national and international partners; and presenting recommendations to regional and national leadership. Program staff have considerable experience in shaping legislation, analyzing policy and bringing critical regional issues to the attention of elected officials and other decisionmakers. Program manager: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org

Resource Management

The Resource Management Program promotes the sustainable use, management and protection of the natural resources of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system through a variety of projects and regional services. Major focus areas include invasive species, water resources management and soil erosion and sedimentation. Program efforts are aimed at identifying regional priorities, developing policy, conducting and coordinating research, and sharing information on a broad range of initiatives, in collaboration with scores of project partners throughout the public and private sectors. Program manager: Tom Crane, tcrane@glc.org

Transportation and Sustainable Development

The Transportation and Sustainable Development Program focuses on economic activity in the Great Lakes region and its relationship to the environment. Primary areas of interest are maritime transportation, recreational boating, and land use and conservation, all pursued under the guiding principles of sustainable development. Program staff have extensive experience in Great Lakes policy development and maritime issues, and wide-ranging contacts with the region's maritime, policy and natural resource communities. Program manager: Dave Knight, dknight@glc.org; associate program manager: Victoria Pebbles, vpebbles@glc.org

Major Endeavors

The Great Lakes Commission undertakes a wide range of activities in pursuing its vision of a prosperous economy, healthy environment and a high quality of life for residents of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region. Though many of these may seem unrelated at first glance, all focus on promoting the health and sustainable use of the region's water and natural resources. Some of the Commission's major areas of endeavor are described below as a broad overview of its work; a more detailed list of projects follows on pages 14-15.

Advocacy

Among the Commission's principal roles is to serve as an advocate for the region, identifying and recommending policies, laws and regulations related to the use and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes basin. One of the Commission's most visible activities in this area is co-sponsoring, along with the Northeast-Midwest Institute, the annual Great Lakes Day in Washington, which brings together members of Congress, regional leaders, stakeholders and others to address matters of Great Lakes policy. The Commission also produces, on behalf of its member states, an annual compilation of regional legislative and appropriations priorities for presentation to Congress; regularly communicates with members of Congress through letters, congressional briefings and submitting testimony to committees; and participates in conferences, strategy sessions, briefings and similar events with other Great Lakes interests to discuss and build consensus on policy issues.

Contact: *Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org*

Aquatic Invasive Species

The Great Lakes Commission provides operational support for the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, established by Congress to advance regional coordination on aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention and control. Commission staff worked closely with the Panel in developing an outreach strategy document; a full-color educational brochure for release in 2006; a priority list of invasive species for further research; and a set of draft guidelines to formalize Panel operations. In addition, Commission staff are collaborating with state Sea Grant programs to assist Great Lakes states in developing and implementing AIS management plans through a series of workshops.

www.glc.org / ans
Contact: *Katherine Glassner-Shwayder, shwayder@glc.org*

GLIN and Regional Data Exchange (RDX)

The Commission provides broad-based information services to the region through the online Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN), which continued to expand and serve new audiences in 2005. GLIN served as a key regional data exchange portal for the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, connecting thousands of stakeholders on a daily basis. Via GLIN, the Commission continues to lead regional efforts to design and maintain Internet-based GIS applications, bringing together data and information from various sources into a cohesive, easily accessible format for use by researchers, policymakers and stakeholders. The Commission has also organized biennial conferences and periodic workshops to promote regional data exchange across the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River basin.

www.great-lakes.net
Contact: *Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org*

Great Lakes Observing System

The Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS) is being developed to integrate and provide critical real-time and historical data for multiple users, including resource managers, researchers, homeland security interests, the commercial shipping industry and the recreational boating community. GLOS is a regional node of NOAA's national Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) initiative. Establishment of the GLOS Regional Association is being led by a steering committee in collaboration with more than 300 potential users of the system. GLOS will be established as a nonprofit organization in 2006, with the election of an inaugural board of directors. Outreach and education planning is also underway in collaboration with a newly funded Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE Great Lakes).

www.glos.us
Contact: *Roger Gauthier, gauthier@glc.org*



Land Use

The loss of greenfields and open spaces to sprawl while older urban areas decay and are abandoned is not only wasteful, but also has negative economic, social and environmental consequences. With an underlying theme of linking urban revitalization and open space protection, the Commission's Land Use Policy Roundtable Series was established to support state efforts to develop sustainable land use strategies and encourage a regional approach to land use. Three roundtables, tailored to meet individual state needs, were held in 2005 in Ohio, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, with others to follow. The U.S. EPA-funded series grew out of a 2001 Commission report, which outlined a suite of 32 regional strategies to promote sustainable land use.

