



Making Waves

Membership Edition

January 7th, 2016

In this edition of Making Waves:

- [United States bans Microbeads!](#)
- [Welcome, Oak Creek and new mayors!](#)
- [Cities Initiative meets with Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry Bill Mauro](#)
- [Waukesha Diversion Application Update](#)
- [Compact of Mayors: Mitigating Climate Change in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region](#)
- [Grand Rapids pushes forward on sustainable energy](#)
- [Lake Superior Lakewide Action and Management Plan \(LAMP\) open for comments](#)
- [Windsor working to eradicate Phragmites](#)
- [New sea lamprey, Asian carp developments](#)
- [Resource Highlight: Using Green Infrastructure with Roadways \(video\)](#)
- [Events and Webinars](#)
- [U.S. Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Remembering Mayor Jean-Paul L'Allier](#)

United States bans Microbeads!

On December 18, 2015, President Obama signed the Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015 into law. The Act will phase out the production of microbeads by 2017 and the sale of microbeads by 2018. Thank you to the many municipalities that passed bans on microbeads within their communities, and to all members for supporting resolutions and letters over the past two years

calling for cleaner water through bans on microbeads. Thank you all for your support!

[Read more here \(Toledo Blade\).](#)



Welcome, Oak Creek and new mayors!

The Cities Initiative is excited to welcome Oak Creek, Wisconsin and Mayor Stephen Scaffidi to the organization! With the addition of Oak Creek, the Cities Initiative now proudly represents 120 municipalities in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region. In addition, the Cities Initiative welcomes four newly-elected U.S. mayors to the organization - Mayor Rosalynn Bliss (Grand Rapids, MI), Mayor Emily Larson (Duluth, MN), Mayor Karen Weaver (Flint, MI), and Mayor Jim Carruthers (Traverse City, MI). Congratulations on your election, and welcome to the organization!

Cities Initiative meets with Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry Bill Mauro

The Cities Initiative Chicago office welcomed Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry Bill Mauro this week for a meeting on Great Lakes issues. The Minister and Cities Initiative staff primarily discussed concerns about Asian Carp and invasive Phragmites; they also touched on the Waukesha diversion



application. Many thanks to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for facilitating this visit as a follow-up to conversations held at Queen's Park in Toronto at the beginning of October.

Wisconsin DNR Forwards Waukesha Application to States and Provinces for Review

The city of Waukesha's Great Lakes diversion application and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' review documents were forwarded for regional review to the other Great Lakes provinces and states on January 7, 2016. This triggers a 6 month review process. The public comment period will

run from January 12 to March 14, with a public hearing to be held on February 18, in Waukesha. The application, the calendar of events and all other details are available at waukeshadiversion.org, a new website maintained by the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers. The Cities Initiative intends to participate in the public hearing and will consult its members on the position to adopt. For more information, please contact Simon Belisle, at simon.belisle@glslcities.org or 312-201-4517.

Compact of Mayors: Mitigating Climate Change in the Great Lakes - St.

Lawrence Region

Earlier this week, all members of the Cities Initiative received a letter regarding participation in the Compact of Mayors, an organization that works with municipalities to monitor, inventory, and limit greenhouse gas emissions. 19 members of the Cities Initiative have already committed to the Compact of Mayors, and we hope that many others will consider making a commitment.

[Click here to read the letter from Chair Mitch Twolan.](#) Please respond by

January 31st, 2016.

The Cities Initiative is working to find ways to provide support for member municipalities who are interested in joining the Compact of Mayors but may have limited resources.

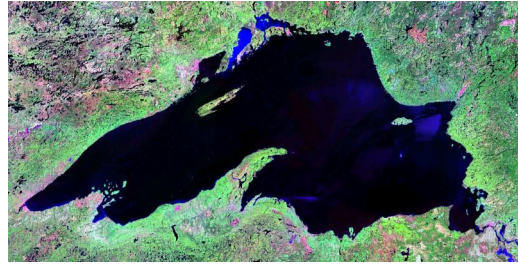
If your city would like to join or learn more about the Compact of Mayors, visit www.compactofmayors.org or contact Scott McKay at scott.mckay@glslcities.org.

Grand Rapids pushes forward on sustainable energy

As of mid-December 2015, the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan is the 12th city in the nation to achieve 2030 Energy District status with 10 million square feet of commercial and institutional space committed to achieving net-zero carbon by 2030. In addition, at Former Mayor George Heartwell's final City Commission meeting, a contract for the construction of a 3-megawatt solar project was approved as well as a project to replace the city's 17,500 street light bulbs with LEDs. Former Mayor Heartwell commented on the projects in reference to the Paris Climate Summit agreement, saying "1.5 degrees or bust!"

