



2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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As of July 1, 2014.

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Cover: Lake Michigan as seen from Naubinway, Mich.
Top to bottom: Snorkeling in Lake Huron near Tobermory, Ont.
Split Rock Lighthouse on Lake Superior near Silver Bay, Minn.
Sackets Harbor, N.Y., on Lake Ontario.

The Great Lakes Commission at work, 2013-2014: Solving old problems and confronting new ones

September 2015

As it closes out its sixth decade, the Great Lakes Commission continues to be a leading voice on behalf of its member states and provinces, supporting their collective vision for a healthy, vibrant Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River region. As articulated in the Great Lakes Basin Compact, the Commission's mission is to "promote the orderly, integrated, and comprehensive development, use, and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin." How the Commission carries out this mission has evolved over time, but the overarching focus has remained constant: providing a collective voice for states and provinces to advance a strong and growing economy, a healthy environment, and a high quality of life for all citizens.

The Commission has tackled both new and old issues facing the Great Lakes region over the past several years, working collaboratively with a broad array of agencies, regional organizations, and stakeholders. The Commission's long-standing work continued to clean up Areas of Concern; coordinate regional aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention and control efforts; prevent soil erosion and nutrient runoff; and secure federal support for the Great Lakes maritime system. New initiatives began for reaching consensus on a solution to prevent Asian carp and other AIS from transferring through Chicago-area waterways; reducing nutrient pollution to Lake Erie; and managing the risks and benefits of transporting oil in the Great Lakes region.

Beginning with the annual Great Lakes Day in Washington and continuing throughout the year, the Commission continued to advocate with the U.S. federal government on behalf of its member states on issues of common interest. In 2014, Congress passed new water resources development legislation with significant benefits for the Great Lakes, including increased funding

for dredging and harbor maintenance and formal authorization of the Great Lakes Navigation System. Congress also passed a new Farm Bill that designated the Great Lakes as a Critical Conservation Area, opening the door to increased funding to prevent nutrient pollution and reduce harmful algae blooms.

Most significantly, the Commission—together with a broad coalition of regional partners—sustained Congressional support for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), which has provided more than \$1.6 billion through FY 2014 for 2,000 restoration projects. We are seeing real results from this unprecedented investment, with six Areas of Concern cleaned up, a 70 percent increase in farmland enrolled in conservation programs, and nearly 150,000 acres of habitat restored or protected. The next phase of the GLRI is now underway and the Commission continues to call on Congress and the Administration to sustain this historic restoration program.

Mackinac Island's historic Grand Hotel was the site of the Council of Great Lakes Governors 2013 Leadership Summit, which set a new collaborative agenda for the region focused on trade, transportation and water. This work continued to expand under subsequent meetings held as the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers. Among other actions, the Governors and Premiers called on the Commission to develop a comprehensive approach to monitoring desired outcomes related to many aspects of the quality and use of Great Lakes water resources. In response, the Commission has initiated the "Great Lakes Blue Accounting" initiative, a strategy that links water use and management decisions and investments—in both the public and private sectors—to desired environmental, economic and social outcomes. A pilot demonstration of the Blue Accounting Process is now underway focused on ensuring a safe

and sustainable domestic water supply.

As Great Lakes restoration accelerates, and the benefits from these efforts accrue, there is growing interest in the "Blue Economy" and how our region can leverage a competitive advantage from the immense supply of fresh water that surrounds us. Locally, many of our coastal communities are building on cleanup efforts and water quality and habitat improvements facilitated under the GLRI to revitalize degraded waterfront areas. From cities as diverse as Buffalo, Duluth, Detroit, Sheboygan, Muskegon and Erie, new visions are emerging that recognize water resources as a vital ingredient in the recipe for economic prosperity and a high quality of life.

The increased interest in the Great Lakes as an economic asset, and the many new "place-based" opportunities for recreation, waterfront development, fishing or wildlife watching, underscore that our current restoration efforts are important not just to correct mistakes from the past, but also to build a better future for our children and grandchildren.

After nearly 60 years of support to the region, the Great Lakes Commission is excited by the progress we are making, but mindful of the new challenges we face on both sides of the border. Our work is not done, and the Commission looks forward to continued service to our member states and provinces to maintain the health of the Great Lakes and the many benefits they provide to us.



Jon W. Allan

Tim A. Eder

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Allan".

Jon W. Allan, Acting Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Eder".

Tim A. Eder, Executive Director

Funders and Supporters

The funders listed below provided support to the GLC in **calendar years** 2013-2014.

The great majority of Commission programs and projects are pursued in partnership with other agencies and organizations, and benefit from their funding support. A listing of 2013-2014 funders and supporters is provided below. Thanks to all for their assistance!

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

C.S. Mott Foundation

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Council of Great Lakes Governors

Ecology & Environment Inc.

