



Making Waves

Membership Edition

May 17, 2016

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Speakers Announced! 2016 Annual Meeting and Conference

The Cities Initiative is excited to announce that MP Vance Badawey of Niagara Region, Ontario; Commissioner Dereth Glance of the International Joint Commission; and Cam Davis of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will be giving keynote addresses at this year's Annual Meeting and Conference. Join us in Niagara Falls, NY, June 15-17, for presentations about climate change adaptation; safe drinking water in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence; algal blooms and nutrients; invasive Phragmites; and municipal green urbanism and sustainability initiatives. We look forward to seeing everyone in Niagara Falls



in June! [Click here for registration and more information.](#)

Waukesha Update: Key Next Steps

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Resources Regional Body met in Chicago on May 10 and 11. The goal of this meeting was to achieve consensus within the group on a Declaration of Findings on the Waukesha Diversion Application and to make a recommendation to the Compact Council for a final decision. At the end of the May 11 meeting, an extension of one week was granted to the 10 jurisdictions to study the changes made to the Declaration of Findings and the conditions for approval of the Diversion Application. Despite changes and amendments, the Cities Initiative continues to believe that the Application does not meet the standards of the Compact. [For further information, please click here.](#)

A webinar will be held on May 18, at 8:30am Central, 9:30am Eastern, to finish the meeting recessed on May 11. It is open for the public to listen to by registering at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7933010853787961859>. The Compact Council meeting, where the final decision is expected, is currently scheduled to start on June 21 or 22, in Chicago. Final logistical details have not been made public yet for that meeting.

Greater Lakes Project: Resources and Tools Available for Use

The "Greater Lakes: Reconnecting the Great Lakes Water Cycle" project has released the final set of tools and resources available for municipalities interested in better understanding water conservation, green infrastructure and integrated water management options. The resources include:

1. **Environmental Impacts of Water Withdrawals & Discharges in Six Great Lakes Communities** report which transfers lessons learned from six Great Lakes communities to help municipalities understand the environmental and financial costs and benefits of green infrastructure. It also summarizes the potential environmental benefits of scaling-up green infrastructure across the region: <http://glc.org/files/projects/greaterlakes/GreaterLakes-ECT-Withdrawals-Dicharges-GI-6-Municipalities-Final-20160510.pdf>
2. **The Green Infrastructure Optimization Tool** which can give cities a

preliminary assessment of green infrastructure options for their communities and the effects these options will have. This can be helpful in demonstrating to stakeholders which options are worth pursuing with more in-depth analyses: <http://glc.org/projects/water-resources/greater-lakes/greater-lakes-green-infrastructure-optimization-tool/>

3. **The Integrated Water Management Guide** which gives municipalities an understanding of what they can gain from carrying out IWM and a good sense of the process and effort involved. This can help a municipality determine whether they wish to create an IWM plan: <http://glc.org/files/projects/greatlakes/GreaterLakes-ECT-IWM-How-To-Guide-Final-20160510.pdf>.

Membership News: Wetland Restoration in Chatham-Kent

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority is partnering with Ducks Unlimited and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to restore 140 acres of wetland in former agricultural areas. LTVCA project coordinator Randall Van Wagner emphasized the importance of wetlands in mitigating nutrient runoff into the Great Lakes and their role as a stopover location for birds migrating along two major migratory corridors. [Click here to learn more about the project.](#)

Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Subcommittee Seeking Lake Partnership Stakeholders

The Annex 2 subcommittee of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement governing bodies is currently seeking stakeholders (either individuals or representatives of organizations) to provide input on the Lakewide Action and Management Plans (LAMPs). One lake-specific LAMP is developed each year. Potential participants may also indicate their preferred level of involvement. If you or your organization would like to serve as a stakeholder or stay up-to-date on Lake Partnership activities specific to a particular lake, please submit the following info by June 10 to ec.grandslacs-greatlakes.ec@canada.ca (Canada) or glwqa@epa.gov (US):

Name, Organization (if applicable), Great Lake of interest, degree of involvement desired, and e-mail address.

Great Lakes Observing System Call for Issue Experts

The Great Lakes Observing System is seeking issue experts to inspire engagement with the Great Lakes while using innovative technology to solve Great Lakes issues through their Data Challenge program. Submissions for this program are due August 15th and can include a variety of data communication methods - issue experts are needed to provide information assistance to those applying to the challenge. [Click here to learn more about](#)

[the program.](#)

New Phragmites Prioritization Tool and Best Management Practices

The Ontario Phragmites Working Group has released a new Phragmites prioritization tool to help land managers identify which stands of Phragmites to tackle first. [Click here to view this and other Phragmites resources.](#)

Resource Highlight: City Parks, Clean Water: Making Places Great with Green Infrastructure

The Trust for Public Land has released its new resource, "City Parks, Clean Water: Making Places Great with Green Infrastructure." This online resource explores the intersection between parks and green infrastructure using case studies from several U.S. cities. [Click here for more information.](#)

Events and Webinars

<p>Webinar: Enabling the Water Resources Utility of the Future</p> <p>Presented by the U.S. EPA</p>	<p>Wednesday, May 19th 1 pm Central / 2 pm Eastern Click here to register</p>
<p>2016 Cities Initiative Annual Meeting and Conference "A Greener World, City by City"</p>	<p>June 15 - 17, 2016 Niagara Falls, NY Click here to register</p>
<p>Great Lakes Beach Association Conference</p> <p>Hosted by the Great Lakes Beach Association, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the City of Marquette, and Superior Watershed</p>	<p>October 4-7, 2016 Marquette, MI Click here for more information and registration</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.