Cities Initiative comments on draft Lake Superior LAMP; comment period extended

The Lake Superior LAMP (Lakewide Action and Management Plan) is open for comment until **January 29, 2016**. The LAMPs are action-based documents that address the management challenges and strategies of each Great Lake. The Cities



Initiative encourages its interested members to submit comments, as public comments are vital to ensuring that the LAMPs address the needs of the area. Comments may be submitted to Liz LaPlante (laplante.elizabeth@epa.gov) and Laurie Wood (Laurie.Wood@canada.ca).

[Read the Lake Superior LAMP and find the Cities Initiative's comments here.](#)

Windsor working to eradicate Phragmites

The City of Windsor, Ontario is investing in two pilot projects to eradicate invasive Phragmites in their community. The projects will test the effectiveness of different control methods in wet and dry areas.

[Read more here.](#)

New developments in Aquatic Invasive Species (Sea Lamprey, Asian Carp) controls and research

The U.S. EPA has registered a sea lamprey mating pheromone as the first vertebrate pheromone pesticide; this biopesticide can be used as part of an integrated approach to sea lamprey management that combines lampricide, barriers, and traps. The US Fish and Wildlife Service and Fisheries and Oceans Canada have used these controls to reduce the Great Lakes lamprey population by over 90% from its highest levels. [Click here to read the full press release.](#)

The University of Michigan has released a study that examines the potential impact of Asian Carp on the Great Lakes ecosystem. The study indicates that Asian Carp could potentially make up one third of the total weight of fish in the Great Lakes. A potential carp invasion could lead to a decline in walleye, rainbow trout, gizzard shad, and emerald shiners, with a possible increase in the smallmouth bass population. [Click here to read the full press release.](#)

Resource Highlight: Green Infrastructure and Roadways

Video

The "Greater Lakes: Reconnecting the Great Lakes Water Cycle" project has released a five-minute video highlighting how green infrastructure can be used in combination with roadway infrastructure and planning. [Click here to watch the video](#). The Greater Lakes project is a program of the Great Lakes Commission.

Events and Webinars

<p>U.S. Funding Opportunity: <i>Sustain Our Great Lakes</i></p> <p>The <i>Sustain Our Great Lakes</i> program provides funding for projects that restore and protect stream and riparian habitat and coastal wetlands. This webinar is an opportunity to learn about the application process and to receive information about ideal proposals. Pre-proposals for funding are due February 17th.</p>	<p>January 13, 2016. 10am CST / 11am EDT. Click here to register.</p>
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U.S. Funding Opportunities

<p>Great Lakes Habitat Partnerships: NOAA has released a federal funding opportunity (FF) for proposals regarding habitat restoration in Great Lakes Areas of Concern, specifically regarding Great Lakes Regional Habitat Restoration Partnerships.</p>	<p>Due February 2nd, 2016</p> <p>Visit www.grants.gov, funding number NOAA-NMFS-HCPO-2016-2004742 for details. Contact Julie Sims (julie.sims@noaa.gov) or Jessica Berrio (jessica.berrio@noaa.gov) with any questions.</p>
<p>Five Star Urban Water Restoration Program: The</p>	

<p>National Fish and Wildlife Federation seeks proposals for the Five Star Urban Water Restoration Program. The program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for the future by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships that work to improve water quality, watersheds, and associated species and habitats.</p>	<p>Proposals due February 3rd, 2016.</p> <p>Visit www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Pages/2016RFP.aspx for more information.</p>
<p>Sustain Our Great Lakes: The <i>Sustain Our Great Lakes</i> program provides funding for projects that restore and protect stream and riparian habitat and coastal wetlands.</p>	<p>Pre-proposals due February 17th, 2016.</p> <p>Visit www.sustainourgreatlakes.org for more information.</p>

Remembering Mayor Jean-Paul L'Allier, 1938-2016

Former Quebec City Mayor Jean-Paul L'Allier passed away at the age of 77 on Tuesday, January 5. He was Mayor of Quebec City from 1989 to 2005. Mayor L'Allier played an important role in the early days of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. An official funeral will be held in Quebec City on Saturday, January 9.

Membership

Please join the 120 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

