

Meeting Minutes

Lake Superior State University
Center for Freshwater Research and Education
100 Salmon Way
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783
October 3-4, 2023



In Attendance

Brian Egen – River Raisin AOC, SPAC Chair
Mary Bednar – Clinton River AOC
Mikela Dean – Clinton River AOC
Jennifer Hill – Clinton River AOC
Bob Burns – Detroit River AOC
Erica Clites – Detroit River AOC
Doug McLaughlin – Kalamazoo AOC
Bill Craig – Rouge River AOC
Paulette Duhaime – St. Clair River AOC
Patty Troy – St. Clair River AOC
Jim Dukes – St. Marys River AOC
Mike Langendorf – St. Marys River AOC
Aubrey Maccoux-LeDuc – St. Marys River AOC
Mike Ripley – St. Marys River AOC
Mary Rossiter – St. Marys River AOC
Horst Schmidt – Torch Lake AOC
Dr. Ashley Moerke - Center for Freshwater Research and Education
Melanie Foose – Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)
Kimberly Passick – EGLE
John Riley – EGLE
Stephanie Swart – EGLE
Jen Tewkesbury – EGLE

In attendance via Teams:

Eric Diesing – Clinton River AOC, SPAC Co-chair
Corey Barr – Manistique River AOC
Richard Micka – River Raisin AOC
Amber Faulkner – United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
Amy Pelka – USEPA
Andrea Schaller – USEPA

Tuesday, October 3

Welcome from Lake Superior State University – Dr. Ashley Moerke, CFRE Director

Dr. Moerke gave a short welcoming presentation on the history of the Center for Freshwater Research and their work.

Welcome and Roll Call – Brian Egen, Chair

Brian expressed his appreciation for everyone that was present and involved in AOC work and noted the beautiful weather. There were several new faces and the group went around the room with a round of introductions. Those who attended online also introduced themselves.

Review of Agenda – Brian Egen, Chair

Motion to accept the agenda made by Horst Schmidt; motion seconded by Bill Craig – approved unanimously.

Review and Approve May SPAC meeting Minutes – Brian Egen, Chair

Motion to approve the May minutes made by Bill Craig; motion seconded by Doug McLaughlin – approved unanimously

Review of Action Items – John Riley

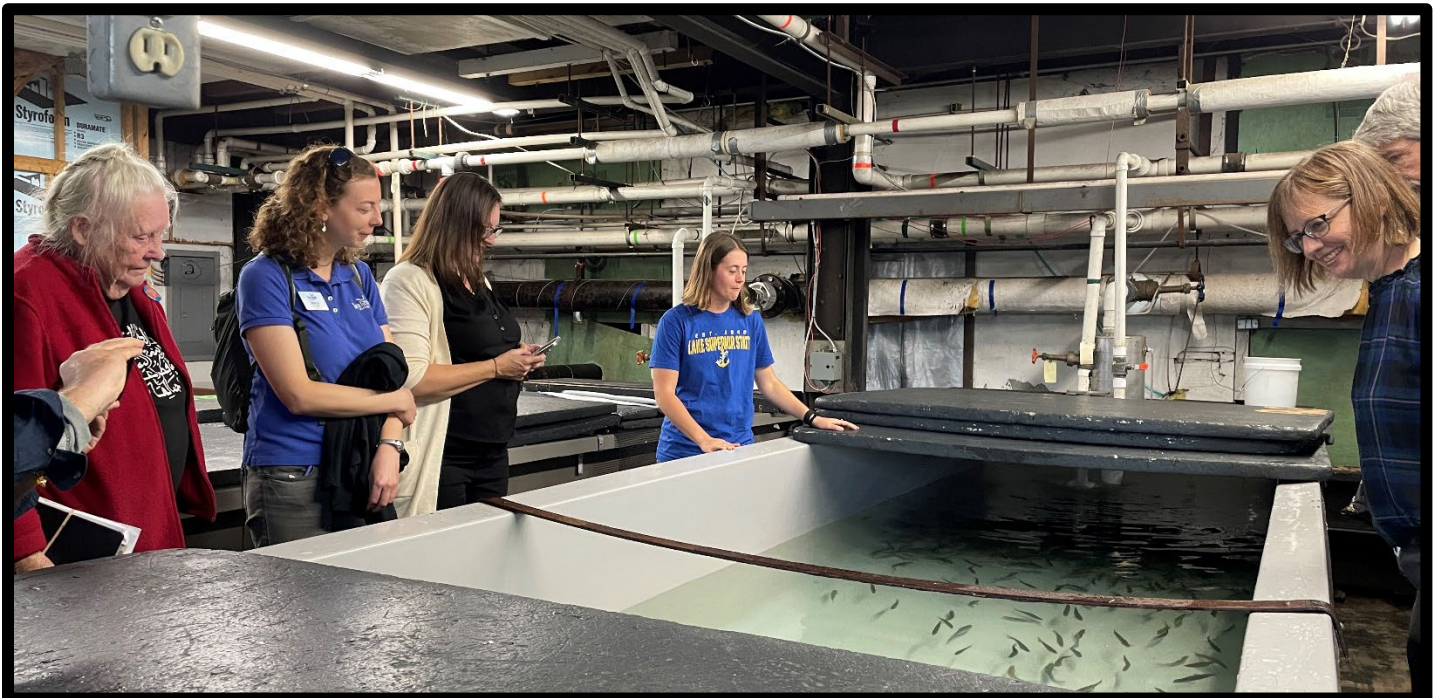
All but one item was completed and the Incomplete item is on the agenda for discussion on Wednesday.

Presentation: Little Rapids Project – Dr. Ashley Moerke, CFRE Director

Dr. Moerke discussed the importance of the St. Marys River, its economic importance, and its history as an Area of Concern. The Little Rapids Project is a habitat restoration project that was implemented to assist in the removal of the Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations and Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Beneficial Use Impairments. The Little Rapids were historical fishing grounds that were dredged to make for a more navigable channel. Because rapids are important habitats, this area was a focus for habitat improvement. The goal of this project was to restore flow to the Little Rapids area to improve fish, wildlife, and benthic habitat. Flow was restricted by a roadway with only two undersized culverts. During project design, optimal flows were calculated and post-project data shows that flow targets were met in the downstream and there have been increases in good taxa. The new roadway is open underneath and has a protected walkway for pedestrians. Anglers frequently fish for and catch salmon in this area now. It was a highly successful project with a large number of stakeholders. There are a number of resources available online for more information. Article: [MSU Extension – Putting Back the \(Little\) Rapids: River restoration in the Saint Marys Area of Concern](#). Videos: [NOAA Fisheries - Little Rapids Habitat Restoration Project](#), and [Great Lakes Commission – St. Marys River, Little Rapids: Post Restoration](#).

CFRE Fish Hatchery Tour – Hatchery staff

Students who work in the hatchery provided a tour of the facility. CFRE also maintains a live [FishCam](#).



Ferry to Little Rapids Project and Group Photo – All

The weather was unseasonably warm at 81° with sunny skies. Multiple large salmon were spotted in the very clear waters. It was a wonderful day to visit the site.



L to R – Jim Dukes, Mary Rossiter, Bill Craig, Mikela Dean, Mary Bednar, Jennifer Hill, Bob Burns, Doug McLaughlin, Patty Troy, Paulette Duhaime, Erica Clites, and Brian Egen.

Wednesday, October 4

In Attendance:

Brian Egen – River Raisin AOC, SPAC Chair
Mary Bednar – Clinton River AOC
Mikela Dean – Clinton River AOC
Jennifer Hill – Clinton River AOC
Bob Burns – Detroit River AOC
Erica Clites – Detroit River AOC
Doug McLaughlin – Kalamazoo AOC
Bill Craig, Rouge River AOC
Paulette Duhaime – St. Clair River AOC
Patty Troy – St. Clair River AOC
Jim Dukes – St. Marys River AOC
Mike Langendorf – St. Marys River AOC
Mary Rossiter – St. Marys River AOC
Horst Schmidt – Torch Lake AOC
Melanie Foose – Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)
Kimberly Passick – EGLE
John Riley – EGLE
Stephanie Swart – EGLE

In attendance via Teams:

Eric Diesing – Clinton River AOC, SPAC Co-chair
Fallon Chabala – Muskegon AOC
Lisa Derickx – St. Marys River AOC
Richard Micka – River Raisin AOC
Amy Pelka – United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
Andrea Schaller – USEPA

Welcome – Brian Egen, Chair

Called the meeting to order

Roll Call – Brian Egen, Chair

Kimberly recorded the attendees both in person and online.

