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GREAT LAKES UNITED

TO: Great Lakes United
Board of Directors

FROM: Phil Weller

RE: GLU Board Meeting Agenda
January 13 - 14, 1990
Holiday Inn
3700 Northwestern Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

DATE: December 28, 1989

Saturday, January 13, 1990

- 8:30a - 12:00 1. Announcements
 - 2. Review of Minutes from October Board Meeting
 - 3. Harvey Mead's Resignation and Replacement
 - 4. U.S. Treasurer's Report - Budget Update
 - 5. Canadian Treasurer's Report - Budget Update
 - 6. Windsor Office
 - 7. Fundraising
Grants
Calendars
Pins
In concert with nature
 - 8. Personnel Committee Report -
Vacations, Benefits, etc.
 - 9. AGM & Annual Report
nomination committee
 - 10. RAP Workshop - February
Bylaw's Committee
 - 11. COA RAP Workshop - March or April
 - 12. C. S. Mott Environmental Leaders Meeting
name the boat
- 12:30p - 4:00 Buffet Lunch and Wisconsin Groups
Presentations
- 4:00 - 6:30 Dinner on your own and Committee Meetings

*Assistant
Deputy Mgr. ->
of emp. Quebec
for Sustainable
Development.
Christ Ross
will be invited*

*Joe Shain
Spray
Ink
Scott*

"An international organization dedicated to conserving and protecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River"

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Canadian Address: P.O. Box 548 Station A • Windsor, Ontario N9A 6M6

Saturday, January 13 Cont'd

- 6:30p - 8:30
13. Discussion of Wisconsin Input
 14. Closing the Loop on Solid Waste
 15. Theatre Production - River Barge
 16. Wetlands Consortium
 17. Canadian Environmental Agenda
 18. Human Health Committee Report

Sunday, January 14, 1990

- 8:30 - 12:00
19. Petition on Detroit WWTP
 20. Great Lakes Initiative
 21. MISA
 22. Next Board Meeting
 23. Office Opening

Contaminated Sediments
Exotics and the IJC
Washington Week
St. Lawrence River Mtg
Jan your Politician
Great Lakes Protection Fund
Fish Contaminants
Michigan/Ontario Advisory
Proposed Anklam Paper Mill

March 24-25 Board Mtg

PHIC



GREAT LAKES UNITED

December 12, 1989

Representative Cliff Skeen, Chairman
Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review
77 S. High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Mr. Skeen,

Great Lakes United expresses concern over the revisions to the Ohio EPA's water quality standards. We urge you to withdraw the rules and replace them with ones that exceed the minimum requirements of the federal Clean Water Act and conform to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. We are deeply concerned that the proposed revisions which set water quality standards fail to adequately protect human health and wildlife from toxic pollution.

Great Lakes United is a bi-national coalition which comprises nearly 200 environmental, sportsmen, labor union, business and civic associations as well as city, county, state and other governments. We are dedicated to the protection of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River system.

We were pleased at Governor Richard Celeste's and Ohio EPA Director Richard Shank's support of Ohio's Phosphate Bill, for their support of the Ashtabula and Cuyahoga RAPs, and for their initiative in seeking funds for the Ashtabula dredging project. However, the proposed revisions of the water quality standards directly conflict with these environmentally supportive commitments and statements of the Ohio Governor and the Ohio EPA Director. What is of particular concern to us is that the water quality standard-setting responsibilities are directly under the Governor's and Ohio EPA Director's control.

Furthermore, we remain disappointed that virtually all of our March 28, 1988 comments (in a joint letter with Ohio Environmental Council) on other water quality standards were ignored. We certainly hope that these comments and those of Ohio Environmental Council and National Wildlife Federation will not be ignored again.

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We urge you to:

1. Delete provisions that allow dischargers to dilute toxic wastes rather than treat them. Ohio EPA should not be more lax than US EPA, which does not allow dilution as a way of approaching toxic contamination. No dilution should be the principle for persistent or bioaccumulative substances. The drought flow, rather than the mean flow of streams, should be used to determine discharge for non-persistent and non-bioaccumulative toxic substances.

