



GREAT LAKES UNITED

August 21, 1991

Sarah Miller
Canadian Environmental Law Association
717 College Street, Suite 401
Toronto, Ontario M6G 4A2

Dear Sarah,

Enclosed you will find the proposal and budget for the water quality hearings. As you know, the project was sponsored by the William H. Donner Foundation and the Public Welfare Foundation.

The Great Lakes Protection Fund will call for 1992 proposals in September and letters of intent will be due in mid-October. The Public Welfare Foundation reviews proposals on an ongoing basis and wants full proposals rather than letters of intent.

As I said, I would be happy to sit in on the meeting in Toronto -
- just let me know when you'll be getting together.

Sincerely,

Kristine

Kristine Miller
Development Coordinator
Enc.

An international organization dedicated to conserving and protecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River
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A PROPOSAL BY GREAT LAKES UNITED
TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS
ON THE 1978 GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT

SUMMARY

The 1978 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement will be reviewed by the Canadian and United States governments after the International Joint Commission's third biennial report, which is scheduled for release in 1986.

Great Lakes United plans to make input into the review of this Agreement. One of the major roles that the organization intends to play is to provide a forum to generate public interest in the review and to encourage input from a wide spectrum of the citizens in the Great Lakes Basin. This project will involve having a task force tour the Basin holding public hearings and visiting "hot spots".

Great Lakes United is uniquely suited to carrying out the proposed programme because it has approximately one hundred and thirty member groups scattered throughout the Great Lakes Basin. This network provides it with points of access to many different communities and to many different kinds of organizations.

A PROPOSAL BY GREAT LAKES UNITED
TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS
ON THE 1978 GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT

INTRODUCTION:

Great Lakes United is an international organization dedicated to the protection and proper management of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System. It is made up of one hundred and thirty environmental, sportsmen, union, governmental and small business groups from throughout the eight Great Lakes states and two Canadian provinces. Its major goals are to work towards united positions on complex basin-wide public policy issues and increase the opportunities for the public to be involved in the decision-making process.

Through a grant from the Joyce Foundation, Great Lakes United hired an Executive Director and office support staff in January, 1985, and established its international headquarters on Medaille College's campus in Buffalo, New York. Additional background information on Great Lakes United can be found in the attached appendices.

Great Lakes United plans to develop a task force to generate and compile public input into the review of the 1978 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement that is required to be carried out by the Canadian and United States governments after the release of the International Joint Commission's third biennial report. Under this project, Great Lakes United will hold public hearings in regional centres around the Great Lakes Basin and tour major "hot spots" in the Basin. The concerns and recommendations of people from throughout the Basin will be compiled into a report that will be distributed to the appropriate government bodies, media and other interested people.

THE SITUATION

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, which was signed by the Canadian and United States governments in 1978, aimed to bring a basin-wide perspective to government assessment of and controls on the problems created by toxic substances and nutrient overloadings in the Great Lakes environment. This document and the mechanisms set up under it are central to the development of joint Canadian-U.S. monitoring, preventive and rehabilitative programmes in the Great Lakes Basin.

The 1978 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement requires the Canadian and U.S. governments to review it after the International Joint Commission releases its third biennial report. The International Joint Commission says it will release that report in 1986. It is expected, therefore, that the governments will conduct their formal review in 1987.

Two non-government reviews of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement have been announced. The Royal Society of Canada and the U.S. National Research Council have set up a committee of scientists to review the Agreement; their report will be released in December 1985. The Center for the Great Lakes, which is based in Chicago and Toronto, has announced plans to conduct studies and hold a summit in fall 1986 on the Agreement. In addition, the International Joint Commission and the Canadian and U.S. governments will be carrying out their own reviews.

These reviews provide only limited opportunities for public participation. Because of the geographic extent of the Great Lakes Basin and the wide range of people directly affected by the condition of the Lakes, only an extensive programme specifically directed towards obtaining citizen input from throughout the Basin can successfully pull together the public's concerns and suggestions. By putting together a project focussed on generating public input, Great Lakes United intends to complement the other reviews. Other groups conducting reviews have already been contacted by Great Lakes United; they have expressed a strong interest in having Great Lakes United perform this role.

Great Lakes United is uniquely suited to arrange opportunities for public input because of the diversity of types of groups that belong to it and their wide distribution throughout the Great Lakes Basin. These local groups will play a central role in providing Great Lakes United with practical advice and in developing the tour. Great Lakes United's experience at organizing annual meetings, news releases and conferences indicates its preparation to play the kind of role required for this project. In addition, as a coalition of groups, Great Lakes United is accustomed to working closely with other groups in organizing events.

PURPOSES OF THE PROJECT

Great Lakes United's objectives in carrying out this programme are:

- * to discuss with people living in the Great Lakes Basin the importance of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the present condition of the Lakes and means of participating in decision-making on Great Lakes issues,

- * to build upon the present constituency of people concerned about Great Lakes issues and to encourage further cooperation and coordination among these people,

- * to support local groups in their work to address Great Lakes issues,

- * to provide a forum for people from throughout the Basin to express their concerns about the environmental condition

of the Great Lakes,

- * to encourage, facilitate and, where appropriate, coordinate public input into the Canadian and U.S. governments as they review the Agreement,

- * to encourage government, industry and public sectors to take actions to protect and rehabilitate the environment of the Great Lakes, and

- * to increase public awareness of environmental concerns in the Great Lakes Basin.

THE PROJECT FORMAT

Stage 1: Pre-Tour

During this stage arrangements will be made for conducting the tour. This work has already begun; it will be completed by May 31, 1986.