EGLE Update – Melanie Foose

- Staffing – the unit has two vacancies, two AOC coordinators. Jen has taken on Kalamazoo in addition to the Rouge, Clinton, and Saginaw. John is still the AOC coordinator for Manistique and St. Marys. The two new positions will cover St. Clair, St. Marys, Detroit, Raisin, Saginaw, and Manistique. These positions will be posted both internally and externally. If anyone knows of a person, let them know.
- Funding/Budget – everyone who applied for a PAC support grant has received one. It is now the end of the year so reporting estimates are due October 10. We are one year into a 5 year grant from EPA. As part of our grant funding, EGLE is conducting monitoring regarding the Fish Tumors BUI and fish were collected in the St. Marys AOC this past spring. Fish collections are planned for the Rouge and Detroit in Spring 2024.
- Other – there is a new EGLE director, [Phillip D. Roos](#). Some present personally knew Phil and feel he will bring some good guidance to the agency. There was a question regarding the current status of the Office of the Great Lakes. It is an office under the executive office. Its place in EGLE can be seen in the [organization charts](#). The Great Lakes Management unit is part of the Surface Water Assessment Unit in the [Water Resources Division](#) (page 3 of organization chart).
- Targeted Monitoring Requests are currently being accepted until October 31, 2023 for the 2024 field season. More information can be found at EGLE's [Monitoring Request Form site](#).
- If anyone has ideas for other SPAC subcommittees that they would like to see or be involved with, please pass that along to Melanie.

EPA Update – Andrea Schaller

Andrea has been selected to fill Marc Tuchman's position as he retired last year. She gave a brief overview of her professional background. She began working in GLNPO in May and was in her new position permanently the week of the AOC conference, which she attended. She wants to foster relationships as she grows into this new role, learning what PACs want in restoration, developing management action lists, projects, etc. AOCs are currently working under GLRI Action Plan III until 2024 and Action Plan IV, which will encompass 2025-2029 is currently being drafted. Part of the process for drafting Action Plan IV is understanding what drives planning efforts to address and remove BUIs to lead to delisting. She shared a slide deck which is attached at the end of these minutes.

Since GLRI began in 2010, USEPA has spent over \$1 billion in AOCs. To date, over \$117 million in projects have been funded with Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds. In the very near future, there will be some large-scales projects beginning and it's an exciting time to be working in the program. Under the GLRI 110 BUIs have been removed, 6 AOCs have been delisted (most recent Ashtabula in 2021) and 10 AOCs have management actions completed. On the U.S. side, this leaves 15 AOCs that have management actions remaining. Under the Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA), 32 sediment remediation projects have been completed. Currently there are six sediment projects underway with

over six million cubic yards remediated. Much of GLLA's success has been attributed to cost share with non-federal partners.

GLRI Action Plan III lists a goal to remove 128 BUIs end of 2024. There are eight BUIs removals needed to meet that goal. and are two in review right now which gives some time to complete the remaining six.

She discussed some key consideration for projects including coordination, cost share, and environmental justice along with keys to continued progress which includes local engagement, communication, and sustained commitment. These keys will help GLRI reach the "moonshot" goal of completion of management actions in 22 of the 25 remaining AOCs by 2030.

GLNPO, broadly is expanding work in environmental justice. Recently there was a Request for Proposals for \$30 million in EJ grants in the Great Lakes basin. Details can be found at the [GLRI news website](#). You can also sign up to receive announcements from this site.

GLRI Action Plan IV – where we're going in the future. Plan to be released publicly in January 2024 with public feedback open until March. (60 days). Details and updates can be found on the Development on the [GLRI Action Plan website](#). PACs and individuals are encouraged to comment on the plan. The new plan will include number of AOCs delisted as a new measure. Many AOCs have management actions complete and it is hoped that they continue to recover so they can be delisted. Also, there are plans to include a commitment to measure ways to increase diversity and engagement with the local community and EPA is listening to what works best to improve outreach and engagement with the community broadly.

Special Presentation – All

Bill Craig and Patty Troy will be stepping down from the SPAC as representatives after many years. They were presented with a group photo from last year's SPAC meeting in Monroe and a card of thanks. Their hours and hours of service over the years is greatly appreciated.

AOC Conference – All

Feedback is still being sought on the conference as the planning committee uses this to inform the next conference. There was a question about the availability of posters that were presented. They cannot be posted online due to accessibility requirements; however, a list of the posters and contacts is listed at the end of these minutes. The conference agenda is also attached. There was discussion on challenges faced by people who hold other jobs to attend a two-day event. Possible topic for future: how to mesh AOC priorities with the priorities of other programs and how they may overlap in the same geographic area.

SPAC DEIJ Subcommittee Update – Melanie Foose

At the beginning of 2023 the group set three goals:

- Create a PAC welcome / recruitment package
- Ask each PAC what work they are currently doing in the area of DEIJ, take responses, and discuss to learn from each other
- Keep in mind Justice 40 funding - looking at life after delisting.

Some PACs have been working on a welcome package, revising, or drafting letters or other materials and PAC leadership has been asked about the work they are doing.

In other areas, Kalamazoo received a Watershed Council grant for youth outreach and St. Clair is trying to bring in authors for public meetings and book signings as a way to reach out to the community. The DEIJ SPAC subcommittee meets once a month and anyone is welcome to join the conversation. The next meeting is Monday, November 13 at 1 pm. If you would like the link to the meeting, please contact Kimberly Passick at PassickK@Michigan.gov.

SPAC Habitat Subcommittee Update – Bill Craig

The last meeting was June 28, and the group meets every 8 weeks on Wednesdays from 11-Noon. There has been discussion about CISMAs (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas) which was introduced by Eric Diesing, the use of [MiCorps](#) for monitoring, and maintenance of projects. There was an idea proposed for an O&M manual for project maintenance as a deliverable. Paulette mentioned some good webinars that are presented through the Interagency Ecological Restoration Quality Committee. New webinars are announced periodically. Anyone interested in these webinars can contact Melanie

There were some scheduling issues over the summer and the next meeting is set for October 18, 2023 at 11 am. Bill will chair this meeting as his final one. Anyone is welcome to attend, not just SPAC members or representatives. If anyone would like the meeting link, please contact Kimberly Passick at PassickK@Michigan.gov.

SPAC By-Laws – All

Melanie had sent out a poll to set up a meeting for the bylaws workgroup to meet but was unable to find consensus at that time. She will be sending out a new poll to schedule a meeting. If you would like to view the [bylaws](#) and provide comments, they can be found on the [SPAC website](#). The Roles and Responsibilities can also be commented on. They are in continuous draft form and as such, are not posted online. They are attached at the end of these minutes.

PAC Report Outs – All

St Marys AOC – Mike Langendorf

The BPAC's last meeting was in June and they will hold the next one at the end of this month. Activities taken have been to redesignate remaining BUIs and summer field work on the fish tumors BUI. Fish sampling is scheduled on the Canadian side, also for the fish tumors BUI. The same metrics will be used for both sides as Michigan recently revised their criteria to match those of the Canadians.

Another area of work on the Canadian side will be for the degradation of fish and wildlife populations. Fish, tern, and gull results after sampling were favorable. The BPAC voted to support the Canadian criteria redesignation. They are currently waiting to hear back from USEPA to see if they have any concerns. Michigan is in support and has no concerns. On the Canadian side for the restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption the [survey](#) for Canadian waters is still up and active which will be used to develop the least restrictive criteria on their side. However, October 31 will be the final date to submit information to the survey after two years. Once concluded, they will present results to the BPAC.

Torch Lake – Horst Schmidt

The GLLA funding is being handled by USEPA in Partnership with Honeywell. Work will be done at two sites on the north side of the lake. Work on Lake Linden site will be in 2026 with removal and disposal of sediment and then a cap. This project is not in design yet. Honeywell is still testing Lake Linden and at Hubble where the drums and drum fragments are located. Stephanie added that the drums at the bottom of the lake likely contain PCBs. Honeywell is doing an assessment on how to remove them without doing harm. There are approximately 750+ that are buried, broken, and falling apart. EGLE's Remediation and Redevelopment Division has details on the [abandoned mining waste on their website](#). There was a benthic study to improve habitat and the final results should be available in January with a summit to follow to make decisions on funding and work. Michigan Technological University is using some grant funding to look at mercury sources in the lake as it remains a problem within fish and it is a concern to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community who use the lake for subsistence fishing.

St. Clair River – Paulette Duhaime

Their last BPAC meeting was held virtually on August 2, 2023. The Canadian side is asking for approval for drinking water BUI removal, however there are some details that need to be worked out. A spill notification flow chart is being created in cooperation with Canada for public understanding in the event of a spill. They reviewed the BPAC by-laws and included a DEIJ statement and language for virtual meetings. The remedial action plan committee plan in Canada hosted a public outreach meeting on September 28 to update the community on restoration progress. The Sturgeon Festival was held on June 3. Attendance was approximately 2,000 persons. This is their biggest annual educational outreach activity. On the Canadian side, a water festival was held last month for community outreach so similar activities are taking place on both sides of the river. The Friends of the St. Clair River have hired their first executive director, Sheri Faust, who comes from the St. Clair Health Department. Sheri was previously the President of Friends. Some of their future goals include securing sustainable funding for after delisting and working with the Canadians to get funding on the that side as well. BPAC are starting Indigenous Environmental Prospective modules this month which is a DEIJ goal. They are working with tribes to rewrite their land acknowledgement statement into a single statement that the BPAC will use. They are also looking to secure a coastal zone management grant for post habitat restoration review.

