



2018 Annual Report





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Board of Directors list is as of December 2018.

Cover photo: Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Munising,
Michigan, on Lake Superior ©flickr/74418101@N02/David
Marvin. This page: Oak Street Beach in Chicago, Illinois, on
Lake Michigan ©flickr/romanboed/Roman Boed.



John Linc Stine



Darren J. Nichols

Investing in a National Asset: Restoring the Great Lakes Basin Ecology and Economy ... Together

MAY 2019

As the Great Lakes community heads into 2020 together, thank you for joining us as we take a moment to reflect on the history and the future of the Great Lakes Basin.

Season of Change

In many ways 2018-2019 has been a season of change across the Basin. Five Great Lakes states elected new governors and both Great Lakes provinces elected new premiers. The Great Lakes Commission selected a new executive director and welcomed several new commissioners. Congress added new members to the Great Lakes Congressional Task Force while continuing its demonstration of leadership and strong bipartisan support for the Great Lakes. These and other changes offer all of us an opportunity to revisit and renew our commitment to shared leadership and stewardship of the Great Lakes Basin.

Milestones

Amid these changes, the Basin is also celebrating significant milestones. 2018 marked fifty years since Congress' 1968 authorization of the Great Lakes Basin Compact. 2019 marks twenty years since the eight Great Lakes governors and two Great Lakes premiers signed a Declaration

of Partnership formally welcoming Ontario and Québec as members of the Great Lakes Commission and as supporting partners of the Great Lakes Basin Compact.

As the Commission welcomes its next generation of leaders, we are reflecting on the past and looking forward to the future. The Commission is embarking on a first-ever assessment of the Great Lakes Basin Compact—to understand the shared commitments of eight states, two provinces and Congress, and to understand the responsibilities of the Great Lakes Commission. At the same time, we are convening the Great Lakes Basin community for a discussion about *our shared future ... and our shared stewardship* of the Great Lakes and the people that will live, work and recreate here.

Looking Forward

As we take a close look at the states' and provinces' agreement and the Commission's authorities under the Great Lakes Basin Compact, we hope to understand the history and the spirit of cooperation that has served the Great Lakes Basin so well over the last six decades. More importantly, and perhaps more urgently, we are challenging ourselves and the Basin community to look forward and ask *what should be true about the Great Lakes Basin in fifty or a hundred years? And what do we need to be doing*

today, tomorrow and going forward to ensure that we leave the Great Lakes Basin in better condition and with even more opportunities for future generations? We hope you will join us in answering these important questions.

Collaboration: Working on our Future Together

The Commission understands this is no small effort; we alone are not up to this urgent and compelling task. We are focused on building and supporting strong and intentional investments in collaborative governance—including voices, perspectives, values, concerns and aspirations from across the region. We are committed to finding and leveraging areas of shared interests into the commitments, partnerships and investments needed to achieve the best possible future for the Great Lakes' ecology, landscapes, economy and communities.

To support collaborative policy and decision-making, we are investing in an open platform where we continue to welcome perspectives, information and ideas. We call this space Blue Accounting—a platform to convene to solve problems, reach for aspirations and measure shared progress ... together.

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Urgent Priorities

Along the way, the Commission continues to pay close attention to urgent Great Lakes priorities, including issues like harmful algae in Lake Erie, building needed maritime infrastructure, preventing invasive species of all types from entering the Great Lakes, building resilient coastal communities, protecting and ensuring clean drinking water for citizens across the Basin, and investing in infrastructure that protects our water and supports the world's third-largest economy.

■ The Commission urgently supports immediate investment in maritime navigation system infrastructure, including construction of a new Soo lock. The Soo Locks are a critical infrastructure asset that is vital to North America's economic prosperity and national security.

■ The Commission supports continued full funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The GLRI is an investment that already demonstrates a return of more than three dollars for every dollar invested—a return that is expected to continue to yield dividends over time.

■ The Commission is committed to working together to keep Asian carp and other invasive species out of the Great Lakes—and we will continue to work with Illinois, other states and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a successful plan for the Brandon Road Lock and Dam.

