



March 19, 1990

GREAT LAKES UNITED

Mr. David Hales
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 30028
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Mr. Hales:

On behalf of Great Lakes United I would like to thank you for the opportunity for representatives of our organization to meet with you and members of your staff in Lansing, March 7, 1990. We appreciate the opportunity to convey our thoughts and concerns about important Great Lakes issues affecting Michigan and were delighted with the fruitful discussions we were able to have on the topics raised.

As we decided at the meeting, we feel it would be very important for us to have a further indepth discussion of Remedial Action Plans with you and members of your staff. I will be in contact with J.D. Snyder to arrange the logistics of this follow-up meeting. The Remedial Action Plan process is extremely important to GLU member groups and we feel it is imperative that we have an opportunity to further discuss this.

Once again, we want to reiterate to you the importance of the state of Michigan's commitment to the EPA Great Lakes initiative process and as we discussed, we would like to work with you to ensure the success of this activity.

Additionally, we would like to stress the importance of the inclusion of a bioaccumulation factor in the determination of water quality criteria to protect wildlife as has been proposed to you by the National Wildlife Federation. We urge that this improvement in Michigan's water quality rules be made in the current process of revisions.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and we look forward to an ongoing relationship that supports our mutual efforts to conserve and protect the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Weller
Executive Director

PW/md

cc: Great Lakes United Board of Directors
"An international organization dedicated to conserving and protecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River"

State University College at Buffalo, Cassety Hall • 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14222
(716) 886-0142

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

SATURDAY, MAY 5 cont'd

- 6:00 - 6:30** Cocktails
6:30 Banquet, Awards and
Entertainer Ken Lonquist

SUNDAY, MAY 6

- 5:30-7:30 am** Birdwatchers' Tour
8:30 Polls Open for Voting - Astor Room
8:45 Eighth Annual Meeting - Regency Room
Credentials Committee
President's Message
Treasurers' Reports
Great Lakes United's Project Reports
Bylaws Committee Report
10:15 Break
10:30 Tellers Report on Election Results
Ratification of Task Force Resolutions
Concluding Remarks
1:00 pm Adjournment
1:30 Brief Meeting of New Board of Directors - Marquette Room
- Additional Events:**
- 1:00 - 3:30** Toxic Tour
Wetland Tour
1:00 - 5:00 Door County Tour
6:00 - 12:00 Clean Water Action benefit dance

Questions? Call Philip E. Weller, Executive Director or
Helene Dreifus, Executive Secretary (716) 886-0142

Printed on Recycled Paper

GLU AT A GLANCE

Great Lakes United provides the organizational base for groups and individuals to become involved in a cooperative manner, to learn from each other's experience and to understand the inter-relationship of environmental hazards to the ecosystem as a whole. GLU has been involved in issues such as the U.S. - Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, Remedial Action Plans, winter navigation and potential water diversions out of the Great Lakes Basin. Through our unified efforts, GLU has provided the catalyst for Great Lakes citizens to be involved in the decision-making process. Through this joint effort, the philosophy of an ecosystem approach to environmental problem-solving can be realized in public policy development. The results are increased environmental, social and economic improvements to the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River ecosystem - - a fragile and treasured resource that needs protection, conservation and proper management.

We hope you will join us at this year's Annual Meeting to further develop joint policies and action plans aimed at the enhancement of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River ecosystem.

ANNUAL MEETING FACILITIES

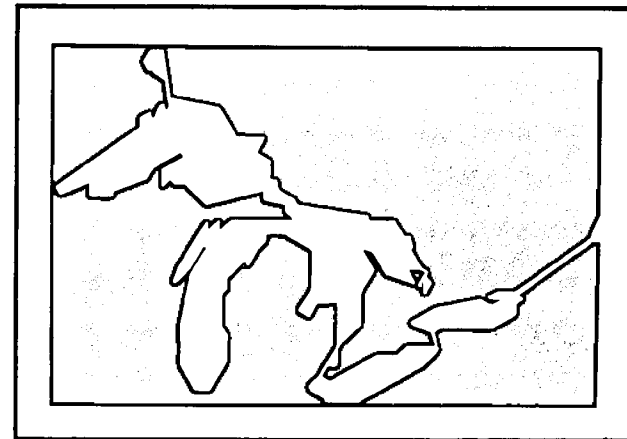
The Annual Meeting will be held at the Best Western Downtowner, 321 S. Washington St., Green Bay, Wisconsin. The hotel is near the banks of the Fox River.

A block of rooms has been reserved for the GLU Annual Meeting at the motel. Rates per night in the Main Area are \$43.95/single, \$47.95/double. Rates per night in the Pool Area \$47.95/single, \$57.95/double. Reservations should be made directly with the Downtowner and are separate from registration fees.

Toll free numbers: In U.S. 1-800-252-2952; in Canada 1-800-528-1234. Please mention Great Lakes United's block of rooms, which will be held until April 20, 1990.

Direct number for Best Western Downtowner:
(414) 437-8771.

Exhibits will be set up in the Astor Room after Noon on Friday and should be removed by Noon Sunday.



1990 GREAT LAKES UNITED EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Best Western Downtowner
Green Bay, Wisconsin**

May 4 - 6, 1990

Registration Form

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ St/Prov. _____

Zip/Postal _____ Phone () _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for the following events:

- _____ \$30.00 Registration Fee
- _____ \$5.50 Saturday Luncheon
- _____ \$10.00 Banquet
- _____ \$10.00 Display Space
- _____ \$3.00 Toxic Tour ___ Fri. ___ Sun.
- _____ \$3.00 Wetlands Tour ___ Fri. ___ Sun.
- _____ \$10.00 Door County Tour (Sun. only)
- _____ James River Paper Co. tour Friday (free)
- _____ Birdwatcher's Tour ___ Sat. ___ Sun.

Please note: Check for above registration fees should be made payable to Great Lakes United and returned to the address below by April 20, 1990:

Great Lakes United
 Cassety Hall
 State University College at Buffalo
 1300 Elmwood Avenue
 Buffalo, NY 14222
 Telephone (716) 886-0142

GREAT LAKES UNITED
EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 4 - 6, 1990
Best Western Downtowner
Green Bay, Wisconsin
Preliminary Program

FRIDAY, MAY 4

- 1:00 pm** News Conference - East Regency Room
- 3:00 - 4:30** Tour of James River Paper Mill
- 5:00** Great Lakes United Board Meeting - Nicolet Room
- 5:00 - 7:00** Toxic Tour
Wetland Tour
- 4:00 - 10:00** Registration - South Lobby
- 8:00 - 11:00** Reception - Marquette Room

SATURDAY, MAY 5

- 5:30-7:30 am** Birdwatchers' Tour
- 8:00 - Noon** Registration - South Lobby
- Opening Session - Regency Room**
- 8:30 am** Welcoming Remarks
Purcell Powless, Chairman, Oneida Tribe
Samuel Halloin, Mayor of Green Bay
- 8:40** Opening Address
John Jackson, President, Great Lakes United
- 9:00** Making Zero Discharge A Reality
Sr. Pat Lupo, Erie County Environmental Coalition, Chair
Zero Discharge
Paul Muldoon, Program for Zero Discharge
Great Lakes Initiative
Mark Van Putten, National Wildlife Federation (invited)
Pulp and Paper Example
Jack Weinberg, Greenpeace
- 10:15 - 10:30** Break

10:30 - 11:30

Wetlands and other Great Lakes Habitats

Bill Robinson, Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition, Chair
 Green Bay Wetlands
 Dr. Hallett J. "Bud" Harris, University of Wisconsin - Green Bay
 The Great Lakes Wetlands Consortium
 Marty Jessen, The Freshwater Foundation
 Rehabilitating Wildlife Habitat
 Thomas Dawson, Wisconsin Department of Justice

11:30-12:15

Credentials and Nominations Committees Reports

12:15 pm -

Luncheon - Marquette Room

1:15 - 1:45

Jobs and the Environment- Are They Compatible?

Richard Grossman, Author, **Fear At Work**
 Introduced by UAW Local 1007 President William Neuhaus

1:45 - 2:45

RAPs - Realizing the Potential

Camilla Smith, Save The River, Chair
 The Green Bay Case -
 Becky Leighton, Lake Michigan Federation
 Detroit and St. Clair -
 Rick Coronado, Windsor Environmental Alliance
 Overview of RAPs -
 Karen Murphy, Great Lakes United

2:45 - 3:00

Break

3:00 - 5:00

Task Force Sessions

1. Air Toxics
Jane Elder, Sierra Club
2. Contaminated Sediments
Glenda Daniel, Lake Michigan Federation
3. Human Health
Sarah Miller, Canadian Environmental Law Association and Sr. Pat Lupo, Erie County Environmental Coalition
4. Levels, Flows and Coastal Issues
Beth Millemann, Coast Alliance
5. Water Quality and GLWQA Interpretation
John Jackson, Great Lakes United
6. RAPs
Becky Leighton, Lake Michigan Federation
7. Fish & Wildlife Protection
Bill Robinson, Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition





GREAT LAKES UNITED

March 13, 1990

Sierra Club Board of Directors:

The Board of Great Lakes United has asked me to write to you on their behalf to express our appreciation of Sierra Club's Great Lakes programme.

Sierra Club plays a critical role in linking the residents of the Great Lakes Basin - the vast heartland of North America - with decision-makers in Washington, D.C.

Great Lakes Week in Washington is critical both in educating politicians and administrators in Washington and in educating Great Lakes activists on the often befuddling workings of Washington, D.C.

Sierra Club's regular newsletter on Great Lakes activities at the Federal Government level is an essential means for keeping activists in the Great Lakes region aware of the role they can play in affecting decisions in Washington.

Sierra Club's lead role in raising the issue of atmospheric deposition in the Great Lakes has been invaluable. Through this effort, Great Lakes' groups have been able to support Sierra Club's national campaign on this issue by conducting news conferences and other educational events. This has been just one example of the understanding of the ecosystem approach that has developed in the Great Lakes Basin.

We are pleased to be working with the Sierra Club in this unique experiment on using an ecosystem approach to dealing with environmental problems. We look forward to continuing to work together.

Yours sincerely,

John Jackson
President

JJ/md

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State University College at Buffalo, Cassety Hall • 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14222
(716) 886-0142

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





International Joint Commission

For Release March 2, 1990

Contact:	Washington	Frank Bevacqua	(202) 673-6222
	Ottawa	Alan Clarke	(613) 995-2984
	Detroit	Sally Cole-Misch	(313) 226-2170
	Windsor	Sally Cole-Misch	(519) 256-7821

IJC Appoints Lake Levels Study Board

The International Joint Commission has appointed the Levels Reference Study Board to conduct the second phase of its study of the impacts of fluctuating water levels in the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence River Basin. In 1986, following record high water levels in the Great Lakes system, the Governments of the United States and Canada asked the Commission to report on actions governments could take to alleviate problems which occur when water levels change.

The Commission, by directive dated February 8, 1990, established the Board and identified the substantive investigations which it is to undertake. The Board is also directed to submit a draft plan of study to the Commission by May 15, 1990.

Among the steps the Commission has taken to insure an open study process is the appointment of two nongovernmental members to the Board on an interim basis to assist with drafting of the plan of study. The Commission's directive also provides for involvement by members of the public and various interests in all levels of the study, and for a Citizens' Advisory Committee to assist with the public participation process. Once established, the Citizens' Advisory Committee will also appoint the two permanent nongovernmental members to the Study Board.

Copies of the directive and the board membership list are available to the public on request from:

David A. LaRoche
Secretary
U.S. Section, IJC
2nd Floor
2001 S Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20440

Philip Slyfield
Secretary
Canadian Section, IJC
18th Floor
100 Metcalfe St.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5M1

Sally Cole-Misch
Public Affairs Officer
IJC Regional Office
7th Floor
100 Ouellette Ave.
Windsor, Ontario
N9A 6T3

GREAT LAKES LEVELS REFERENCE STUDY BOARD

United States Section

Brig. General Jude W.P. Patin
Chairman
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
North Central Division
536 South Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60605-1592

Mr. Ronald Nargang
Director, Division of Water
Minnesota Dept. of Nat. Res.
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4032

Mr. Joseph K. Hoffman
Assistant Director
Bureau of Water Res. Mgmt.
PA Dept. of Environ. Res.
P.O. Box 1467
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Mr. Clifford Sasfy II
Past Chairman
International Great
Lakes Coalition
P.O. Box 185
LaSalle, Michigan 48023

Canadian Section

Mr. E. Tony Wagner, Chairman
Inland Waters Directorate
Environment Canada
P.O. Box 5050
867 Lakeshore Road
Burlington, Ontario L7R 4A6

Mr. Maurice Lewis
Director, Conservation
Authorities & Water Mgmt. Br.
Ministry of Natural Resources
99 Wellesley Street, West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3

Mr. Andre Harvey
General Director of Water Resourc
Ministere de l'Environnement
3900, rue Marly
Ste-Foy, Quebec GLX 4E4

Mr. Philip Weller
Executive Director
Great Lakes United
State University at Buffalo
Cassety Hall
1300 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14222



TO: Member Organizations of
Great Lakes United

FROM: Joe Finkbeiner and
Glenda Daniel,
Credentials Committee

DATE: April 17, 1989

RE: Credentials for
Great Lakes United's
Seventh Annual Meeting

We want and need your organization's delegate to the Great Lakes United Seventh Annual Meeting to be a voting delegate at the meeting. A member organization is required to have paid its \$100 membership fee between May 7, 1988 and the start of the general business meeting on May 7, 1989.