Ohio cannot effectively implement its Remedial Action Plans as specified in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement if its water quality standards do not uphold the goal of virtual elimination of toxic substances.

Furthermore, the weakening standards proposed by Ohio EPA indicate a lack of commitment to the Remedial Action Plan process and the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan (LMP) as mandated under the Agreement. The Agreement states that RAPs and the LMP "are to serve as an important step toward virtual elimination of persistent toxic substances."

2. Consider the additive effects of discharge of multiple pollutants. Discharges rarely involve a single toxic chemical. Standards must be set for the combined effect of toxic chemicals.
3. Adopt human health criteria that demonstrate a genuine commitment to protecting human health, e.g. 1 in one million. By setting criteria for carcinogens at a risk level of 1 in 100,000, Ohio has chosen the least protective standard for public health recommended by US EPA.

Furthermore, the standards and criteria for carcinogens and other toxic chemicals should be based on the fish consumption rates of the highest fish consuming group (Lake Erie anglers and their families) and on the most sensitive groups (children and women). Basing the criteria on the average non-angler male again opts for the least protective standard.

4. Develop wildlife protection criteria. It is well recognized that health of wildlife is affected often before human health is. Wildlife protection criteria are needed as a way of preventing human health threats as well as protecting wildlife in its own right.

Rep. Cliff Skeen
December 13, 1989
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GLU is pleased that criteria for a few contaminants will be strengthened and that new criteria would be added for several not previously restricted. But the weakening of criteria for cyanide, cadmium, chromium and copper -- some of the toxic chemicals discharged in the greatest quantities in Ohio -- is totally unacceptable.

Provisions that strengthen Ohio's water quality standards are one way that you can reaffirm your commitment to cleaning up Ohio's lakes and rivers. The currently proposed revisions send a very different message.

Sincerely,



Bruce S. Kershner
Lake Erie Coordinator

cc: Hon. Richard Celeste, Ohio Governor
Mr. Richard Shank, Ohio EPA
Hon. Robert Boggs, Ohio Senate
Virginia Aveni, Office of Lake Erie
Steve Sedam, Ohio Environmental Council
Tim Eder, National Wildlife Federation
Alan Kuper, Sierra Club, Northeast Ohio Chapter
Paul Svedersky, Cuyahoga River RAP



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT LAKES NATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICE
230 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604



DEC 12 1989

Mr. John Jackson
President, Great Lakes United
139 Waterloo Street
Kitchner, Ontario, N2H 3W2
CANADA

Dear Mr. Jackson:

The Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) will soon obtain a new research vessel. You are invited to help select a new name for this vessel. This letter describes what we would like you to do and provides background information to assist you. GLNPO hopes that you will decide to participate.

You are invited to submit a name, with a supporting reason, to the GLNPO to be included with other nominees on election ballots, which will be provided to schoolchildren of the Great Lakes Region. The name that receives the most votes by the schoolchildren will become the name of the GLNPO research vessel. The method that you may choose to select your R/V nominee is up to you. One possible method would be to have your staff provide names and reasons, and then vote for the best one. Since the reason will be provided to school children to help them vote, please keep the length to 40 words or less. Please provide your nomination and the reason for your choice by January 8, 1990 to:

Carol Finch, Director
USEPA, GLNPO, 5GL
230 S. Dearborn St.
Chicago, Illinois 60604

The research vessel name will be preceded with the prefix, R/V, for RESEARCH VESSEL. Ballot names for the new vessel should be appropriate to its mission. The vessel about to be replaced, the R/V ROGER R. SIMONS, was named after a U.S. EPA employee who died in the line of duty. Another EPA research vessel, the R/V RACHEL CARSON, was named after the dedicated scientist who authored Silent Spring, the book that opened the world's eyes in the 1960s to the harm being done to the environment by irresponsible use of chemicals.