Kalamazoo – Doug McLaughlin

They are hosting a reception on Saturday as outreach and to discuss progress made in the area and work currently underway. A combination of Superfund and NRDAR activities are being done and they are hoping to create a scorecard of sorts to help people keep track of projects. The PAC is celebrating 30 years this year. Doug participates in a superfund community advisory group and the corresponding technical committee. This allows the watershed council to communicate information about what projects are being done more clearly to the community. He continues to refine his understanding of how all the different pieces come together with Superfund, NRDAR, and AOC work. The history of the area is well known by the community and it leads to the belief that river should be avoided. There is a priority to start overcoming that misconception and bringing the community back to the water.

Clinton – Mikela Dean

Last meetings they have been digging into BUI criteria to see what has been done, what data is needed, and what projects are complete. They are also looking to update PAC bylaws update to help meet DEIJ goals. They have printed a PAC restoration booklet that communicate the projects that have been done which will be distributed soon. On the technical side, they just wrapped up their P51 monitoring for their habitat sites for the season. They are working on eutrophication monitoring to inform the progress of that BUI. On Saturday they will be hosting an “adopt a stream” program which involves monitoring 53 sites within the watershed to assess water quality data. Jennifer Hill added that her first meeting was in March, after which she and Mary worked to identify themes that concerned PAC members. After identifying some areas for work, they will be focusing on increasing voices in the PAC, understanding BUIs as a group, and communication – how to get the public to care and remain engaged. Their meetings are framed around those themes including group activities for engagement. Mary Bednar added that turnover has been scary but is exciting as people retire and new faces come in with ideas and perspectives.

Detroit – Bob Burns

Hennepin Marsh construction was completed in the spring and was monitored throughout the summer. They are working to finish the Sugar Island project to restore and protect the south end of the island. The shoals (over a mile’s worth) were built last year and can be seen in the photo below. This is their largest project coming in at \$19 million. The island is situated at the mouth of the Detroit River and faces the full force of Lake Erie which resulted in the loss of roughly 200 feet of shoreline. The shoals now protect the shoreline and provide habitat. Their last PAC meeting was held in September and USEPA indicated that the city of Detroit and the U.S. Army Corps may be closer to approving a plan to address flooding in the Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood adjacent to the future Upper Riverfront Parks habitat restoration site. Once this last project is done, then they will be management actions complete for their Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Population BUIs. The PAC is working with EGLE and USEPA to drive input and public outreach on several sediment remediation projects that are in various stages of implementation including Wilson Park, Upper Trenton Channel,

Monguagon Creek, and the McLouth Steel Superfund site. Four PAC staff were able to attend the AOC conference in Green Bay. Erica Clites is the new MSU extension educator for southeast Michigan and representative for the SPAC.



Rouge River – Bill Craig

Sediment projects are moving forward but there is still a challenge in finding match for the GLLA projects. Their last meeting was July 18, held virtually. The [minutes](#) are posted on the [Alliance of Rouge Communities website](#). They approved their updated bylaws and determined that some policies would be useful so that bylaw revisions would not need to be so frequent. The draft policies will be voted on at their next meeting. They have continued participation with the Southeast Michigan Region Watershed Report Card through the University of Maryland. The draft report card has the Rouge River and watershed rated as poor. All voting members completed the Intercultural Development Inventory and a training schedule is being developed. There is a lot of work being done on habitat projects as they wait for sediment issues to be addressed with 21 projects in progress: 4 to be completed this year, 6 in maintenance phase, and 3 to start late this year. The PAC submitted a letter of support with the Michigan Environment Council to the Michigan Health Endowment Fund for a grant called *Growing Community Engagement in AOC Remediation Processes*. Other watershed groups who are partners include Clinton, Rouge, Kalamazoo, Torch, and others. Friends of the Rouge are continuing their fish monitoring work. They also participated in an event at The Henry Ford on September 2, 2023 celebrating the future of southeast Michigan.

River Raisin – Brian Egen

They are still in monitoring phase and they should receive results soon. On August 12 they held their annual cleanup with record attendance of over 250 persons of all ages. One of the fish passages is beginning to degrade so they are working with USACE to work on design and are looking for ways to fund the repair. They received a PAC support grant which includes numerous outreach elements including a large event they hope to hold in May to feature the River Raisin full-length documentary and speakers. They are working on educational outreach by trying to get lesson plans into the county school system. They are working in partnerships to address an issue with flowering rush, an invasive plant species. Through permitting they have been able to treat in the city, however there is a roughly 3 acre patch outside the city limits that they are working to address and remove. They are working to revise their bylaws as part of their DEIJ work and beginning to draft a master plan for life after delisting which will include outreach, accessibility, educational activities and more.

SPAC Travel Reimbursement – Kimberly Passick

Forms were passed out – an electronic version will also be sent out to the representatives so they can submit their reimbursement requests. Receipts for food are no longer required. When possible, please provide receipts for parking, tolls, ferries, etc. A receipt for your hotel stay is required. Please send your receipts and requests to Kimberly at PassickK@Michigan.gov. You may also mail in your request, to the address is provided on the form.

2024 SPAC Meetings – All

- Call for Topics/Agenda Items – UM graduate students group project – advisor is retired. Look back at products. Tool based topic – dashboards, hybrid meetings, etc. Mental Health first aid, hybrid training offered 1-2 hour session. DEIJ topics. Chemicals of emerging concern (PFAS).
- Clinton is interested in hosting for the in-person meeting next fall.

Review of Action Items – Kimberly Passick

Kimberly read through the action items from the meeting, making changes and adding items as needed.

Adjourn Meeting

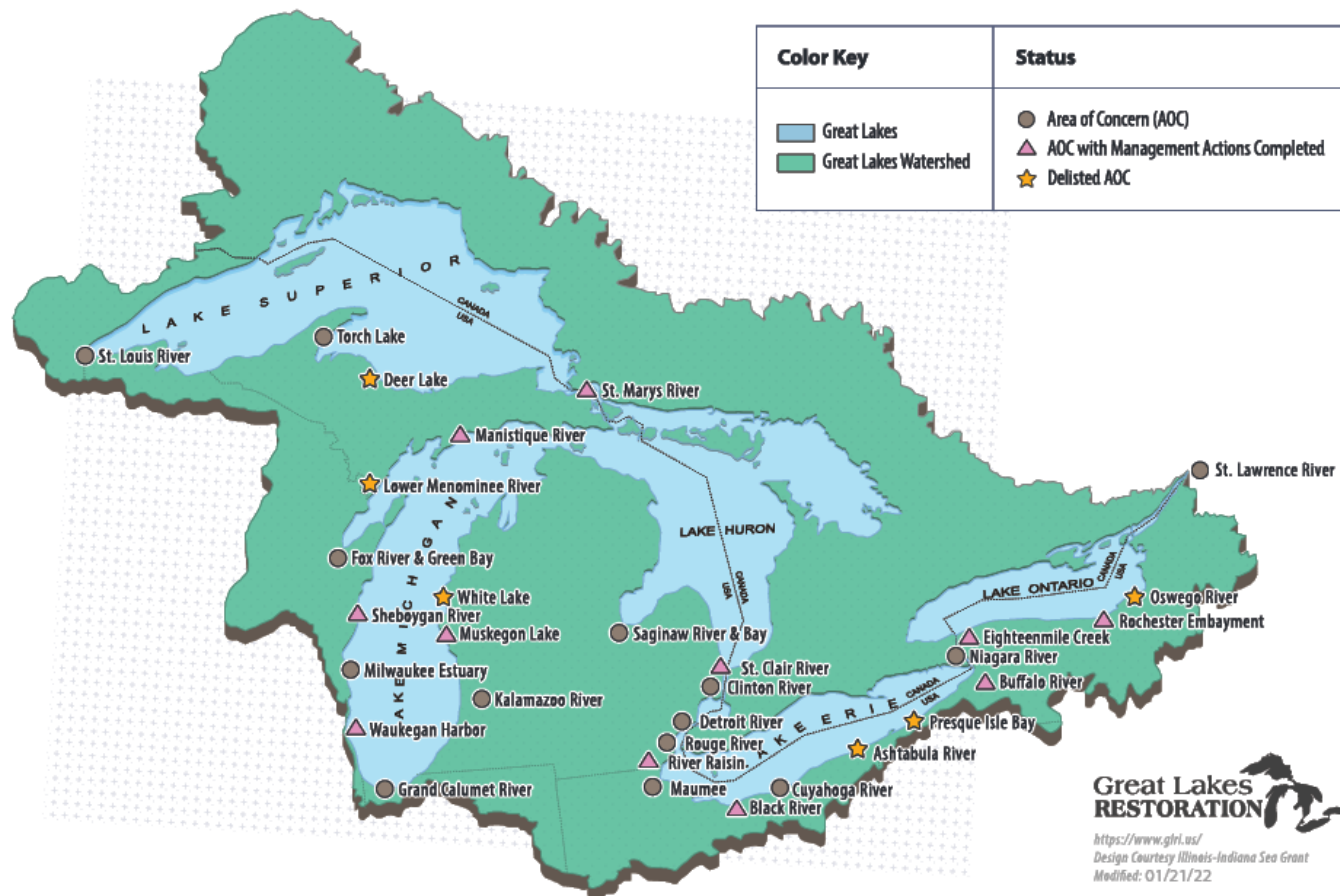
Motion to adjourn made by Bill Craig; seconded by Patty Troy. Unanimously approved.
Meeting concluded at 12:10 PM

Action Items

- Melanie will invite Director Roos to speak at a future SPAC meeting.
- Kimberly will include links to EGLE's Organizational Charts in the minutes.