Great Lakes United will carry out the following activities during this period:

- * set up a task force. The task force, consisting of six to eight volunteers, will be made up primarily of Great Lakes United board members. These people will have the responsibility for overseeing the entire project.

- * hire staff to develop and carry out the project.

- * develop contacts with local groups throughout the Basin who will be critical in achieving public input and education.

- * prepare educational materials (factsheets, etc.) to distribute to local groups to use in their educational programmes in preparation for the arrival of the task force.

- * arrange the tour schedule and make logistical arrangements.

- * arrange pre-tour publicity.

The local contact groups will carry out the following tasks during the pre-tour stage:

- * prepare presentations to the Great Lakes United task force.

- * meet with Great Lakes United representatives and others to plan events.

- * meet with other organizations in their communities to educate them about the 1978 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and its potential impacts on them and to encourage them to make presentations to the Great Lakes United task force.

- * arrange tours of "hot spots".

Stage 2: The Tour

The tour of the Great Lakes Basin will be carried out between June 1, 1986, and September 30, 1986. This means that the tour will have been completed before the summit that is being planned for that fall by the Center for the Great Lakes. The Center has expressed interest in having Great Lakes United task force members discuss their findings at its summit. In addition, this timing will provide sufficient opportunity to complete a formal report from the task force in time to make meaningful input to the review that is likely to be conducted by the Canadian and United States governments in 1987.

During this stage, Great Lakes United will be responsible for the following activities:

- * holding public hearings in approximately twenty regional centres scattered throughout the Great Lakes Basin. This is likely to include locations such as Montreal, Cornwall-Massena, Toronto, Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit-Windsor, Sault-Ste-Marie, Chicago and Duluth.

- * visiting "hot spots" in the Basin. This will include places such as Hamilton Harbour, Niagara Falls, Cuyahoga River, Saginaw Bay, Grand Calumet River and Green Bay. Local groups will act as tour guides on these visits and the media will be invited to accompany the task force on its tours.

- * arranging publicity in cooperation with local groups.

The responsibilities of local groups during this stage will be:

- * making presentations to the task force.

- * conducting tours of the "hot spots".

- * assisting in publicity.

- * sitting on the Great Lakes United task force and chairing its public meetings in their area.

Stage 3: The Report

The task force, with Great Lakes United staff support, will write a summary report describing the concerns expressed during the tour of the Basin about the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and the condition of the environment in the Great Lakes Basin. This formal document will include recommendations for actions that can be taken to improve the implementation of the Agreement. This document will be relayed to the appropriate government agencies, the public and the media.

In addition, a handbook will be put together in a format that will allow groups throughout the Basin to use it as an educational tool in their own communities. This format will include pictures, anecdotes, etc. to make it more enjoyable and interesting reading for the general public. Fact sheets will also be developed.

This work will be completed by January 31, 1987, in time to make input into the government reviews.

ROLES AND BUDGETARY NEEDS

The Task Force:

The task force members will oversee the entire project, conduct the tour of the Basin and participate in writing the report. Great Lakes United board members, acting as task force members, have already begun preliminary work on the project. They will carry out these functions on a volunteer basis. To lessen the demands on task force members at the tour stage, only three of the six to eight members on the task force will be required to attend any one hearing or visit to a "hot spot". In each locality, the task force's membership will be supplemented by local group members.

The budgetary requirements of the task force members will be travel expenses for the tour and for any meetings of the task force held at the other two stages of the project, and their expenses for office costs, such as phone calls, postage, etc.

Field Coordinator:

Organizing an educational programme and tour of the entire Great Lakes Basin will require one full-time paid staff person. The duties of this person will be:

- * to provide support services to the task force members,
- * to carry out liaison with local groups and contacts,

- * to make the logistical arrangements for the tour,
- * to make contacts with media throughout the Basin,
- * to prepare educational materials,
- * to assist in writing the final reports,
- * to distribute the reports.

The field coordinator will be based in Great Lakes United's office in Buffalo, but this person will have to travel around the Basin to make preliminary arrangements.

Office Support:

The task force members and the field coordinator will require support from other Great Lakes United staff members. The executive director will be a regular advisor to the field coordinator because of the contacts he has already developed throughout the basin and because of his experience in organizing events such as those required under this project. The assistance of the office manager and bookkeeper will also be needed. Therefore, some of the time of these staff members will be charged to this project. In addition, office services will have to be expanded to accommodate the needs of this project; these too will be charged to the project.

Tour Costs:

In addition to travel costs, the project will require expenditures at each hearing site and "hot spot" for meeting rooms, recording of sessions, and other local services.

Great Lakes United is confident that this project will generate further awareness of the condition of the Great Lakes and of the importance of the 1978 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, further build the constituency of people working on Great Lakes issues and contribute to actions that will lead to protection of and rehabilitation of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY GRANT

BUDGET

EXPENDITURES

Salaries & Benefits

Executive Director (15% of time)	\$ 3,750
Field Coordinator (full time)	16,000
Office Manager (25% of time)	2,875
Bookkeeper (1/6 of time)	1,000
Benefits (20% of salary)	4,725

Salaries & Benefits Sub-total \$28,350

Project Expenses

Office supplies	\$ 1,500
Copy equipment rental (based on 1/3 of equipment cost)	500
Typewriter purchase	1,000
Phone system expansion	500
Postage machine rental	100
Computer service	1,000
Phone service	3,000
Travel	
Staff	6,000
Task force	8,000
Printing	7,000
Postage	2,000
Hearings (location cost including facilities rental, tape recordings local services, etc.)	5,000

Project Expenses Sub-total \$35,600

Contingency \$ 1,000

TOTAL-BUDGET \$64,950