Frey Foundation

Government of Ontario

Government of Québec

Grand Valley State University

Great Lakes Fishery Commission

Great Lakes Fishery Trust

Great Lakes Observing System

Great Lakes Protection Fund

Hope College

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

International Joint Commission

Joyce Foundation

LimnoTech, Inc.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Michigan Energy Office

Michigan State University

Michigan Technological University

Navigant Consulting

New York Power Authority

NOAA, Coastal Services Center

NOAA Coastal Storms Program

NOAA, National Sea Grant College Program

NOAA Restoration Center

Sierra Club

State of Illinois

State of Indiana

State of Michigan

State of Minnesota

State of New York

State of Ohio

State of Wisconsin

University of Illinois

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

U.S. EPA, Great Lakes National Program Office

U.S. EPA, Region 5, Air and Radiological Division

U.S. EPA, Region 5, Superfund Division

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Geological Survey, Great Lakes Science Center

Wege Foundation

West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission

Weston Solutions, Inc.

Left: Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore on Lake Superior near Munising, Mich. Right: the *Canadian Transport* on the Detroit River between Detroit, Mich., and Windsor, Ont.



Revenues and Expenses

The financial report covers the GLC's **fiscal years**, which conclude June 30.

Overall, the Commission continues to effectively manage its general, restricted and cash reserve funds to achieve the goals and objectives of the organization. These figures were confirmed by an independent audit, which is conducted each year to examine the Commission's financial operations.

Fiscal Year 2013

The Great Lakes Commission concluded FY 2013 in sound financial condition, with operating revenues of over \$7.1 million. Total revenues exceeded expenses by \$19,218, or 0.26 percent.

The 2013 fiscal year ended June 30, 2013.

Revenues

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Grants and contracts | \$ 6,609,910 | 90.76% |
| State contributions | 480,000 | 6.59% |
| Meetings, publications, misc. | 44,322 | 0.61% |
| Interest income | 18,515 | 0.25% |
| Change in fair value of investments | 130,199 | 1.79% |
| Total | \$7,282,946 | |

Expenses

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Grants and contracts | \$ 4,967,317 | 68.39% |
| Personnel | 1,731,640 | 23.84% |
| Office operations | 302,233 | 4.16% |
| Program activities | 109,012 | 1.50% |
| Travel | 108,565 | 1.49% |
| Communications | 44,961 | 0.62% |
| Total | \$ 7,263,728 | |
| Change in net position | \$ 19,218 | 0.26% |

Fiscal Year 2014

The Great Lakes Commission concluded FY 2014 in sound financial condition, with operating revenues of over \$6.5 million. Total expenses exceeded revenues by \$41,559, or 0.62 percent.

The 2014 fiscal year ended June 30, 2014.

Revenues

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Grants and contracts | \$ 5,987,062 | 89.75% |
| State contributions | 480,000 | 7.20% |
| Meetings, publications, misc. | 42,277 | 0.63% |
| Interest income | 15,833 | 0.24% |
| Change in fair value of investments | 145,885 | 2.19% |
| Total | \$6,671,057 | |

Expenses

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Grants and contracts | \$ 4,290,193 | 63.91% |
| Personnel | 1,829,673 | 27.26% |
| Office operations | 282,764 | 4.21% |
| Program activities | 162,112 | 1.55% |
| Travel | 104,226 | 2.42% |
| Communications | 43,648 | 0.65% |
| Total | \$6,712,616 | |
| Change in net position | (\$41,559) | -0.62% |

Left: a muskellunge caught in Lake Erie near Buffalo, N.Y. Right: Tahquamenon Falls near Paradise, Mich.



Commissioners, Alternates and Observers

As of July 1, 2014. Delegation chairs are in **bold**.

Illinois

Marc Miller, *Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources*

Stephanie Comer, *Comer Family Foundation*

Joe Deal, *City of Chicago*

Carmen Lonstein, *Clayco, Inc.*

Karen May

Alternates

Dan Injerd, *Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources*

Todd Main, *Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources*

Indiana

Robert E. Carter, Jr., *Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources*

Thomas W. Easterly, *Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management*

Ron McAhron, *Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources*

Jody W. Peacock, *Ports of Indiana*

Alternates

Kay L. Nelson, *Northwest Indiana Forum*

Michigan

Jon W. Allen, *Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality*

Bruce Rasher

Hon. Bill Schuette, *Attorney General*

Helen Taylor, *The Nature Conservancy*

Hon. Rebekah Warren, *State Senator*

Alternates

Dr. Roger Eberhardt, *Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality*

S. Peter Manning, *Dept. of the Attorney General*

Minnesota

Lt. Gov. Yvonne Prettner Solon, *State of Minnesota*

Hon. Thomas Huntley, Ph.D., *State Representative*

Hon. Carrie Ruud, *State Senator*

Hon. Ann Rest, *State Senator*

Hon. Bob Gunther, *State Representative*

Alternates

Dick Lambert, *Minnesota Dept. of Transportation*

New York

Joseph Martens, *New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation*

James M. Tierney, *New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation*

Donald E. Zelazny, *New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation*