- Kimberly will attach Andrea's presentation to the minutes.
- Kimberly will attach the AOC agenda and list of posters to the minutes.
- Kimberly will email out the travel reimbursement form to the SPAC representatives/alternates.
- Melanie will provide link to monthly USEPA habitat webinars for anyone who would like to attend.
- Stephanie will provide a link to the abandoned mining wastes site for Kimberly to include in the minutes.
- Kimberly will get a list of MSU Extension courses from Erica that are available for the public to access.
- Melanie will set up a poll to set up a date for the SPAC bylaws subcommittee.
- A poll will be set up to set the date for the Winter SPAC meeting.

U.S. Great Lakes Areas of Concern



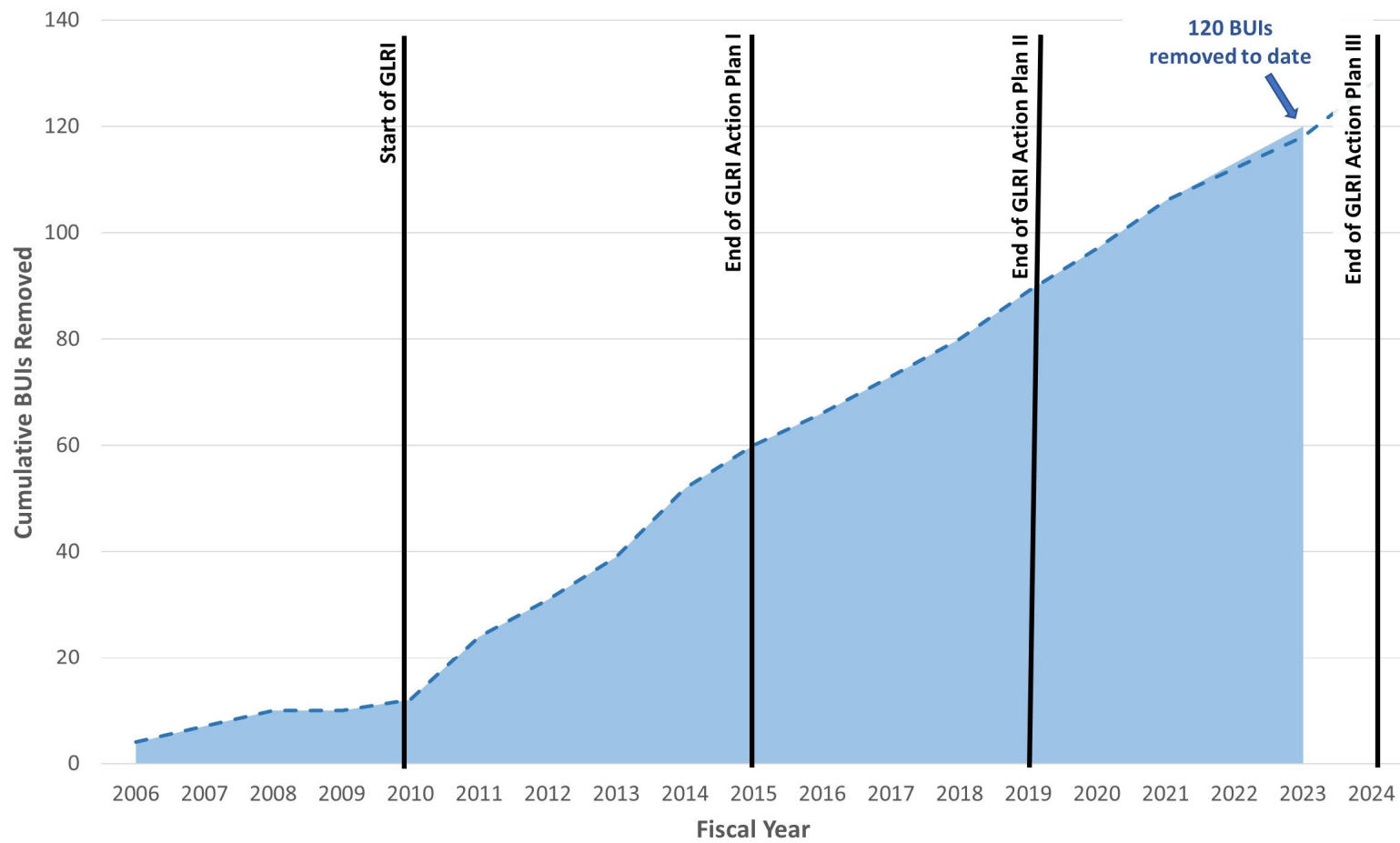
AOC Resources/Accomplishments

- Over \$1B spent in AOCs (since GLRI)
- BIL funding to date ~\$117M
- AOC investments have led to results:
 - 120 BUIs removed (110 since GLRI)
 - 6 AOCs delisted – most recent Ashtabula August 2021
 - 10 AOCs with management actions complete
 - 15 AOCs with management actions remaining

Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA)

Progress

- 32 Sediment Remediation Projects Completed
 - Average of 2 Construction Projects per Year
 - 6 On-Going Sediment Remediation Projects
- >6M Cubic Yards Remediated
- Total Cost: \$1,100,000,000
 - Federal Share: \$650,000,000
 - Non-Federal Share: \$450,000,000
- 65 Different Non-Federal Partners



Key Considerations for Projects

Management
Action lists drive
planning

Coordinate with
TFLs on project
development
and outyear
budget planning

GLLA
creative on Cost
Share and
determining who
is the best to
lead projects

Environmental
Justice project
opportunities

Keys to Continued Progress

- Partnerships between local stakeholder, industry, state, Tribal federal, and local agencies
- Local Engagement
- Non-federal funding
- State agency investments
- Project Planning and Management
- Communication
- Adaptive/Flexible
- Sustained commitment and energy

AOC Program Progress Projections - The Moonshot

2022-2026

Mgmt. Actions Complete:

Black River
Clinton River
Cuyahoga River
Lower Green Bay/Fox River
Maumee
St. Louis River
Torch Lake

AOC Delisted:

Black River
Buffalo River
Manistique River
Muskegon Lake
River Raisin
Rochester Embayment
Sheboygan River
St. Clair River
St. Marys River
Waukegan Harbor

2027-2030

Mgmt. Actions Complete:

Detroit River
Grand Calumet River
Milwaukee Estuary
Niagara River
Rouge River

AOC Delisted:

Clinton River
Cuyahoga River
Lower Green Bay/Fox River
Maumee
St. Louis River
Torch Lake

2031+


Mgmt. Actions Complete:

Kalamazoo River
Saginaw River and Bay
St. Lawrence @
Akwasasne/Massena

AOC Delisted:

