

**INTERNATIONAL GREAT LAKES COALITION
FOR SHORELINE PRESERVATION**

NEWS LETTER

Visit the Coalition web site at www.iglc.org

WINTER 2003

Vol.9 No.1

A TURNING POINT

BOLD DECISIONS BY DIRECTORS

The December Directors meeting yielded action oriented decisions that will change the way that the Coalition behaves to achieve its stated objectives of responsible water levels, more natural sand supplies, and more sensitive coastal management.

A strong financial plan recognizes the known shoreline population of approximately 100,000 parcels of private property on the coasts of the Great Lakes. With so many property owners who need the IGLC, it was decided to hold the present annual dues level at \$35.00 and to set our sights on a 10% penetration. Successful recruitment describes an annual budget of \$350,000.00. 10/35ths or \$10.00 of future dues will be paid to the Chapter with the balance to the International organization, providing that not less than \$600.00 remains with each regional chapter.

Each State-Province / Lake Chapter shall now be represented by one international Director for each three hundred fully paid members with at least one Board member representing the Chapter.

A provision to include Directors from supporting organizations outside the IGLC would allow one Director from a group that contributes one hundred times individual IGLC annual dues and encourages its members to join the IGLC.

Professional staffing is planned to include an Executive Director, a Lobbyist in Washington, or both. This will be on a part time basis at first, and will expand as membership grows. A want ad elsewhere in this issue solicits interested members.

Starting in 2003, **a special solicitation** will be made to all members for deductible contributions to fund defined technical research, political, and legal activities, especially lobbying the United States and Canadian Governments, States and Provinces, the I J C, and administrative agencies.

A separate lobbying and political action organization, related to but not included in the IGLC, in the form of a 501[C] [4] and/or a section 527 entity is being developed to solicit tax deductible funds for political purposes.

The attitude to drive the Coalition more aggressively toward leveling the playing field on the shorelines of the Great Lakes comes through loud and clear. Indeed . . . a turning point!

AN INVITATION

an advocacy is planned for more reasonable shore line issues directly with appropriate legislators. The concentration will be on sub committees that deal with the appropriation of funds to preserve the Great lakes coasts. The Coalition negotiators will meet with staff or directly with Congressmen and Senators at their offices

in Washington D.C. during the last week in March.

All IGLC members are invited to join in the presentation of our case, so if you would like to participate, please contact the office at [269] 857 8945 to volunteer. The dates will be March 25, 26, and 27 when the Congress is in session and the legislators will be in Washington. Thus, a face will be put on the IGLC in Washington.

Should you accept this invitation, the Coalition and all of its members will be in your debt for your dedicated investment of time, talent, ability, travel costs, persuasion, and communication skills. The Coalition is looking for 15 to 20 good members to help develop constructive rapport with our elected officials to help get the Coalition message across to key legislators who have the power to put teeth into our advocacy.

Some of the burning issues on the agenda are; the negative aspects of the proposed navigation study, elimination of section 111 mitigation, the need to update of orders of approval from 1090 to 2003, and the negative attitude toward current water levels. [see latest Corps of Engineers bulletin that refers to higher water levels as an Aimprovement≡]

Please think about this request as a unique opportunity to protect your shoreline property with body and soul. Even though it will not be easy, it promises to be an extremely rewarding experience that can bring you into the process of protecting your right to preserve your property.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WANTED

Part time Executive Director to:

Execute Board of Directors decisions

Grow IGLC membership

Advise Chairman and Directors

Work with Elected Officials and
Government Agencies

Maintain records and communications

Maintain organizational housekeeping

Requires minimum of 4 yr. degree and marketing, legal, engineering, political, or public relations experience. Political connections a plus.

BILL ANDRESEN RESIGNS

During a scheduled Directors meeting of the International Great Lakes Coalition [IGLC] on December 7, 2002, Bill Andresen announced that he is stepping down from the Chair. The Coalition has now been an active advocate for coastal property owners for 17 years and Andresen has served as Chairman for 8 years, or almost half its life.

He has offered to continue with the duties of the office for a period of up to 6 months to preserve continuity. A 3 person nominating committee composed of Roger Smithe, Neal Thurber, and Joe Milauckas has been asked to recommend replacement candidates who will then be elected, in accordance with the IGLC constitution, by

the sitting Directors. Ray Oakes will take Thurber's place to nominate a new President for the Michigan/Lake Michigan Chapter

Andresen says there is no hidden agenda or emotion involved in this decision because the organization is not designed for perpetual leadership. The next generation of leaders needs room to navigate the IGLC through the next phase of Government resistance to our goals.

The IGLC has changed in character since Andresen took control shortly after the infamous A Levels Reference Study removed any pretense of fairness as far as coastal property interests are concerned.

Some accomplishments that occurred under Andresen's administration include the development of a mathematical computer model of the Great Lakes flow system, establishment of a world class legal committee, technical liaison with recognized experts, continued respect from Government agencies during frequent adversarial confrontations, the IGLC Internet web site, continuity of the IGLC NEWSLETTER, and connected lines of communication with each new administration of I J C Commissioners, Corps of Engineers Commanders, Legislators, etc.