Other research vessels have conceptual names. The R/V BLUE WATER was named to suggest the pristine lake conditions that the vessel helps restore. Canada operates the R/V LIMNOS, named after the Greek word for lake and the root word of limnology, the study of lakes. The R/V HYDRA is named after a freshwater organism that itself is named after a mythical creature. Some names are more functional, such as the early oceanographic vessel, the GLOMAR EXPLORER. Acronyms (words made from the first letters of other words), like the U.S. Navy's FLIP (Floating Laboratory and Inverted Platform) have been used especially when the acronym itself describes the ship's function (yes, FLIP actually flips on end).

The name that your organization nominates will be included on ballots with nominations from other organizations interested in Great Lakes water quality issues. The organizations that have been invited to nominate names are National Audubon Society, Center for Great Lakes, Great Lakes Council of Governors, Great Lakes United, Green Peace, Four State Assembly (Indian Tribal Organization), National Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, the USEPA Regions 2, 3, and 5, and the GLNPO.

Schoolchildren from USA Congressional Districts within the Great Lakes Basin or Congressional Districts whose constituency obtain their drinking water from the Great Lakes will be asked to vote for their choice. GLNPO would like schoolchildren of the Great Lakes Basin to select a name for the new GLNPO research vessel to promote environmental awareness of Great Lakes water quality surveillance activities.

A ceremony will be scheduled in October 1990 and be held on the new vessel to formally announce the name chosen. Great Lakes organization representatives, Congresspersons and Senators of the Great Lakes Basin and media representatives will be invited to participate in this event. Photograph opportunities will also be scheduled.

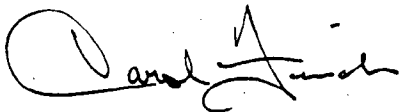
To help you select a name, I have provided a description of the mission and history of GLNPO research vessels. The governments of Canada and the United States of America entered into an Agreement to restore, maintain, and enhance Great Lakes water quality. Monitoring the water quality of the Great Lakes is required by the Agreement of 1978 and Public Law 92-500. The GLNPO research vessel is operated to fulfill monitoring needs. The research vessel is used as a platform to collect water samples from 50 to 120 days each year. The ship is equipped with facilities for preparing, storing and analyzing water samples. Laboratory facilities are available to conduct biological, chemical and limnological measurements.

The GLNPO currently monitors the Great Lakes with the R/V Roger R. Simons. The R/V Rachel Carson was also used by the GLNPO. The ship to be named was built in 1981 and will be refitted during the summer of 1990 to serve as the replacement for the R/V Simons.

The new 180 x 40 foot research vessel is larger than the 122 x 28 foot R/V Simons. There will be sleeping accommodations for up to 11 crew members and 31 scientists on board the ship during monitoring operations. The ship will have navigational, communications, and oceanographic equipment. Winches will be mounted on deck for lowering and raising a pumping system and a Rosette water quality sample collector. Modern permanent and container laboratories will be located on the main deck to improve sample handling capabilities. The biological and chemistry laboratories will be equipped to filter, preserve and analyze water and sediment samples.

I hope that you choose to participate and look forward to receiving your nomination. Should you have questions, please call David Rockwell, Project Leader, at 312-353-1373.

Sincerely yours,



Carol Finch, Director
Great Lakes National Program Office



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Baraga Mill Steering Committee
FROM: Mark Van Putten, GLNRC *MVP*
DATE: December 19, 1989
RE: Request for Environmental Impact Statement

As you may know, there have been several recent developments concerning James River Co.'s proposed new pulp or paper mill. Last weekend, the Michigan DNR and Department of Commerce announced that they would sponsor and subsidize a committee of Baraga County residents to evaluate some of the impacts of the proposed facility. Earlier, in response to a request from U.S. Congressman Bob Davis, Michigan Technological University began a study of some of the potential environmental impacts of the mill. Finally, the Michigan Department of Commerce is apparently arranging for a \$500,000 interest-free loan to the Western U.P. Forest Improvement District to exercise the options on the property.