Maritime

Support of an economically viable and environmentally responsible marine transportation system has been a priority for the Great Lakes Commission since its creation in 1955. In 2005, the Commission continued its work to identify and promote the environmental advantages of the marine transportation mode through modal shift research. Other efforts focused on the safety and reliability of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway system through infrastructure maintenance and improvement, such as the Soo Lock replacement project and the Great Lakes Dredging Team; enhanced navigation aids, such as the Great Lakes Observing System; and assessing the technical needs of ports and harbors through a new partnership with the NOAA Coastal Services Center. The Commission also neared completion of a first-ever study identifying the economic benefits of recreational boating, and initiated efforts to work with a number of partners in "branding" and marketing Great Lakes coastal tourism.

Monitoring

The Great Lakes Commission engages in a variety of activities to coordinate monitoring efforts and consolidate environmental data collected across the Great Lakes basin. Major activities in 2005 included the Great Lakes Monitoring Inventory and Gap Analysis, a comprehensive report on more than 600 monitoring programs; undertaking management of the Michigan Clean Water Corps, a state program utilizing the efforts of volunteer water quality monitoring groups; and managing the Great Lakes Air Deposition (GLAD) program, which sponsors research on atmospheric sources of toxic substances. The Commission also compiles the Great Lakes Air Toxic Emissions Inventory and provides staff support for the Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium, which is coordinating the binational development of a long-term monitoring program for Great Lakes coastal wetlands, and the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council.

Soil Erosion and Sediment Control

The Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control works to benefit water quality by reducing soil erosion and sedimentation through grants, information and education efforts, and providing professional assistance to state and local partners. Now in its 16th year, the program awarded a total of 39 new grants in 2005, totaling almost \$2.2 million, for local sediment and erosion control projects and education programs. Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. Other activities included publication of the *Keeping It On the Land* newsletter and initiating the "Building Awareness" campaign using a variety of media tools to raise public awareness of the damages caused by erosion and sedimentation.

www.glc.org/landuse

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www.glc.org/basin

Contact: Gary Overmier,
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2005 Projects

The following is a summary of projects the Great Lakes Commission took part in during 2005, either in a leading or a supporting role. Nearly all Commission projects are conducted in collaboration with other partners and funders, but space limitations prevent them all from being listed here. The abbreviations below are used to indicate the range of participation in each project; a full list of funders is on page 19.

Partners and funders:

F = Federal

S = State

L = Local

P = Provincial

C = Canadian federal

N/p = Nongovernmental/private

U = University

“ANS Update:” Produce newsletter covering the activities of the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS), state and federal programmatic updates, and emerging regional ANS issues. www.glc.org/ans/ansupdate (F, S, P, C)

Areas of Concern (AOCs): Assist federal, state and local authorities in coordinating a regional approach to Great Lakes AOC restoration, including convening technical workshops and maintaining web-based information resources. www.glc.org/rap/resources (F, S, L)

GLIN Daily News: Produce online roundup of Great Lakes news items from regional media, distributed each weekday to an email subscriber list. Dozens of Great Lakes organizations are involved through a sponsorship campaign and regional press room. www.glin.net/news (F, S, L, P, C, N/p, U)

GLIN Hydrology Partnership: Posting current lake conditions data on GLIN, including water levels, beach monitoring updates, boating safety and security advisories, and more. www.glin.net/conditions (F, S, P, C, U)

Great Lakes Air Deposition Program: Support state efforts to identify and reduce atmospheric sources of toxic substances to the waters of the Great Lakes region through grant-funded research projects. www.glc.org/glad (F, S, P, U)