Your organization has already paid its dues.

To help your delegate, a form is attached which may be used to obtain voting credentials at the Annual Meeting. If at all possible, please return the WHITE copy with the name of the delegate your organization selected, and which is signed by the official representative from your organization or the president, (chairman, etc.) of your organization. Please return the form BY MAY 1, 1989 to:

Great Lakes United
Cassety Hall
State University College
at Buffalo
1300 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222

Great Lakes United
P. O. Box 548
Station A
Windsor, Ontario N9A 6M6

We can have the credentials approved and the voting card ready for your delegate upon arrival at the Annual Meeting.

Again, the WHITE copy should be returned to Great Lakes United; the YELLOW copy is to be given to your delegate to bring to the Annual Meeting, and the PINK copy is for your records.

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

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State University College at Buffalo, Cassety Hall • 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14222
(716) 886-0142

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





GREAT LAKES UNITED

PROPOSED RULES FOR THE
SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

GREAT LAKES UNITED

1. Admission to the Seventh Annual Meeting is open to Great Lakes United delegates and the general public after paying the \$30.00 registration fee. There is no fee for invited special guests and speakers or the media.

In order to vote at the Annual Meeting, Great Lakes United member organizations must have paid the \$100.00 membership fee between May 7, 1988 and May 7, 1989. Delegates selected by member organizations shall be given voting cards by the Credentials Committee. No individual may represent more than one organization. No individual may cast more than one vote. No proxies will be allowed.

2. Votes shall be cast by a delegate from each member organization having paid the \$100.00 membership fee. Great Lakes United elected Officers, Directors-at-Large and the Regional Directors shall each have one vote and shall be given voting cards by the Credentials Committee.
3. Voting shall be by a show of voting cards.
4. Any member in good standing as a Great Lakes United member organization shall be eligible to hold office. Voting for candidates for Great Lakes United Officers and Board of Directors shall be by a show of voting cards. Tellers will provide ballots to the members.

Voters shall place ballots in the ballot box.

5. Delegates wishing to speak shall state their name and organization and are required to use the public address system.
6. No delegate shall speak twice on an issue until all delegates have had an opportunity to speak, unless requested by the Chair.
7. A quorum shall be 15 percent of the total possible, eligible voting delegates.
8. "Roberts' Rules of Order," Revised, shall govern the Seventh Annual Meeting in all cases in which they are applicable and in which there are no conflicts with Great Lakes United's Bylaws.

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(716) 886-0142

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



RECEIVED APR 20 1990

SM



GREAT LAKES UNITED

April 23, 1990

Ms. Sarah Miller
Canadian Env. Law Association
517 College Street
Suite 401
Toronto, Ontario M6G 4A2

Dear Ms. Sarah Miller:

Thank you for your continued support of Great Lakes United. You are part of a unique and expanding coalition composed of environmental, sportsmen, union, governmental and business interests throughout the eight Great Lakes states and two Canadian provinces.

The strength of Great Lakes United lies in a diverse and expanding membership whose objectives are dedicated to conserving the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin. Through individual and organizational support, we can forge forward in shaping public policy to accomplish our common goal.

Enclosed is your updated, personal membership card to show your dedication to and support of our efforts at Great Lakes United. As a means of keeping you updated on our activities, you will continue to receive our quarterly newsletter.

We look forward to receiving your continuing input and/or participation in our upcoming activities/functions.

Please feel free to contact us at our headquarters if you have any questions. (716) 886-0142.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip E. Weller". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Philip E. Weller
Executive Director

PW/md

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GREAT LAKES UNITED

GREAT LAKES WEEK ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS CONFERENCE

STATEMENT OF JOHN JACKSON
PRESIDENT OF GREAT LAKES UNITED

MARCH 20, 1990

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the United States and Canada is a remarkable, visionary document. It pledges these two countries to work together using an ecosystem approach to rid the Great Lakes of toxic contamination problems. It espouses a philosophy of zero discharge and virtual elimination for managing persistent toxic substances.

But despite these promises, which were made over a decade ago, we have seen little progress. Reports by citizens' groups, by scientific organizations including the National Research Council and the Conservation Foundation, and by government organizations, including the General Accounting Office and the International Joint Commission and its Boards, have been unanimous in criticising the governments for failing to live up to their promises.

All too frequently, the U.S. and Canadian federal governments and the Great Lakes States and Provinces ignore the requirements of the Agreement. This makes it obvious that action is needed to strengthen the enforceability of the Agreement. Therefore, we are urging the Governments to enshrine the provisions of the Agreement in Federal, State and Provincial legislation.

This enshrinement should include the following actions:

- * Passing legislation in each jurisdiction that specifically requires the jurisdiction to live up to the requirements of the Agreement;
- * Putting in legislation timelines for achieving zero discharge of persistent toxic substances;
- * Setting uniform water quality guidelines to reduce disparities in water quality standards between the Great Lakes States and Provinces;
- * Setting deadlines for completion of Remedial Action Plans to clean up the 42 designated toxic hotspots in the Great Lakes;
- * Setting deadlines for completion of the Lakewide Management Plans for each of the Great Lakes; and

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* Establishing uniform fish and wildlife consumption advisories based on the protection of the health of the high risk populations.

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement reflects the hopes and expectations of the residents of the Great Lakes Basin. Therefore, citizens' groups throughout the Basin will continue to work together to ensure that the Governments follow through on their commitments.



GREAT LAKES UNITED

139 Waterloo Street
Kitchener N2H 3V5
519-744-7503
FAX 519-744-1546

March 14, 1990

Mr Jim Bradley
Minister of the Environment
135 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto M4V 1P5

Dear Mr Bradley,

On February 21, seven representatives of our organizations met with Environment Ontario staff to gain more information on the MISA Issues Resolution Process. As a result of that meeting, we have concluded that this process is unacceptable. Our purpose in this letter is twofold: 1) to explain what is unacceptable about the process, and 2) to recommend a better way to develop these issue positions.

Process is Unacceptable:

The MISA Issues Resolution Process is unacceptable because it fails to live up to the "Public Consultation Principles" contained in MOE's Policy Manual. Specifically, it fails to live up to the second stated principle: "The Ministry will carry out public consultation processes in an objective, open, fair and responsible manner ..."

The MISA Issues Resolution Process is far from being "objective, open, fair and responsible." An issues resolution process has been set up whereby the regulator and the regulated try to work out agreements. The background information sent to us on February 13th describes five Issue Resolution Committees that are "the forum through which issue resolution is 'negotiated'."

People living in those communities whose environment will be dramatically affected by the decisions made at those meetings are not part of this "negotiation" process. Such a closed and biased process is a continuation of historic Ministry-industry collaboration. The public has clearly said over and over that such closed processes must not continue. The Liberal government has stated repeatedly that it agrees with the public that such processes must stop. Nevertheless, MISA proceeds on this basis.

Representatives of the Minister's MISA Advisory Committee have been appointed to the Issue Resolution Committees.

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Their input, though welcomed, does not replace the need for open public involvement. MAC members are appointed on the basis of their expertise -- not as representatives of citizens and public interest groups.

Our Recommended Issues Resolution Process

It is essential to have an open and fair process. This means that all participants -- public interest groups, citizens' groups, municipalities and industry -- must be treated equally. This means that none should be members of special negotiating committees as at present. It also means that everyone should see each others' thoughts and input. We were pleased to receive the "Statement of Ministry Initial Positions" on February 21 and were pleased with Mr Balsillie's promise to send us further Ministry positions. But we were dismayed to find that the Canadian Chemical Producers Association had sent written positions on February 9 and these were not being released to us while our input would go to their members on the committee. It is offensive to not see industry positions when they would be seeing ours and would thus have the opportunity to try to refute our positions.

With this in mind we recommend the following process to replace the Issue Resolution Committees:

- 1) The Ministry should circulate a discussion paper detailing its initial proposals for how to resolve the critical issues.
- 2) The Ministry should then hold public meetings throughout the province to discuss these issues and receive input.
- 3) All interested persons should have an opportunity to review and comment on the discussion paper.
- 4) Having received public input, the Ministry should respond to the comments, decide its positions and proceed to develop the first Control Regulation.

Timing:

We agree with the Minister's sense of urgency in developing MISA as quickly as possible. We believe that our proposal does not have to result in serious delays. The public review period could start within a couple of weeks, as soon as the existing preliminary positions paper is developed into a discussion paper. Also time could be gained by conducting research on sector specific BAT, etc., while the public review process on the general issues continues. In these ways delays could be kept to a minimum.

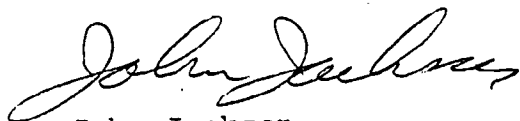
Concerns about time must not be used as an excuse for dropping public involvement. Delays are not the public's fault but rather the fault of the Ministry. In mid-November, the Ministry met with industry and municipalities to discuss the process. Despite our request for a meeting in a letter sent on

November 30th, the first meeting with environmentalists did not occur until February 21. The public should not be made to pay for a three month delay that they did not cause.

Issues are being decided now that will have serious longterm impacts on our environment. The public must be a central part of that decision-making process. Therefore, we urge you to adopt our recommendations for a public role in resolving these central issues.

Because the negotiation process continues right now without public input, we ask you to respond to our letter by March 21st.

Yours truly,



John Jackson
Great Lakes United

Toby Vigod
Canadian Environmental
Law Association

Marcia Valiante
Canadian Institute for
Environmental Law & Policy

Jay Palter
Greenpeace

Craig Boljkovac
Pollution Probe



International Joint Commission
Commission mixte internationale

Release date / Date de parution: February 28, 1990

Contact / Personne ressource :

WASHINGTON	Frank Bevacqua	(202) 673-6222
OTTAWA	Alan Clarke	(613) 995-2984
DETROIT	Sally Cole-Misch	(313) 226-2170
WINDSOR	Sally Cole-Misch	(519) 256-7821

Designation of Erie, Pennsylvania Harbor as a new Area of Concern under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement has been recommended by the International Joint Commission.

The recommendation was made to the Governments of the United States and Canada and the State of Pennsylvania on February 20, 1990. Erie Harbor would be the 43rd Area of Concern in the Great Lakes basin, the first in Pennsylvania.

The proposed designation is based on analyses by and recommendations of Commission's Great Lakes Science Advisory and Great Lakes Water Quality Boards. Annex 2 of the Agreement between the United States and Canada provides for the designation of Areas of Concern in geographic areas that fail to meet Agreement objectives when and where impairment of beneficial water uses has resulted or is likely to result. The Agreement then requires the signatories to cooperate with the state or province concerned in developing and implementing a comprehensive remedial action plan.

The International Joint Commission is a binational body created by the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909. Its responsibilities include advising the Governments on progress in Areas of Concern and the designation of new ones, under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1978.

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International Joint Commission

February 20, 1990

Honorable James A. Baker, III
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Baker:

Pursuant to Annex 2 paragraph 3, of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1978, the International Joint Commission recommends that Erie Harbor, Pennsylvania be designated as an Area of Concern and that the Parties and the State of Pennsylvania cooperate in ensuring that a Remedial Action Plan for Erie Harbor is developed and implemented.

This recommendation is based on extensive analyses and recommendations of both the Great Lakes Science Advisory Board and the Great Lakes Water Quality Board. The Commission urges that careful attention be given to the preparation of a RAP that embodies a systematic and comprehensive ecosystems approach and that provision be made for ongoing public involvement throughout the process.

In as much as this letter represents a special report under Article VII.3 of the Agreement, the Commission intends to announce publicly the substance of the recommendation contained herein.

