



 **Healing Our Waters®**
Great Lakes Coalition

GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 18-19, 2022 • MILWAUKEE, WI

WELCOME!
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THE FUTURE OF THE GREAT LAKES



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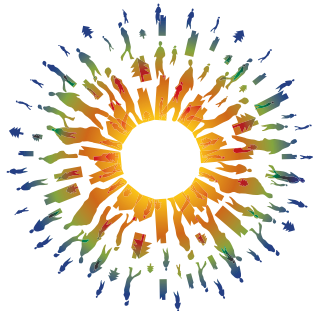
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Welcome, Great Lakes Advocates!

On behalf of the Governance Board, members, and staff of the Healing Our Waters–Great Lakes Coalition, I am pleased to welcome you to Milwaukee for our 2022 Great Lakes Conference. We are excited to be back in person after two years and two virtual conferences. The pandemic has caused us to rethink the purpose behind the conference and as a result, we've changed a few things up. Since many of us have not seen each other, in person, in over 2½ years, we are starting with field trips and a reception that will allow for networking and catching up. Then on Wednesday, we have one full day of speakers and workshop sessions. All told, we hope the conference will inform, engage, and inspire you for the work ahead.

We've built a great foundation for successful restoration of the Great Lakes, and we know that there is a lot more to do. All people deserve access to clean, healthy, affordable drinking water, and the pandemic and the past several years of drinking water disasters have made all of us painfully aware of how often this is lacking. Through the work of our member groups, allies, and partners, the Coalition has played a monumental role in securing, since 2009, more than \$5 billion in federal restoration funding to protect and restore this treasured resource. In the last year alone, we've also helped bring in billions of new federal investment to fix our region's (and nation's) inadequate drinking water and water infrastructure. And, we have continued to engage in key Great Lakes policy issues to ensure that our nation's laws support our shared goals of clean and affordable water for all. These efforts are producing results, but more needs to be done.

Historically, federal programs and funding have not prioritized the needs of communities most impacted by pollution and environmental harm. The Coalition is committed to addressing these issues by centering equity in our efforts — working to ensure that the communities that have been most harmed by pollution are prioritized when it comes to cleanup, and that the people who live in these communities have a voice in solutions. These solutions must also include a commitment to climate resiliency, as many of these same communities are also on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

The effects of climate change are already being seen in the Great Lakes region as a result of historic disinvestment and ineffective policies, from increased flooding to higher rates of illness and disease, among other issues. The Coalition is committed to confronting the climate crisis by prioritizing federal investments and policies that help communities prepare for, and adapt to, climate change.

Thanks to the Coalition and all of the hard work of our many partners across the region, we are better positioned than ever to stand up for the millions of people in the region who depend on the Great Lakes for their drinking water, public health, and quality of life. We've had great success telling the stories of Great Lakes communities, reacting to threats, and speaking with one voice. From its inception, the Coalition has worked to make Great Lakes restoration a national priority that is supported by public officials from all political stripes — and we have done that by a commitment to bipartisanship. It is our job to ensure that our collective voice continues to lead to results for our waterways and people.

So, many thanks for attending this Great Lakes Conference. When you leave Milwaukee, I hope you've had an opportunity to relax and see old friends. I also challenge you to share success stories, forge new relationships and partnerships and develop new strategies. And I hope you all will go home with a renewed sense of passion, knowledge, and optimism to continue the fight to protect and restore these magnificent water bodies.

Many thanks to all of you for all that you do for the most significant fresh water resource on the planet, our Great Lakes.



Laura Rubin
Coalition Director
Healing Our Waters–Great Lakes Coalition

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

8:00	Registration / Breakfast / Exhibits & Posters
9:00	Welcome
	Keynote
	Plenary Panel: Unpacking the Components of a Climate Resilient Society
10:00	
	Break
11:00	Breakout Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Help! I need to get the word out ASAP!” • The Community Advisory Committee’s Role in Cleaning Up the Milwaukee River Estuary Area of Concern • Protecting the Great Lakes and Clean Water Rights from Enbridge’s Line 5 • Forming Partnerships between Community Members and NGOs to Elevate Community Voices
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Plenary Panel: Our Future: Youth Experiences with the Environmental Movement
2:00	Break
	Breakout Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Partnerships • Building Capacity in Lake Michigan Municipalities to Advance Coastal Resilience • Investing in Water Justice • Scaling Up Conservation Agriculture
3:00	Break
	Plenary Panel: Great Lakes Advisory Board 2022 Report and Recommendations
4:00	Closing