“Great Lakes Aquatic Invasions” Brochure: Update the 1998 *Biological Invasions* brochure, with guidance from the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, for distribution throughout the basin and nationally. (F, S, P, C, N/p, U)

Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control: Administer federally funded program to benefit water quality by reducing soil erosion and sedimentation through grants, information and education, and professional assistance to state and local partners. www.glc.org/basin (F, S, L, N/p)

Great Lakes Coastal Tourism: Develop a “branding” strategy for Great Lakes coastal tourism, including promotion of the Great Lakes Circle Tour, among other efforts. www.glin.net/tourism/circletour (F, S, N/p)

Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium: Coordinate the work of two dozen U.S. and Canadian science and policy experts developing a long-term monitoring program for Great Lakes coastal wetlands. www.glc.org/wetlands (F, S, P, C, N/p, U)

Great Lakes Dredging Team: Provide staff support for a partnership of federal and state agencies created to assure that Great Lakes dredging operations are conducted in a timely, cost-effective and environmentally sound manner. www.glc.org/dredging (F, S, L, N/p)

Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN): Operate web-based information service providing a broad range of Great Lakes news and information related to the environment, economy, maps and GIS, tourism, education, and more. www.glin.net (F, S, L, P, C, N/p, U)

Great Lakes Monitoring Inventory: Collect a detailed geographic database of binational monitoring programs and develop a gap analysis report. www.glc.org/monitoring/greatlakes (F, S, P, C, N/p)

Great Lakes Observing System: Manage the development of the Great Lakes portion of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), which provides critical real-time and historical data on lake conditions for multiple users. www.glos.us (F, S, P, C, U)

Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species: Provide organizational and logistical support for panel of experts established by Congress to advance regional efforts to prevent and control aquatic invasive species. www.glc.org/ans/panel.html (F, S, L, P, C, N/p, U)

“Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity:” Produce annual summary of federal legislative and appropriations priorities to address Great Lakes needs, which is submitted to Congress on behalf of the Commission’s member states. www.glc.org/restore (F, S, N/p)

Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC): Provide communications support for the GLRC, including web site design and maintenance, database development, and hosting of discussion forums and email lists. www.glrc.us (F, S)

Great Lakes Tributary Modeling Program: Support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ efforts to develop science-based predictive tools and sediment transport models designed to enable state and local resource agencies to quantify the effects of land use and development activities upon soil erosion and sedimentation. www.glc.org/tributary (F, S, L, N/p, U)

Inland Sensitivity Atlas: Produce digital maps detailing major pipelines and other transportation features, potential spill sources, water intakes and sensitive natural areas for use in responding to and preparing for hazardous spills and other emergencies. www.glc.org/spills (F)

Lake Erie Habitat Map Project: Collaborate with binational partners to classify and map Lake Erie basin habitat boundaries through a pilot initiative. (F, S, P, C, N/p)

Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council (LMMCC): Work with monitoring agencies and organizations in the Lake Michigan basin to develop coordinated monitoring protocols and collaborative efforts. (F, S, L, N/p, U)

Lake Michigan Tributary Monitoring: Coordinate state and federal agencies in monitoring pollutants in Lake Michigan tributaries in order to update loading estimates from the LMMCC's Lake Michigan Mass Balance Project. www.glc.org/monitoring/lakemich (F, S, U)

Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River Study: Produce information management tools for use in large-scale study of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River and adjacent ecosystems. <http://mds.glc.org/loslrs> (F, S, L, P, C)

Land Use Roundtable Series: Support ongoing series of state roundtables designed to encourage sustainable land use policies in the region. www.glc.org/landuse (F, S, L, N/p, U)

Marsh Monitoring in Areas of Concern: Coordinate and enhance marsh monitoring in U.S. Areas of Concern and helping establish indicators to measure progress of fish and wildlife restoration efforts. (F, N/p)

Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps): Serve as ongoing coordinator of volunteer stream and lake monitoring programs for the state of Michigan, along with several state, university and nongovernmental partners. www.micorps.net (S, N/p, U)

Michigan Statewide Public Advisory Council (SPAC): Provide technical guidance, communications and staff support to a statewide coalition of community-based advisory councils that advance the restoration of beneficial uses in the AOCs. www.glc.org/spac (S, N/p)