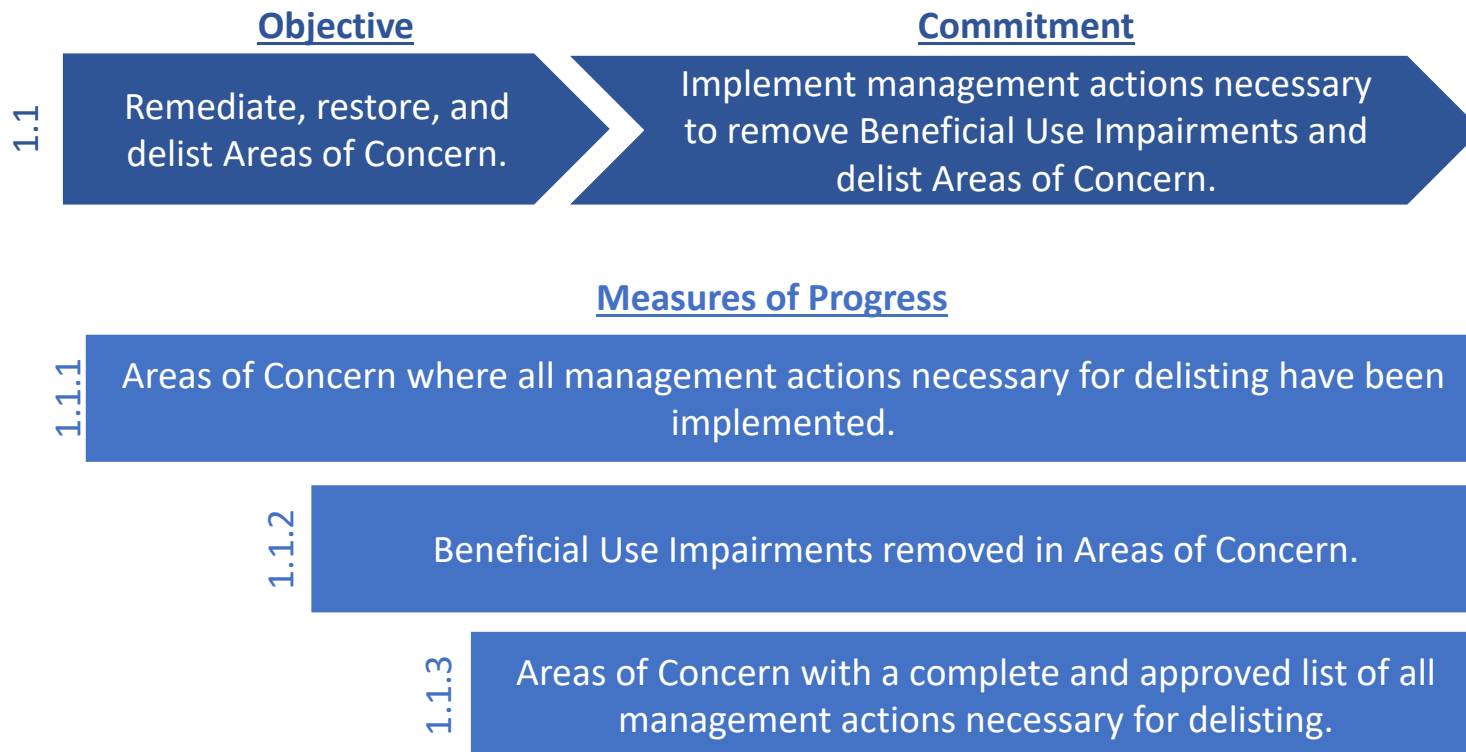
Grand Calumet River
Milwaukee Estuary
Rouge River
Detroit River
Niagara River
Eighteen Mile

*Delisting of Kalamazoo, Saginaw, and
St. Lawrence will occur 2036*



GLRI Action Plan IV (FY 2025 – FY 2029)

GLRI Action Plan III (FY 2020 – FY 2024)



GLRI Action Plan IV (FY 2025 – FY 2029)

2023

- Oct 10 – Draft sent to States and Tribes (first full draft to be shared).
- Oct 10 -Nov 7 – State/Tribal forums.
- Nov 17 – State/Tribal written comments due (6 weeks after draft provided).

2024

- Jan 26 – GLNPO announces and post 6th draft Action Plan for Public Input (60-day review).
- Mar 27 – Public input period ends.

As of 8/2/2023

Questions?



2023 Areas of Concern Conference

September 12-14

KI Convention Center

333 Main St, Green Bay, WI

#GLAOC2023

WiFi: Network: @Hyatt_Meeting

Password: GREAT2023

OPTIONAL PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE		LOCATION	CAPACITY
12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Lower Menominee AOC & Menominee Dam Fish Lift Tour*	Marinette, WI	50
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Lower Fox River Watershed Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Efforts Tour*	Multiple	50
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Lower Green Bay & Fox River AOC Habitat Restoration Projects Tour*	Multiple	50
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	AOCs 101	KI Center – A1	N/A
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Sediments 101	KI Center – A2	N/A
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Lower Fox River Revitalization Tour*	Green Bay, WI	50
3:00 - 6:00	Registration desk is open	KI registration desk	
5:00 pm	Begin poster setup (posters can be set up through 8 a.m. Wed morning)	KI Center – Lobby west and lobby south	N/A
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Pre-conference Reception	KI Center Riverview Rooms	N/A

* Choose one pre-conference field trip included with registration; Pre-conference reception will have a cash bar.

FIELD TRIPS AND TOURS (INCLUDED)

Meet at the KI Convention Center for departure. Choose one tour, included with your registration. Sign up during registration (note limited capacities):

12 – 5 p.m. Lower Menominee AOC & Menominee Dam Fish Lift Tour (max 50): Tour participants will depart from Green Bay and travel to Marinette, Wisconsin to visit the recently delisted Lower Menominee River AOC. Tour stops will include habitat restoration sites, a tour led by Eagle Creek Renewable Energy and the River Alliance at the Menominee Dam Fish Lift, and a sediment remediation site. On the way to and from Marinette, EPA, DNR, and local representatives will provide information about the 30-year efforts to restore and delist the Lower Menominee River AOC, the AOC delisting process, and needs for post-delisting restoration and conservation efforts.

For more information about the tour location and topic, check out these resources:

- [Menominee River Area of Concern: Changing Waters](#)
- [Remediation, Restoration, Revitalization – Menominee Harbor](#)

- [Menominee River Fish Passage](#)

1 – 5 p.m. Lower Fox River Watershed Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Efforts (max 50)

Tour participants will depart from Green Bay and travel to locations in the Lower Fox River Watershed Basin to learn about how the AOC is approaching the Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae BUI in context with broader TMDL implementation efforts. Tour stops will include locations where different kinds of best management practices (BMPs) are being implemented to create a treatment train approach, such as in-field and edge of field BMPs, downstream water storage and conveyance BMPs, and pilot BMPs such as phosphorus removal systems.

For more information about the tour locations and topic, check out these resources:

- [Improving Soil Health in Outagamie County](#)
- [Agricultural Runoff Treatment Systems](#)
- [Two-Stage Ditch System](#)
- [What's New in the Apple Creek Watershed](#)

1 – 5 p.m. Lower Green Bay & Fox River AOC Habitat Restoration Projects (max 50): Tour participants will visit several habitat restoration sites in the AOC in different phases of completion, including planning, design, implementation, and ongoing maintenance/monitoring. WDNR and local partners will talk about the process to develop metrics for priority fish and wildlife populations, matching metrics to project locations and restoration goals, adventures in project management at complex project sites, and the importance of strong partnerships to sustain management and maintenance long term.

For more information about the tour locations and topic, check out these resources:

- [Cat Island – Rebirth of an Environment](#)
- [Plovers Are Back in Green Bay](#)

2 – 5 p.m. Lower Fox River Revitalization Tour (max 50): Come and learn about how remediation and water quality improvement efforts have helped AOC communities return to the waterfront over the past several years. The first tour stop will be at the [Shipyards Redevelopment Project](#) site, where a City of Green Bay Economic Redevelopment Specialist will share how efforts are underway to transform a vacated brownfield into a destination for tourism and recreation. The Brown County Port Director will also share port expansion efforts that are currently underway and how this work connects to shoreline redevelopment along the Fox River. The second tour stop will be at [Ashwaubomay Park](#), where Village of Ashwaubenon and Stantec will share efforts to restore the shoreline, increase recreational opportunities and to redevelop the shoreline. The third stop will be in downtown Green Bay, where partners will share how the vision to redevelop the shoreline and create a social center has reacquainted the community with the Fox River, improved the local economy, encouraged investment and has drawn a creative workforce to live, work and play at the water's edge along the [CityDeck](#).

INTRODUCTORY INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS (INCLUDED)

1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Held in the KI Convention Center.

AOCs 101 (Ballroom A1): This session will provide an introduction to the Areas of Concern program. This is a great opportunity for anyone new to the program to ask questions and connect with agency program managers.

Sediments 101 (Ballroom A2): Sediment contamination and abatement issues remain one of the biggest challenges for the AOC program. This session will provide background information regarding biogeochemical characteristics of riverine sediments, their natural affinity for contaminants, and remediation/abatement approaches.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

3:00-6:00 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to check in for the AOC conference at the KI convention center during this time.

PRE-CONFERENCE RECEPTION (INCLUDED)

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Join us for hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar in the Riverview rooms of the KI Convention Center, where there is a lovely view of the Lower Fox River and access to an outdoor patio along the riverfront. Please consider attending as we will recognize Chris Korleski's important contribution toward AOC successes during his time at EPA and wish him well in his retirement at approximately 6:45 p.m.

