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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION
ENTERS NEW ERA OF LEADERSHIP**

***Dr. Michael J. Donahue, new LakeNet Chairman of the Board,
will lead efforts to address lake and watershed issues worldwide.***

ANNAPOLIS, MD. (July 18, 2006) – Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D., has been elected chairman of the board of trustees of LakeNet, a global environmental organization presently based in Annapolis, Maryland. Dr. Donahue, corporate vice president of water resources and environmental services for global consulting firm URS Corporation, assumed leadership of the organization at a recent board meeting at the University of Vermont’s Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources in Burlington. Donahue brings almost 30 years of experience to LakeNet, including his term as President/CEO of the Great Lakes Commission. He has special expertise in water system planning, policy development and governance.

“For almost three decades, LakeNet has promoted the restoration, protection and sustainable use of large lakes and watersheds all over the world by working in partnership with governmental, private sector and citizen organizations,” said Dr. Donahue. “I look forward to building on this legacy, and collaborating with my colleagues on the Board to strengthen LakeNet’s leadership role in promoting stewardship of the world’s water resources.”

The LakeNet board of trustees met in Vermont to discuss a partnership with UVM’s Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources. The two parties signed a letter of intent to cooperate and entered into negotiations to host the LakeNet Secretariat at UVM.

LakeNet’s longtime staff leaders announced their plans to retire at the Vermont meeting. David Read Barker, Ph.D., plans to retire as president, and Lisa Borre plans to step down as director of the organization as part of the transition to Vermont. Barker will continue to serve as a senior advisor to

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LakeNet. Borre will continue to serve as LakeNet's vice-president and an *ex officio* trustee. University of Vermont professor Mary Watzin, Ph.D., is LakeNet's president designate, pending the finalization of a partnership agreement with UVM.

Rhonda Harris, president of PRO-OPS in Dallas, Texas and an internationally-known clean water expert, was elected vice-chairman of the LakeNet board. Roland "Buzz" Hoerr, CEO of ElectroCell Technologies and chair of the Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee on the Future of Lake Champlain in Colchester, Vermont, was re-elected secretary of the organization. Mary Lou Baker of Annapolis, Maryland will serve as treasurer.

New board members are Gerald E. Galloway, Ph.D., P.E., of the University of Maryland College Park (formerly U.S. Secretary of the International Joint Commission) and George William "Jerry" Sherk, D.Sc., J.D., of Westminster, Colorado. Former LakeNet board chairman Eric G. Madden of Harrisburg will serve the remainder of his term as a trustee through the end of 2006.

LakeNet is an international network of people and organizations formed to facilitate communications among scientists, managers and citizen action groups working to conserve lakes throughout the world. The network serves more than 1,600 members in 100+ countries. Its mission is to empower its partners to protect and restore the health of lakes in order to sustain the human and natural communities that depend on them.

LakeNet's website (www.worldlakes.org) is internationally recognized as a comprehensive informational resource for the global environmental community.

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