GREAT LAKES SMALL HARBORS COALITION

Chuck May, Chair Pro Tem

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www.miseagrant.umich.edu/harbors
Michigan Small Harbors Coalition Expands Efforts Throughout Great Lakes States

Mt. Pleasant, MI---At its recent fifth state-wide meeting, the Michigan Small Harbors Coalition voted to expand the organization’s mission and membership to all eight Great Lakes states and become the “Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition.” It also approved joining forces with the organization Realize America’s Maritime Promise (RAMP) to persuade federal officials to put a “firewall” around the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund restricting the use of those tax dollars for their intended purpose: navigation dredging.
WHAT IS THE GLSHC?

• Unifying, Grass Roots Organization
• Idea created November, 2007-- 20 attendees
• Defined by a “Common Cause”
• Bring together harbors, advocate orgs., legislators, USACE, DNR, etc.
WHAT IS THE GLSHC? Con’t

• Include all Federal harbors big/small; commercial/shallow draft
• Call/email every Mi. Fed. harbor
• Seek allies, grow and advocate for all Great Lakes Harbors
• Increase Federal Funding and Change Process!
HOW DOES GLSHC FUNCTION?

• To date, two general meetings annually
• Currently, governed by leadership group from six harbors
• Technical support and meeting facilitation provided by Great Lakes Commission, Michigan Sea Grant, and Michigan Boating Industries Assoc.
• More formal governance structure will reflect Great Lakes growth/membership
Little Lake Harbor
Overview of Harbor Problems

- Silting Channels
- Deteriorating Infrastructure
- Low Water
- Project Backlogs
- Inadequate Dredging/Infrastructure Funding
- Low Priority of Small Draft Harbors
- Potential Loss of Property Values/Tax Base
- Compromised Public Safety
GRAND MARAIS

LOSS OF THREE LIVES
“THE CHALLENGE”

Three phases of change:

- Passion
- Organize
- Action
COALITION PRINCIPLES

• Advocate for all Great Lakes Small Harbors
• Join together to form a coalition of commercial and shallow draft harbors
• Solidify community commitment and personal involvement in the Harbor Coalition
• Articulate the need for increased funding **NOT reallocating existing funding**

• Develop successful collaboration with agency and political partners

• Effect needed changes to present inadequate funding process
MISSION STATEMENT & GOALS

The Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition represents the shared needs and interests of Great Lakes communities with commercial and small harbors.

GOALS:

1. Change the present inadequate funding process of “earmarks” to an equitable, sustainable, needs-based budget process.
MISSION STATEMENT & GOALS

2. Maintain boater access and safety through adequate dredging of authorized channels and maintenance of public navigation infrastructure.

3. Promote economic growth and quality of life that harbors represent to their communities, states, Great Lakes region and the nation.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Authorized Members</td>
<td>57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Members</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Members</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens Represented</td>
<td>1.5 Million</td>
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SO, WHAT IS THE GLSHC?

• Unified grassroots voice for Great Lakes Harbors
• Over 1.5 million citizens
• Support of: Senators
  Representatives
  USACE
  DNR/Waterways Commission
  Other Advocate Organizations
• The “Growing Buzz”
• Recognition of a Great Lakes issue
RESULTS

• Success in 2009 Omnibus Bill for MSHC-- requested $5 mil ($6 mil).
• Michigan Federal Harbors received $45 mil for 2009.
  . $6 mil in 2009 Omnibus
  . $20 mil in 2009 O&M Budget
  . $19 mil in Stimulus Bill
• Letters to Senators supporting significant funding for 2010
• $27 mil for Dredging; $64.4 mil Total for USACE in 2010 Energy & Water Bill
Great Lakes
Dredging Trends 2007 - 2009

- To succeed, we need to add the voice of every Great Lakes harbor community!

- It's simple, approve a Resolution of Support of the GLSHC.

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GLSHC STATUS

- Progress – ABSOLUTELY!
- Gaining momentum – ABSOLUTELY!
- Harbors still endangered – 2010, 2011?
- We must face the overriding issue.
- Build on this momentum – more citizens and advocate organizations.
THE ISSUE!

• Even in “good years” (2008/2009) less than half of funding to sustain our harbors is budgeted by the Administration/Office of Management and Budget—half of commercial needs and zero for shallow draft.

• The balance of sustenance funding must come from “earmarks”/Omnibus Bill.

• Stimulus Bill—1.4 % of USACE $!
• Massive backlog of infrastructure projects.
• Growing evidence “earmarks”/Omnibus Bills are endangered.
• Our mission – “an equitable, sustainable, needs-based (HMTF) budget.”
<table>
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<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Commercial</th>
<th>Shallow Draft</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michigan *</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin*</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania</td>
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Great Lakes Projects  65  74  139

*Two Shared Projects

Projects = Harbors and Waterways
WHO’S WHO?

Lake Carrier’s Association (LCA) James Weakley, President

Trade Association representing U.S. Flag Vessel operators on the Great Lakes.
WHO’S WHO?
Con’t.

RAMP (Realize America’s Maritime Promise)
Barry Holiday, Chair
A coalition of maritime companies seeking a legislative fix to the maintenance dredging crisis facing the nation’s ports and waterways. Advocates using the revenues from HMTF for their originally intended purpose.
American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA)

Steve Fisher, Executive Director

An organization representing 12 public port authorities on the U.S. side of the Great Lakes. Works to inform and influence public policies, primarily at Federal level, that foster maritime commerce and related employment.
COMMON CAUSE

Putting the “trust” back in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund!
HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND

- HMTF auth. In 1986
- .125% Tax on Cargo
- Maintain Fed. ports and harbors
- Taxes equal $1.2-1.5 billion
- $.7 to ports and harbors
- $4.7 billion balance in HMTF
- Reduces Fed. deficit
The Reality

Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund
Expenditures and Balance, 1992-2007

Projected for 2007 Based on Conf Rpt.
MORE CITIZENS/ADVOCATE ORGANIZATIONS
HOW?

- Join RAMP
- Reach out Great Lakes wide (MSHC to GLSHC)
- Partner with RAMP, LCA, GLC to “Firewall”/Budget HMTF
- Establish Coalition structure, GLC Secretariat, grants
- Publicize/press releases
- Active in USACE Stakeholder meetings
- Raise the voice of millions of citizens
ACTIONS TO GROW GLSHC

• Press Release Announcing GLSHC (May 09)
• Presentation at USACE Great Lakes Stakeholder Meeting (June 2, ‘09)
• Support of Detroit & Buffalo USACE Offices
• Barcelona Harbor, NY becomes GLSHC Member (July ’09)
• Port Clinton, Oh. Meeting (Aug. 5, ‘09)
ACTIONS TO GROW GLSHC Cont.

- Meetings being Organized by 6 Counties along NY’s Lake Ontario Shoreline (Sept. ‘09)
- Meeting being Organized by Madeline Island along Wisc.’s Lake Superior Shoreline (Fall ‘09)
- Meeting of Wisc.’s Lake Michigan Shoreline (Fall ‘09)
- Work w/our Senators, Representatives, USACE, OMB to “firewall” HMTF
Portage Lake Harbor
GREAT LAKES SMALL HARBORS COALITION

• To succeed, we need to add the voice of every Great Lakes harbor community!
• To start, approve a Resolution of Support for the GLSHC.
• Be Passionate in Support of the GLSHC Mission
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