



## COUNCIL OF GREAT LAKES INDUSTRIES

### FACT SHEET: WATER USE AND QUALITY WORK GROUP

October 2013

#### Overview and Objectives

CGLI's Water Use and Quality Work Group will provide a members-only forum for developing an industry perspective on freshwater policies and practices in the Great Lakes region that impact or may impact Great Lakes industries. The Work Group will:

- Provide a forum for industry water managers to develop a comprehensive understanding of the importance and impact of bi-national Great Lakes water use and quality policies and practices;
- Strengthen industry's voice in the ongoing work of ensuring continued access to high-quality Great Lakes water resources and balanced water quality programs; and
- Provide an opportunity for industry water managers to participate in regional water use and quality projects and initiatives.

#### The Need for the Work Group

##### ***The freshwater resources of the Great Lakes are robust but not unlimited.***

- The US and Canadian governments have enacted and are implementing sweeping changes to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. States and provinces are implementing the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Water Resources Compact and Agreement through state and provincial programs.
- Regional NGOs and academic institutions are investigating potential systemic connections between Great Lakes water use and factors such as climate change, tributary health, algal blooms, and fish populations. Studies are underway to determine whether water withdrawals have the potential to reduce stream flows, impact stream temperatures, alter wetlands, and/or affect aquatic and water-dependent habitats.
- Water policy personnel have identified streams, tributaries, and other areas within the region that may be vulnerable to scarcity and drought. Questions are being raised by water conservation advocates whether water withdrawals even at current levels are sustainable without mandatory conservation, particularly with some lake levels at historic lows.
- Governments are focusing on water use and management practices to address these challenges as part of a "whole system" approach to protecting and restoring regional water quality. Attention may focus on industrial withdrawals, especially since confusion perpetuates as to whether industrial withdrawals constitute "consumptive uses" that might be contributing to ecological harm.

*These pressures may mount as climate change, population shifts, and water scarcity concerns elsewhere turn envious eyes to the Great Lakes as a potential water supply for other regions.*

***Industry continues to play a unique and critical role in the future use and management of Great Lakes water resources, and must take collaborative action to demonstrate long-term regional water stewardship.***

- Companies in the Great Lakes basin rely heavily on self-supplied water from the Great Lakes, from regional tributaries and groundwater, and from utilities that withdraw large quantities of freshwater for municipal and industrial use.
- The corporate commitment to sustainable water use is intensifying. Industry water users are committing to water management practices that prevent adverse impact at local and regional watershed scales.
- Corporate water stewardship is motivated by a wide variety of factors, including enhanced interest in corporate social responsibility, supply chain pressure, and regulatory risk.
- Great Lakes industry is uniquely positioned to inform regional water policy, develop and integrate sustainable industrial water management practices, and demonstrate good water stewardship to the rest of the world.

*Industry must continue to engage in regional policy discussions to ensure that the abundant resources of the Great Lakes remain available for responsible and sustainable use.*

### **KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES**

- Regional experts will present information on critical Great Lakes issues directly to the Work Group so that members can develop a comprehensive understanding of the impact of policy initiatives and regulatory programs, such as those being considered under the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact/Agreement and the 2012 Protocol to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.
- Work Group members will explore and develop a comprehensive understanding of the impact of critical regional water issues such as water level fluctuations, emerging contaminants, the impact and management of aquatic invasive species, proposed nutrient controls, and “beyond the fenceline” watershed initiatives on industrial operations.
- Members will have an opportunity to share best practices and other information about regional water issues, industrial water stewardship, and innovative approaches to water management with other regional industry representatives.

### **WORK GROUP STRUCTURE**

During FY2014, Work Group activities will consist of in-depth webinars by regional experts on critical water use and management topics of importance to Great Lakes industries. Regular teleconferences will provide an opportunity for members-only discussion on water use and quality activities and trends in the region. Webinars and teleconferences will occur once or twice per month. An outline of proposed work group activities is attached.