■ We continue to seek and support a single comprehensive binational ballast water policy that protects the waters of the Great Lakes and supports a ready, resilient and efficient transportation system.

■ The Commission is also developing policies that support “green infrastructure”—creating natural ecosystem functions that reduce stormwater and flooding while boosting the livability of our cities, creating recreation and habitat areas and restoring natural resources in the Basin.

■ The Commission continues to support other important state and federal programs—the Farm Bill, Coast Guard capacities, a new Soo lock, port infrastructure, drinking water protection, and more.

As we look ahead, we hope you will bring your priorities and explore ways to include them in the Commission's work. We encourage you to *take a moment to read the Great Lakes Basin Compact*, then join us in asking how we as a community can invest in our shared Great Lakes future together.

Thank you ... and Onward!

Thank you for your continued support for the Great Lakes Basin Compact, the Commission and the important convening role we've filled for more than 60 years. We continue to serve as a neutral convener, helping people find agreement and solutions from Duluth to Québec City, from Chicago to Hamilton to Milwaukee to Toledo ... *and to your Great Lakes community.*

Please join us as we roll up our sleeves, lift our eyes and look forward to *our shared future* and these Great Lakes!

John Linc Stine, Chair

Darren J. Nichols, Executive Director



Funders

The funders listed below provided support to the Great Lakes Commission in 2018.

The majority of GLC programs and projects are pursued in partnership with other agencies and organizations, and benefit from their funding support. Thank you to our 2018 funders and supporters:

- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers
- C.S. Mott Foundation
- Ecology & Environment Inc.
- Erb Foundation
- Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance
- Government of Ontario
- Government of Québec
- Great Lakes Fishery Commission
- Great Lakes Fishery Trust
- Greater Milwaukee Foundation
- Herrick Foundation
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- International Joint Commission
- Joyce Foundation
- Lawrence Technological University
- LimnoTech, Inc.
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- State of Illinois
- State of Indiana
- State of Michigan
- State of Minnesota
- State of New York
- State of Ohio
- State of Wisconsin
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Ohio State University
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Great Lakes National Program Office
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Wege Foundation
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Financials

The financial report covers the Great Lakes Commission's 2018 fiscal year, which concluded June 30, 2018.

The GLC concluded FY 2018 in sound financial condition, with operating revenues of \$11.65 million. Total expenses exceeded revenues by 1.83 percent. Overall, the GLC continues to effectively manage its general, restricted and cash reserve funds to achieve the goals and objectives of the organization.

These figures are confirmed by an independent audit, which is conducted each year to examine the GLC's financial operations.

Revenues

Grants and contracts	\$ 11,000,329	94.41%
State contributions	480,000	4.12%
Meetings, publications, misc.	58,812	0.50%
Interest income	18,333	0.16%
Change in fair value of investments	93,597	0.80%
TOTAL	\$ 11,651,071	

Expenses

Grants and contracts	\$ 8,694,440	73.28%
Personnel	2,519,240	21.23%
Office operations	337,031	2.84%
Program activities	137,347	1.16%
Travel	124,637	1.05%
Communications	51,265	0.43%
TOTAL	\$ 11,863,960	
Change in net position	(\$ 212,889)	-1.83%



Commissioners and Alternates

As of December 2018. Delegation chairs are in bold.