5:00

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

- 8:00 AM **REGISTRATION / BREAKFAST / EXHIBITS & POSTERS (SECOND FLOOR FOYER)**
Room 202
-
- 9:00 AM **WELCOME**
Room 202
- **Mike Shriberg**, Regional Executive Director, Great Lakes, National Wildlife Federation
 - **Laura Rubin**, Coalition Director, Healing Our Waters–Great Lakes Coalition
-
- 9:15 AM **KEYNOTE**
Room 202
- **Debra Shore**, Regional Administrator for U.S. EPA Region 5
-
- 9:45 AM **PLENARY PANEL: UNPACKING THE COMPONENTS OF A CLIMATE RESILIENT SOCIETY**
Room 202
- **Brenda Coley**, Co-Executive Director, Milwaukee Water Commons
 - **Richard Diaz**, Chairman, Coalition on Lead Emergency
 - **Mark Denning**, Water Protector
 - **Deneine Powell**, FUSE Executive Fellow with the City of Milwaukee's Environmental Collaboration Office
-
- 10:45 AM **BREAK**
-
- 11:00 AM **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**
- "Help! I need to get the word out ASAP!": Create a Quick & Easy Communications Plan to Raise Awareness & Activate Your Community**
Room 203AB
- In this hands-on workshop, you'll create a quick, easy-to-implement communications plan for an advocacy issue in your community and leave ready to put it into action. You'll learn the 5 elements of winning communication plans that raise awareness and activate your community but don't require a big staff or budget.
- **Jennifer Caddick**, Vice President Communications & Engagement, Alliance for the Great Lakes
-
- The Community Advisory Committee's Role in Cleaning Up the Milwaukee River Estuary Area of Concern**
Room 203C
- Decades of planning has led to a generational opportunity to clean up the Milwaukee River Estuary Area of Concern (AOC). This workshop will provide an AOC overview but largely focus on an innovative and comprehensive framework developed to engage the community in cleanup efforts using anti-racist and environmental justice principles.
- **Cheryl Nenn**, Riverkeeper, Milwaukee Riverkeeper
 - **Susie Seidelman**, Principal, Victura Communications
 - **Steven Hunter**, Program Director, Nearby Nature Milwaukee
-
- Protecting the Great Lakes and Clean Water Rights from Enbridge's Line 5**
Room 203DE
- Enbridge now operates Line 5 illegally in the Great Lakes and on the Band River Band's reservation. Join our panel of legal and advocacy experts to learn more about the legal and PR attacks against the state of Michigan and Bad River Band as Enbridge attempts to strip states and Tribes of their sovereignty to protect water. This Line 5 panel will provide a full update on the effort to uphold state and Tribal rights, including how the advocacy communities is pushing back fossil fuel disinformation that attempts to justify the continued illegal use of this nearly 70-year-old pipeline that threatens the Great Lakes as well as Enbridge's unneeded expansion proposals.
- **Beth Wallace**, National Wildlife Federation and the Great Lakes Business Network
 - **Sean McBrearty**, Oil & Water Don't Mix and Clean Water Action
 - **Whitney Gravelle**, Bay Mills Indian Community

Forming Partnerships between Community Members and NGOs to Elevate Community Voices

Room 201CD

Leaders of the Great Lakes PFAS Action Network and impacted community members will provide pointers on how to blend the resources of non-profit organizations with the knowledge and voices of impacted community members to push for changes that mitigate or eliminate contamination from PFAS chemicals in Great Lakes communities.

- **Sandy Wynn-Stelt**, Co-Chair, Great Lakes PFAS Action Network
 - **Tony Spaniola**, Co-Chair, Great Lakes PFAS Action Network
 - **Erica Bloom**, Toxics Campaign Director, Ecology Center / Great Lakes PFAS Action Network
-

12:00 PM

LUNCH

Room 202

BIPOC attendees are invited to join the Coalition's Equity, Advisory and Action Committee (EAAC) during lunch for informal networking and relationship building

1:00 PM

PLENARY PANEL: OUR FUTURE: YOUTH EXPERIENCES WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT

Room 202

In this fishbowl conversation, young leaders from around the Great Lakes region will discuss the status and future of the movement around water and the environment. Drawing from their own experiences and perspectives, this discussion will uncover challenges and frustrations as well as signs of hope and calls to action.