A similar letter has been sent to the Secretary of State for External Affairs by the Secretary of the Canadian Section of the Commission.

Yours sincerely,

David A. LaRoche
Secretary
United States Section

cc: State of Pennsylvania

Panel Recommends Presque Isle Bay Be Area of Concern

ERIE, Pa. (AP) — A joint U.S.-Canadian panel wants Presque Isle Bay in Lake Erie to be designated a toxic hot spot.

The International Joint Commission said in a statement released Wednesday it has recommended the waters off the coast of Erie be named an Area of Concern by the governments of the United States and Canada.

The commission is a policy-making and advisory body to Canada and the United States involving shared border issues.

The bay would be the 43rd Area of Concern in the Great Lakes basin and the first in Pennsylvania, which has only 44 miles of coastline on Lake Erie.

Secretary of State James Baker and Canadian Minister of External Affairs Joe Clark must rule on the recommendation.

"There is overwhelming evidence supporting the need for the designation," said Bruce Kershner of Great Lakes United, an international umbrella organization of environmental, municipal, labor and business groups

based in Buffalo, N.Y.

He said the designation would be "a recognition that Erie is polluted enough to seriously contaminate the Great Lakes system" and would force the governments to formulate and implement a clean-up plan for the harbor.

"Right now no one is obligated to clean it up," Kershner said.

The pollution is so great that swimming in the bay side of Presque Isle has been prohibited and beaches at Presque Isle State Park often are closed because of bacterial contamination, he said.

More than half of the Army Corps' of Engineers sediment sampling sites in the bay were classified as moderately or heavily polluted with arsenic, cyanide and heavy metals, and continuous studies have revealed deformed and cancerous fish in the harbor.

Out of context

Erie County groundwater survey shows it's under everyone's land

See story on Page 16B

Erie Times Mar. 2, '90

Erie bay 'area of concern' to IJC as pollution hot spot

By LIZ ALLEN

Morning News staff reporter

The International Joint Commission, composed of Canadian and U.S. officials, has recommended that Erie's harbor be designated an "area of concern," joining 42 other places on the Great Lakes already described as toxic hot spots.

A spokesman for the group which has pushed for Erie to be added to that list described the International Joint Commission's action as a major victory.

But a spokesman for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources said the DER is continuing with its plans to do a "comprehensive study" of the Erie Harbor to see if it should be called an area of concern.

"I hope the Pennsylvania DER recognizes that this decision by the IJC means they should get on with the job," said Bruce Kershner, a

field coordinator for Great Lakes United in Buffalo, which has pushed for "area of concern" status for the Erie Harbor.

"It obligates the state and federal government to commit to cleaning up (the harbor). Right now it's a city and county matter only but I don't think the city and county can clean up the bay by themselves," he said.

Kershner is also a member of the Erie Harbor Improvement Council.

"We know there's contamination of sediment and also concern about the Millcreek Tube," said DER spokesman Steve Curcio Thursday night after being told of the IJC decision.

"But there hasn't been a comprehensive study done. If the study shows it's an area of concern, we will support that. The point is the study hasn't been done yet," Curcio said.

The DER this week completed its

requirements for bids for the bay study, Curcio said. "We're looking to really getting this moving as fast as we can," he said.

Calling the Erie Harbor an "area of concern" is more than a question of semantics. Kershner and other environmental groups who want the harbor to bear that label believe it will push the state and federal government to appropriate large sums of money for the clean up.

Kershner said that's what happened in Ohio, where the federal government will kick in \$14 million to \$25 million to Ohio's \$7 million to clean up toxic sediments in the Ash-tabula River.

"Isn't this going to hurt Erie's economy and its image as a place for tourists? The business community has been worried about that," Kershner acknowledged.

But he said that a commitment to clean up the bay will have long-term

economic benefits.

"The business community will benefit in the long run by having the bay be sparkling, not just when the sun sparkles on the waves but down below."

Kershner said that the extent of pollution in the bay has been documented by frequent beach closings on the lake side of Presque Isle State Park, the ban on swimming in the bay, tumors in fish and restrictions on dredging sediment from the bay.

The decision by the IJC to call Erie an area of concern has been sent to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Canadian Minister of External Affairs Joe Clark. Kershner said Baker and Clark will decide whether to commit their governments to cleaning up the bay after consulting with Pennsylvania Governor Bob Casey.

PITTSBURGH PRESS 3-4-90

Crisis on Presque Isle Bay

out of context

When a Pennsylvania resident thinks of Presque Isle Bay in Erie, chances are he or she is thinking of fishing and swimming. When the International Joint Commission thinks of the same body of water, it thinks of a toxic hot spot.

How can two such divergent views emerge? Through publicity — and the lack of it.

Well-deserved word-of-mouth publicity has made the bay Pennsylvania's favorite fishing spot, summer or winter. Little or no recent publicity about pollution has contributed to the contamination which already is so bad that swimming in the bay has been banned.

To combat the mounting problem, the joint U.S.-Canada commission, which advises on shared border issues, has recommended that Presque Isle Bay be designated an area of concern.

Such a designation would be "a recognition that Erie is polluted enough to seriously

contaminate the Great Lakes system," said Bruce Kershner, of Great Lakes United, an international umbrella organization of environmental, municipal, labor and business groups.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Canadian Minister of External Affairs Joe Clark will have to rule on the commission's recommendation.

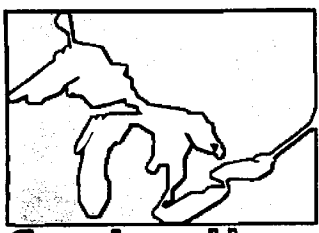
If they accept the recommendation and designate the bay as a toxic hot spot, the United States and Canada would be forced to formulate a cleanup plan for the harbor.

If they reject the commission's call, there will be no obligatory cleanup and the water quality in the bay will only continue to deteriorate.

Considering the choices, there really is no choice at all. The bay must not be allowed to die and possibly take the entire Great Lakes basin with it.

SM

RECEIVED SEP - 7 1990



GREAT LAKES UNITED

TO: GLU Board of Directors
FROM: Philip Weller
DATE: August 30, 1990
RE: Board Package

Enclosed you will find a copy of the minutes from the board retreat August 11-12, 1990 at the Indiana Dunes. The first few pages of the minutes are the decisions we made with respect to the different areas of work over the coming year. As you can see there are some commitments that individual board members made so I encourage you to review the minutes and find any items that pertain to you.

The second days minutes also contain a number of action items for you to review. We have highlighted the action items so as to make it easier for you to see any commitments that you might have made.

One of the key issues we discussed was the active involvement of the board in recruiting both organizational and individual members. A letter to the board from Kristine on the membership development activities is enclosed with this package. You will also find 20 copies of the membership brochure and Join Us folders for your use in recruiting new members. If you need additional copies of these just give us a call. Let us know if you want us in the office to follow-up on any leads for new members.

The minutes for the annual meeting, which you had not previously received, are also enclosed with this memo. In addition there is a copy of the revised Canadian budget for 1990 and a press release announcing the new Windsor office. Finally, a form is enclosed for putting the name, address, and technical expertise of anybody you think we should approach to be on a technical advisory committee.

We will be sending you details of the board meeting in Thunder Bay shortly but please note the date for the meeting is October 12-14, 1990. The meeting following that will be January 25-27 in Erie, Pennsylvania. We will meet March 22-24, 1991 in Windsor, Ontario and then our Annual Meeting will be May 3-5, 1991 in Ottawa, Ontario.

I personally am very excited about the initiatives we discussed at the retreat and look forward to following these through. I look forward to seeing you in Thunder Bay.

PW

Enc.

An international organization dedicated to conserving and protecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River"
State University College at Buffalo, Cassety Hall • 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14222
(716) 886-0142
Canadian Address: P.O. Box 548 Station A • Windsor, Ontario N9A 6M6





GREAT LAKES UNITED

August 24, 1990

Dear Board Members,

At the board meeting this month, it was agreed that each board member would solicit 3-5 new organizational members. This is an excellent idea! GLU needs to expand its membership, and this method will enable us to reach groups from throughout the basin region.

I have sent along GLU packets and brochures which you can send to interested organizations. If you find that you need more packets, or if you need assistance in contacting a specific group, please call. We will help out in any way we can.

Also, if you have lists of groups or individuals that you think we should ask to join, send in their names and we will contact them.

I will be in touch with each one of you over the next month to see how things are going. Again, if you need anything just call. We would be more than happy to help you.

Sincerely,

Kristine Miller
Development Coordinator

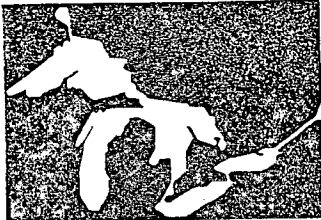
Enc.

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GREAT LAKES UNITED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information:

Philip Weller

(716) 886-0142

or Lydia Stam

(519) 252-7106

Great Lakes United Opens Windsor Office

August 28, 1990 - Great Lakes United President, John Jackson announced today the opening of a Great Lakes United office at the University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario. "A second Great Lakes United office located in this border city will provide the organization with an opportunity to make more direct contact with the organizations and individuals working on Great Lakes issues in the southwestern Ontario and Michigan area", said Jackson. "This area is one of the hot spots for Great Lakes pollution and we need to support the efforts of groups working on concerns such as the pollution of the Detroit and St. Clair Rivers", said Jackson.

Great Lakes United (GLU) is a binational coalition of over 180 groups, including environmental, sportsmen, governmental, labor union and business groups from across the Great Lakes Basin. GLU is dedicated to the protection and rehabilitation of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Since 1985, GLU staff has operated out of its headquarters in Buffalo, N.Y. and this is the first time an office has been established outside the Buffalo location. The office will be located in Assumption College of the University of Windsor.

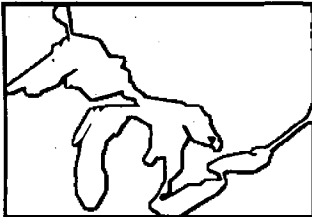
Newly hired GLU staff member Lydia Stam will be setting up the Windsor office and conducting research on Environmental Standard Setting and Regulation in Canada. Stam is a resident of Windsor and has been active in the Environmental Awareness Association at the University of Windsor. Additional research on Environmental Health Standards will be conducted by GLU research associate, Mary Ginnebaugh of Grosse Isle, Michigan.

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

State University College at Buffalo, Cassety Hall • 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14222
(716) 886-0142

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





GREAT LAKES UNITED

RECEIVED APR 18 1990 SM

TO: Great Lakes United Board Members
from Ontario

FROM: Philip Weller *PW*

DATE: April 9, 1990

RE: Meeting with Minister James
Bradley

Great Lakes United has arranged a meeting with Ontario Environment Minister James Bradley for April 30, 1990. The meeting was requested by Great Lakes United to convey our views on important Ontario issues affecting the Great Lakes.

I am sending you this letter to inform you of the topics we would like to discuss with the Minister and to solicit input from you on any additional topics we should be discussing with him. To keep the numbers of people at the meeting manageable, we are only inviting Ontario board members.

We are meeting with the Minister at 4:00 at Queens Park. We will get together at 3:30 in the Cafeteria in the basement. Please let me know as soon as possible if you can come. The principle issues we would like to discuss are:

- 1) MISA
- 2) RAPs Contaminated Sediments
- 3) Clean Air Program (or lack of it)

If you have any comments or positions on these issues that we should be aware of, or any suggestions for additional topics please let me know.

PW

An international organization dedicated to conserving and protecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River"
State University College at Buffalo, Cassety Hall • 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14222
(716) 886-0142
Canadian Address: P.O. Box 548 Station A • Windsor, Ontario N9A 6M6





GREAT LAKES UNITED

June 29, 1990

The Honorable Mario Cuomo
Governor of New York State
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We are concerned about the possibility that a new radioactive waste disposal facility might be located at West Valley. There has been some talk of changing the state law that presently bans the use of West Valley for this purpose. We believe that such a change would be unwise: the West Valley ban should remain in place.

We have a particular interest in the West Valley site due to its location in the Lake Erie watershed. The high-level and low-level wastes that were disposed of at the site in the 1960s and 1970s must be cleaned up as safely and thoroughly as possible. We understand that a multi-year solidification of the high-level liquid waste is now underway at a cost of \$1 billion, and that a decision has yet to be made (pending an EIS) on a long-range plan for dealing with erosion and seepage at the two old burial grounds. We fail to see the logic of bringing any new wastes to the site. Any introduction of new wastes would be an unwarranted distraction from present and future work that needs to be done on the existing wastes.