Modal Shift Study: Update 1993 Commission report on the safety, energy and environmental implications of shifting from land-based to maritime modes of transportation. (N/p)

Recreational Boating Study: Conduct a comprehensive analysis of the total economic impact of recreational boating to the eight Great Lakes states. (F, U)



Regional Data Exchange: Organize workshop series and biennial conference to promote data exchange standards and collaboration in the Great Lakes region. www.rdx.glc.org (F, S, P, C, U)

Regional Needs Assessment: Examine regional needs in the areas of ports and navigation, coastal community development, and the integration and distribution of related data. (F, S, L, P, N/p, U)

Regional Toxic Air Emissions Inventory: Assemble periodic inventories of releases of toxic substances to the region's air, using data supplied by the Great Lakes states and Ontario. www.glc.org/air (F, S, P)

“Restructuring Marine Transportation: A Global Overview of Sustainable Development:” Produce English translation of recent report sponsored by the Québec Transport Ministry. (P)

Soo Lock Replacement Project: Serve as nonfederal sponsor and agent for the eight Great Lakes states in apportioning and managing the nonfederal cost share for a second large lock on the St. Marys River. www.glc.org/soo (F, S)

State AIS Management Plan Workshops: Collaborate with state Sea Grant programs to assist the states in advancing the development and implementation of state AIS management plans. (F, S, L, U)

Submerged Lands Management: Compile survey results on state policies and programs for submerged lands management and application of the public trust doctrine. (S)

The Education And Curriculum Homesite (TEACH): Redesign educational web site to include new fishery education resources, a Teachers' Corner, reviews of teaching materials, sample lesson plans and a discussion forum. www.teach.glin.net (F, S, U)



Revenues and Expenses: Fiscal Year 2005

The Great Lakes Commission concluded FY2005 in sound financial condition, with operating revenues of \$5.86 million.

Expenses exceeded revenues by \$22,334, or less than 0.004 percent. This was due primarily to higher than anticipated commitments for the nonfederal match component for restricted projects. The excess of expenses over revenues were covered by the Great Lakes Commission reserve funds.

These figures were confirmed by an independent audit, which is conducted each year to examine the Commission's financial operations related to the reporting of revenues, expenses, changes in net assets and cash flows for the fiscal year, which ends June 30.

Overall, the Commission continues to effectively manage its general and restricted fund revenues to achieve the goals and objectives of the organization.

Revenues

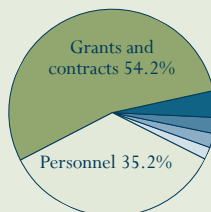
Grants and contracts	\$5,290,311
State contributions	\$480,000*
Meetings, publications and misc.	\$57,520
Interest income	\$36,261
Total	\$5,864,092



State contributions 8.2%
Mtgs., pubs. and misc. 1.0%
Interest income 0.6%

Expenses

Grants and contracts	\$3,188,680
Personnel	\$2,075,325
Office operations	\$247,167
Travel	\$141,612
Communications	\$122,737
Program activities	\$110,905
Total:	\$5,886,426



Office operations 4.2%
Travel 2.4%
Communications 2.1%
Program activities 1.9%

* includes \$36,538 in dues receivable

2005 Commissioners and Alternates

Delegation chairs are in **bold**.

Illinois

Lt. Gov. Patrick Quinn

Rita Athas, Office of the Mayor, City of Chicago
Joel Brunsvold, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources
Jack Lavin, Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Douglas P. Scott, Gov. Appointee

Alternates

Gary Clark, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources
Dan Injerd, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources
Katie McClain, Office of Lieutenant Governor

Indiana

Kyle Hupfer, Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources

Thomas W. Easterly, Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management
Ron McAhron, Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources
Peter McCarthy, Indiana's Intl. Port/Burns Harbor at Portage (*retired*)
Ray Sierra, Intl. Longshoremen's Assoc.

