



Making Waves

Membership Edition

April 18, 2016

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Register Now for Annual Meeting! New Speakers Announced!

Registration is now open for the Cities Initiative 2016 Annual Meeting in Niagara Falls, NY June 15-17, 2016. Visit our website at <http://glslcities.org/events/annual-meeting/> for the latest information on registration, speakers, tours, hotel, and other conference activities. Panel topics include climate change adaptation, mitigation and innovation; safe drinking water in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence; algal bloom and nutrient threats; phragmites; and municipal green urbanism and sustainability initiatives. Register now to take advantage of the early-bird special until April 29! We look forward to seeing everyone in Niagara Falls in June!

Regional Body Holds Special Meeting on Waukesha

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body will meet on April 21 and 22 in Chicago to discuss the Waukesha Diversion Application. The Regional Body, which includes representatives from all eight

Great Lakes states, Ontario and Quebec, will review the State of Wisconsin's Proposed Declaration of Finding on the application. This is the last formal opportunity for Ontario and Quebec to weigh in on this historic test of the Great Lakes Compact and Agreement. The meeting is open to the public, but there will not be any public comment opportunity. Follow the Cities Initiative's Twitter (@GLSLcities) for updates throughout the day. Visit <http://www.waukeshadiversion.org/calendar/> for more information on the meetings and the Waukesha review process.

EPA Funds Water Reuse and Conservation Research

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced funding to five institutions to research human and ecological health impacts associated with water reuse and conservation practices. To help promote sustainable water reuse, this research will evaluate how reclaimed water applications such as drinking water reuse, replenishing groundwater, and irrigation can affect public and ecological health. The following institutions received funding through EPA's Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program:

- Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF) Alexandria, VA to actively identify contaminant hotspots, assess the impact of those hotspots on human and ecological health, and quantify the impact of water reuse and management solutions.
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Urbana, Ill. to develop a new framework to understand how adaptive UV and solar-based disinfection systems reduce the persistence of viral pathogens in wastewater for sustainable reuse.
- Utah State University, Logan, Utah to assess the impacts and benefits of stormwater harvesting using Managed Aquifer Recharge to develop new water supplies in arid western urban ecosystems.
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nev. to quantify microbial risk and compare the sustainability of indirect and direct potable water reuse systems in the United States.
- University of California Riverside, Riverside, Calif. to measure levels of contaminants of emerging concern in common vegetables and other food crops irrigated with treated wastewater, and to evaluate human dietary exposure.

More information on these grants is available [here](#).

Greater Lakes Project Releases Study and Guide

The Greater Lakes: Reconnecting the Great Lakes Water Cycle project has released both a study and guide related to the project. The study (available on the Greater Lakes website at <http://glc.org/files/projects/greaterlakes/AWE-FinalReport-April-2016.pdf>) is on improving water conservation and efficiency in six Great Lakes communities. Three of these communities are in the Grand River basin in southern Ontario, and three are in Oakland County, Michigan. Bill Christiansen from the Alliance for Water Efficiency used AWE's tool to estimate the water savings and financial implications of a wide range of potential conservation and efficiency measures. The guide, entitled "A Municipal Guide to Organizing an Inter-Departmental Workshop on Integrated Water Management: Breaking Down the Silos and Building a One Water Approach" (available at <http://glc.org/files/Greater-Lakes-Breaking-Silos-Guide.pdf>) is based on the project's experience organizing a workshop on integrated water management for Guelph, Ontario. For more information, please visit <http://glc.org/projects/water-resources/greater-lakes/>.

Membership News: New Wastewater Treatment Facility Gains Accolades

The Grand Bend Area Wastewater Treatment Facility, jointly owned by the municipalities of Lambton Shores and South Huron, is gaining accolades for the use of sustainable principles in its construction. The \$14 million project used sustainable infrastructure to help reduce the overall cost of the project. Set to come online on April 18, 2016, the facility employed things like pre-engineered buildings with recycled metal, less concrete in biological treatment tanks, and a light colored roof to help keep cooling costs down by deflecting summer heat. Elements like this earned the facility the first Envision Platinum Award in Canada. Envision is an Institute of Sustainable Infrastructure certification. For more information, please visit <http://sustainableinfrastructure.org/envision/project-awards/grand-bend-area-wastewater-treatment-facility/>.

Events and Webinars

Great Lakes Communications Workshops: How to Use Latest Public Opinion Research to Effectively Advocate for the Lakes	Multiple locations around the Great Lakes and multiple dates beginning April 19th.
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<p>Workshop to learn how to effectively communicate about the need for restoration and protection.</p>	<p>Learn more and RSVP at healthylakes.org/2016-tour</p>
<p>Phragmites Workshops with Georgian Bay Forever</p> <p>Free in-person workshops on Phragmites management and training community Phragmites managers in the Town of Collingwood.</p>	<p>Collingwood, ON: Thursday, April 21st. 9:30 - 2:30 Eastern. Click here to register</p>
<p>Water Resilient Cities Conference Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University</p> <p>Sharing practices from cities adapting to climate change across all sectors</p>	<p>April 21-22nd Cleveland State University, Ohio Click to learn more and register</p>
<p>Webinar Series: Polis <i>Creating a Blue Dialogue</i></p> <p>The Climate Nexus Crisis: Water, Food, Energy & Biodiversity</p> <p>Discussion on how changing hydro-climate systems are creating a crisis for water, food, energy and biodiversity, and the range of transformative policies required to manage this crisis.</p>	<p>Tuesday, April 26th 3 - 4:30 Eastern Click here to learn more and register.</p>
<p>Best Management Practices for the Roadside Control of Invasive Phragmites</p> <p>In a one-day workshop, participants will hear from experts and discuss case studies to learn about best practices for controlling invasive Phragmites on roadsides.</p>	<p>Belleville, ON: Tuesday, April 26th, 8:30 - 3:15 Eastern. Registration and more info here.</p> <p>Guelph, ON: Thursday, April 28th, 8:30 - 3:15 Eastern. Registration and more info here.</p>

Membership

Please join the 122 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.

If your municipality would like to share news with the Cities Initiative, please email information to Laura Bretheim at laura.bretheim@glslcities.org.

