



Great Lakes
Commission
des Grands Lacs

Announcement of Public Meeting Concerning Great Lakes Restoration Priorities

February 24, 2004
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Cuyahoga Community College
Building G-04, Rooms A & B
11000 Pleasant Valley Road
Parma, Ohio

Sponsors: Council of Great Lakes Governors, Governor Bob Taft, Ohio Sea Grant, Great Lakes Commission. Funding provided by the National Sea Grant College Program.

Background: The Great Lakes, a global ecological treasure, are impaired and in need of protection and restoration. The many public and private organizations involved in protecting the Great Lakes ecosystem for all its users are in agreement that restoration is a critical need. To coalesce protection and restoration activities, the Governors of the eight Great Lakes states have released nine priorities intended to guide development of restoration strategies and focus discussions on the need for financial support of restoration programs.

The Governors, through the Council of Great Lakes Governors chaired by Governor Taft and in association with the Great Lakes Commission and Sea Grant, are seeking public input on these nine priorities. Particularly valuable will be ideas for strategies to implement the priorities, suggestions as to which priorities might represent the most urgent needs, information regarding ongoing restoration programs that could be linked to these priorities, and input regarding the plans and priorities of Great Lakes constituencies that can inform and elaborate upon the Governors' priorities. All who use or have an interest in the Great Lakes are invited to attend and all comments are welcomed. Additional information, including the list of nine priorities, is available on the web page of the Council of Great Lakes Governors: <http://www.cglg.org>.

A series of public meetings is being held to solicit input in each of the Great Lakes states. The format of Ohio's meeting has been designed to allow maximum opportunity to gain input from the public. Therefore, beyond brief introductory remarks, there will be no formal presentations. There will be a station for each of the nine priorities at which participants may ask questions and record their comments, as well as a tenth station for more general comments.

Comments will be used by the Governors to inform protection and restoration strategies, and to support passage of Great Lakes Restoration legislation in Congress, including S 1398 and HR 2720 currently pending. Ohio Sea Grant will use the results in the development of their 2006-10 strategic plan for research, education and outreach on Lake Erie. A summary of the proceedings will be available on the Great Lakes Commission web site: <http://www.glc.org>.