



January 9, 2010

To: Members and Advocates of the Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition (GLSHC)

THE STATUS OF YOUR COALITION!

Less than two years ago, we started a mission on behalf of the 57 Federal Harbor communities of Michigan. Now, as we begin 2010, we are an organization focused on supporting the dredging and infrastructure needs of all federally authorized harbors in the Great Lakes. This is remarkable growth for the amount of time we've been working together on these issues. We represent 75 percent of the communities with federally authorized harbors in Michigan and resolutions of support are now coming from other states. We now have 75 resolutions representing 1.7 million citizens.

When we began in February 2008, we had just experienced a year of no funding for shallow draft harbors and very minimal funding to dredge our commercial harbors. Ships were going aground and being light loaded, lives were endangered, even lost, due to silted-in harbor channels. The Coalition, therefore, was founded to represent the collective voice of our harbor communities, to get immediate funds for critically needed dredging and meet a longer term goal to reach "an equitable, sustainable, and needs based budget process" for maintaining all Michigan Great Lakes Federal Harbors, and eventually all Federal Harbors of the Great Lakes. From the very beginning we had and continue to have, the extremely valuable and active support of Sea Grant, Michigan Boating Industries Association, and the Great Lakes Commission. Further, our Michigan senators have been visibly engaged with the Coalition, a number Congressional Representatives have worked in your behalf, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has proven their support in presence and deeds.

Results:

- For the second consecutive year (2009 and 2010) the Coalition worked with Senators Levin and Stabenow, and Congressional Representatives and have received a \$6 million lump sum funding as an add to the Administration's proposed budget—a two-year total of \$12 million or \$210,000 average for Michigan's 57 harbor communities. This was a specific request by your Coalition,

came in addition to the Administration's Budget and Stimulus Funds, and has or will result in 26 harbor dredging;

- As authorized by attendees at our state-wide meeting in May 2009, and in an effort to achieve our Mission Statement, we have now moved forward in expanding the Coalition Great Lakes wide—becoming the Great Lakes Small Harbor Coalition with potential backing of 8 states, 119 harbor communities, 16 Senators and 135 Representatives;
- Kick-off meetings were held this fall in Ohio and New York with great enthusiasm and support by harbor communities, counties, fishing organizations, Sea Grant, legislators, and marine associations. Already we have received ten official resolutions of support from the harbor related governments and advocate organization--3 from Ohio and 7 from New York;
- We expect to have similar kick-off meetings in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Indiana this spring;
- Meanwhile, the Coalition plans to work with the appropriate congressional members from Michigan, Ohio, and New York, and with the Detroit and Buffalo Districts of the USACE, to obtain support for lump sum appropriations to meet dredging and high priority infra-structure projects in 2011—such requests must be submitted by early February, 2010;
- The Coalition will accomplish its mission thru the collective voice of grass-roots citizens throughout the Great Lakes, and with the support of like minded advocate organizations anywhere in the nation;
- Lastly, the Coalition is in the process of developing a formal structure, with an organizational structure and advisory body, possibly under the umbrella of the Great Lakes Commission. Such structure will permit a greater opportunity to seek grants, sponsors, and contributions to begin funding the needs of our Coalition. Once this structure has been developed, it will be forwarded to all members for comment and approval (possibly at a meeting in April or May).

In closing, and on behalf of the members of the Technical and Leadership teams, we thank you for your support and wish you great success and happiness in this New Year.

Chuck May, Chair Pro Tem
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