In 1985 and in 1988, Great Lakes United members passed resolutions (1985 resolution attached) strongly opposing any location of new radioactive waste facilities in the Great Lakes Basin.

Great Lakes United is an international organization dedicated to the protection and improvement of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River ecosystem. Our 180 organizational members include environmental, angler, boater, city and municipal government, union, business and other interests from Minnesota to New York, Ontario and Quebec.

Sincerely,

Philip Weller
Executive Director

An international organization dedicated to conserving and protecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River
State University College at Buffalo, Cassety Hall • 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14222
(716) 886-0142

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



Cuomo Hr (6-29)
90
Sent to

The Honorable Nancy Hoffman
NY State Legislature
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

The Honorable Mario Cuomo
Governor of New York State
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

The Honorable Pat McPhee
NY State Legislature
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

The Honorable Richard Gottfried
NY State Legislature
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

The Honorable William Hoyt
NY State Legislature
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

The Honorable Maurice Hinchey
NY State Legislature
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

The Honorable Mel Miller
NY State Legislature
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

The Honorable James Stewart
NY State Legislature
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

The Honorable Owen Johnson
NY State Legislature
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

The Honorable Jess Present
NY State Legislature
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

The Honorable Ralph Marino
NY State Legislature
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

Also

cc:

Betty Cooke
George Stephens

SATURDAY, MAY 5 cont'd

- 6:00 - 6:30** Cocktails
6:30 Banquet, Awards and
Entertainer Ken Lonquist

SUNDAY, MAY 6

- 5:30-7:30 am** Birdwatchers' Tour
8:30 Polls Open for Voting - Astor Room
8:45 Eighth Annual Meeting - Regency Room
Credentials Committee
President's Message
Treasurers' Reports
Great Lakes United's Project Reports
Bylaws Committee Report
10:15 Break
10:30 Tellers Report on Election Results
Ratification of Task Force Resolutions
Concluding Remarks
1:00 pm Adjournment
1:30 Brief Meeting of New Board of Directors - Marquette Room
- Additional Events:**
- 1:00 - 3:30** Toxic Tour
Wetland Tour
1:00 - 5:00 Door County Tour
6:00 - 12:00 Clean Water Action benefit dance

Questions? Call Philip E. Weller, Executive Director or
Helene Dreifus, Executive Secretary (716) 886-0142

GLU AT A GLANCE

Great Lakes United provides the organizational base for groups and individuals to become involved in a cooperative manner, to learn from each other's experience and to understand the inter-relationship of environmental hazards to the ecosystem as a whole. GLU has been involved in issues such as the U.S. - Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, Remedial Action Plans, winter navigation and potential water diversions out of the Great Lakes Basin. Through our unified efforts, GLU has provided the catalyst for Great Lakes citizens to be involved in the decision-making process. Through this joint effort, the philosophy of an ecosystem approach to environmental problem-solving can be realized in public policy development. The results are increased environmental, social and economic improvements to the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River ecosystem - - a fragile and treasured resource that needs protection, conservation and proper management.

We hope you will join us at this year's Annual Meeting to further develop joint policies and action plans aimed at the enhancement of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River ecosystem.

ANNUAL MEETING FACILITIES

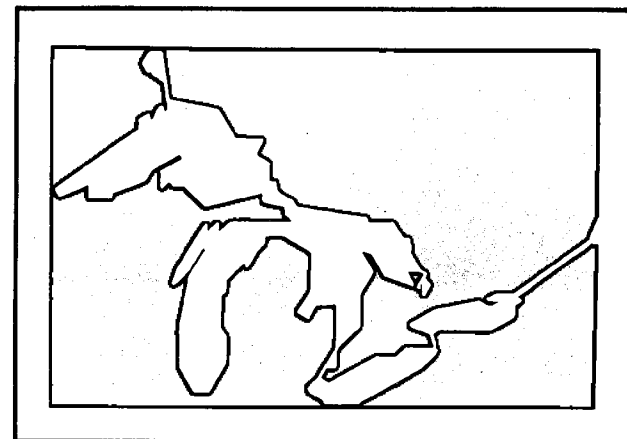
The Annual Meeting will be held at the Best Western Downtowner, 321 S. Washington St., Green Bay, Wisconsin. The hotel is near the banks of the Fox River.

A block of rooms has been reserved for the GLU Annual Meeting at the motel. Rates per night in the Main Area are \$43.95 /single, \$47.95/double. Rates per night in the Pool Area \$47.95/single, \$57.95/double. Reservations should be made directly with the Downtowner and are separate from registration fees.

Toll free numbers: In U.S. 1-800-252-2952; in Canada 1-800-528-1234. Please mention Great Lakes United's block of rooms, which will be held until April 20, 1990.

Direct number for Best Western Downtowner:
(414) 437-8771.

Exhibits will be set up in the Astor Room after Noon on Friday and should be removed by Noon Sunday.



1990 GREAT LAKES UNITED EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Best Western Downtowner
Green Bay, Wisconsin**

May 4 - 6, 1990

Registration Form

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ St/Prov. _____

Zip/Postal _____ Phone () _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for the following events:

- _____ \$30.00 Registration Fee
- _____ \$5.50 Saturday Luncheon
- _____ \$10.00 Banquet
- _____ \$10.00 Display Space
- _____ \$3.00 Toxic Tour ___ Fri. ___ Sun.
- _____ \$3.00 Wetlands Tour ___ Fri. ___ Sun.
- _____ \$10.00 Door County Tour (Sun. only)
- _____ James River Paper Co. tour Friday (free)
- _____ Birdwatcher's Tour ___ Sat. ___ Sun.

Please note: Check for above registration fees should be made payable to Great Lakes United and returned to the address below by April 20, 1990:

Great Lakes United
 Cassety Hall
 State University College at Buffalo
 1300 Elmwood Avenue
 Buffalo, NY 14222
 Telephone (716) 886-0142

GREAT LAKES UNITED
EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 4 - 6, 1990
Best Western Downtowner
Green Bay, Wisconsin
Preliminary Program

FRIDAY, MAY 4

- 1:00 pm** News Conference - East Regency Room
- 3:00 - 4:30** Tour of James River Paper Mill
- 5:00** Great Lakes United Board Meeting - Nicolet Room
- 5:00 - 7:00** Toxic Tour
Wetland Tour
- 4:00 - 10:00** Registration - South Lobby
- 8:00 - 11:00** Reception - Marquette Room

SATURDAY, MAY 5

- 5:30-7:30 am** Birdwatchers' Tour
- 8:00 - Noon** Registration - South Lobby
- Opening Session - Regency Room**
- 8:30 am** Welcoming Remarks
Purcell Powless, Chairman, Oneida Tribe
Samuel Halloin, Mayor of Green Bay
- 8:40** Opening Address
John Jackson, President, Great Lakes United
- 9:00** Making Zero Discharge A Reality
Sr. Pat Lupo, Erie County Environmental Coalition, Chair
Zero Discharge
Paul Muldoon, Program for Zero Discharge
Great Lakes Initiative
Mark Van Putten, National Wildlife Federation (invited)
Pulp and Paper Example
Jack Weinberg, Greenpeace
- 10:15 - 10:30** Break

10:30 - 11:30

Wetlands and other Great Lakes Habitats

Bill Robinson, Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition, Chair
 Green Bay Wetlands
 Dr. Hallett J. "Bud" Harris, University of Wisconsin - Green Bay
 The Great Lakes Wetlands Consortium
 Marty Jessen, The Freshwater Foundation
 Rehabilitating Wildlife Habitat
 Thomas Dawson, Wisconsin Department of Justice

11:30-12:15

Credentials and Nominations Committees Reports

12:15 pm -

Luncheon - Marquette Room

1:15 - 1:45

Jobs and the Environment- Are They Compatible?

Richard Grossman, Author, **Fear At Work**
 Introduced by UAW Local 1007 President William Neuhaus

1:45 - 2:45

RAPs - Realizing the Potential

Camilla Smith, Save The River, Chair
 The Green Bay Case -
 Becky Leighton, Lake Michigan Federation
 Detroit and St. Clair -
 Rick Coronado, Windsor Environmental Alliance
 Overview of RAPs -
 Karen Murphy, Great Lakes United

2:45 - 3:00

Break

3:00 - 5:00

Task Force Sessions

1. Air Toxics
Jane Elder, Sierra Club
2. Contaminated Sediments
Glenda Daniel, Lake Michigan Federation
3. Human Health
Sarah Miller, Canadian Environmental Law Association and Sr. Pat Lupo, Erie County Environmental Coalition
4. Levels, Flows and Coastal Issues
Beth Millemann, Coast Alliance
5. Water Quality and GLWQA Interpretation
John Jackson, Great Lakes United
6. RAPs
Becky Leighton, Lake Michigan Federation
7. Fish & Wildlife Protection
Bill Robinson, Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition



OPERATION OF THE GREAT LAKES UNITED TASK FORCE ON ZERO DISCHARGE
A PROPOSAL TO THE JOYCE FOUNDATION

BACKGROUND

The proposal to launch a basin-wide Zero Discharge Alliance has been generating lots of excitement since the idea was first discussed at the Citizens' Summit in Hamilton, Ontario on October 12-14, 1989, following the International Joint Commission Biennial meeting.

The proposal was then discussed at a Great Lakes Environmental Leaders' Meeting, April 5-6 in Detroit, hosted by Great Lakes United. Present were representatives of: Atlantic States Legal Foundation; Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy; Pollution Probe; Greenpeace; National Wildlife Federation; Ohio Environmental Council; Michigan United Conservation Clubs; Citizens for a Better Environment; Sierra Club; Great Lakes United; and the Lake Michigan Federation. Also present were representatives of the Joyce Foundation and C.S. Mott Foundation. Participants agreed to jointly develop a Great Lakes campaign on zero discharge under the leadership of Great Lakes United. It was decided that discussion of specific proposals to further the campaign would be undertaken at Great Lakes United's Annual Meeting.

At the GLU Annual Meeting May 5-6, 1990, the proposal received further discussion. A resolution was unanimously adopted to "set up a Zero Discharge Task Force" whose purpose is "To build a zero discharge movement and constituency throughout the Great Lakes Basin by creating a basin-wide Zero Discharge Alliance that includes individuals, grassroots community groups and other pro-environment groups throughout the Basin." Many people volunteered to serve on the Task Force.

In every discussion of the Zero Discharge Alliance concept, there has been agreement that mechanisms need to be established to permit community-based activists from around the Basin to fully participate in alliance policy formation, leadership and decision-making.

Citizens from throughout the Great Lakes Basin realize that there is "no time to waste". Pollution in the Basin must cease. The only way for this to occur is to create and organize a broad-based, grassroots movement which will advocate for Zero Discharge.

Great Lakes United is requesting funding from the Joyce Foundation to initiate this movement by providing ongoing support to the operation of the Zero Discharge Task Force. The Task Force will provide the leadership for mounting a Zero Discharge Campaign throughout the Basin.

PROJECT PROPOSAL

FORMATION OF THE TASK FORCE

Great Lakes United is sending out a survey to individuals and organizations from throughout the Basin to identify their vision for the Zero Discharge Alliance. In addition, the survey will provide us with information on Zero Discharge activities being undertaken by community activists. Survey information will be compiled and mailed out, along with other background materials, to the Zero Discharge Task Force and other interested people.

An interim Task Force will operate over the next five months. It will develop proposals for the mission statement, long- and short-term goals and objectives, possible campaigns, and structure for the Alliance. Proposals emanating from this interim Task Force will be developed through close communication with the grassroots activist community. All proposals will be modified and ratified at a Basin-wide Zero Discharge Alliance meeting to be held in the late fall. Members to the ongoing Task Force will be elected at that time.

These initial activities will be funded through Great Lakes United general funds, fundraising activities, and through support from other organizations.

TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP AND PURPOSE

The purpose of the Task Force will be to facilitate and coordinate the growth, creativity, communication, and activities of the Alliance. We feel that the membership must have regional representation and be closely tied to grassroots activities in the Basin. Task Force membership is estimated to be around twenty people. The Task Force will meet at least four times per year. In the interim the members will communicate through conference calls (at a minimum of four per year) and the mail. In order to ensure grassroots participation in the Task Force, funding for operational activities is essential.

ZERO DISCHARGE ALLIANCE CONFERENCE AND KICK OFF EVENT

In addition to developing the structural framework for the Task Force, the interim Task Force will organize a conference and kickoff event to formalize the Zero Discharge Alliance. This event is tentatively scheduled for November. The kickoff will bring together grassroots activists from throughout the Basin. Proposals developed by the interim steering committee will be discussed and decided upon. Task Force members will be elected. In addition, citizens will chart future programs for the Alliance from a regional and Basin-wide perspective.

TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES OVER THE COMING YEAR

After the Alliance meeting the Task Force will begin the hard task of prioritizing and initiating programs. It is difficult to project specific activities that will be undertaken by the Task Force. However, it is likely that in the first year the Task Force will focus on regional organizing and education, expanding upon existing information networks, and formulating and beginning to implement long-term campaign strategies.

BUDGET
For Task Force Operating Expenses

Great Lakes United is requesting \$15,000 from the Joyce Foundation to support the operating costs of Task Force activities and communication with Alliance members. The Task Force will meet at a minimum of four times per year. In the interim, Task Force members will communicate through conference calls and mail. The budget detailed below outlines costs to be incurred by the Task Force for a twelve month period beginning in September. We are specifically requesting that the Joyce Foundation fund those portions of the budget which will ensure grassroots participation in the Task Force (i.e. travel, lodging, conference calls, mailings).

Transportation and Lodging for 4 Task Force Meetings (Approximately 20 people would be at each meeting at an average cost of \$250 per person)*	\$5,000 x 4	\$20,000.00
Telephone (including conference calls)		6,000.00
Postage, Copying		2,500.00
Overhead 5%		<u>1,500.00</u>
Total Start-Up Budget		\$30,000.00
Amount Requested from Joyce Foundation		\$15,000.00
Amount Provided from Existing Budgets of Great Lakes United, Greenpeace and Other Groups **		<u>15,000.00</u>
Total		\$30,000.00

Notes:

* This figures is based on actual costs for a meeting April 5 - 6, 1990 in Detroit, Michigan.

** Great Lakes United and other groups will be providing staff time in addition to the expenses for travel and communication.

RECOMMENDED BY WATER QUALITY TASK FORCE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT GLU SET UP A ZERO DISCHARGE TASKFORCE

A. Purpose

To build a zero discharge movement and constituency throughout the Great Lakes Basin by creating a basin wide Zero Discharge Alliance that includes individuals, grassroots community groups and other pro-environment groups throughout the basin.

1. Support and network zero discharge strategies and programs throughout the Basin.
2. Assist local community organizations.
3. Launch zero discharge campaign.
4. Develop productive and supportive relationship with labor.
 - a. Address displacement and job loss issues.
5. Any other activities suggested by the Taskforce.

Over the next several months, the Zero Discharge Taskforce will develop its terms of reference, the mechanisms for communication and support and a campaign. The Taskforce's objective will be to launch the campaign in the fall with a Zero Discharge Alliance conference with the largest and broadest participation possible.

GREENPEACE USA



GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE

November 20, 1989

Dear Great Lakes Activist:

A little more than a month has gone by since we "pried open the closed doors" of the International Joint Commission. However, as everyone who participated and attended the Hamilton meeting realized, the real issue is: what happens next. Our message to the IJC was simple: Enough promises and protocol, the time is now for action. The challenge over this next year is to develop a basin-wide strategy for implementation of the one goal unifying all the Great Lakes groups -- zero discharge now.

One sentiment overheard frequently at the Saturday morning workshop was the need for increased networking and communication in the Great Lakes Basin. There are two strong infrastructures in place to assist individuals and groups in our fight for environmental justice: Greenpeace and Great Lakes United, and each is more than willing to help.

During this next year, I will be organizing citizen roundtable conferences across the basin with the intention of increasing awareness on a regional level of our common goals. If anyone is interested or has ideas for these mini-conferences, please give me a call.

On December 2, Great Lakes activists from northwest Indiana and southeast Chicago will be meeting to develop a follow-up plan of action. I encourage everyone who attended the IJC Biennial to look over the list of attendees and meet with the activists in your area to develop a plan for zero discharge.

During the first weekend in May, GLU will hold its annual meeting in Green Bay. Hopefully we can all meet again to assess what progress we have made.

Hope to see you in Green Bay if not before. Keep in touch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan".

Joan D'Argo

Minutes from the November 7, 1989
Steering Committee Meeting

Present: Joyce McLean, Joan D'Argo, Jay Palter, Karen Murphy,
Phil Weller, John Jackson, Sarah Miller, Pam Millar, Paul Muldoon

The meeting began with an evaluation of the Hamilton IJC meeting. We all agreed with the NOW magazine report that stated, "we pried open this year's IJC, ending 80 years of closed door conferences on Great Lakes pollution." Public participation was so successful that the IJC added an additional 5 hours to hear testimony. The zero discharge message was definitely heard loud and clear.

A suggestion was made that the testimonials on the workshops could have focused more on the proceedings of the actual workshop. It was unfortunate that our room in the Convention Center was set apart from the other exhibits; it was not utilized as efficiently as it could have been. In addition, there could have been more general direction for the environmentalists, at times many people felt lost.

If anyone testified and did not submit a copy of their written testimony to the IJC, please do so as soon as possible.

People felt that the Saturday morning workshop was too short due to the high energy level and enthusiasm. Included in this packet of materials is a copy of the notes from the Saturday morning workshop.

John Jackson is drafting a letter to the IJC which will include a list of demands drafted in the citizen involvement workshop Saturday morning. This letter will outline our recommendations, problems with the workshops and our demands.

People felt the IJC sponsored workshops were extremely unsatisfactory: agendas were set well in advance without any citizen input.

If the decision is made to participate in the 1991 IJC Biennial, planning for this event (on the part of the citizens) should begin in June, 1990. Please send any ideas regarding this event to any of the steering committee members. In addition, if anyone is interested in participating on the steering committee, contact Joan D'Argo.

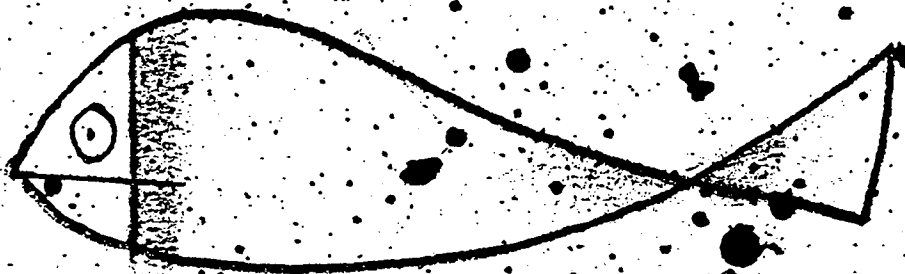
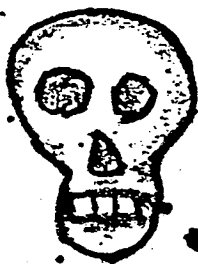
All agreed that a Great Lakes steering committee was a good idea and we will continue to meet in the future in order to enhance networking and to complement the various strategies in the Great Lakes Basin.

Sarah Miller announced that GLU will be sponsoring a RAP workshop in early February. Please contact her for details.

Please note that GLU's annual meeting is scheduled for the first weekend in May in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Part of this weekend agenda will be dedicated to networking concerns and concerted efforts in the Basin. Send any ideas to Phil Weller or John Jackson.

If anyone has any good ideas for a name to identify the Great Lakes movement which began in Hamilton, please let Joan D'Argo know.

The next steering committee meeting will be in Toronto, January 16 at 10:00 a.m. at the Canadian Environmental Law Association.



By David Beach

TOURISM AND FISHING-INDUSTRY BOOSTERS like to say that pollution-control efforts have brought the Great Lakes, the world's largest supply of fresh water, back to life in the last 20 years. But many scientists and environmental activists are more concerned than ever about the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem and the 40 million U.S. and Canadian citizens living in the lakes' basin.

According to a recent report by the Conservation Foundation in the U.S. and the Institute for Research on Public Policy in Canada, "neither country is spending enough or doing enough to check the insidious long-term decline of the Great Lakes ecosystem.... It is painfully clear that only the easiest problems have been tackled and the cheapest remedies, such as curbing the dumping of sewage and toxic chemicals straight into the system, applied. Most of the more difficult challenges lie ahead—such tasks as controlling airborne toxic substances, protecting and restoring groundwater quality, dealing with the problems of toxic metals and pervasive, persistent organic chemicals."

To demand swifter action to stop toxic dumping, more than 150 activists from around the lakes attended the International Joint Commission (IJC) biennial meeting on Great Lakes water quality, held in Hamilton, Ontario, in mid-October. The IJC, a binational body set up as a result of the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty between the U.S. and Canada, advises the governments on issues affecting the lakes. One of its most important functions is to monitor the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the governments' pledge "to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem."

Environmentalists praise the agreement's ecosystem approach, which recognizes that pollution does not stop at political boundaries, and its goal to virtually eliminate persistent toxic substances from the Great Lakes basin. They criticize the federal governments, however, for lack of progress since the agreement was signed in 1978.

6 IN THESE TIMES NOVEMBER 8-14, 1989

Great Lakes prognosis critical but guarded

In the past, citizens had little opportunity to air their concerns at IJC meetings. But this year the commission bowed to public pressure and allowed 10 hours of public testimony, much of it organized by a coalition of environmental groups led by Greenpeace and Great Lakes United.

Then and now: At an IJC luncheon Joyce McLean, international Great Lakes coordinator for Greenpeace, said, "In 1918 the IJC's first pollution investigation of the Great

Lakes [said that] many parts of the basin were 'gross' and 'foul' and 'the situation along the frontier is generally chaotic, everywhere perilous and in some cases disgraceful.'" The 1918 report said industrial discharges were a major cause of the pollution and recommended prohibition of such discharges. "The philosophy and action recommended at that time were simple," McLean added. "Stop the pollutants from entering the water, even if you think the water can handle them. The same philosophy must apply today."

ENVIRONMENT

But the federal governments have never given the IJC power to enforce its many water-quality recommendations. In effect, its role has been to show how damaged the ecosystem is without being able to do anything about it.

Noting that neither U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator William Reilly nor his Canadian counterpart, Lucien Bouchard, had chosen to attend the IJC meeting, McLean said, "Citizens are clearly well ahead of government on environmental issues. They want action."

While recognizing the IJC's lack of legal authority, the citizens in attendance wanted

it to use its considerable prestige and expertise to press the federal governments, states and provinces to live up to the Water Quality Agreement. They also wanted zero discharge, a complete elimination of persistent toxic substances as opposed to current practices of dilution and risk management, and backed specific reduction timetables for all industries generating toxic waste, as well as uniform water-quality standards among the various states and provinces.

"There are no technical barriers [to achieving zero discharge]," said Paul Muldoon of the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy. "People are ready for it.... They want zero discharge within 10 years and are willing to pay for it."

Increased effectiveness: Citizens also called for the following changes to make the IJC more effective:

- Creation of a citizens advisory board to ensure formal representation in IJC decision-making. In response, the commission promised a series of round-table discussions that would include industry representatives as well as citizens.

- Appointment of commissioners based on their environmental experience and com-

Citizens are concerned about toxic pollution in the world's largest supply of fresh water.

mitment, instead of on their political connections. Of the IJC's six commissioners, three are appointed by the U.S. president and three by the Canadian prime minister.

- An end to conflicts of interest on IJC advisory boards. Presently, the same EPA and Environment Canada bureaucrats who

run government water-quality programs also oversee those programs for the IJC.

- Greater funding for the IJC so it can monitor water quality independently from government agencies. A lack of resources, for example, handicaps the commission's major strategy—Remedial Action Plans, or RAPs—for cleaning up the worst toxic hot spots around the lakes. The IJC has targeted 42 heavily polluted "areas of concern" around the basin for special cleanup efforts. In each area, a local RAP committee of community representatives is supposed to identify environmental problems and plan for the restoration of "beneficial uses," such as clean-water supplies, recreation and aquatic life.

Funding of the RAPs is up to the states, provinces and local governments. In the case of Cleveland's Cuyahoga River RAP, for example, this means that the complex plan is being written by volunteers who must beg donations to pay for office supplies. The group sought new money in the Ohio EPA budget for water-quality studies and fish-tissue sampling so it could determine what remedial actions were necessary and possible. Although the Ohio legislature earmarked the small amount of \$100,000 a year for two years, that money was taken from other vital water-quality monitoring programs. No one knows where the many millions of dollars will come from to implement the plan once it is finally written.

A primary concern of the citizens is the long-term human health effects of exposure to the toxic chemicals still accumulating in the lakes' food chain. Researchers are just starting to investigate the subtle developmental, neurological and behavioral effects on humans that have already been documented in wildlife.

