



Making Waves

Membership Edition

May 2, 2016

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Register for Annual Meeting by May 10 for Early Bird Rate!

Join us in Niagara Falls, NY, June 15-17, for the Cities Initiative Annual Meeting and Conference. Visit our website at <http://glslcities.org/events/annual-meeting/> for registration, speakers, tours, hotel, and other information on 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 May 10! We look forward to seeing everyone in Niagara Falls in June!



Waukesha Update: Key Next Steps

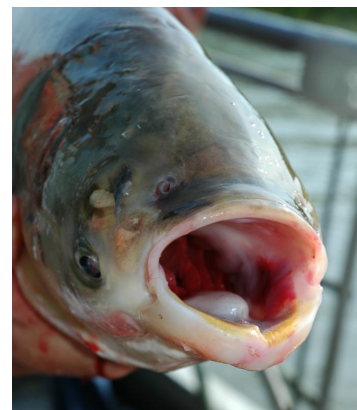
The Great Lakes and Saint-Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body met on April 21 and 22 in Chicago, IL, to discuss the Waukesha Water Diversion Application. Members of the Regional Body submitted comments and asked questions about the application. On April 27, the application was updated with a new, smaller water supply service area and several other modifications, more minor in nature. On May 2, the Regional Body meeting will continue as a webinar, open to the public but without public comment ([register by clicking here](#)). Following the May 2 meeting, the Regional Body will meet in person on May 10-11 in Chicago with the hopes of producing a recommendation to the Compact Council. A final vote on the application by the Compact Council is expected on June 13. The Cities Initiative is studying the proposed amendments and will keep monitoring the application process over the next few weeks.

U.S. House Passes Key Great Lakes Funding Bill

The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Act, which will provide vital funding to Great Lakes programs over the next year. GLRI funds pollution prevention, invasive species programs, habitat protection, and many other restoration projects that ensure the long-term health of the Great Lakes. The Cities Initiative thanks the many Great Lakes region congressional representatives and other organizations who were instrumental in the passing of this essential legislation. [Read more about GLRI here.](#)

Asian Carp Action Plan Released

The Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee has released its 2016 Asian Carp Control Action Plan. The Plan outlines efforts at the federal, state, provincial, and local levels to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence basin. This year, actions will focus on detecting Asian carp at various life stages, on developing controls at Brandon Road Lock and Dam near Chicago and on increasing other monitoring and prevention efforts,



Credit: T. Lawrence, GLFC

including the construction of a new electric barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. [Read more about the Asian Carp Control Action plan here.](#)

Phragmites Updates: Case Studies and Management Program

The Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative recently launched its Phragmites Best Practices Case Study map and database, which gives land managers easy access to best practices for



Phragmites management. The organization also launched the "Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework Initiative", which standardizes guidelines for adaptive management practices with invasive species.

[Check out the case studies here](#) and the [Adaptive Management Framework Initiative here.](#)

Microplastics Prevention: Stop Pollution at the Shore

Microplastics, the tiny fragments of broken-down larger plastics, are still "a serious threat to [Great Lakes] ecosystems," said Hans Durr of the University of Waterloo. Microplastics build up in the stomach and tissue of fish and other aquatic



species, allowing the tiny plastics to enter the food chain, where they may eventually reach humans. Durr noted that the best way to cut down on pollution is to stop plastic from reaching lakes in the first place - cities can work with industries and consumers to cut down on plastic waste and to ensure proper disposal of existing waste. [Read more about microplastics in the Great Lakes here.](#)

St. Clair River Oil Transportation Request Withdrawn

Plains LPG, an American company, submitted a permit to the Department of State requesting authorization for transporting crude oil through two pipelines nearly 100 years old from Sarnia, Ontario to Marysville, Michigan through the St. Clair River. Like many other members of the public, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative learned of this permit the day after the comment period closed. In response to the lack of awareness, the Cities Initiative sent a

letter to the State Department requesting an extension of the comment period, which was granted for another 30 days of public comment. The Cities Initiative submitted comments requesting denial of this authorization. The Cities Initiative expressed concern regarding the pipelines' integrity and risk of an oil spill as well as Plains LPG's application intent and process. Yesterday, Plains LPG announced that it withdrew its request. The Cities Initiative is pleased with its withdrawal as it protects the St. Clair River from the threat of an oil spill.

U.S. and Canada Seek Input for Lake Huron Lakewide Action and Management Plan

Are you in the Lake Huron region? If you or your organization would like to provide input on the state of environmental issues in the region or give suggestions on the prioritization of such issues, please submit comments to Jamie Schardt, U.S. EPA (schardt.james@epa.gov) and Luca Cargnelli, Environment and Climate Change Canada (luca.cargnelli@canada.ca) by May 31st for consideration in the 2016 Lake Huron LAMP.

Events and Webinars

<p>Webinar: Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body Continued Meeting</p> <p>Continuation of the April 27th meeting of the Regional Body related the the Waukesha Diversion Application process.</p>	<p>Monday, May 2nd 9 am Central / 10 am Eastern Click here to register</p>
<p>Great Lakes Communications Workshops: How to Use Latest Public Opinion Research to Effectively Advocate for the Lakes</p> <p>Workshop to learn how to effectively communicate about the need for restoration and protection.</p>	<p>Multiple locations around the Great Lakes - Ongoing.</p> <p>Find the workshop closest to you and RSVP at healthylakes.org/2016-tour</p>
<p>Webinar: Community Engagement in Urban Greenspace - Stewardship Successes & Struggles in Invasive Species Management</p>	<p>Wednesday, May 4th 11 am Central / 12 pm Eastern Click here to register.</p>

Presented by the Ontario Invasive Plant Council Speaker: Kirushanth Gnanachandran, The Riverwood Conservancy	
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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 Brethem at laura.brethem@glslcities.org.