If appropriate, on-the-ground projects will be identified and developed by industry members in a facilitated, collaborative environment. CGLI and group leadership will seek grants and other external funding sources for projects and studies identified by the group.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

FY2014 activities of the Water Use and Quality Work Group will begin in January 2014 and will continue through December 2014. Membership in the group is open to all CGLI members for no additional charge. Full membership in CGLI for FY2014 is \$8,000 (individual companies) or \$15,000 (approved industry associations).

Non-members may join the Water Use and Quality Work Group for FY2014 by paying a subscription fee of \$3,000 (individual corporations) or \$5,000 (approved industry associations).

## **ABOUT CGLI**

CGLI has been recognized as the voice of industry in the Great Lakes region.

- For more than 20 years, CGLI has represented industry in Great Lakes basin policy discussions and has persistently worked toward policies that preserve the economic vitality of the region along with the health of regional ecosystems.
- CGLI is industry's "sentinel" for identifying important policy issues and provides access to key policy- and decision-makers, such as EPA, Environment Canada, the International Joint Commission, the Great Lakes Commission, the Council of Great Lakes Governors, and other regional organizations and institutions.
- CGLI's past successes, working in cooperation with and on behalf of members, has positioned CGLI to successfully integrate sustainable development initiatives into regional resource protection and restoration campaigns.

*CGLI provides a forum for business leaders to stay informed about developments in regional water policy and to develop, influence, and share water stewardship practices across the region.*

The Work Group is part of an updated work group structure that CGLI has convened as part of its three-year Strategic Plan. During 2014, CGLI's members will focus on developing policies and practices in four topical areas:

- Water Use and Quality
- Great Lakes Governance and Policy
- Chemicals Use and Management
- Climate, Adaptation and Resiliency

Information about CGLI's work group structure and other activities is available by contacting Kathryn A. Buckner, President, [kabuckner@cgli.org](mailto:kabuckner@cgli.org); Dale K. Phenicie, Technical and Projects Director, [dkphenicie@cgli.org](mailto:dkphenicie@cgli.org), or Ana Sirviente, Program Development Director, [asirv@cgli.org](mailto:asirv@cgli.org), or by calling the CGLI office, 734-663-1944.

**Council of Great Lakes Industries  
Water Use and Quality Work Group  
Proposed Activities in FY2014**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>
January	Webinar	<b><i>Cumulative Impacts of Water Withdrawals and Diversions from the Great Lakes</i></b>	D. Naftzger (Executive Director, Council of Great Lakes Governors); Marc Smith (Water Policy, National Wildlife Federation)
January	GoToMeeting	Discussion and Update (members only)	
February	Webinar	<b><i>The Impact of Great Lakes Water Level Fluctuations: Science, Regulation, and Economics</i></b>	Drew Gronewold (NOAA); John Allis (US Corps of Engineers); David Sweetnam (Georgian Bay Forever)
March	GoToMeeting	Discussion and Update (members only)	
April	Webinar	<b><i>Aquatic Invasive Species: Is there an Economic Impact to Great Lakes Industries?</i></b>	TBD
April	GoToMeeting	Discussion and Update (members only)	
May	Webinar	<b><i>Nutrient Controls: Federal, State and Provincial Programs in the Great Lakes Region</i></b>	TBD
June	GoToMeeting	Discussion and Update (members only)	
July	Webinar	<b><i>Exploring Water Stewardship: Conservation, Efficiency and Reuse</i></b>	TBD
August	Webinar	<b><i>World Business Council for Sustainable Development Action 2020: Introduction and Overview</i></b>	TBD
September	GoToMeeting	Discussion and Update (members only)	
October	Webinar	<b><i>Watershed Initiatives: Managing Water "Beyond the Fenceline"</i></b>	TBD
October	GoToMeeting	Discussion and Update (members only)	
November	Webinar	<b><i>Applying Water Stewardship Tools in the Great Lakes Basin: CGLI Project Update</i></b>	Dale K. Phenicie, CGLI
December	Annual Wrap-up		