But even though all the scientific evidence is not yet in, Great Lakes environmentalists are determined to build the public pressure that will force the IJC and the governments to find the political will and the resources to clean up the Great Lakes. □

David Beach is a freelance journalist based in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

THE FIRST BIENNIAL MEETING OF THE PEOPLE OF THE GREAT LAKES
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1989
HAMILTON, ONTARIO
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LARGE GROUP BUZZ NOTES

THINGS THAT WORKED WELL

- * Success - brought people of the basin together
- * Use the workshop recommendations in our own community work
- * IJC is only way to create binational environmental consciousness; WQA is also good
- * need to build stronger public support for the good ideas we are presenting
- * use this meeting to schedule another meeting for citizens strategy development
- * IJC asked us to help them be effective - perhaps we should communicate with our municipal councils and incorporate IJC WQA goals
- * watershed for citizen involvement, "our foot is in the door!"
- * send cards and letters (information) to keep the heat on the IJC and make them accountable to us
- * GLU exists as one vehicle for basin-wide citizen action
- * there have been many groups who have worked very hard to launch this 1st Biennial Meeting of the People of the Great Lakes
- * elect - as the people - 2 new commissioners to the IJC or criteria for their appointment
- * post-mortem: good
- * send our sign up list to IJC
- * labour union press might help us keep in touch

WHERE WE'D LIKE SOME IMPROVEMENT

- * need better networking and focus on industry because focussing on government isn't working
- * workshops cut off open citizen discussion and input - controlled by IJC - Sustainable future & health also biased presentations
- * we shouldn't forget the opportunities for citizen action based on Clean Water Act - maybe more useful on US side than focussing on IJC

- * broaden scope of intervention at state level
- * develop basin-wide standards so we can be specific in our demands to the IJC
- * VIRUS: permission to pollute
- * Is the multi-stakeholder process of RAPs acting as a sponge protecting industry from public who wants zero discharge
- * more local issues
- * politicians of IJC process maybe distancing bureaucrats and scientists
- * press comments: need to hone our ability to capture our ideas and present them clearly
- * concentrate on organizing outside of the IJC at the citizen level
- * need to ensure legislation in both US and Canada incorporate principle of ecosystem approach
 - meeting with Congressmen & local officials
- * plan comments so that we are more concise, clear shorter
- * if in two years they don't do anything, we don't need to invite them to OUR NEXT MEETING
- * working within the system - intentionally set up to buffer/protect industry from change
- * more solidarity among groups, fighting environmental problems around the basin
- * we did not get a formal mechanism for citizen involvement
- * not all IJC commissioners are appointed yet: Lobby
- * let's not let tactics divide us in the struggle
- * focus on what we want and choose tactics as necessary

ZERO DISCHARGE WORKING GROUP
STRATEGIES/ACCESS POINTS

1. Permit process
2. Water quality standards - regulation, legislation, toxics taxation
3. Mobilize public
4. Define zero discharge
debate publically, consensus building among public
5. Information - success stories; economic analysis of pollution prevention
6. Focus on RAP process
7. Focus on preventive public health policy
8. Expand ZD to include air emissions
9. Toxics freeze

Permit Process

- Goal of every permit to achieve zero discharge
- Permit issuance requires toxics use reduction program with timetable, "use audit" for reduction
- integrated permits (air, land & water)

Legislation

- US/Canada Great Lakes ecosystem treaty
- sustainable agriculture
- waste minimization
- toxics taxation
- strong enforcement measures

Mobilize public

- target permit campaign
- citizens' manual for zero discharge
- newsletter
- workshops on best technology
- concise definition of zero discharge
 - example for RAPs

HUMAN HEALTH WORKING GROUP
STRATEGIES/GOALS

- * Build public awareness about health effects to build base for political action
- * internalize costs of disposal
- * make health a priority concern in all planning
- * shift burden of proof to manufacturers/developers
7th generation criteria
- * participate in state/provincial/local regulatory action,
e.g. incineration emissions and ash disposal, organic packaging
- * focus on contaminators
zero discharge, industry, consumers, users
- * past history of use specified on deeds of transfer for land
- * crown immunity, waivers for responsibility

IJC workshop

Chaired Kate Davies - 10 minute report

Theo - US animal effects

Harold - US human effects

Andy - CAN human effects

Johnny Biosphere - comments

- Great Lakes no worse than elsewhere, unless you eat the fish
- Press reports, highlighting high risk groups - in utero infants
- lifetime toxic load of mother transferred to in utero fetus, transgenerational
- scientific limitations
 - credibility
 - money
 - more chemical testing on sensitive populations
- Is there a community health reporting mechanism? Public health agencies
- there is immunological breakdown from multiple exposures to chemicals
- need some interdisciplinary work and discussion
 - focus on medical community
 - drug companies

- wildlife are already signalling health problems in the ecosystem, eg minimata in cats before people animals as indicators
- behavioral differences are signs of impact
hyperactivity
lack of concentration ability among children
- "Contaminated Communities", Michael Edelstein
family stress

Goals 1989-91

- Toxics use reduction
- Ban
- abolition of production
- zero use
- moratorium

Successes

- PIRGs in Massachusetts and Oregon legislation mandating toxic use reduction
- Nuclear Free Zone
- Minneapolis/St. Paul - ban on use of plastic bags, also New England
- Abolition of slavery
- Amish as organic producers
- Organic farmers
- Most society around 1935
- DDT ban
- anti-smoking laws, negative connotations in culture; dietary changes, ban on leaded gas

Strategies

- Labor movement
- United Farm Worker Solidary actions
- Toxic Victims Solidarity
Agent Orange
Occupational exposure
multiple chemical sensitivity

?Tribunal?

- meeting
- indoor air exposures
- advertise top ten polluters
- job blackmail out
- stepping lightly

Toxic Victims Solidarity Campaign

A Great Lakes Basin focussed campaign with the goal of toxics use reduction/abolition with three elements:

1. Public action: multi-lingual
multi-cultural
 - * toxics tribunal hear testimony of toxic victims, specialists
 - * indictments and advertising of top ten polluters & improved activity
 - * direct action including citizen arrests, commemorative days boycotts
2. Legislative focus
 - * lobby campaign to demand adoption of toxic use reduction
3. Regulatory focus - incorporate toxic use reduction in abolition criteria

HUMAN ECOLOGY ACTION LEAGUE
Amicus Journal

Target Allies

Farm workers
Toxic vets
CAW/UAW
religious groups
HEAL
Oil Chemical & Atomic Workers
CCHW - Toxic Victims Movement
Students
Injured workers group
Womens' movement
First Nations
Izaak Walton
National Education Association
Science Advisory Board
Ruth Grier - NDP (Canada)
AIDS groups
Public health activists

**RAP Working Group
STRATEGIES/GOALS**

RAP goals/objectives compatible with Water Quality Agreement
Is zero discharge a RAP goal?

RAP timetables/costs?

Data flow/remedial actions?

Implementation strategies?

Resources for action/studies?

Commitment to share?

List of pollution sources?

Immediate need to advance RAPS now

How to: Take IJC meeting results back to our RAPS
GLU RAP citizen conferences within next six months
Regional meetings leading up to basin meetings
To prepare for RAP conferences, survey all RAP
participants on their short-term and long-term needs

Conference workshops to include:
process barriers
common issues
implementation/enforcement mechanism
new AOC designations
input into RAPS need citizen participation

Establish citizen advisory mechanism to review RAP (citizen
review = eps from each lake) = IJC requested with resources

Review RAPS early/later

Next Biennial: Government program review = zero discharge
Pollution sources = zero discharge

Result of RAP workshops to IJC

WORKSHOP ON CITIZENS' INVOLVEMENT
TWO QUESTIONS

- I. What kind of an impact can we have on the IJC?
- Summarize to absent commissioners
 - Fact sheet on IJC
 - Formal monitoring system on IJC
 - Citizen Advisory Committee made up of Task Forces
 - Regular reports from IJC
 - Recommendations for chair seat - Joyce McLean
 - Confirmation hearing for IJC chair
 - native commissioner (write letter to 1st Nation)
 - Establish criteria for next time position of commissioners is open
 - Education re what IJC is and how it relates to other entities
 - facilitate networking among groups
 - clarify issues to IJC
 - Recommend separate public commission, citizens advisory committee
 - commissioners visit sites of concern
 - our way or IJC way?
 - can we co-op the IJC?
 - IJC as advocates of the lakes
 - form commission with IJC as one focus
 - we are the IJC - the spirit of the IJC, the flame
 - Get government to increase funding to IJC for research, info, etc.

SPECIFIC DEMANDS - OUR MESSAGE TO THE IJC

1. Commissioners meet in local areas
2. Open up appointment process
3. Staff report on this meeting
4. Open up publications access of dissenting views
5. Minutes of IJC meetings to be distributed
6. We ask what we can do for them
7. Other people besides republicans on board
8. Citizens Advisory Committee
9. Review of RAP documents by public also
10. Policy on citizens' participation

II. HOW TO ORGANIZE

- * Education of citizens - start young on path
- * Improved communication network
- * Declare pollution free zone
- * Citizens round table
- * Basin- wide publication with area specific issues reported
- * Information network and action networking with each group
- * Union affiliations to tap into their network
- * How to network effectively
- * Victims of pollution to testify to IJC

- * how to get more public involvement
- * forum for victims of pollution
- * change our message to people - involve people
- * responsibility for follow-up on actions
- * ideas for empowerment of people: simple language and images
use of radio/TV
- * Regional actions by lakes
- * Lake Ontario Organizing Network (LOON) as example
- * power of numbers
- * Earth Day focus?
- * Environmental agenda
- * Peoples commission
- * Group directory
- * Group purchasing power
- * piggyback meetings
- * regional meetings after main GLU meetings

PEOPLE WHO VOLUNTEERED TO BE CONTACTS

Doree Stein, Chicago; Ralph Franklin, Detroit; Joan D'Argo, Chicago; Debbie Shwall, Saginaw Bay, Michigan; Sue Mihalyi, LOON; Craig Bolkovac, Toronto; Chaz Wheelock, Oneida, WI, native liaison

THE GREAT LAKES NO TIME TO WASTE RAP WORKSHOP, OCTOBER 14, 1989

This workshop was well attended and the discussion had a real sense of urgency. Participants overwhelmingly expressed their need to communicate with others involved in RAPs. They were frustrated that the IJC RAP workshop had not allowed adequate opportunity for full discussion of the many complex problems and issues being experienced by citizen participants in the process and that the agencies had largely ignored those problems in their remarks. Discussion focused on how bring the public RAP participants together to have much needed evaluation, information exchange and planning strategy about RAPs. There was a consensus that this effort should happen within a matter of months to be useful to the developing RAPs.

Participants in the Hamilton, St. Mary's River, Toronto, Grand Calumet/Indiana Harbour, Milwaukee, Detroit River, Ashtabula River and Cornwall RAPs were represented in the workshop. Agency people from New York State DEC and Wisconsin DNR were in attendance as well as Peter Seidl, the IJC RAP review coordinator.

Further Citizen RAP Workshop

Phil Weller of Great Lakes United told the workshop that GLU had funding to hold a RAP workshop and hoped to do this early in 1990. There was a discussion of what the most valuable format and content of this workshop could be. Many people felt that it would be important to structure the workshops on a regional basis for each of the Lakes and for the connecting channels. This could then lead to general workshops on problems common to most RAPs like contaminated sediments, and RAP implementation. It was stressed that there should be adequate funding to bring at least two citizen representatives from each RAP to such a meeting. A steering committee was formed to plan this workshop (see attached list).

RAP Survey

In order to facilitate the organization of this conference it was suggested that a survey of all RAP public advisory committee members be undertaken to identify conference content. The following were suggested as areas to be covered by the survey:

- .Is there First Nation participation on the RAP?
- .Is the RAP structure working well?
- .Are RAP members well informed about other RAPs progress, solutions and problems?
- . Has the PAC been given enough information to choose remedial options?
- .Has the RAP established goals and principles consistent with the 1987 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement?
- .Has the RAP had adequate financial and agency support?
- .How would you portray the quality of public participation in the RAP?

- . Are RAP timetables being met? If delays are being experienced identify why.
- . Is the PAC able to influence the agendas, content, process and scheduling of RAP meetings and reports?
- . Is the scope of issues being addressed by the RAP adequate to solve all water quality problems? Is the RAP ecosystemic?
- . Who do you feel controls the RAP? Are you satisfied that the public owns the RAP in a way they can support its implementation?
- . Has there been consideration and anticipation of RAP implementation needs and barriers and a mechanism to address them?