- **Joe Fitzgerald**, Water City Program Manager, Milwaukee Water Commons
 - **Dynasty Ceasar**, Senior Campaign Organizer, The Redress Movement
 - **Brenda Santoyo**, Senior Policy Analyst, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization
 - **Brooke Bowers**, Youth Leader, We The People of Detroit
 - **Lindsey Bacigal**, Communications Coordinator, Healing Our Waters—Great Lakes Coalition
-

2:00 PM

BREAK

2:15 PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Community Partnerships: Strengthening People Power, Socializing Policy Research, and Driving Equitable Land Use Outcomes on the Southeast Side of Chicago

Room 203AB

In conversation with community activists, policy advocates, and health researchers, learn about their approach to creating advocacy tools designed to socialize research and build support for policy change. Participate in a multimedia advocacy training. Reflect on the use of health and/or racial impact assessments in advancing environmentally just policies.

- **Olga Bautista**, Executive Director, Southeast Environmental Task Force
 - **Chloe Gurin-Sands**, Manager, Health Equity & Planning Metropolitan Planning Council
 - **Christina Harris**, Director, Land Use and Planning Metropolitan Planning Council
 - **Jeni Hebert-Beirne**, PhD MPH, Associate Dean for Community Engagement & Interim Director of the Collaboratory for Health Justice and the Chicago Center for Health and Environment –Community Engagement Core at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health
 - **Angela Larsen**, Director of Planning, Alliance for the Great Lakes
-

Building Capacity in Lake Michigan Municipalities to Advance Coastal Resilience

Room 203C

Sponsored by NOAA and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, the Lake Michigan Coastal Resilience Initiative solicited municipal-scale coastal resilience projects along Lake Michigan and provided training and one-on-one coaching. We will demonstrate the project prioritization tool used to rank projects and highlight one or more projects chosen for engineering and design.

- **Becky Nicodemus**, Environmental Scientist and Acting Great Lakes Regional Lead, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management
 - **Victoria Graves**, U.S. Policy Advisor, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
 - **Sue Hoegberg**, Senior Project Manager, Dewberry
 - **Julie Blackburn**, Environmental Practice Group Leader, ISG, Inc.
-

Investing in Water Justice: Advancing Equitable Administration & Allocation of Water Infrastructure Dollars

Room 203DE

Safe drinking water, healthy waterways, water affordability, and climate resilience all depend on investment in water infrastructure. Historic sums of federal funding are flowing through State Revolving Funds, but studies show these programs don't always deliver dollars to communities most in need. This session will demystify the rules that govern how this funding is allocated by states and explore policy priorities to advance equity in SRF administration through the lens of procedural, distributive, and restorative justice. We'll use Wisconsin as a case study and offer tools for advocates.

- **Brenda Coley**, Co-Executive Director, Milwaukee Water Commons
- **Anna-Lisa Castle**, Policy Director for Clean Water & Equity, Alliance for the Great Lakes

Scaling Up Conservation Agriculture: An Exploration of Challenges and Opportunities Through a Stakeholder Engagement Process

Room 201CD

This workshop will focus on policy, economic, and engagement interventions to drive adoption of new conservation practices among Michigan farmers. This session will include a description of the project approach, as well as a short summary of findings. We will solicit audience perspectives on similar stakeholder engagement approaches.

- **Tom Zimmnicki**, Agriculture and Restoration Policy Director, Alliance for the Great Lakes
- **Adam Reimer**, Conservation Outreach Specialist, National Wildlife Federation

3:15 PM **BREAK**

3:30 PM **PLENARY PANEL: GREAT LAKES ADVISORY BOARD 2022 REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Room 202

- **Stephen G. Galarneau**, Office of Great Waters
- **Sylvia Orduño**, Organizer, Michigan Welfare Rights Organization and People's Water Board Coalition
- **Laura Rubin**, Director, Healing Our Waters–Great Lakes Coalition

4:00 PM **CONFERENCE CLOSE**

Room 202

- **Laura Rubin**, Coalition Director, Healing Our Waters–Great Lakes Coalition

JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

@HealthyLakes • #GreatLakes #CleanWater #GreatLakesConference

During the Great Lakes Conference, the Healing Our Waters–Great Lakes Coalition will be sending out lots of tweets. If you're on Twitter, we welcome you to retweet us, as well as tag us in your tweets (@HealthyLakes).

Sample Tweet: "Excited to be attending the @HealthyLakes #GreatLakesConference in Milwaukee with #GreatLakes advocates from across the region!"