Michigan

Ken DeBeaussaert, Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality

Hon. Patricia Birkholz, State Senator
Lt. Gov. John Cherry, Jr.
Hon. Mike Cox, Attorney General
Curtis Hertel, Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority

Alternate

Michael Leffler, Asst. Attorney General

Observers

Canadian Embassy, Sheila Tooze
Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, Mike Ripley
Coastal States Organization, Katherine Andrews
Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Christopher Goddard
Great Lakes Sea Grant Network, Donald Scavia
International Joint Commission, Karen Vigmstad
Maritime Administration, Great Lakes Region, Doris Bautch
National Association of Conservation Districts, Tom Middleton

Minnesota

Hon. Thomas Huntley, State Representative

Hon. Cal Larson, State Senator
Ed Oliver, Gov. Appointee
Hon. Ann Rest, State Senator
Hon. Barb Sykora, State Representative

Alternates

Henry Hanka, National Scenic Byways Resource Center
Hon. Sheila Kiscaden, State Senator

New York

Denise Sheehan, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Tom McAuslan, Port of Oswego Authority
John Francis O'Mara, Gov. Appointee

Alternates

Gerald Mikol, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Donald Zelazny, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Ohio

Samuel Speck, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources

Joseph P. Koncelik, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Hon. Chris Redfern, State Representative
Hon. Robert F. Spada, State Senator
James Weakley, Lake Carriers' Assoc.

Alternates

John Baker, Intl. Longshoremen's Assoc.
Michele Hoffer, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources
Ed Hammett, Ohio Lake Erie Office

Ontario

William Carr, Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs

David de Launay, Ministry of Natural Resources
David O'Toole, Ministry of Transportation

Alternates

Rob Messervey, Ministry of Natural Resources
Bill Raney, Ministry of Transportation

Pennsylvania

Cathy Curran Myers, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection

Alternates

John Booser, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection
Lori Boughton, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection
John Hines, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection

Québec

Michel Lafleur, Government of Québec

Marcel Gaucher, Ministry of the Environment
André Meloche, Ministry of Transportation

Alternates

Louise Lapierre, Ministry of the Environment
Chantal Ouellet, Ministry of Transportation

Wisconsin

Todd Ambs, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

Hon. Dave Hansen, State Senator
Hon. Fred Schnook, Mayor of Ashland

Council of Great Lakes Governors, David Naftzger
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bill Hunt
U.S. Dept. of Energy, Patrick Wilkey
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office, Gary Gulezian
U.S. Geological Survey, Jim Nicholas
U.S. Geological Survey, Great Lakes Science Center, Leon Carl

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, Stephen Brandt
NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, Eldon Hout
National Park Service, Gary Vequist
Ninth Coast Guard District, Radm. Robert Papp Jr.
St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp., Albert Jacquez
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jan Miller

Commission Staff



Row 1 (front, left to right): Kevin Yam, Al Ballert, Pat Gable, Gary Overmier, Lisa Butch, Marcia Woodburn, Eirin Krane
• Row 2: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, Kirk Haverkamp, Becky Lameka, Christine Manninen, Hao Zhuang, Hugh Brennan
• Row 3: Tom Crane, Ric Lawson, Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, Roger Gauthier, Victoria Pebbles, Elizabeth Schmidt, Pete Giencke, Stuart Eddy
• Row 4: Mike Schneider, Dave Knight, Ron Hasselbring, Richard Garcia, Matt Doss, Jon Dettling, John Hummer
• Not Pictured: Ken Anderson, Luke Forrest, Shannon Glutting, Elaine Sterrett Isely, Laura Kaminski, Chris Kuzak, Kyle Mulka, Devra Polack, Marilyn Ratliff, Rita Straith, and Anne Sturm.
Photo credit: Ted Lawrence, 2004-2005 Great Lakes Commission—Sea Grant Fellow.

Interim Executive Director

Thomas R. Crane

Program Managers

Communications and Internet Technology:

Christine Manninen

Data and Information Management:

Roger Gauthier

Environmental Quality:

Matt Doss

Regional Coordination:

Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, Ph.D.