Ohio

James Zehringer, *Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources*

Hon. John Eklund, *State Senator*

Scott J. Nally, *Ohio Environmental Protection Agency*

James H. I. Weakley, *Lake Carriers' Association*

Alternates

John D. Baker, *International Longshoremen's Association*

Karl Gebhardt, *Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources*

Gail Hesse, *Ohio Lake Erie Commission*

Ontario

William Carr, *Office of International Relations and Protocol*

Paul Evans, *Ministry of the Environment*

Rosalyn Lawrence, *Ministry of Natural Resources*

Scott Thompson, *Ministry of Transportation*

Alternates

Sharon Bailey, *Ministry of the Environment*

Eric Boysen, *Ministry of Natural Resources*

Linda McAusland, *Ministry of Transportation*

Ranissah Samah, *Office of International Relations and Protocol*

Pennsylvania

Kelvin Burch, *Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection*

Robert W. Light, *Penn State Erie, The Behrend College*

Pat Lupo, *Benedictine Sisters*

Alternates

Lori A. Boughton, *Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection*

Herb Packer, *Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation*

Québec

Eric Marquis, *Québec Government Representative in Chicago*

Nathalie Camden, *Ministère des Ressources Naturelles et de la Faune*

Marc Gagnon, *Fednav Limited*

Josée Hallé, *Ministry of Transportation*

Danielle Provost, *Division of Intergovernmental Affairs*

Alternates

Jérôme Faivre, *Direction des Relations Intergouvernementales*

Eve Joseph, *Ministère des Transports du Québec*

Frédéric Lecomte, *Direction Générale de l'Expertise sur la Faune et ses Habitats*

Wisconsin

Russell Rasmussen, *Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources*

Steve Galarneau, *Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources*

Dean Haen, *Brown County Port and Solid Waste Dept.*



Great Lakes Commission staff in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Observers (as of July 1, 2014)

Alliance for the Great Lakes, Joel Brammeier
 Canadian Embassy, Sabrina Dadrian-Kassabian
 Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, Mike Ripley
 Coastal States Organization, Mary Munson
 Council of Great Lakes Governors, David Naftzger
 Council of Great Lakes Industries, Kathryn Buckner
 Ducks Unlimited, Gildo M. Tori
 John G. Shedd Aquarium, Michelle Parker
 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, David Ullrich
 Great Lakes Environmental Law Center, Nick Schroeck
 Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Bob Lambe
 Great Lakes Observing System, Jennifer Read
 Great Lakes Sea Grant Network, James Diana
 Helsinki Commission, Monika Stankiewicz
 International Joint Commission, Stephen Locke
 Maritime Administration, Great Lakes Region, Floyd Miras
 National Association of Conservation Districts (vacant)
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
 Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, John Bratton
 NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management,
 Margaret Davidson
 National Park Service, Martin Sterkel
 National Wildlife Federation, Andy Buchsbaum
 Northwest Indiana Forum, Kay Nelson
 St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp., Craig H. Middlebrook
 The Nature Conservancy (Michigan Chapter), Richard Bowman
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jan Miller
 U.S. Coast Guard, Ninth Coast Guard District, Radm. Fred Midgette
 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources
 Conservation Service, Terry Cosby
 U.S. Department of Energy, Ihor Hlohowskyj
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes
 National Program Office, Chris Korleski
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Craig A. Czarnecki
 U.S. Geological Survey, Russell M. Strach

Great Lakes Commission Staff

Front row (from left): Lisa Denys, Guan Wang, Christine Manninen, David Betcher, Elizabeth Lillard, Tim Eder, Becky Pearson, Katherine Hollins, Michèle Leduc-Lapierre, Erika Jensen, Margaux Valenti. Back row: Joe Bertram, Stuart Eddy, Laura Kaminski, Matt Doss, Tom Crane, Jeff McAulay, Michael Schneider, Byran Comer, Victoria Pebbles, Marty Morrice, Heather Braun, Laura Andrews.
Not pictured: Steve Cole, Sarah Cook, Pat Gable, Gary Overmier.

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About the Commission

The Great Lakes Commission was established in 1955 with a mandate to “promote the orderly, integrated and comprehensive development, use and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes basin.” Founded in state law with U.S. federal consent, with membership consisting of the eight Great Lakes states and associate member status for the provinces of Ontario and Québec, the Commission pursues four primary functions: communication and education, information integration and reporting, facilitation and consensus building, and policy coordination and advocacy.

Each Member jurisdiction is represented by a delegation consisting of three to five members who are appointees of the respective governor or premier, legislators or senior agency officials. A board of directors, consisting of the chair of each delegation, is the Commission’s executive body.

In carrying out its initiatives, the Commission works in close cooperation with many partner organizations, including U.S. and Canadian federal agencies, binational institutions, tribal/First Nation governments and other regional interests. Representatives appointed by partner entities participate extensively in Commission activities through a formal Observer program. The Commission is supported by a professional staff in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Lake Michigan as viewed from Warren Dunes State Park near Sawyer, Mich.

