

SOLEC 2008 Conference Agenda

(Draft – October 1st, 2008)

Day 1 – Wednesday, October 22nd

State of the Great Lakes

8:30 – 9:45 **Continental Breakfast**

Morning – Plenary

10:00 – 10:20 **Welcomes, Introductions and First Nations Opening Ceremony**

10:20 – 11:20 **State of the Great Lakes:** Condition of Great Lakes contamination, biotic communities, invasive species, coastal zones, aquatic habitats, human health, land use-land cover, resource utilization, and climate change **based on indicators** in the Great Lakes suite. To the extent possible, the presentations will report conditions at a lake-basin scale as well as convey the overall basin-wide status.

Plenary Presentation #1: Indicators – Contaminants, Biotic Communities and Invasive Species (*Amy DeWeerd, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*)

Plenary Presentation #2: Indicators – Coastal Zones and Aquatic Habitats (*Gail Hesse, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency*)

Plenary Presentation #3: Indicators – Human Health, Land Use, Resource Utilization, and Climate Change (*Mary Thorburn, Ontario Ministry of Environment*)

11:20 – 11:45 **Health Break**

11:45 – 12:30 **Keynote Speaker – *Thomas Homer-Dixon***, Centre for International Governance Innovation Chair of Global Systems at the Balsillie School of International Affairs in Waterloo, Ontario and Professor in the Centre for Environment and Business in the Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo.

[12:30 – 1:00] Qs & As for Thomas Homer-Dixon (optional)

12:30 – 2:00 **Lunch Break**

[1:30 – 2:00] Indicators 101 (optional)

2:00 – 3:00 **The Nearshore Areas of the Great Lakes – Status and Trends:** The condition of the nearshore zone of the Great Lakes, **based on information from the Nearshore**

Background Paper being written for SOLEC 2008, including what has changed in the nearshore areas since 1996.

Plenary Presentation #4: Impacts of Changing Land Use
(*Scudder Mackey, University of Windsor/Habitat Solutions*)

Plenary Presentation #5: Nearshore Terrestrial Ecosystems
(*Dan Kraus, The Nature Conservancy Canada*)

Plenary Presentation #6: Coastal Wetlands
(*George Finney, Bird Studies Canada*)

Plenary Presentation #7: Nearshore Waters (biological, physical, chemical features) (*Murray Charlton, Environment Canada - retired*)

3:00 – 3:30

Health Break

3:30 – 5:00

Afternoon Concurrent Discussion Sessions – Next Steps, Policy Implication:
Discussions will relate to indicator refinement and development, data tracking and issue-based reporting with respect to the use of this information for policy and management decision-making. The sessions will also discuss the integration of reporting approaches and other indicator initiatives within the Great Lakes basin.

Suggested session titles include:

1. Progress Towards Assessing Chemicals of Emerging Concern
2. Adaptive Management Implications for the Changing Aquatic Nearshore
3. Tracking Nearshore Terrestrial Habitats and Species
4. Impacts of Changing Land Use
5. Implementing Coastal Wetlands Monitoring
6. Implications of Water Management
7. Linking Beach Health with Human Health

Evening – Dinner/Reception

6:00 – 6:45

Cash Bar/Networking

7:00 – 9:00

Dinner Reception/Success Story Awards Presentation

Right Honourable Herb Gray, International Joint Commission Chairman and Commissioner Allen Olsen, International Joint Commission

Day 2 – Thursday, October 23rd, 2008

Ecosystem Status Reports: Lakes and Connecting Channels

7:00 – 8:30 Continental Breakfast

Morning – Plenary

8:30 – 8:35 Welcomes/Highlights from Day 1/Overview of Day 2

The Lakes and Connecting Channels: Each of the Great Lakes and the connecting channels are unique. Each presentation will give an overview of the ecosystem conditions of the waterbody and also focus on one nearshore issue.

8:35 – 8:55 Plenary Presentation #1: **Lake Superior** – Nearshore focus: Non-native species (*Roger Eberhardt, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality*)

8:55 – 9:15 Plenary Presentation #2: **Lake Michigan** – Nearshore focus: Botulism (*Ken Hyde, National Park Service*)

9:15 – 9:35 Plenary Presentation #3: **Lake Huron** – Nearshore focus: Beaches and Recreational Water Quality (*Pam Scharfe, Huron County Health Unit*)

9:35 – 9:55 Plenary Presentation #4: **St. Clair-Detroit River Connecting Channel** – Nearshore focus: Nutrients and algal blooms (including *Cladophora*) (*Doug Haffner, University of Windsor*)

9:55 – 10:15 Plenary Presentation #5: **Lake Erie** – Nearshore focus: Nutrients and Harmful Algal Blooms (*Greg Boyer, SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry*)

10:15 – 10:45 Health Break

10:45 – 11:05 Plenary Presentation #6: **Niagara River** – Nearshore focus: Contaminants (*Brad Hill, Environment Canada*)

11:05 – 11:25 Plenary Presentation #7: **Lake Ontario** – Nearshore focus: Impacts of Water Levels (*Doug Wilcox, SUNY Brockport*)

11:25 – 1:00 Lunch Break

[12:30 – 1:00] Mother Earth Water Walk Traditional Ecological Knowledge Session – *Josephine Mandamin* (optional)

- 1:00 – 2:00** Keynote Speaker
Peter Annin – Author of **Great Lakes Water Wars**
- 2:00 – 2:05** **Charge to Participants for Discussion Sessions**
- 2:20 – 4:25** **Afternoon Concurrent Discussion Sessions – Issues, Policy Implications, Next Steps:** Afternoon discussion sessions will provide participants with an opportunity to discuss the information presented in the morning plenary with respect to the Nearshore Areas as well as discuss other issues and information related to the specific waterbody.
1. Lake Superior - Non-native Species
 2. Lake Michigan - Botulism
 3. Lake Huron - Beach Health & Biodiversity Strategy
 4. St. Clair - Detroit River Connecting Channel - Nutrients & Algal Blooms
 5. Lake Erie - Nutrients & Harmful Algal Blooms
 6. Niagara River - Contamination
 7. Lake Ontario - Impacts of Water Levels
- 4:25 – 4:30** **Closing Remarks (Plenary)**
- 4:30 – 4:40** **First Nations Closing Ceremony**
- 4:40** **Adjourn**