All of this has occurred notwithstanding the lack of any permit applications by James River Co. and despite James River's failure to provide detailed information about the kind of facility they are considering. Thus, it is obvious that many important environmental and natural resource issues may be identified and addressed in a fragmented and uncoordinated way before any permit applications are filed.

To avoid this, Governor Blanchard should order preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement under the auspices of the Michigan Council on Environmental Quality. I have prepared a joint letter to the Governor requesting this action and am enclosing it for your review. Please let me know by January 16, 1989, if you would like to sign on to this letter.

Thank you.

MVP/mp
Enclosure

Governor James J. Blanchard
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan

DRAFT

Dear Governor Blanchard:

We are writing to ask that you order preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) concerning the proposal by the James River Corporation to construct a new pulp or paper mill on the shores of Lake Superior near Baraga, Michigan. Recent involvement by several state agencies, including the Departments of Natural Resources and Commerce, in promoting this project warrant an immediate, comprehensive evaluation of its potential environmental impacts through the EIS process.

In June, 1989, James River Corporation announced its intention to pursue construction of this facility. Given the nature of pulp and paper operations, the environmental and natural resource impacts of such a facility are likely to be widespread and significant. For example, early indications are that it might be a bleached kraft mill, which would discharge dioxin into Lake Superior. Other likely environmental impacts include air pollution, the destruction of wetlands, and changes in the forest types of the western Upper Peninsula.

In August, 1989, we organized a steering committee of concerned conservation and environmental organizations from around Lake Superior. The committee includes representatives of international, national, regional, state and local organizations. We wrote the President of James River Corporation expressing our concern for the potential impacts of this facility and proposing a process by which these concerns could be systematically and comprehensively addressed. For your information, we are enclosing a copy of this letter.

We also sent copies of our proposal to MDNR Director David F. Hales and to U.S. EPA Regional Administrator Valdas V. Adamkus. It was a constructive, good faith offer to work directly with the James River Corporation and the appropriate federal and state agencies to ensure an objective and complete assessment of the desirability of this proposed mill. Unfortunately, we have not received a response to our proposal from James River Corporation, Director Hales, or Regional Administrator Adamkus.

Even more troublesome, several uncoordinated and fragmented inquiries into some of the environmental and natural resource concerns associated with this facility have begun. For example, at the request of Congressman Robert Davis, Michigan Technological University has created a committee to examine some of the en-

Environmental impacts that may result from this facility. Representatives of our steering committee have not been invited to participate on this committee.

More recently, MDNR Director Hales and Commerce Department Director Larry Meyers announced the creation of a committee of Baraga County residents to examine some of the environmental issues concerning this mill. Membership of this committee will be limited to Baraga County residents, even though it will be subsidized by state funds and despite the likely widespread environmental and natural resource impacts from this facility. Moreover, state money has been promised to purchase options on the property preferred as a mill site by the James River Corporation.

These limited and fragmented efforts are likely to preclude the kind of careful review that a proposal of this magnitude warrants. Both efforts are occurring outside of the normal permit review procedures established by law, and without the concomitant public participation requirements. Yet, the outcome of these committees could very well prejudge the issues that will be raised when the necessary permits are finally sought.

Finally, Lake Superior and the Western Upper Peninsula do not belong exclusively to the residents of Baraga County or, even, to the residents of the U.P. Environmental degradation of these fragile and magnificent resources are of legitimate concern to all Michigan residents, as well as to others who live near, recreate on, or simply love Lake Superior and the U.P. The only way to ensure that all concerned have an opportunity to voice their opinions and that the potential impacts of this facility are systematically and comprehensively addressed is through the environmental impact statement process.

It is clear that the current involvement of the Departments of Natural Resources and Commerce in this project constitutes "major state actions significantly affecting the environment." Therefore, we ask that pursuant to Executive Order 1989-3, you immediately order that an Environmental Impact Statement be prepared by these state departments under the direction of the Michigan Council on Environmental Quality.

Thank you.

RECEIVED DEC 27 1989