

# Lake Michigan Forum Bi-Weekly News



## 1. Conference Call

The LM Forum will have a conference call in Mid-January, please e-mail Bill Schleizer ([wschleizer@delta-institute.org](mailto:wschleizer@delta-institute.org)) to let him know your availability by Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> for the following dates/times:

- Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> 1pm central/2pm eastern
- Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> 10am central/11am eastern
- Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> 3pm central/4pm eastern

## 2. Next Meeting

The next Lake Michigan Forum meeting will be held in Chicago, Illinois. The tentative dates selected were Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>-Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Please let Bill know **as soon as possible** if you can attend at the dates selected or if there are any major conflicts. The meeting will start in the afternoon on the 11<sup>th</sup> and continue into the 12<sup>th</sup>. Agenda details and materials will be provided at a later date.

## 3. Summary of December 5 Forum Conference Call

12 individuals participated in Lake Michigan Forum conference call. Here are the highlights:

- Todd Parker from Delta Institute reviewed the plan for improved communications through the revised website, the quarterly newsletters, the bi-weekly new report and the monthly list serve.
- The forum formally approved the membership of Kathy Luther, Environmental Program Director for NIRPC,
- Todd Parker updated the forum on the Muskegon Lake Ports Project. Todd hopes to have draft documents available for review shortly
- Forum members had a lengthy discussion on revisions to the LaMP. Jeff Edstrom reported that the EPA would like additional input on the sustainability and beach chapters. Jeff also asked for input on whether certain chapters should be expanded and contracted and where forum members would like to see additional emphasis. Judy Beck reiterated these requests. The LaMP revisions are released on Earth Day in April, so your opportunity to comment on the revisions is ending.

## 4. News and Notes from around the Basin

[U.S. Steel: New Gary Works permit wouldn't harm Lake Michigan](#)—U.S. Steel on Tuesday defended the environmental performance at its Gary Works and vowed that its new water permit would protect Lake Michigan. Source: Chicago Tribune (12/12)

[Pollution health risks in our midst](#)—The U.S. Steel mill in Gary and the BP refinery in nearby Whiting rank among the nation's worst factories in terms of health threats to neighbors from water pollution, according to an analysis of new federal research. Source: Chicago Tribune (12/9)

[Lake Michigan water levels nearly scrape bottom](#)—Signs are mounting that Lake Michigan's already-low water levels are taking a turn for the worse. Source: The Grand Rapids Press (12/6)

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