Co-Chair’s Letter

This summer we convened the Council of Great Lakes Governors Leadership Summit on Mackinac Island, Michigan. We created an ambitious work plan that is already delivering results.

Our economic development team has been hard at work. For example, the Council just completed a very successful trade mission to South America where our region’s small and medium sized companies linked with prospective buyers, clients and partners. Missions to Indonesia, Singapore and India will occur in coming months.

Representatives of our Governors’ and Premiers’ Maritime Task Force recently returned from the Baltic Sea region. There they toured two world-class ports and learned about how that region has built and improved its maritime system to serve its globally connected economy. Our Task Force is developing a strategy for our own region in this regard.

Our work to protect and restore the Great Lakes continues apace. We are implementing a multi-faceted strategy to combat aquatic invasive species. In the near term, we are enacting further restrictions on the transport and possession of the “least wanted” species while developing a regional agreement to assist one another in cases of invasion.

We look forward to continued progress in coming months, and toward reconvening an executive meeting among the Governors and Premiers next year in Chicago. Thanks for your partnership in our shared work.

—Rick Snyder
Co-Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors
Governor, State of Michigan

Council Leads Mission to Baltic Sea Ports

Representatives of the Council of Great Lakes Governors Maritime Task Force recently participated in a mission to Finland and Sweden coinciding with World Water Week in Stockholm. The mission included tours of the Port of Helsinki and the Port of Stockholm. The delegation met with port personnel to discuss a range of issues including governance, port maintenance, aquatic invasive species and shipping. Council staff and Task Force members also met leaders of the Helsinki Commission, an intergovernmental organization of the nine Baltic coastal countries and the European Union, charged with protecting and managing the Baltic Sea.

Marc Miller, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director, and Jon Allan, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes Director, review plans during a tour of the Port of Stockholm.
On Wednesday, November 6 the Council of Great Lakes Governors and its Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Partnership will host a “Doing Business in Canada” Webinar. This session will focus on regional companies in the water and wastewater sector, and opportunities to capitalize on potential upgrades and new facilities for waste in Canada. Nancy Ward, Director of the Council’s Canada Trade Office, will be the featured expert. This webinar is free of charge.

To register for the webinar, please visit: https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/533837070

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

You can also register for the Great Lakes Partnership’s buyers’ guide at www.greatlakeswaterpartnership.com

Canada Water and Wastewater Facts:

- Almost 9% of Canada's total area is covered by fresh water;
- The Great Lakes provide drinking water to 8.5 million Canadians;
- Health problems related to water pollution are estimated to cost Canadians $300 million per year;
- Hydropower meets about 62% of Canada's electricity need;
- Over 150 billion liters of untreated and undertreated wastewater is dumped into waterways each year;
- In 2012, Environment Canada brought in a national regulatory framework for wastewater effluent;
- Approximately 25% of existing wastewater facilities will require upgrading to meet the minimum secondary wastewater treatment standards.

Naftzger Interviewed by Detroit Public TV

While in Milwaukee attending Great Lakes Week, David Naftzger, Council of Great Lakes Governors Executive Director, was interviewed by Great Lakes Now, a Detroit Public TV program. Naftzger discussed the Council’s portfolio of work including Great Lakes restoration and protection, economic development programs, and trade and tourism promotion. He described the legacy of the Great Lakes Compact and Agreement and Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, and the importance of continued cooperation among the Governors and Premiers of the Great Lakes States and Provinces.

In a separate interview, Jon Allan, Director of the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes and Council Executive Committee Co-Chair, spoke about water quality issues resulting from runoff and harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes.
The Council of Great Lakes Governors will lead a multi-sector trade mission to India from April 22-May 1, 2014. The Council’s India Trade Office will provide each mission participant with a schedule of one-on-one business meetings with qualified representatives, distributors and end users in New Delhi, Bangalore and Mumbai. Mission participants will also benefit from country business briefings, logistical support and networking events.

With a population of 1.2 billion, India is the second most populous country in the world. Approximately thirty percent of its population resides in urban areas. Moderate inflation of 7.6% in 2012, a growing middle class and a relatively stable political environment make India attractive to U.S. companies. India has grown to be a trillion dollar economy with a self-sufficient agricultural sector, diversified industrial base and stable financial and services sector.

For more information on the Council’s trade mission to India please visit http://www.cglg.org/projects/INDIA2014mission/index.aspx

Key Sectors of Growth

- Automotive: This market is valued at $30 billion, and is growing at 15% per year. Imports account for over $10.6 billion.
- Construction and Infrastructure: $1 trillion in infrastructure investment is planned by 2017.
- Civil Aviation: India is the 9th largest civil aviation market in the world, and is likely to become the 3rd largest market, handling 336 million domestic and 85 million international passengers.
- Medical Equipment: The market is valued at $5.2 billion and growing at 20% per year. Imports totaled $3.9 billion in 2012.
- Power: Currently valued at $36.5 billion, this market is growing at 14% per year. Electrical equipment imports totaled $15.7 billion in 2012.

On September 4, the Council of Great Lakes Governors for the first time convened a session at World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden. Council Executive Director David Naftzger and Deputy Director Peter Johnson, along with Jon Allan, Director of the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes, and Marc Miller, Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, joined other regional experts to discuss governance and water resources management in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River region to an international audience of water experts.

“In our region, we have successfully built strong partnerships to protect and restore our Great Lakes,” said Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, Council of Great Lakes Governors Co-Chair. “World Water Week is a great opportunity to share these successes and exchange best practices with the international community. Through events like this, we can build a better future together.”

World Water Week is hosted and organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute. Each year, over 200 collaborating organizations convene events, and the conference focuses on a particular water-related topic. The theme for 2013 was “Water Cooperation - Building Partnerships.”

The delegation discussed the unique challenges and opportunities of managing shared water resources between two countries, ten States and Provinces, Tribes and First Nations, various municipalities and local government, and a range of stakeholders. This session provided a venue to highlight the institutions created to address common issues and foster cross-border cooperation.
On December 6, 2013 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Chicago, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body ("Regional Body") and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council ("Compact Council") will meet to consider a number of resolutions and elect the Compact Council Chair and Vice-Chair. The Regional Body and Compact Council will also present and discuss its first ever Cumulative Impact Assessment at the meeting.

December also marks the end of the Chairmanship of Governor Walker for the Regional Body and the Compact Council. Governor Cuomo of New York will become the next Chair of the Regional Body, and Governor Quinn of Illinois will become the next Vice-Chair.

Information on both organizations and their meetings, including draft agendas, call-in information, and drafts of materials to be considered will be made available at www.glslregionalbody.org and www.glslcompactcouncil.org 30 days before the meetings.

Great Lakes USA Holds Annual Meeting

Pure Michigan hosted the Great Lakes USA Annual Meeting in August in New Buffalo, Michigan. In addition to reviewing programs and budgets, the group also took a retreat including visits to local destinations and businesses. Great Lakes USA continues its joint marketing program to the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, Austria and Switzerland.