DAY ONE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

DAY 1 SCHEDULE — ALL GENERAL SESSIONS ARE IN MEETING ROOM B	
7:45 – 8:45 am	Registration and Breakfast
8:30 – 5:30 pm	Poster Viewing (Lobby west and lobby south)
8:45 – 9:25 am	Welcoming remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">Eric Genrich, Mayor, City of Green BayU.S. Representative Mike Gallagher (WI-08) (recorded message)Debra Shore, Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Region 5 (recorded message)Jim Zellmer, Environmental Management Division Administrator, Wisconsin DNR
9:25 – 9:45 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chris Korleski, Director, Great Lakes National Program Office, U.S. EPA
9:45 – 10:00 am	Wisconsin AOCs: setting the stage – Wade Strickland, Director, Office of Great Waters, Wisconsin DNR
10:00 – 10:45 am	Technical Plenary: The Value of Long-Term Species Monitoring Data in Great Lakes AOCs and LAMPs: A Case Study Using the Bald Eagle - Dr. William Bowerman, University of Maryland
10:45 – 11:00 am	Break
11:00 – 11:45 am	Environmental Justice Plenary: Creating Meaningful and Equitable Access to the Lower Rouge River – Herman Jenkins, Friends of the Rouge
11:45 am - 12:00	Lunch set up
12 – 1:20 pm 12:30 – 1:20 pm	Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none">Lunchtime panel: Great Lakes Champions, featuring John Hartig in conversation with Victoria Harris, H. J. (Bud) Harris, Kevin Fermanich, and Brie Kupsky
1:20 – 1:30 pm	Overview of afternoon and transition to breakout rooms
1:30 – 3:00 pm	Breakout Session A (choose one of four sessions to attend)
3:00 – 3:45 pm	Break and Poster Session
3:45 – 5:15 pm	Breakout Session B (choose one of four sessions to attend)
6:00 pm	Optional Dinner: Titletown experience *

* \$21 cost, cash bar

Conference Moderators: Kendra Axness, Wisconsin DNR, and Amy Pelka, U.S. EPA GLNPO

- 7:45 am Conference Registration and Breakfast (included)**
- 8:45 am Welcoming Remarks**
 Eric Genrich, Mayor, City of Green Bay
 U.S. Representative Mike Gallagher (WI-08) (recorded message)
 Debra Shore, Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Region 5 (recorded message)
 Jim Zellmer, Environmental Management Division Administrator, Wisconsin DNR
- 9:25 am Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Update**
 Chris Korleski, Director, U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office
- 9:45 am Wisconsin AOCs: setting the stage**
 Wade Strickland, Director, Office of Great Waters, Wisconsin DNR
Highlights of Wisconsin AOC accomplishments and current work will be presented.
- 10:00 am Technical Plenary: The Value of Long-Term Species Monitoring Data in Great Lakes AOCs and LaMPs: A Case Study Using the Bald Eagle**
 Dr. William Bowerman, University of Maryland
Bald eagles are the avian top predator of the Great Lakes region. Negative impacts of DDT, organochlorine pesticides and PCBs once limited their ability to reproduce, leading to the species being listed as federally endangered in 1973. Banning of these compounds, and habitat restoration efforts such as those of the AOC program have allowed the populations to rebound leading to their removal from the endangered species list in 2007. However, concerns about their health in areas, such as AOCs, with pollutants, reduced habitat quality, prey availability, human activities, and avian diseases remain. Decades of intense monitoring programs have produced a near total count of nesting attempts and fledglings produced. Collection of unhatched eggs, blood of nestlings, and feathers show exposure trends of chemicals from the Great Lakes food web and their effects. Developmental deformities reported are nearly all from the Great Lakes basin and questions persist if populations are healthy and self-sustaining at current contaminant levels. How we use them for wildlife BUIs will be described, including advantages and limitations. How to use their life history to educate the public will also be described, building upon the DDT egg shell thinning story.
- 10:45 am Break**
- 11:00 am Environmental Justice Plenary: Creating Meaningful and Equitable Access to the Lower Rouge River**
 Herman Jenkins, Friends of the Rouge
Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission focuses on restoration, stewardship, and community connection in the Rouge River watershed in southeast Michigan. FOTR has been championing the Lower Rouge

River Water Trail Strategic Plan, a collective trails initiative that aims to connect underserved communities along the river to the waterfront. In addition to improving access along the river, the plan also aims to connect residents to a 29-mile paddling trail, providing equitable opportunities to recreate on the Rouge in communities that have historically lacked recreational access to the river. It is through the Friends of the Rouge Lower Rouge Water Trail Leadership Committee that the county, municipalities, and community stakeholders build out this vision. However, some communities lacked the resources and staff capacity to effectively participate in Lower Rouge Water Trail Leadership Committee meetings—subsequently, development of water trail design/access plans and activities lagged far behind other vested communities along the trail. Recognizing this disparity in project development, Friends of the Rouge developed a pop-up event format with an emphasis on meeting the people where they are in their communities, to educate community members about the Water Trail and the Rouge River as a natural resource, while garnering community interest in kayaking and canoeing as recreational activities. The "Dry Dock Pop Up" helped build grass roots interest and spawned new working coalitions to advance project development in communities that lagged behind.

11:45 am Lunch set up

12:00 Lunch (included)
Plated Lunch

12:30 pm Lunchtime Panel: “Great Lakes Champions”

John Hartig will facilitate a conversation with local representatives, including "Great Lakes Champions" Bud and Vicky Harris, about perspectives on establishment of the AOC program, the need to think beyond boundaries, how science and research are driving implementation strategies, and how agencies are using this information and perspective to develop resource management plans at different scales.

Moderator: John Hartig, Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor

Panelists:

H. J. "Bud" Harris, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Emeritus

Victoria Harris, University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute, Retired

Kevin Fermanich, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and Wisconsin Extension, Emeritus

Brie Kupsky, Wisconsin DNR

1:20 pm Overview of afternoon and transition to breakout rooms

Breakout Session A (Choose one of four sessions to attend)**Session A-1 (Ballroom A1): Community perspectives on environmental justice in AOCs** (Moderator: Juan Corpus (He, Him, El), New North, Inc.)

Summary: *Over the past few years, the AOC program has taken steps to increase and improve community engagement and have a targeted focus on environmental justice. This session will dig into the community perspective on that work through an interactive discussion answering questions such as: What is the role of the AOC program in advancing the environmental justice movement? What successes are out there to celebrate and where are there still the greatest opportunities for impact and change? What has worked well, and maybe not so well, in specific AOCs? What should be the role of community advisory committees in Areas of Concern? How can these committees aid in shaping the decisions made during the AOC delisting process?*

Topics and Speakers:

- Moderator and Panelist Introductions (Panelists: Shalina Ali, Milwaukee CAC member and TRUE Skool co-Executive Director; Herman Jenkins, Friends of the Rouge; TBD)
- Panel discussion
- Audience Q&A and discussion

Session A-2 (Ballroom A2): Evaluating the Bird or Animal

Deformities/Reproduction Problems BUI (Moderators: Rae-Ann Eifert, Wisconsin DNR; Mandy Annis, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Summary: *The bird or animal deformities/reproduction problem BUI is often one of the later BUIs to be removed as it takes time for populations to recover following remedial actions. Given the timing of removal for this BUI, decades may pass between when monitoring to confirm the BUI and evaluation of recovery. During that period, a population that may have once been abundant in the AOC may no longer be so due to various factors, including development and disease. Further complicating the evaluation of this BUI is that AOCs are typically urbanized areas that may not have many "ideal" indicator species. This session reviews various approaches that may be used when evaluating this BUI to ensure managers can move forward to BUI removal with confidence that the AOC's goals are met. Participants are encouraged to come up with specific questions from any step in the evaluation process, from getting started to understanding ambiguity in results.*

Topics and Speakers:

- Multiple lines of evidence - how to deal with non-ideal indicator species? - Dr. William Bowerman, University of Maryland
- Use of Tree Swallows - Dr. Christine Custer, U.S. Geological Survey
- Overview of the Lower Green Bay Fox River AOC Approach - Sean Strom, Wisconsin DNR

Session A-3 (Ballroom A3): Economic revitalization in AOC communities and maintaining access for everyone (Moderator: Joe Fitzgerald, Milwaukee Water Commons)

Summary: *This session will invite participants to think critically about how investments in waterway cleanup and restoration can produce social, environmental, and economic benefits through restorative access. Panelists will share insights from their own experience working to revitalize water spaces while maintaining access to cleaner water and enhanced green spaces for community members as well as restoring access to water spaces for historically marginalized communities. Restorative access will be discussed through presentations, panel conversation, and audience participation exploring the roles of community planners, AOC advisory committee members, and residents in shaping policies and actions to ensure both economic revitalization and environmental justice.*

Topics and Speakers:

- Muskegon Lake case study – Kathy Evans, Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership
- Maumee/Toledo Metroparks examples – Allen Gallant, Metroparks Toledo
- Milwaukee Community Land Trust - Lamont Davis, Milwaukee Community Land Trust

Session A-4 (Ballroom A4): GLNPO's Quality Assurance Program Supporting the GLRI (Moderator: GLNPO)

Summary: *Practitioners and managers supporting the GLRI depend on obtaining reliable data to evaluate achievement of project goals. This interactive session will address key topics aimed at ensuring project data support its intended use. We will share valuable tools and resources as well as inform attendees on EPA's current quality assurance (QA) initiatives. The application of QA practices does not have to be a burden! Let us discuss topics such as QA practices for construction activities supporting restoration projects, how to evaluate the quality and use of existing data, the accessibility and availability of tools and resources designed to help you, and much more. Please feel free to bring any questions you have and let's all collaborate on ways to support each other!*

Topics and Speakers:

- EPA QA-related changes and available QA tools – Louis Blume, GLNPO
- QA-related topics in the GLLA Program – Mark Loomis and Christian Bako, GLNPO
- QA implementation from a state perspective and the application of the graded approach – Donalea Dinsmore, Wisconsin DNR

3:00 pm

Break & Poster Session

Time to view and discuss posters with presenters. Please vote for your favorite poster by the end of the day Wednesday! The top three favorites will be announced on Thursday morning. Snacks provided.