Survey Administration and RAP Communications Network

The workshop discussed ways to administer the survey that would lead to better long term communications between RAPs. It was felt fact sheets are not enough. It was suggested that each RAP could select a volunteer to receive the information from the citizen RAP network and report regularly on developments in other RAPs. This person could administer the RAP survey and solicit input from their RAP for the 1990 workshop.

Public Review of Remedial Action Plans

Other discussion in the workshop focused on the need for a public review of the RAPs. Those present felt that this review process should be formally established as part of the IJC review process and decided to send this request to the Commissioners of the IJC. The request will ask for citizen review to be formalised and that resources be provided to carry out such a review. Other recommendations were that representatives from each Lake and from the connecting channels be components of this review effort. It was felt that this review should not only happen once the RAP is completed but at each phase of the process. This would address the problem of RAPs being rejected once they are completed. Problems and inadequacies could be identified and remedied earlier. As well participants hoped that some mechanism could be found to assist in RAP areas where little public interest has emerged and in areas that are seeking designation as new Areas of Concern. It was felt that the public has a special role to play in assisting in these areas that the IJC should recognise. Should the request for formal citizen review be denied by the IJC, all supported carrying out the reviews by other means.

Looking forward to what the public might expect at the next biennial meeting of the IJC, workshop participants felt that if timetables were met and public concerns addressed, the RAP discussions in 1991 should focus on implementation accomplishments. Few felt that this was likely unless major RAP reforms are undertaken now. Clearly the public still places a lot of their hopes in the RAP process and is looking for ways to empower a flagging process.

HOW THE GOVERNMENTS ARE FAILING US:

The International Joint Commission and Great Lakes Politics

BASIC FACTS

The Great Lakes basin is the world's largest freshwater ecosystem. It contains about 20 percent of the planet's fresh surface water. And it supports a human population of roughly 40 million inhabitants, as well as a diverse array of fish, animal and plant species.

There are over 800 toxic chemicals in the waters of the Great Lakes. Research suggests thousands of others lurk undetected in their depths.

For 80 years, the International Joint Commission (IJC) has monitored the Great Lakes, and advised the governments of Canada and the United States on the measures necessary to preserve the health of this vital shared resource.

BOUNDARY WATERS TREATY OF 1909 - THE IJC IS BORN:

In 1909 Canada and the U.S. signed the Boundary Waters Treaty, following concern over water diversions and pollution in the Niagara River. The Treaty proclaimed that "waters flowing across the boundary shall not be polluted on either side, to the injury of health of property on the other." Out of this Treaty was born the International Joint Commission - an agency created to monitor government progress.

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY STUDIES, STUDIES, STUDIES...

The IJC's first comprehensive water quality study, completed in 1918, described the Lakes as being "filthy as a sewer". The study added that "the situation along the frontier is generally chaotic, everywhere perilous, and in some cases disgraceful." While most recommendations addressed the sewage problem around the basin, the IJC had the foresight even then to advise that industrial discharges into the Lakes be "prohibited".

Regarding its own powers, the IJC recommended that it be given the authority to set and enforce water quality standards. In what is now unfortunate but predictable fashion, both governments stopped short of giving the IJC the power to protect the Lakes.

In 1951, the IJC released a second water quality study which indicated the "Lakes were glutted with industrial chemicals." Again, the IJC urged the two governments to adopt specific water quality standards and to allow the IJC to enforce them. Again, the governments balked at the suggestion that the IJC be granted powers to protect the Great Lakes.

It took Canada and the U.S. 21 years to respond to those 1951 recommendations. In 1972, the two countries signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). While it established specific water quality objectives, the governments were not about to grant an autonomous IJC the powers needed to enforce those objectives. Instead, the Agreement established a Water Quality Board, consisting of bureaucrats from the 11 jurisdictions bound by the Agreement. By 1975, the IJC reported that government progress implementing the objectives was "generally slow."

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT OF 1978:

The GLWQA of 1978 appeared to suggest a change in attitude on the part of Canada and the U.S. The 1978 Agreement was important for its adoption of two key principles:

- the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, which views the air, land, water and living organisms, including humans, as interacting components of one system.
- the virtual elimination of persistent toxic substances through a regulatory philosophy of zero discharge.

PRESENT IJC STRUCTURE AND ROLE:

At the top of the IJC is a six member Commission consisting of three Canadians and three Americans. They're appointed directly by the Prime Minister and the President. Originally responsible for oversight of the Boundary Waters Treaty, the IJC now plays a significant role in the oversight of the GLWQA.

This includes:

- providing information on Great Lakes Water quality,
- evaluating the effectiveness of government water quality programs,
- providing recommendations to federal, state and provincial governments,
- coordinating joint activities among jurisdictions,
- and providing scientific research advice.

In order to fulfill this mandate, the IJC has two reporting boards. The Water Quality Board (WQB), as principal advisor to the IJC, is composed of state and provincial government representatives formally appointed by the Commissioners. This Board evaluates the effectiveness of government programs.

The Science Advisory Board (SAB) is composed of academic and government scientists, who advise on and coordinate research needs.

POLITICS OF THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION:

Eleven years have passed since Canada and the U.S. agreed on an ecosystem approach to the Great Lakes, and on pursuing the goal of a zero discharge of persistent toxic substances. The failure to design and implement programs to achieve zero discharge lies primarily with the federal governments, and to a lesser degree with the state and provincial governments.

The structure and process of the Commission invites political conflicts of interest and environmental compromise. The same bureaucrats who oversee basin government water quality programs are required, as members of the WQB, to evaluate their own programs.

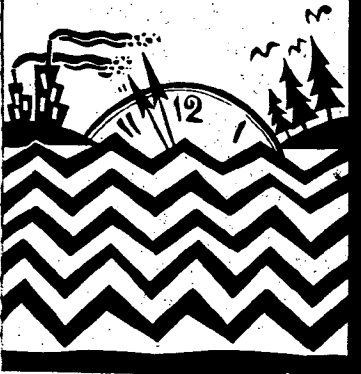
The U.S. President and Canadian Prime Minister further hamper the effectiveness of the IJC by appointing commissioners with little environmental experience or understanding of Great Lakes issues.

Without enforcement powers, the IJC's major role is now one of providing information about how damaged the ecosystem is, without being able to do anything about it.

THEREFORE, FOR THE SAKE OF FUTURE GENERATIONS, THE PEOPLE OF THE GREAT LAKES URGE THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION TO ADOPT AND SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES:

1. **ZERO DISCHARGE** must be the goal of all Remedial Action Plans (RAPs). Each RAP must be required to develop a structured timetable detailing the elimination date for sources of persistent toxic substances. The RAPs could provide a model for other locations as they become areas of concern.
2. Reduction goals, schedules and a 10-20 year timetable must be set for all industries generating toxic waste. All water quality standards and objectives for persistent toxic substances must be **ZERO**.
3. The people of the Great Lakes must have official representation within the IJC. A Citizens Advisory Board, with official standing, must be established to ensure public involvement in the IJC decision-making process.
4. The jointly proposed U.S./Canada water quality objective for 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD) of "absent", where "absent means not detectable as determined by the best available technology", must be rejected. It is not sufficient to protect human and ecosystem health, and it contradicts the GLWQA's goal of zero discharge.
5. A Canada/U.S. Head of State Conference by the end of 1989 is essential in order to implement timetables and schedules to begin the difficult task of restoring the health of the Great Lakes.

THE GREAT LAKES NO TIME TO WASTE!



POLLUTION IN THE GREAT LAKES: WHO'S CALLING THE SHOTS? A CITIZENS' STATE OF THE LAKES REPORT OCTOBER, 1989

In an unprecedented move, the 1989 International Joint Commission's (IJC's) Biennial Meeting is dedicating six hours of its agenda to hear citizens' concerns on Great Lakes water quality issues. Described as the first meaningful opportunity for citizens to present their agenda to the commissioners and the two federal governments, citizens and environmental groups from all across the Great Lakes Basin have been organizing since February to take advantage of this opportunity.

Eight regional workshops were held in August and September in: Valley Field, Quebec; Michigan City, IN; Cleveland, OH; Syracuse, NY; Thunder Bay, Ontario; Green Bay, WI; Port Huron, MI; and Hamilton, Ontario to prepare the citizens' agenda and hear citizens' concerns. A questionnaire focusing on Remedial Action Plans, human health, zero discharge and Government response was circulated and returned. The following is a brief synthesis of the various concerns heard at the meetings and via the questionnaire.

Great Lakes Politics

A primary purpose of the regional workshops was to provide a political context for Great Lakes issues. Inevitably, a discussion of Great Lakes politics leads to the IJC and its role in evaluating the two federal governments' progress toward implementing the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). Many citizens were not even aware of the IJC's existence and were amazed to learn of its 80-year lifespan. This clearly indicates the IJC's lackluster profile in the Great Lakes Basin.

Citizens frequently pointed out that IJC commissioners are political appointees who are characteristically picked by the Canadian Prime Minister and the US President for their political connections. Many citizens dismissed the IJC as a futile body stating, "How can anyone expect a mere political appointee with no environmental or technical expertise to be an advocate of the GLWQA?" The IJC's bureaucratic inertia has stifled any leadership role it has been given as outlined in the Agreement.

Many believe the two federal governments only pay lip service to the Agreement. One example is the inadequate funding of Great Lakes clean-up initiatives. As the two signatories to the Agreement, the federal governments are the two parties ultimately responsible for its implementation. However, as one former IJC commissioner stated, "there is no mechanism by which to hold the two federal governments feet to the fire". The people of the Great Lakes have lost faith in their political leaders, pointing to the pro-business, anti-environmental agendas which dominate Great Lakes Basin politics.

People believe the two federal governments function in a crisis-mode mentality when it comes to fighting pollution. Almost all believe that technical ingenuity is available to clean up and restore the Great Lakes Basin, yet there is a vacuum when it comes to political will. When asked, "What will it take for political action?" one individual wryly responded, "ecospsasms, heatwaves, more Chernobyls, Bhopals and Prince William Sound disasters". Citizens are looking for leadership that does not place their environment on the backburner.

What Citizens Want

Overwhelmingly, people believe that the Great Lakes maxim is: Do just enough to stifle public outrage, while simultaneously satisfying industry's needs. This is a political balancing act to convince the public how much pollution and how many health hazards should be tolerated.

The majority of citizens believe that zero discharge of persistent toxic substances is the only rational approach to effectively clean up and restore the Great Lakes. However the current principles are dilution and risk management. Standards are set according to "some magic risk assessment number related to the number of deaths per so many people" which is dictated by industry. Simply put, governments need a body count before any action is taken.

Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) have the potential to be progressive tools for clean up and restoration. Citizens are encouraged by the potential for public participation offered by the RAP process, however they are frustrated by the high number of industry participants relative to citizen participants. When asked whether clean up efforts are being conducted from an ecosystem approach, one individual responded the approach is more akin to an "economic-system" approach where private interests take precedence.

Ninety-seven percent of the people who responded to the questionnaire believe their health or their family's health is threatened by living within the Great Lakes Basin. Many have personal stories documenting the toll toxic pollution has taken on their lives. When asked what kind of information should be provided to assess the impact of pollutants in their environment, one respondent simply stated, "the truth" -- the truth about the danger of living in the Great Lakes Basin, not "carefully adjusted statistics to cover up the real problem".

Citizens are thinking light years ahead of their governments which are still bogged down in the end-of-pipe pollution mentality. They are ready to embrace the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement even if it means lifestyle changes. The overwhelming rallying cry of the people of the Great Lakes is that there is no more time to waste. The time is now for action.

Great Lakes SHAKE-UP

The International Joint Commission is losing patience with its own government benefactors as the poisoning of the Great Lakes continues despite the IJC's mandate to eliminate all toxic dumping.

By TIM TINER

HAMILTON — A ship's horn sounds over the tones of water lapping the shore, as four black-clad pallbearers wearing bird masks carry a coffin through the formal dining hall. Performing a silent dance to the taped strains of a stylish funeral dirge, they raise a white figure in the double image of an eagle and beaver from the coffin, which has clasped in its hands a scroll representing the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty.

It is not the kind of luncheon address the International Joint Commission (IJC) — the Canada-U.S. body charged by the 1909 treaty with overseeing the health of the Great Lakes — is used to seeing. But it's what it got last week by inviting Greenpeace to deliver the keynote presentation for the meeting the commission holds every two years to hear expert assessments on the state of the lakes.

"Perhaps you should consider resigning on a point of principle if the next biennial meeting yields no concrete (cleanup) action plans," Greenpeace's Joyce McLean tells the politically appointed commissioners in an unprecedented speaking appearance at the IJC dinner.

