



GREAT LAKES INDUSTRY UPDATE

Fall 2015

CGLI's quarterly newsletter is intended to provide brief updates on issues and topics that impact industry.

We welcome your comments and suggestions!

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A Sustainability Lesson for the Great Lakes Region

The Great Lakes region is a special place, host to bountiful natural resources and rich in natural earth science artifacts that served over the centuries as center stage for human habitation and societal development. The region now sits at another significant crossroad as scientists, policy makers, and experts in all aspects of natural resource and economic development visualize a future for the region supported through what has become termed the "Blue Economy."

A key concern in all of this is sustainability. How will we be able to build the new economy (defined in the broadest sense - thriving and diverse natural systems as well as social and economic ones) and maintain it over the long haul for the benefit of future generations? ([Read more](#))

About CGLI

CGLI promotes the economic growth and vitality of the region in harmony with its human and natural resources (sustainable development).

CGLI works to ensure that industry is a substantive partner in the development of the Great Lakes regional policy. CGLI provides industry's perspective in collaborative efforts

[CGLI Highlighted the Importance of Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement at Great Lakes Restoration Conference 2015](#)

For more than a decade, the annual Great Lakes Restoration Conference has provided an opportunity for environmental advocates to report progress on the environmental community's Great Lakes restoration projects and initiatives. This year's event (11th Annual Great Lakes Restoration Conference, September 29-October 1, Chicago) attracted hundreds of activists and addressed a wide variety of regional environmental issues, including habitat protection and restoration, biodiversity, aquatic invasive species, nutrient pollution and management, wetland restoration, and green and urban infrastructure. CGLI participated on two panels during this year's conference that highlighted the importance of meaningful stakeholder engagement. ([Read more](#))

[World Water Week 2015 Highlights Water Issues of Importance to Industry](#)

World Water Week (WWW) is a major conference that is organized each year by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) in Stockholm, Sweden. The conference enables leaders from academic, political, NGO, and business sectors to address emerging global water issues. Society's need for water around the world, the quantity and quality of water supplies, and various use and management practices are placed on the table, with a view towards discerning and/or highlighting perceived policy needs. Issues raised at WWW are believed to influence or at least inform water policy around the world. World Water Week 2015 (August 23-26, 2015, Stockholm) reflected the participants' sense of urgency in developing water policy to address global water challenges. Participants called for action both from policymakers and at the local scale to improve water management around the world, especially in the face of climate change. Some of the issues that were raised at this year's conference and may be of particular interest to companies in the Great Lakes region include water as a human right, water stewardship as a legal obligation, articulating the business value of water, and others. ([Read more](#))

[CGLI Explores the Potential for Water Scarcity in the Great Lakes Region](#)

The Great Lakes system is commonly referred to as the largest system of freshwater in the world, accounting for roughly 20% by volume of the world's supply. While only 1% of the water in the system is renewed each year by snowmelt and rain, the sheer magnitude of the system suggests that those who withdraw and use water in the Great Lakes watershed for residential, commercial, or industrial purposes will have a never ending supply.

The abundance of water in the system as a whole does not mean necessarily that water is available exactly when and where required. Various factors influence whether water in groundwater systems and in rivers, streams, and inland lakes is readily available to water users. At local scales, there have been and will be water scarcity issues in the Great Lakes region for many industrial and other large water users. Climate scientists warn that climate variability may further complicate

to protect the region's shared freshwater resources.

As a coordinated voice for industry, CGLI creates an opportunity for industries to contribute to and engage in both Great Lakes protection and restoration, and to preserve and enhance the region's economy.

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water availability and planning for continued industrial water use. ([Read more](#))

Great Lakes Observing System Convenes Data Community at 2015 Annual Meeting

The Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS) Annual Meeting (October 7-8, Ann Arbor) provided an opportunity for data managers, environmental scientists, and others interested in Great Lakes science and information to exchange information and ideas about coordinating data collection and management in the Great Lakes region. Presenters reported the progress of several projects supported by GLOS that are designed to align data collection efforts with specific management objectives that address harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie.

Presenters also described methods of working with data to support decision-making, and highlighted projects in which data management enhanced regional programs. CGLI moderated a panel presentation that focused on efforts to align regional data management initiatives to coordinate data collection and information management. ([Read more](#))

The Great Lakes Advisory Board Advises US Federal Agencies on Adaptive Management

On September 15, 2015, the Great Lakes Advisory Board (GLAB) sent recommendations to the US Interagency Task Force and Great Lakes Regional Working Group on principles and process for integrating adaptive management (AM) into the implementation of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The recommendations offered five specific suggestions:

- Evaluate AM principles already in use in US federal government programs
- Develop consensus-based objectives for the GLRI program (i.e., metrics and indicators for benchmarking GLRI projects and initiatives.
- Compile a master list of agency-specific GLRI priorities and projects that collectively are designed to achieve the objectives.
- Define a comprehensive monitoring program for the region that includes the minimum monitoring activities required to support the lake specific objectives and to evaluate progress in achieving GLRI priorities.
- Create or adopt multi-agency regional information management system capable of collecting, managing, and making accessible to the agencies and the public the data and information necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of GLRI projects and initiatives and to periodically adapt/refocus the GLRI program to achieve program objectives.

The GLAB recommendations can be reviewed [here](#). CGLI President Kathryn Buckner is the only industry representative on the 16-member Great Lakes Advisory Board, a federal

advisory committee that advises USEPA and other federal agencies on Great Lakes policies, programs, and priorities.

CGLI in Action

- Look for CGLI at the Midwest Environmental Compliance Conference (October 29-30, Chicago Marriott O'Hare). We are presenting a session entitled *Great Lakes Issues and Impact on Industry* with Marcy Twete, ArcelorMittal; Steve Nadeau, Sediment Management Work Group, and Beth Admire, Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Cameron Davis, Senior Advisor to USEPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, will moderate.

www.mecconference.com

- CGLI President Kathryn Buckner will present on *Current Michigan Water Issues* at the Joint Conference of the Michigan State Bar Association Environmental Law Section and the East Michigan Chapter of the Air and Waste Management Association (November 5, Lansing, MI).

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