

Great Lakes Panel Members and Interested Parties:

Plans are progressing well for the joint meeting of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basin ANS Panels, scheduled for June 17-19, 2008 in Milwaukee Wisconsin. The meeting will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel, located at 611 West Wisconsin Avenue (53203) in downtown Milwaukee. To assist in making your travel arrangements, please refer to the DoubleTree website where you can find logistical information and reserve your accommodations

(<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/MKECCDT-USF-20080617/index.jhtml>). You can also make your room reservations by phone at 414-273-2950 and refer to the block "Joint ANS Panels" to get the room rate of \$93.00 plus tax.

Reservations must be made by May 17 to ensure this room rate. Please note that the above website also provides information on field trips to be held in conjunction with this joint ANS Panel meeting. The preliminary agenda and registration information for the meeting and field trips will be circulated in our next communication within the next few weeks.

An important goal of this meeting is to provide a forum that will facilitate further communication and coordination among members of both panels given the shared issues of concern existing within these interconnected watersheds. During the first day and a half of the meeting (June 17-18), the Great Lakes Panel and Mississippi River Basin Panel will convene to discuss common priority issues. On the afternoon of the second day (June 18), each ANS panel will meet separately to address basin-specific issues. A reception will be held Tuesday evening as a social event bringing meeting participants from both ANS panels together. The overall program for this joint ANS panel meeting is being structured to provide time for interaction and networking between members from both regions.

Meeting field trips are being planned for the third day (Thursday, June 19) to provide further opportunities for networking and socializing among meeting participants. On Thursday morning, a two hour cruise on Lake Michigan will be offered on the Dennis R. Sullivan clipper ship. Also offered on Thursday will be a tour of Discovery World which is a Great Lakes educational facility recently built along the Milwaukee lakefront. For all those baseball fans out there, you will have the chance to watch the Milwaukee Brewers play the Toronto Blue Jays on Wednesday evening (June 18) at 7:05 pm (refer to above website). If you are interested in attending the game, please plan on handling your ticket purchase and logistics on your own.

We are pleased to acknowledge the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and the U.S. Forest Service Eastern Regional Office as co-sponsors for this meeting.

Please contact Kathe Glassner-Shwayder (shwayder@glc.org) if you have questions or need further information on the meeting at this time.