Greenpeace is only part of a tour de force by environmentalists who have pried the IJC's proceedings open to the public for the first time ever. At the Hamilton convention centre, beyond the blackened steel smelters, countless smokestacks and seas of coal sprawled along the edge of Burlington Bay, the commission hears almost 100 public presentations blasting the IJC's record in what many see as the beginning of a wave to usurp governments' stalled agenda on Great Lakes pollution.

Report card

Underlining their efforts aimed at embarrassing governments into action, a stream of environmentalists grade lakes cleanup efforts on a giant report card placed before the commissioners. The result is virtually straight Fs.

Activists back up their stand with a recent opinion poll sponsored by Pollution Probe reporting that 90 per cent of the public want discharges of persistent toxic chemicals — which tend to remain in the environment without breaking down — reduced to zero in Lake Ontario within 10 years. Although Canada and the U.S. agreed to such a zero discharge goal in 1978, most regulations continue to use guidelines that allow for "safe" levels of toxins.

"I think (governments) hear very clearly that the public is taking over. We're not sitting back and



Environmentalists pried open this year's International Joint Commission, ending 80 years of closed door conferences on Great Lakes pollution. When the environment minister refused the keynote invitation, commissioners chose Greenpeace's Joyce McLean.

waiting for them any longer," says John Jackson, president of Great Lakes United, a coalition of more than 200 environmental, labour and citizens groups from around the Great Lakes that campaigned to open the IJC to the public.

"The message is that the IJC is just a sideline," says Jackson.

Although the IJC is responsible for making recommendations and evaluating government programs on the Great Lakes, it has no enforcement powers of its own. The commissioners are appointed directly by the president of the United

States and the prime minister of Canada and, until last week, they did not deal directly with the public.

In spite of calls from as early as 1918 by the IJC to prohibit industrial discharges into the Great Lakes, the watershed has become one of the most polluted in the world in the 80 years the commission has presided over it.

Last week, a joint U.S.-Canadian report was released concluding that health risks linked to exposure to toxic chemicals are increasing around the Great Lakes. The re-

port, compiled by the Institute for Research on Public Policy in Canada (IRPP) and the U.S. Conservation Foundation, is based on studies of wildlife birth defects and reproductive failure.

Most observers agree that after Canada and the U.S. signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in 1972, establishing the IJC's Great Lakes Water Quality Board to evaluate and monitor cleanup objectives, the health of the lakes began to improve. Overall toxic discharges directly into the water, especially for chemicals such as phosphorous, decreased.

But in the 80s, decreases levelled off, and readings of dioxins, furans, PCBs and pesticides — deposited largely from the air — are rising again, according to the new IRPP Conservation Foundation report.

Making problems

Theo Colborn of the U.S. Conservation Foundation says that most of the fish and bird species that were endangered around the lakes 20 years ago are still in trouble.

"It's now clear that DDT only masked other problems (in bird populations)," she says. "Now there are extremely high concentrations of organochlorine chemicals in eagles."

While most studies have concentrated on cancer, she adds, more recent research is uncovering a host of developmental, behavioural, reproductive and immune system suppression problems among wildlife whose cell metabolism has been affected by toxic chemicals.

"Long before cancer develops, other more subtle effects occur that affect the longevity of the animal," says Colborn. "We've found that those animals suffering the most also had the highest concentration of chemicals."

There is little information on how the 35 to 40 million people living around the Great Lakes are being affected by the contamination because few studies on humans have ever been carried out.

In perhaps the largest study that has been done, scientists at the University of Michigan kept track of 280 families who had children born in 1980. They found an above average incidence of birth defects, nervous system damage and psychological problems among children born to women eating large amounts of predatory fish from Lake Michigan.

Together, these findings should send a strong message to government, says David Runnalls at the IRPP in Ottawa.

"We really have to get away from strategies where we rely on reac-

tive cure measures. We have to think more on anticipating and preventing pollution in the first place. The situation would be a lot better if the two governments lived up to the measures they have already agreed to (in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreements)."

A rising scientific consensus on the need for immediate action is also being reflected on the IJC's Science Advisory Board itself. In its report presented to the commission last week, the board recommends that Canada and the U.S. "use the results of studies on health effects in wildlife populations as a basis for decisions and policies regarding the effects of chemical exposures on human populations."

Jack Valentyne, the board's Canadian co-chair, pulls few punches in his analysis of the problems facing the lakes.

"There has been a denial of the human health problem in the past by government departments, that's a fact," he says. "There has been no ballpark socioeconomic analysis on the cost of doing nothing about persistent toxic substances. We really need that."

Valentyne, who appears before the commission wearing a knapsack with a large colour globe strapped to it — his trademark in the numerous public school talks he gives — sees last week's meeting as a significant development, with environmentalists edging closer to the commission.

Citizen forums

"Yes, they did have an impact," he says of the groups' presentations, contrasting it with the IJC's last biennial meeting in Toledo, Ohio. "Two years ago, public interest groups had to speak to the commission through a mediator who had to summarize what they had to say. It was just terrible."

After the Toledo meeting, the environmental groups began organizing to circumvent the IJC with citizen involvement in determining the future of the lakes. In 1988, Pollution Probe launched the Lake Ontario Organizing Network, which has held numerous citizen forums around the lake on both sides of the border.

Early this year, Greenpeace and Great Lakes United also began putting together an alternative citizens' conference to run parallel to last week's IJC meeting. By the spring, however, the IJC relented and agreed to throw open its doors to the public.

The absence of Canadian environment minister Lucien Bouchard and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency head William Reilly from the meeting further tipped the



LARRY TOWELL

scales in favour of the environmentalists, says Vallentyne. After two politicians, invited to appear as keynote speakers last spring, finally declined the offers in September, he says, the commission turned to Greenpeace to fill the slot.

"It inevitably represents a change in attitude and frustration on behalf of the staff of the IJC, who have been long ignored by government," says McLean, Greenpeace's Great Lakes international coordinator, who got the invitation from the

commission less than three weeks before the meeting.

McLean points to a recent report by the U.S. government's General Accounting Office stating that just half of the IJC's 59 recommendations to Ottawa and Washington since 1978 have been implemented. Although 42 areas have been designated around the lakes for intensive remedial action plan (RAP) cleanups, she says, "RAPs have yet to actually clean up or prevent any further water quality problems

“What we in North America have done is issue plan after plan after plan. The strategy of the plans is to wait, to hope, to delay. We have been appeasing the polluter.”

Jim Ludwig, ecological consultant, Bay City, Michigan

from occurring anywhere in the basin."

"With the new flood of strong citizen input in the decision-making process, McLean and others believe governments will find it difficult to resist further calls for action.

"The fact that (citizens) were there and part of the process and now understand what the process is has to have very good, long-term effects," says McLean.

Aggressive stand

In scores of presentations before the commission in Hamilton, environmentalists and others called for the IJC to take a more aggressive stand in pressing for action. They want a legislated timetable for industries to achieve zero discharge and an outright ban on the use of many hazardous chemicals.

The coalition of environmental groups also wants a citizens' advisory committee formed for the IJC, fewer government representatives on its advisory boards and an end to partisan appointments of commissioners. The present commission is made up of two Republican and two Conservative former politicians named directly by the U.S. president and Canadian prime minister. The two other IJC seats are vacant.

Although it may be a year before

the commissioners table their recommendations coming out of last week's meeting, they acknowledge that there is a strong public call for change. Last week, the commissioners pledged to set up new roundtable groups composed of citizens, industry and other sectors to provide ongoing input to the IJC.

"People want the IJC to be more vocal, more definite — there's no question that that's the overall message," says Canadian IJC commissioner Robert Welch, a former Tory Ontario cabinet minister. "There may well be something we can do within the framework of our responsibilities to make stronger statements, more definite statements."

While the commission cannot give itself greater powers, Welch says, "It is within the realm of possibility that the IJC will recommend to government that it change (the commission's) role."

For its part, the Canadian government announced last week that \$125 million will be spent over the next five years on Great Lakes cleanup efforts — a promise made by prime minister Brian Mulroney during last year's election campaign. Environment Canada describes that allocation as a doubling of the funds previously spent on the lakes. The total includes \$20 million for studies on health effects.

Environmentalists, however, call the sum vastly insufficient and point to last week's IRPP report, which called for a cleanup that would cost \$100 billion or more.

"The funds we are really talking about are astronomical," says Jay Falter of Greenpeace.

Substantial action

In order to push governments into more substantial action, environmental groups are following up their success in Hamilton by focusing much of their efforts on coordinating citizen involvement in remedial action plans throughout the basin. Through concerted high-profile public pressure, they hope to energize a cleanup process which, at present, they see as more an obstacle than a catalyst for action.

Of the 17 RAP sites designated in Ontario in 1986, the two most advanced — for Hamilton Harbour and the Bay of Quinte — are hoping to have draft plans by early 1990.

"What we in North America have done is issue plan after plan after plan," says Jim Ludwig, an ecological consultant from Bay City, Michigan. "The strategy of the plans is to wait, to hope, to delay. RAPs are only another planning process. We have been in the posture of appeasing the polluter."

• Continued on page 16

ON THE GREAT LAKES

Weight of toxic chemicals entering the water, air and land of the Great Lakes basin each day: **8,000 pounds**

Number of people who depend on the Great Lakes for drinking water: **26 million**

Number of different toxic chemicals found in Lake Michigan trout: **500**

Percentage of Ontario residents who think zero discharge for persistent toxic chemicals should be achieved within 10 years: **90**

Amount allocated by federal government over five years for Great Lakes cleanup: **\$125 million**

Rank of Lake Ontario's pollution among Great Lakes: **1**

Number of Remedial Action Plan sites in Ontario: **17**

Percentage of Lake Ontario residents who think the environment is the most important problem in the area: **86**

Percentage of Lake Ontario residents who support government regulation of chemicals for environmental risks even when they have not been clearly proven: **78**

Percentage of Lake Ontario residents who support higher taxes for environmental protection: **68**

Percentage of Lake Ontario residents who accept higher consumer prices for environmental protection: **85**

Estimated number of significant industrial spills on the Great Lakes per year: **3,000**

Sources: Pollution Probe, Institute for Research on Public Policy, Science Advisory Board of the International Joint Commission, Greenpeace.

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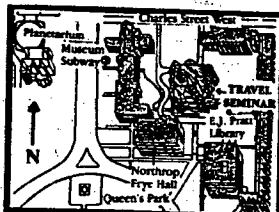
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73 Queens Park Crescent,
(east side of Museum subway stop)

Lakes' toxic brew

Continued from page 9

Environmentalists also complain that RAPs are too limited because they deal primarily with direct water discharges. They have no official jurisdiction over land use policy, affecting their ability to deal with lakes contamination from landfills, pesticide runoff and air pollution settling into the water.

Even the IUC's official goal of zero discharge, say critics, is overlooked by government and industry representatives participating in RAP committees.

"Industry has never accepted zero discharge," says Rick Coronado, chair of the Windsor and District Labour Council and a citizen representative to Detroit's RAP. "We mentioned zero discharge in a discussion on sewage treatment and they looked at us like we were smoking up."

In the case of Hamilton, says McLean, "the current RAP's water use goals state it's okay for industrial discharges to continue, provided they are only in a certain section of the harbour."

At Ontario's environment ministry, provincial RAP coordinator Tom Coape-Arnold says that the principle of zero discharge is usually a "philosophical basis" for RAPs, but programs are limited by the technology available to detect low concentrations of toxins.

"There will be a gradual clamp-down towards virtual elimination of persistent toxic chemicals, based on what is economically achievable with the best available technology," he says. "As technology improves, we will continue to clamp down."

The ability of at least one company in a particular industrial sector to reach a certain level of reduction would set the standard for what is economically achievable for the whole sector, he adds.

Coape-Arnold is reluctant, however, to give a timetable for such reductions. "The process is slow because we're dealing with very large issues and we're involving the public on a very broad basis in dealing with those issues. There has to be sufficient rationale for spending hundreds of millions of taxpayers' dollars."

An emboldened environmental movement, however, is determined to see the use of dangerous chemicals banned completely, so that there will be nothing to persist at the source.

"We've found a merging consensus between the public and the scientific community that there are health risks for humans and that there is enough evidence to take action," says Pam Miller, a Pollution Probe researcher. With the combination of that political constituency and scientific evidence to back it up, she believes government is running out of room to make excuses for inaction.

"Suddenly we have a coalescence now in the environmental movement that is not going to be divided," says Miller. "That's very exciting. The public is saying, 'We're in the picture now and (government) is not taking us out of it.'"