Resource Management:

Tom Crane

Transportation and Sustainable

Development: Dave Knight, Victoria Pebbles (Associate)

Project Managers

Stuart Eddy, Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, Ric Lawson, Gary Overmier, Kevin Yam

Program Specialists

Hugh Brennan, Jon Dettling, Richard Garcia, Peter Giencke, Shannon Glutting, Kirk Haverkamp, John Hummer, Elizabeth Johnson, Laura Kaminski, Becky Lameka, Elizabeth Schmidt, Mike Schneider, Anne Sturm, Marcia Woodburn, Hao Zhuang

Director of Research, Emeritus

Albert G. Ballert, Ph.D.

Administration

Pat Gable, Ron Hasselbring, Marilyn Ratliff, Rita Straith

Great Lakes Commission - Sea Grant Fellows

Lisa Butch, Elaine Sterrett Isely

Research Associates

Ken Anderson, Luke Forrest, Chris Kuzak, Eirin Krane, Kyle Mulka, Devra Polack, Jasneet Sharma

Outstanding Service Award

Michael J. Donahue, the Commission's longtime chief executive, stepped down in February 2005 to join the private sector after a tenure of 18 years. In recognition of his contributions, he was honored with the Commission's Outstanding Service Award at the 2005 Annual Meeting in Ann Arbor.



Lifetime Achievement Award

Research Director Emeritus Al Ballert, who joined the Commission in 1956 as a member of the original staff, was honored for his years of service with the Commission's Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2006 Annual Meeting. Now 91, Ballert still comes into the office several times a week to work on projects of interest.



Funders and Endowment

2005 Program and Project Funders

The great majority of Commission programs and projects are pursued in partnership with other agencies and organizations, and benefit from funding support. A listing of 2005 funders is provided below. Thanks to all for their assistance!

Alliance for the Great Lakes	St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation in Canada
American Great Lakes Ports Association	State of Illinois
Bird Studies Canada	State of Indiana
Canadian Shipowners Association	State of Michigan
Chamber of Maritime Commerce	State of Minnesota
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	State of New York
Great Lakes Fishery Commission	State of Ohio
Great Lakes Radio Consortium	State of Wisconsin
Industrial Economics, Inc.	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Joyce Foundation	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service
Lake Carriers' Association	USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	USEPA Great Lakes National Program Office
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	USEPA Office of Brownfield Cleanup and Redevelopment
NOAA Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NOAA Coastal Services Center	U.S. St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation
NOAA Michigan Sea Grant College Program	University of Michigan
NOAA National Sea Grant College Program, Aquatic Nuisance Species Outreach Program	University of Minnesota
Project AWARE Foundation	University of Minnesota-Duluth

Friends of the Great Lakes

It's always a great time to become a Friend of the Great Lakes! Your tax-deductible contribution to the Great Lakes Endowment will help the Great Lakes Commission "Restore the Greatness!" The Commission will match your gift dollar-for-dollar, and direct the entire amount to programs that result in a cleaner environment, a prosperous economy and a better quality of life. Visit www.friendsofthegreatlakes.org now to view a list of donors to date and to make your own contribution online! It only takes a minute and you'll receive a complimentary certificate and decal (for auto or boat) to acknowledge your gift.

Endowment Web Site:

www.friendsofthegreatlakes.org

Donors List:

www.friendsofthegreatlakes.org/donors.html

Great Lakes Commission 2005 Annual Report

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p. 13, Soo Locks; p. 16, Isle Royale, Lake Superior

Anne Kitzman: p. 2, Rock piles found on the shore of Lake Michigan signify trail markings

James Phelps: pp. 2-3, Lake Superior sandstone beach

Minnesota Bureau of Tourism: p. 15, Grand Marais

U.S. EPA: cover, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Lake Michigan



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our mission

The Great Lakes Commission is a binational public agency dedicated to the use, management and protection of the water, land and other natural resources of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system. In partnership with the eight Great Lakes states and provinces of Ontario and Québec, the Commission applies sustainable development principles in addressing issues of resource management, environmental protection, transportation and sustainable development. The Commission provides accurate and objective information on public policy issues; an effective forum for developing and coordinating public policy; and a unified, systemwide voice to advocate member interests.



our vision

A Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River system that ensures a high quality of life for all citizens through a healthy environment and prosperous economy.



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