



## NEWS & UPDATES

### Register Now for the 2018 Annual Meeting & Conference!

Join us for the ***Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative's 2018 Annual Meeting & Conference: Charting a Course to Resilience*** this June 13-15, 2018 in Ajax, Ontario! This year's conference will focus on solutions for municipalities that lead to more resilient Great Lakes and St. Lawrence communities. Featured guest speakers will include Dr. Dianne Saxe, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, and Dan Egan, journalist and author of *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes*. For more information and to register, visit [www.glslcities.org/ajax](http://www.glslcities.org/ajax)

### Welcome Jane Eagleton

Please join us in welcoming Jane Eagleton as the new Administrative Assistant in our Chicago office. Jane brings experience and insight on administrative functions, event planning, and social media and is a French speaker! Jane can be reached at [jane.eagleton@glslcities.org](mailto:jane.eagleton@glslcities.org) or 312-201-4518. Welcome Jane!

### Thank you to Andrea Paine

Andrea Paine has left the Cities Initiative to pursue work at the watershed level back in her home state of Michigan. She will be working with the Huron River Watershed Council in Ann Arbor. We are grateful for all of Andrea's hard work on behalf of the Cities Initiative during her time with us and wish her the best of luck with her new endeavor!

### Milwaukee's Kevin Shafer recognized for Excellence in Water Management

The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters recently recognized Kevin Shafer, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Sewage District (MMSD) as a Fellow for his outstanding work in water management in the Milwaukee area. Kevin has been Mayor Tom Barrett's lead person for the past 16 years for dealing with one of the most serious stormwater and wastewater challenges in the Great Lakes. Kevin has completely turned around MMSD's performance with innovative approaches using green infrastructure, management of the deep tunnel system, Green Luminary Awards, cooperative efforts with the greater Milwaukee area, and much more. He has also been recognized for excellence nationally and internationally. Congratulations Kevin!

### Thunder Bay Climate Change Website

EarthCare Thunder Bay, along with Lakehead University, launched a climate change website aimed to further engage citizens on the issue of climate change in Thunder Bay. [ClimateChangeTBay.com](http://ClimateChangeTBay.com) draws more citizen engagement through education, sharing stories, and calls to action.

## Coast Guard Authorization Act 2017

Last week, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2017 came up for a vote in the US Senate. The Act contained the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) which would have essentially removed Clean Water Act regulation of ballast water discharges. Great Lakes advocates, including the nearly 200 attendees of the nearby National Association of Clean Water Agencies meeting, at which Cities Initiative President/CEO John Dickert was in attendance, mobilized to educate Senators on the impacts of eliminating Clean Water Act authority over ballast water. Thankfully, the proposal was ultimately defeated with a procedural vote. The Cities Initiative maintains its longstanding position that comprehensive, uniform, achievable, and protective ballast water standards are needed in the US and Canada, as well as harmonization between the two countries where appropriate.

## Update on Straits of Mackinac Incident

On April 1, 2018, American Transmission Company's utility cables and the Enbridge Line 5 twin pipelines were struck and damaged, potentially by the anchor of a passing boat. As a result, 600 gallons of dielectric fluid was released from the cables into the water. This is a fatal substance for humans when ingested and toxic to aquatic life. Three dents were also identified on the Line 5 pipelines. The US Coast Guard has been overseeing the clean-up of the spill as well as the investigation of the incident. As well, the Line 5 pipelines were temporarily shut down for inspection. To learn more click [here](#).

## Lac St. Pierre Conservation

In mid-March, the Quebec government announced, in the presence of Mayor Serge Peloquin of Sorel-Tracy, its plans to allocate \$14 million over 5 years for the protection of Lac St. Pierre. The government will embark on a two-part plan, focused on wildlife and habitat restoration and promoting sustainable agriculture. To read the plan, click [here](#) (in French).

## Lake Huron Management Plan Released

Environment and Climate Change Canada and US EPA recently released the [\*2017-2021 Lake Huron Lakewide Action and Management Plan\*](#), as called for under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The plan assesses the health of Lake Huron, identifies critical threats such as chemical contaminants, invasive species, and nutrient pollution, sets priorities around research and monitoring, and identifies additional actions that should be taken by the governments and the public to address threats to the Lake. The report assesses Lake Huron's condition as "fair".

## Seeking Nominations for the 2018 Wege Award

The Wege Small Cities Sustainability Best Practices Award is a \$5,000 award to a Cities Initiative member city (population less than 100,000) working to protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence and improve the quality of the water resource for future generations. For more information and the nomination form, visit <https://glsicities.org/resources/awards-and-funding/>. Nominations are due by May 15, 2018.

## EVENTS & WEBINARS

### Great Lakes Economic Forum

Hosted by the Council of the Great Lakes Region, the Great Lakes Economic Forum is dedicated to creating a more favorable and sustainable business climate in the Great Lakes Region.

**May 3-5, 2018**

**Montreal, QC**

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Use promo code GLEF2018 for 15% off.

## **Product Stewardship Institute Webinar**

### *Global Best Practices for Drug Take-Back Programs Webinar*

Hear from speakers from the US, Canada, France, and Sweden about global best practices for drug take-back programs. Other topics will include stakeholder roles, program costs, scope of products covered, and policies that created the program.

**June 7, 2018**

**11:00 am EDT**

Click [here](#) to register.

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES - US**

### **Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Financing**

WIFIA is a new federal credit program administered by US EPA for eligible water and wastewater infrastructure projects. WIFIA can fund development and implementation activities for projects like: 1). Wastewater conveyance and treatment projects; 2). Drinking water treatment and distribution projects; 3). Enhanced energy efficiency projects at drinking water and wastewater facilities

**Deadline: TBD**

It is anticipated there will be another round of applications for WIFIA at the end of the year, assuming the federal appropriations are authorized by October.

To learn more about the program, [click here](#).

### **US Forest Service Funding**

The US Forest Service anticipates approximately \$3.7 million in GLRI funding for tree planting and native vegetation restoration in the Great Lakes Basin.

**Deadline: May 11, 2018**

[Click here for more information.](#)

## **Membership**

Please join the 131 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members in protecting and restoring the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River by clicking [here](#) for a membership application. If you are already a member, please encourage your neighboring communities to join, and be sure to renew your membership when you receive your notice.