A critically important policy was accepted into Coalition culture that does not tolerate any strategy in which one member will benefit from another's misfortune.

A glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel is the I J C promise of a quantitative definition of the existing flow control capacity in the Upper Niagara River. If it is objective and quantitative as opposed to subjective and qualitative, it can add significant meaning to the IGLC flow theories.

Bill extends his enduring gratitude to the many people who have added excitement and enjoyment to his term as IGLC Chairman.

WONDERGEM POLL PERSPECTIVES

Admittedly the responses represent a small portion of the membership, but they were taken randomly and the answers to significant questions are consistent enough to better define what we think.

71% considered responsible management of water levels very important, while only 18% put the NEWSLETTER in this category, but 48% rank it important. The Internet web site www.IGLC.org did not fare so well in that it is not important to 70%. IGLC membership is not generally into computers.

Sand supplies are very important to 78% and 67% encourage IGLC resistance to coastal management. Surprisingly, 68% of those questioned think that diversion of water from the Great Lakes is a very important issue. This is not a major target of the IGLC because the three announced focuses consume all of our resources. The IGLC, of course, opposes efforts to divert water from the system but can not play an active role.

The Coalition has always maintained that it is not necessarily a high water level interest, but this questionnaire tells us that 59% of the membership is concerned about levels that are too high. Levels that are too low worry only 29% of us which is not too surprising since reasonable levels enhance the quality of life on the coasts.

A whopping 84% of those polled favored an increase in annual dues to \$50.00 which is encouraging. However, of concern is that only 41% would support a one time tax deductible contribution for a defined

reason.

REVISION OF LAKE ERIE CHAPTERS

Greg Cronhite and Homer Taft have decided to combine the Lake Erie / Ohio and Pennsylvania chapters into a single unit to represent the south shore of Lake Erie. Taft now becomes President of the new Ohio-Pennsylvania / Lake Erie Chapter.

Recent dynamic activity promises quantum growth in Ohio which will be extended to the Pennsylvania coast of Lake Erie.

EMERGING PHILOSOPHIES

From the pen of John Ehret comes the observation that the **natural ordinary high water mark** is not a physical dimension; in practice it is instead, a philosophy. Different States and Provinces, and even different agencies within a State, define it and use it against us as it favors their objective.

Notice has recently been taken that some maps of the Great Lakes include population concentrations on portions of the shoreline which are not at all uniform.

While it is the beauty of the waters that draws us to the Great Lakes, it is the **shoreline that is critical** to the Coalition. Illogical Government decisions force the three IGLC focuses to be directed not to the waters, but the coasts. Therefore you will be seeing more maps created by the Coalition that contrast the blue of the water to the orange of the reaches of shore lines that are important to the Coalition since that is where you live.

TAFT RESPONSIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP

Homer Taft brings energy and enthusiasm to the task of raising the membership to 10,000. Roger Smithe has agreed to assist in this effort. They both view this as an achievable goal. It is essential to improve the strength of numbers to implement the ambitious and aggressive posture announced earlier in this issue.

Membership is the key to success during legislative arguments, and an absolute requirement to funding the stated objectives of the Coalition. After all, every IGLC proposal is almost guaranteed resistance from the Governments of the United States and Canada because the deck is so severely stacked against us.

The strength of the Coalition is defined by the number of members and the annual funding. This is how the members help the Coalition to help them maintain and protect their properties.

Most readers ignore the membership form at the bottom of the newsletter as just so much boiler plate. It is not just for new members, it can also be used by long term members for renewal of dues. If you haven't sent in your dues in the last year, please take a minute to send it in with the form provided here.

IN CONCLUSION

The sense of the IGLC shifting into high gear is good news for all of us. If the strength of the organization is described by the numbers, its character is established by the behavior and competence of the leadership.

Bill Andresen

Chairman

Please pass to your neighbor after reading

**From: International Great Lakes Coalition
P.O. Box 429
Saugatuck, MI 49453**

To:

MEMBERSHIP APPEAL: If you own property on one of the Great Lakes shorelines, you owe it to yourself to become a member of the International Great Lakes Coalition, the only representation you will find that deals with the whole basin in both Canada and the United States. The annual dues are modest and you will have a recognized voice to handle coastal issues that are unique compared to inland property. In soliciting your membership, the IGLC seeks strength through increased numbers of members and financing for its important work. Please cut out this form, fill it out, and enclose your check in an envelope addressed to:

International Great Lakes Coalition P.O. Box 429 Saugatuck, MI 49453

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Registration and Initial annual dues to the International Great Lakes Coalition

Yes, I/We recognize that the IGLC can be helpful in preserving our portion of the Great Lakes coastline by representing our interests in water levels, sand supplies, and coastal management.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

AMOUNT: \$35.00 _____ **OTHER** _____ **DATE:** _____ **e-mail address** _____

MEMBER SIGNATURE: _____

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