3:45 pm

Breakout Session B (Choose one of four sessions to attend)

Session B-1 (Ballroom A1): Achieving 2030 AOC goals: addressing challenges and planning for success (Moderator: Brennan Dow, Wisconsin DNR)

Summary: *In February 2022, President Biden and U.S. EPA announced their intention to dedicate \$1 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding to complete management action implementation and delist 22 of the remaining 25 AOCs by 2030. The infusion of funding above and beyond the AOC GLRI funds is critically important to achieving this goal, but the funding alone will not get us there. AOC partners will need to plan for and overcome many challenges along the way. This session will explore issues surrounding federal, state, and local capacity to carry out management actions and programmatic processes (e.g., BUI removals and AOC delisting). Presenters will highlight strategies that they are considering for managing increased workload, for streamlining projects and administrative processes, and for securing non-federal match funding for GLLA projects. The session will include time for questions and discussion.*

Topics and Speakers:

- Federal capacity considerations & strategies – Mark Loomis, U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office
- Local partner capacity considerations & strategies – Natalie Dutack, Milwaukee County
- State capacity considerations & strategies – Lynn Garrity, Ohio Lake Erie Commission
- Our Next Great Challenge: Match for Momentum – Cameron Davis, GEI Consultants

Session B-2 (Ballroom A2): Making habitat restoration projects climate resilient: case studies from AOCs and beyond (Moderator: Terry S. Heatlie, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries)

Summary: *Considering the impacts of a changing climate is increasingly important when designing AOC habitat restoration projects. This session will describe different approaches established by AOC stakeholders as well as government agencies used to consider the changing climate and to incorporate climate resiliency into the design of habitat restoration projects within the Great Lakes and AOCs. Different methods developed to integrate resiliency into habitat restoration design will be described by those involved in the development of their respective processes. Following the two presentations, a panel composed of the speakers and restoration practitioners will be available for answering questions and further discussion.*

Topics and Speakers:

- State perspective and examples - Madeline Magee, Wisconsin DNR
- Federal perspective and examples – Kaitlyn McClain, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chicago District

Session B-3 (Ballroom A3): New technology and novel approaches to BUI assessment for informing BUI removals (Moderator: Lisa Fogarty, U.S. Geological Survey)

Summary: *In the delisting process for Areas of Concern, managers must determine appropriate management actions to remove beneficial use impairments. Science and data collection approaches provide information to assist managers implementing actions that meet delisting requirements. This session will provide examples of how agencies have used advanced science and monitoring approaches to support BUI removals and provide the AOC partnerships strategies for long term management for “Life after Delisting”.*

Topics and Speakers:

- Barb Huberty, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Sarah Janssen, U.S. Geological Survey- Mercury Research
- Joel Hoffman, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency- PCB Research

Session B-4 (Ballroom A4): Utilizing geospatial environmental justice tools in the AOC program (Moderator: Amy Pelka, U.S. EPA GLNPO)

Summary: *Environmental Justice is an important element in EPA’s mission, including environmental health in Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOC). Remediation and restoration work in AOCs may have a nexus with underserved communities, but there are multiple approaches and tools that can be used to further understand that nexus. As a result of Presidential Executive Order 14008, as well as initiatives within EPA and other agencies, multiple publicly available tools have been published and updated to assist in evaluating social vulnerability and environmental burden across these AOCs. These tools include EPA’s Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJScreen) and several State agencies have EJ geospatial tools for their States and AOCs. This session will offer demos of different geospatial tools and discuss potential and actual approaches to understanding EJ concerns in the AOC program.*

Topics and Speakers:

- Moderator and Panelist Introductions (Panelists: Nathan Melia, USEPA TMPO; Trent Henry, ORISE at USEPA GLNPO; Jim Lehen, NYSDEC; Regina Strong and John Esch, MDEQ EGLE)
- Demo of geospatial tools and analyses by each panelist – Q&A after each presentation

5:15 pm Adjourn

6:00 pm Optional Dinner: Titledtown Experience (\$21)

See Lambeau Field and visit the Pro Shop. Enjoy brats and burgers at Stadium View Bar & Grill. A cash bar will be available. Bus transportation will be provided between KI and the Titledtown District. Buses will be parked along North Adams Street (across from the lobby west counter). Buses will begin loading at 6 PM, departing by 6:15 PM for Lambeau Field. At 7:00 p.m., buses will travel from Lambeau Field to

Stadium View. The buses will leave Stadium View to return to KI at 9 p.m. Note that there is only one departure time from KI and one departure time from Stadium View. Attendees are welcome to drive separately to and from the venues.

DAY TWO: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

DAY 2 SCHEDULE — ALL GENERAL SESSIONS ARE IN MEETING ROOM B	
8:00 – 8:45 am	Networking Breakfast
8:45 – 9:00 am	Reconvene and Recap of Day One
9:00 – 9:30 am	Getting Work Done at AOCs
9:30 – 9:45 am	Break
9:45 – 11:15 am	Breakout Session C (choose one of four sessions to attend)
11:15 – 11:30 am	Break
11:30 am – 12:15 pm	Life after AOC Plenary: Lake Superior Headwaters Sustainability Partnership Establishes a Systems Approach Building off AOC Efforts – Gini Breidenbach, Minnesota Land Trust
12:15 – 12:30 pm	Wrap-up and Follow-up Actions
12:30 pm	Adjourn

8:00 am Networking Breakfast (included)

8:45 am Reconvene and Recap of Day One
Amy Pelka, U.S. EPA GLNPO and Kendra Axness, Wisconsin DNR

9:00 am Getting Work Done at AOCs
U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office

9:30 am Break

9:45 am Breakout Session C (Choose one of four sessions to attend)

Session C-1 (Ballroom A1): Indigenous perspectives strengthening the Area of Concern program (Moderators: Betsy Galbraith, Deputy Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Matt Steiger, St. Louis River Area of Concern Coordinator, Wisconsin DNR)

Summary: *Indigenous knowledge and the perspectives shared by Tribes and Tribal partners enhance conservation projects within the Great Lakes, including AOCs. This session will explore several projects enriched by Indigenous knowledge, partnerships with Tribes, or incorporating the voices of Tribal communities. The lessons learned from these projects provide tools for Area of Concern participants to honor the past, repair and remediate sites, and implement meaningful improvements for the future.*

Topics and Speakers:

- Habitat restoration and bird monitoring on the Oneida Nation reservation - Erin Giese, UW-Green Bay Cofrin Center for Biodiversity Senior Researcher and Randy Cornelius, Oneida Nation cultural educator

- Working with Native Communities in Urban Areas : Nothing About Us Without Us - Mark (Marin) Denning, Oneida Tribal member and Adjunct Lecturer Continuing Education at UW-Milwaukee

Session C-2 (Ballroom A2): Turning Tribulations into Triumphs: Lessons Learned from Great Lakes Legacy Act Remedial Projects (Moderators: Barb Huberty, St. Louis River AOC Coordinator, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; Jim Lehnert, Statewide AOC Coordinator, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation)

Summary: *Over the last several years, AOCs have been busy constructing a variety of remedies to address contaminated sediments. Many challenges are encountered during the assessment, development, and execution stages of these projects. From project inception to after-construction debriefings, this session will uncover examples of these challenges along with tips to anticipate and avoid potential pitfalls. Participants will be invited to share their own experiences and solutions during the discussion portion of the agenda.*

Topics and Speakers:

- Overview of the Restrictions on Dredging BUI/GLLA Context - Scott Cieniawski, U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office
- St. Louis River Area of Concern Examples - Meaghan Kern, U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office; LaRae Lehto, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- New York Area of Concern Examples - Wendy Paterson, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper; Jessica Telano, Honeywell

Session C-3 (Ballroom A3): Navigating Project Management Challenges: Section 7 and Section 106 Requirements for Federally Funded Management Actions (Moderator: Mandy Annis, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Summary: *Project Management for federally funded projects through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative can often be complex and include several requirements to follow state and federal rules and regulations. Once a management action list is finalized for an AOC, now what? How does someone ensure that the work will not adversely impact state and federally endangered or threatened species? Or that the work will not negatively impact a culturally significant area? This session will cover these challenges and provide a general project management approach for addressing Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) processes. It will also provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions and share ideas during the discussion portion of the agenda.*

Topics and Speakers:

- Steve Choy, USFWS, MNWI ES Field Office
- Felipe Avila, WI SHPO
- Curtis Sedlacek, USACE

Session C-4 (Ballroom A4): Stories of accomplishments, successes, and challenges from management action implementers (Moderator: Lynn Garrity, Ohio Lake Erie Commission)

Summary: *There are many Management Actions underway in 2023 within in the Great Lakes AOCs as the remaining AOCs implement the work necessary for their future delisting. These actions are big and small in complexity, partnerships and budgets. As AOCs throughout the Great Lakes are in the depths of implementation, these actions can be a journey on its own to accomplish. This session will share stories from local, state and federal implementers to some of the most complex management actions to date in the Great Lakes and bring forth knowledge learned from the implementation experience.*

Topics and Speakers:

- Spirit Lake - Mark Loomis, U.S. EPA GLNPO
- Black River - Kate Golden, City of Lorain
- Milwaukee Estuary AOC - Stacy Hron, Wisconsin DNR

11:15 am Break

11:30 am Life after AOC Plenary: Lake Superior Headwaters Sustainability Partnership Establishes a Systems Approach Building off AOC Efforts

Gini Breidenbach, Minnesota Land Trust

When we are focused on implementing our Remedial Action Plans, it's hard to find time to imagine what happens after our AOCs are delisted. However, if we want to capitalize on synergies established through the AOC work, having a plan in place for coordination on collective priorities after delisting is important. Over the last four years, the Minnesota Land Trust (a non-profit organization that works to protect and restore Minnesota's most vital natural lands) has led a collaborative effort building off and strengthening AOC partnerships to establish a systems-based approach with a shared vision, priorities, goals, and objectives. The vision of the partnership is:

"The Lake Superior Headwaters Sustainability Partnership establishes an inclusive and intentional framework for how and where we work to achieve a thriving estuary landscape and community. The principles of sustainability, resiliency, and equity guide our approach to managing our natural resources by including economic development and community health and well-being considerations."

