



IJC Biennial Conference Call Minutes
April 8, 1993

Participants: John Jackson, GLU
Joan D'Argo/Sally Van Vleck, Neahtawanta Center
Jay Palter, Greenpeace Canada
Chris Clark, Environment North
Sarah Miller, CELA
Brett Hulsey, Sierra Club
Terry Yonker/Karen Murphy/Sean Enright, GLU Buffalo
Rick Coronado/Rose Menyes/Judy Remigio, CEA
Mary Ginnebaugh, GLU Windsor

Regrets: Paul Muldoon, Pollution Probe
Glenda Daniel, LMF
Claire Ryan, NWF
Annie Hunt, CACC

A one hour conference call was coordinated through the Windsor GLU Office on April 8, 1993 at 10:30 am. The intent of the call was to get representatives of the major environmental organizations talking together about the biennial meeting. An agenda was FAXed to each participant prior to the call to facilitate the discussion.

The following items were discussed:

Suggestions for the IJC Biennial program

Jay Palter was very concerned that the title for the panel discussion session on the Lake Superior Project did not have key words like 'zero discharge'. There was consensus that the title, at a minimum, include the words used in the 6th biennial report and that the discussion include zero discharge of persistent toxics and Lake Superior as a 'demonstration area'. Chris Clark spoke about the project as a very hot issue and the need for some hard hitting questions to the panelists about the federal government's role. There was consensus that the panel members include someone from an environmental organization to give a NGO perspective on the problems and progress.

There was discussion on the concurrent workshops that would be held on Saturday morning. Sarah Miller was concerned that the examples given were too mushy and poorly defined. There was considerable discussion on the topics that could be used for workshops and a consensus was reached on the following: Sunsetting persistent toxics, progress on zero discharge, nuclear waste and storage in the Great Lakes and LaMPS and the ecosystem approach.

There was agreement that the public has a great deal to say
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about the Great Lakes environment and the progress made in achieving the recommendations of the IJC. There was discussion that the politicians should be attending this meeting and hearing the public perspective. Brett Hulsey spoke about the Great Lakes Washington Week in June as an opportunity to invite political types to the biennial. There was consensus that letters be sent to both U.S. and Canadian political appointees and politicians to invite them to this important meeting. Brett agreed to draft a letter to be sent to the Clinton administration and Sarah Miller and John Jackson agreed to draft a similar letter for the Canadian politicians. Organizations can sign on to these letters.

To further acquaint the politicians with the environmental concerns in the Windsor/Detroit area, there was discussion about having a Toxic Tour for the politicians and press. Given the proposed biennial program agenda, there was discussion about when this tour could be scheduled. It was suggested this question be posed to Sally Cole-Misch so something can be set up. Rick Coronado said he would talk with Brenda Liveoak, who has put on a Detroit area Toxic Tour in the past.

There was concern that this biennial meeting has been shortened and therefore a need to make strong recommendations when we have the opportunity. There was some discussion on the need to keep the meeting interesting and lively. Mary Ginnebaugh agreed to send a summary of our suggestions regarding the biennial program to Sally Cole-Misch.

Brett suggested there be some wrap-up by the Commission at the conclusion of the biennial on Sunday.

Steering Committee Members and Their Role

It was agreed that participants on this conference call would be considered as Steering Committee members and that the door was open to any organization who wished to actively participate.

Organizing Efforts Prior to the Biennial

Jay discussed Greenpeace's request to the IJC to host a program on Thursday evening of the biennial on sunseting chlorine based chemicals, perhaps as a part 2 of the chlorine conference held last December in Monroec. The meeting would be geared toward environmentalists and could be used to mobilize people for the events to take place during the biennial.

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It was agreed that other organizing efforts to encourage citizen participation and attendance at the meeting be further discussed during another meeting. There was consensus that the next Steering Committee meeting be held sometime during the GLU Annual General Meeting, which is May 6-9 in Kingston. Mary will notify everyone where/when this meeting will take place.

Media Coverage and Strategies

It was agreed that this would also be discussed at the May meeting.

Message to be Delivered to the Commission

There was discussion around the fact that there will likely be three new U.S. Commissioners appointed by this time, and it is important that they have a historical picture, with a full understanding of the citizens' perspective relative to the recommendations that have been made at previous biennial meetings. There was some discussion as to how this could be accomplished, with suggestions of a 'report card' style of delivery. Concern was expressed that the 'report card' thing had been done before, and we needed to come up with something that was more creative but effective. There was consensus, however, that the message would be an evaluation of the progress made on all the IJC recommendations to the parties. It was also agreed that the new Commissioners should understand that the environmental community fully supports the IJC recommendations. Further discussion on this topic would be held at the next meeting.

Delivery of the Message

It was agreed that this would also be discussed at the next meeting.

Costs to Organize, Coordinate and Deliver

This was discussed briefly at the beginning of the conference call. To hold conference calls such as this one, the cost is \$.70/minute for each Ontario call and \$1.20/minute for each U.S. call. For an hour conference call with 10 parties, the cost is \$540.00 plus GST. It was suggested that future conference calls be on a 'pay as you play' method with a dial-in number. Mary will investigate this for future conference calls. To help share costs of organizing and coordinating, Karen Murphy said she would put together a proposal for the next meeting.

Because GLU has an office in Windsor, the contact person for this effort will be Mary Ginnebaugh. If you have any questions or information to share, please contact her at (519) 255-7141.