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E-Newsletter from the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance

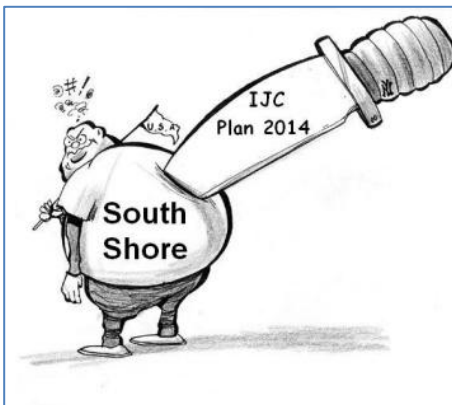
Issue 19 July 11, 2013

Grassroots Public Advocacy for the Protection, Restoration and Conservation
of Lake Ontario Beaches and Riparian Property

In this issue:

- Is it Fear or Hubris?
- Petitions
- Dates

Is it Fear or Hubris*?



The International Joint Commission (IJC) has not only snubbed its nose at the shoreline riparians, but it has also snubbed the largest town on the south shore.

We have heard that homeowners have been questioning why no public meetings were scheduled for the Town of Greece, particularly given the importance attached to this proposed new regulation plan. The reply they received stated that, while the south shore has legitimate concerns regarding this plan, the IJC just did not have the time to provide for more public comment than the limited schedule that they have created. This is amazing considering the fact that the majority of damages from the new plan will occur along this shore.

Now we at LORA have learned that the Town of Greece, New York, the town with the largest population on the south shore and which stands to sustain the most damages from this proposed new plan, has been told by the IJC that it will be by-passing the opportunity to have a public meeting here. Is it fear of the turn-out or acknowledgment that this plan is awful, not only for the south shore of Lake Ontario but particularly for the Town of Greece, New York?

*Hubris- exaggerated pride or self-confidence (Webster's Dictionary)

Please Sign our petitions:

www.stopplan2014.com

Visit www.Loranet.org for more information

Call for action!

To the Honorable Louise Slaughter:

Fight for a Lake Ontario plan that will not damage the County of Monroe, New York,
and the Lake Ontario South Shore.

Please sign the Petition and tell your friends and neighbors about it!

Please join this campaign: <http://chn.ge/184Z9VC>

IJC Public Hearings
All run 6-9 pm

Sunday, July 14: Cornell Cooperative Extension, 4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport, NY,
Meeting Room: 4-H Training Center

Tuesday, July 16: Central High School, 5891 Route 21, Williamson, NY
Meeting Room: Auditorium

Wednesday, July 17: Bonnie Castle, 31 Holland Street, Alexandria Bay, NY

IJC Technical Meetings

By invitation only

Public welcome, but can only listen and not speak. (not our rule!!!)

Tuesday, July 16: [Hyatt Regency](#), 125 East Main Street, Rochester, NY, Meeting Room: Ballroom AB
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Wednesday, July 17: [Lake Ontario Event and Conference Center](#), 70 East 1st Street, Oswego, NY
10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Important Notice

Public Hearing

We have been notified as we go to press that the IJC is planning another Public Hearing on
Tuesday, July 16, 2013.

[Hyatt Regency](#), 125 East Main Street, Rochester, NY.

The hearing will run from 2 to 4 pm.

Teleconferences

If you are interested in a "IJC Company" Sales Pitch:

You are invited to join a teleconference with Commissioners to express your views about the IJC's proposal for
Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River Regulation.

Thursday, July 11, 2013
7 pm (EST)
1-888-772-5578

Wednesday, July 24, 2013
7 pm (EST)
1-888-775-5578

The teleconferences will begin with a brief overview of the proposal and will be followed by comments
from participants. Participants are asked to limit their comments to 3 minutes to allow everyone the opportunity to
speak. The teleconference will be recorded and included in the IJC's record of public comment.

Letter from the Honorable Louise M. Slaughter

Dear Friends,

Thank you for contacting me with your thoughts and concerns regarding the International Joint Commission's (TJC) proposal for managing water levels and flows in the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River system. I appreciate hearing from you on this important matter. As you know, the IJC is proposing a water management plan known as the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Plan 2014, or Plan 2014. Plan 2014 aims to restore the natural ebb and flow of the Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River Seaway. For decades, we have lived with the current regulation plan, which has maintained the water level between a four-foot range. I believe that the current regulation plan is outdated and has been the cause of significant damage to our ecosystem, wetlands, beaches and shoreline.

However, I have also heard from many of my constituents, like you, regarding the IJC's proposal, and I understand your concerns: an increased risk of flooding, a greater risk of erosion and a need for mitigation should homes and infrastructure be damaged. I too am concerned about the local ramifications of a new water management plan on residents, businesses and municipalities along the south shore.

Most recently, on April 19, 2013, I joined Representatives Bill Owens and Dan Maffei in a letter to New York State Governor Cuomo urging his administration to work collaboratively with the IJC and articulate specific steps to assist shoreline communities and property owners in the transition to the new regulation plan. This letter followed a similar letter I sent in June 2012 to the IJC calling on them to work with New York State and relevant agencies to address the vital need for shoreline and property protections before any water management plan is finalized.

Your input and participation in this process is vitally important. I am pleased to inform you that the IJC has scheduled four town hall meetings and two technical hearings across New York to discuss Plan 2014. This includes a public hearing in Rochester on Tuesday July 16th from 2:00 to 4:00pm at the Hyatt Regency on 125 East Main Street. These events will be open to the public and will provide information on steps being taken to address the concerns of southern shore residents. I encourage you to participate in these events. Additionally, you can offer your comments on the management plan online by visiting; http://www.ijc.org/en_/losl/Comments or writing to the Secretary of the U.S. Section of the International Joint Commission at 2000 L Street, NW, Suite 615 Washington, DC 20440. Comments will be accepted until August 30, 2013 and are a crucial part of the process of finalizing a new water management plan.

I pledge to continue to work with you, the IJC, and the other stakeholders to work towards a new Order of Approval that accounts for all interests, including the environment and your livelihood.

Again, thank you for sharing your opinion and please do not hesitate to contact me again. I encourage you to sign up for my e-newsletter — the "Louise Line" for periodic updates on my work on your behalf in Washington.

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

Note from the Directors of Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance:

While we appreciate the Congresswoman's efforts, we feel she is being ill-advised as to the effects of this proposed Plan 2014 on her district. We agree with her that, before any contemplation of a change occur, all mitigation measures for damages must be in place.

The plan, as drawn up, will allow for water levels to reach unprecedented levels, both at the high and low ends, before any triggers for emergency deviations will be allowed.

Additionally, there is concern that if levels did reach these triggers, there would not be any ability to adjust levels in a manner to reduce damages. In the case of high water levels, the system can only handle a finite amount of water in volume.