Illinois

Wayne A. Rosenthal, Illinois
Dept. of Natural Resources

Benjamin J. Brockschmidt,
Illinois American Water

Stephanie Comer, Comer Family
Foundation

Loren Wobig, Illinois Dept.
of Natural Resources

Indiana

Sharon Jackson, Office of the
Governor of Indiana

Jody W. Peacock, Ports of Indiana

Bruno Pigott, Indiana Dept. of
Environmental Management

Steve Fisher, American Great Lakes
Ports Association

Kay L. Nelson, Northwest Indiana Forum

Indiana Alternates

Chris Smith, Indiana Dept.
of Natural Resources

John Davis, Indiana Dept.
of Natural Resources

Michigan

Jon W. Allan, Michigan Dept.
of Environmental Quality

Hon. Candice Miller, Macomb County
Public Works

Hon. Bill Schuette, Attorney General

Helen Taylor, The Nature Conservancy

Hon. Rebekah Warren, State Senator

Michigan Alternates

Angela Ayers, Executive Office
of Governor Rick Snyder

Emily Finnell, Michigan Dept.
of Natural Resources

S. Peter Manning, Dept. of the
Attorney General

Minnesota

John Linc Stine, Minnesota
Pollution Control Agency

Hon. Ann Rest, State Senator

Hon. Carrie Ruud, State Senator

Hon. Paul Torkelson, State
Representative

Hon. Jennifer Schultz, State
Representative

New York

Basil Seggos, 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

New York Alternates

Kenneth Lynch, New York State
Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Ohio

James Zehringer, Ohio Dept.
of Natural Resources

Hon. John Eklund, State Senator

Craig W. Butler, Ohio Environmental
Protection Agency

James H. I. Weakley, Lake
Carriers' Association

Ohio Alternates

Michael Bailey, Ohio Dept. of
Natural Resources

John D. Baker, International
Longshoremen's Association

Thomas Rayburn, Lake
Carriers' Association



Ontario

Bill Carr, Office of International Relations and Policy

Rosalyn Lawrence, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

John Lieou, Ministry of Transportation

Debra Sikora, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Ontario Alternates

Jill Hughes, Ministry of Transportation

Ling Mark, Ministry of the Environment

Ranissah Samah, Office of International Relations and Protocol

Jason Travers, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Pennsylvania

Timothy J. Bruno, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection

Hon. Patrick J. Harkins, State Representative

Brenda Sandberg, Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority

Pennsylvania Alternates

Hon. Kathy Dahlkemper, Erie County Courthouse

Aneca Y. Atkinson, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection

Québec

Jean-François Hould, Québec Government Representative in Chicago

Julie Bissonnette, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques

Julie Grignon, Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs

Marc Gagnon, Fednav Limited

Josée Hallé, Ministère des Transports du Québec

Québec Alternates

Yvon Boilard, Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs

Jérôme Faivre, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques

Frederic Lecomte, Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs

Sébastien Marcoux, Ministère des Transport, Mobilité, et Électrification des transports

Denis Simard, Ministère des Transport, Mobilité, et Électrification des transports

Wisconsin

Stephen G. Galarneau, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

Dean Haen, Port of Green Bay

GLC Staff

Pictured above, front row (from left): Carly Turner, Siyu Fan, Samantha Stanton, Pat Gable, Erika Jensen, Beth Wanamaker, Elaine Ferrier, Dan Gold, David Betcher. Middle row: Laura Kaminski, Tawny Mata, Ken Gibbons, Joe Bertram, Darren Nichols, Victoria Pebbles, Ceci Weibert, Marty Morrice, Sam Haapaniemi, Nicole Zacharda, Laura Andrews. Back row: Ned Willig, Jack Cotrone, Tom Crane, Reilly Manz, Matt Doss. Not pictured: Margo Davis, Eric Ellis.

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About the GLC

The Great Lakes Commission (GLC) is an intergovernmental agency authorized by the eight Great Lakes states and Congress to protect and manage the Great Lakes, under the authorities of the Great Lakes Basin Compact of 1955.

In 1968, Congress passed an Act authorizing its consent to the Compact. Since 1999, the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Québec have served as associate members. The states and provinces are represented on the GLC by delegation members appointed by each jurisdiction.

The GLC is an integral component of the governance structure of the Great Lakes Basin—enabling party states and provinces to develop consensus around a common agency table, and then to speak with a unified, powerful voice on behalf of the Great Lakes Basin and its 48 million residents. The GLC also invests in a wide range of priorities for states, provinces and the Basin.



The Mackinac Bridge spanning the Straits of Mackinac in Michigan,
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