



News Release

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**For Immediate Release
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County Environment and Port Authority Heads to Co-Chair Lake St. Clair International Effort

WAYNE COUNTY, MI – October 1, 2007 Kurt Heise, Director of the Wayne County Department of Environment, and Curtis Hertel, Director of the Detroit-Wayne County Port Authority, have been named Co-Chairs of the Lake St. Clair Blue Ribbon Commission International Cooperation Committee.

The 40-member Lake St. Clair Commission has been charged with developing a more regional focus on the lake's environmental quality. The International Cooperation Committee is comprised of U.S. and Canadian government and environmental officials, including two members of the Canadian Parliament, Congresswoman Candice Miller, and the Detroit Water & Sewer Department.

One of the Committee's goals is to establish a Lake St. Clair International Alliance, according to Heise. "Government officials around the lake need a forum to share water quality data and to better coordinate and sustain our environmental initiatives."

"Lake St. Clair is a tremendous environmental asset for Wayne and Macomb County and a major source of drinking water for Southeast Michigan and Ontario," Heise said, "we need an international approach to protect this precious resource."

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