Gini Breidenbach, Restoration Program Manager at MLT, will share the evolution of the Lake Superior Headwaters Sustainability Partnership and how it is already being utilized to create a restoration vision for Allouez Bay, Wisconsin.

12:15 pm Wrap-up and Follow-up Actions

U.S. EPA GLNPO and Wisconsin DNR

12:30 pm Adjourn

Primary Preparer Name	Primary Preparer Organization	Poster Title	Email Address
McKenzi Waliczek	Friends of the Detroit River	Detroit River Island Habitat Restoration - Restoration of Coastal Habitat in the Detroit River AOC	mwaliczek@detroitriver.org
Moses Ajemigbitse	AquaBlok, Ltd.	Understanding the Adsorption Benefits of Powdered Activated Carbon for Sediment Remediation Projects	majemigbitse@aquablok.com
Cassie Lovall	NOAA Restoration Center	How the Restoration Center in NOAA's Office of Habitat Conservation Helps Restore Fish Habitat to Address Three BUIs	cassie.lovall@noaa.gov
Hayley Olds	U.S. Geological Survey	Do Upstream Algal Blooms Contribute to Harmful Algal Blooms in the Fox River and Green Bay AOC?	htolds@usgs.gov
Bart De Stasio	Lawrence University	Eutrophication in the Green Bay, Lake Michigan AOC: Reduced Feeding Rates of Spiny Water Fleas on Zooplankton Prey	bart.t.destasio@lawrence.edu
Stephanie Cole	GEI Consultants	Development of Wildlife Habitat Restoration Design Plans for the Tank Farm Marsh in an Urban Setting	stephcole@geiconsultants.com
Amy Carrozzino-Lyon	University of Wisconsin-Green Bay	"Restoring manoomin (wild rice) on the Green Bay west shore through conservation partnerships and community outreach."	carrozza@uwgb.edu
Brie Kupsky	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Recommendations for Accelerating Restoration of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation in the Duck Creek Delta, Green Bay.	brianna.kupsky@wisconsin.gov
Noah Hoffman	University of Wisconsin-Green Bay	Changes to and Reasons for Green Bay's Macroinvertebrate Communities Over Time	hoffnp29@uwgb.edu
Rae-Ann Eifert	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Cormorant and Herring Gull Egg Contaminant Levels Following the Lower Fox River PCB Project Remediation	raeann.eifert@wisconsin.gov
Mandy Annis	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Ecological Responses to Dam Removal and Habitat Restoration in the Kalamazoo River Area of Concern	mandy_annis@fws.gov
John O'Meara	Alliance of Rouge Communities	Improving the Rouge River AOC by GSD (Get Stuff Done) - Habitat Improvement Projects	jomeara@ectinc.com
Mandy Annis	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Risk Assessment and Biomonitoring for Exposure and Effects of Legacy Persistent Organic Pollutants and Contaminants of Emerging Concern in Colonial Waterbirds of the Great Lakes	mandy_annis@fws.gov

Jeremy Pinkerton	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Restoring fish and wildlife habitat and hydrologic connections at Perch Lake in the St. Louis River Area of Concern	jeramy.pinkerton@state.mn.us
Ben Nicklay	MN Department of Natural Resources	Restoring Fish and Wildlife Habitat at Mud Lake in the St. Louis River AOC	ben.nicklay@state.mn.us
Steven M. Schoff	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Addition of Pelletized Activated Carbon to Sequester Dioxin and Furans at the Scanlon Reservoir in the St. Louis River Area of Concern	stevn.schoff@state.mn.us
Ben Beardmore	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Aesthetic Impressions of Volunteer Observers in Two Wisconsin Areas of Concern	alan.beardmore@wisconsin.gov
Kris Eilers	St. Louis River Alliance	What Barriers Prevent Neighbors of the St. Louis River from Their Preferred River Experiences?	kris@stlouisriver.org
Kayla Lockmiller	U.S. Geological Survey	<i>E. coli</i> Monitoring and Assessment After Beach Restoration in the Clinton River AOC, Southeast Michigan, 2022-2023	klockmiller@usgs.gov
Kaitlyn McClain	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chicago District	Supporting Coastal Resiliency Using the Framework for Resilient Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Investments and the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study	kaitlyn.e.mcclain@usace.army.mil
Erin Giese	University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Cofrin Center for Biodiversity	Developing Weighted Averaging Tools to Assess Fish and Wildlife Habitats and Populations and Restoration Project Success in the Green Bay/Fox River AOC	giesee@uwgb.edu
Alice Bailey	Alliance of Rouge Communities/ Environmental Consulting & Technology	Overcoming Hurdles to Construct a Bypass "Fishway" Around the Historic Henry Ford Estates Dam in the Rouge River AOC	abailey@ectinc.com
McKenzi Waliczek	Friends of the Detroit River	Addressing Barriers to Community Participation to Meet the Priorities and Needs of Underserved Communities in the Detroit River Basin	mwaliczek@detroitriver.org
Mandy Annis	US Fish and Wildlife Service	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Technical Assistance for Advancing AOC Delisting	mandy_annis@fws.gov
Mandy Annis	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Supporting Assessment of Wildlife Reproductive and Population Beneficial Use Impairments: Examples from Michigan	mandy_annis@fws.gov
Beth Sparks-Jackson	US Geological Survey	"Sharing Sessions" Facilitate Communication and Collaboration in the Maumee AOC	bsparks-jackson@contractor.usgs.gov

Ashley J. Belle	Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant	Successful Community Engagement Strategies for the Spirit Lake Great Lakes Legacy Act Sediment Remediation Project in the St. Louis River Area of Concern	abelle@illinois.edu
Joseph Corra	US Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development	Using Riparian Bird Communities to Assess Restoration	corra.joseph@epa.gov
Edith Kippenhan	City of Toledo, Environmental Services	Addressing Benefits and Detriments in the Detweiler Marsh Stream and Wetland Restoration Project	edith.kippenhan@toledo.oh.gov
Edith Kippenhan	City of Toledo	Water Quality Goals: Revitalizing a City's Soccer Park One BMP at a Time	edith.kippenhan@toledo.oh.gov
Karen Keil	US Army Corps of Engineers	Assessing Post Construction Habitat Quality to Identify Future Habitat Management Opportunities in the Lower St. Louis River Estuary	karen.g.keil@usace.army.mil

Resources for SPAC

Online meeting collaborative tools:

- Miro miro.com Large virtual whiteboards
- Jamboard jamboard.google.com/ More like Google slides that people can post on using virtual sticky notes
- Mentimeter mentimeter.com For surveys during meetings

Recorded [trainings](#) about online meetings and facilitative leadership (free)

MSU Extension *Facilitative Leadership* [trainings](#) (help with community engagement work):

- Basic Facilitative Leadership; 3 days; \$700; held in Lansing and one other location each year
- Advanced Facilitative Leadership

National Charrette Institute recorded [webinars](#) (free):

- Power of Participation
- Virtual Engagement

MSU Extension trainings:

- [Mental Health First Aid](#) (also Youth Mental Health First Aid and Teen Mental Health First Aid)
 - Offered online several times a month for \$45 per participant; full day training
 - We could also have a Mental Health First Aid overview (1-2 hrs.) from Mental Health First Aid trained staff. Contact Erica for more about this.
 - Good to know for how to support your own team and colleagues as well as community partners who may be experiencing challenges or being faced with a lot of environmental stressors.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion [trainings](#)
 - Multicultural Self-Awareness Workshops; two days; \$150; dates TBD
 - Leadership in Dealing with Difficult Multicultural Discussions; \$75; dates TBD
 - Opening Doors: A Personal and Professional Journey Workshop; three day retreat;

ArcGIS tools for sharing data: including [StoryMaps](#) and [dashboards](#)

- Some of these tools can be accessed for free. If you need a license, non-profits can get an ArcGIS license for \$100/year.