THANK YOU TO THE Conference Sponsors and Partners

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Audubon Great Lakes
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GEI Consultants
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LAKE ERIE LEVEL

American Rivers
Clean Wisconsin
Environmental Law & Policy Center
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Great Lakes Commission
John G. Shedd Aquarium
LimnoTech
Milwaukee Water Commons
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
Ohio Environmental Council
River Network
**University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee School of
Freshwater Sciences**

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

**Annis Water Resources Institute,
Grand Valley State University**
Great Lakes Business Network
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

THANK YOU TO THE Local Host Steering Committee

The Healing Our Waters–Great Lakes Coalition would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the members of the Local Host Committee for dedicating your time, thoughtfulness, creativeness, and passion as we worked together to shape this year's Great Lakes Conference. We could not have done it without you!

Vicki Elkins, Fund for Lake Michigan
Cheryl Nenn and Jennifer Bolger Breceda,
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Joe Fitzgerald and Brenda Coley, Milwaukee Water
Commons
Deidre Peroff, Wisconsin Sea Grant
Shalina Ali and Fidel Verdin, TruSkool, Inc
Michelle Townsend, Cross Lutheran Church
Ezra Meyer, Pam Ritger, and Erik Kanter,
Clean Wisconsin

Ann Brummitt, Victory Garden Initiative
Jeff Spence and Beth Wentzel, Milwaukee
Metropolitan Sewerage District
Kelly Moore Brands, Sixteenth Street Community
Health Centers
Cassie Goodwin, SmithGroup
Stacy Hron, Wisconsin Department of Natural
Resources

2022 HEALING OUR WATERS-GREAT LAKES COALITION

Member Groups

REGIONAL OR NATIONAL

Abiinooji-Aki Inc.
Alliance for the Great Lakes
American Rivers
American Sportfishing Association
Beyond Nuclear
BlueGreen Alliance
The Conservation Fund
Citizens' Environmental Coalition
County Executives of America
Delta Institute
Ducks Unlimited
Environment America
Environmental Law and Policy Center
For Love of Water (FLOW)
Freshwater Future
Great Lakes Islands Alliance
Great Lakes Observing System
Great Lakes Spirituality Project
Izaak Walton League of America
Lake Erie Charter Boat Association
Land Trust Alliance
League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region
Lighthawk
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Plastic Oceans International
River Network
Surfrider Foundation
The Stewardship Network
Trout Unlimited
Union of Concerned Scientists
Water Protection Network

ILLINOIS

Bluestem Communications
Brookfield Zoo
Environment Illinois
Great Lakes Boating Federation
Illinois Council for Trout Unlimited
Illinois Division of the Izaak Walton League
Illinois Environmental Council

Illinois Sierra Club
John G. Shedd Aquarium
League of Women Voters of Illinois
Midwest Pesticide Action Center
Prairie Rivers Network

INDIANA

Friends of the St. Joe River Association, Inc.
Griffith Izaak Walton League of America
Hoosier Environmental Council
Just Transition Northwest Indiana
Indiana Division of the Izaak Walton League of America
Indiana Dunes Tourism
Indiana Wildlife Federation
League of Women Voters of Indiana
Northwest Indiana Paddling Association
Northwest Indiana Steelheaders
Save the Dunes
Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter

MICHIGAN

BaySail-Appledore Schooners
Clean Water Action – Michigan
Clinton River Watershed Council
Conservation Resource Alliance
Cranbrook Institute of Science
Dwight Lydell Chapter of the Izaak Walton League
Ecology Center
Environment Michigan
Flint River Watershed Coalition
Friends of the Detroit River
Friends of the St. Clair River
Friends of the Rouge
Genesee County Hispanic Latino Collaborative – La Placita
Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities
Huron Pines
Huron River Watershed Council
International Association for Great Lakes Research
John Ball Zoological Gardens/John Ball Zoo Society

Kalamazoo River Cleanup Coalition
Kalamazoo River Protection Association
Kalamazoo River Sturgeon for Tomorrow
League of Women Voters of Michigan
Michigan Audubon Society
Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited
Michigan Environmental Council
Michigan League of Conservation Voters
Michigan United Conservation Clubs
Michigan Wildlife Conservancy
Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds
Mona Lake Watershed Council
Northern Initiatives
Sierra Club – Great Lakes Program
Sierra Club Michigan
Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
Wastewater Education 501(c)3
Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay
We the People of Detroit
West Michigan Environmental Action Council

MINNESOTA

Bush Lake Chapter – Izaak Walton League of America
Clean Water Action Minnesota
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Minnesota Conservation Federation
Minnesota Council of Trout Unlimited
Minnesota Environmental Partnership
St. Louis River Alliance

NEW YORK

Buffalo Audubon Society
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Citizen Science Community Resources
 Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes
 Environmental Advocates of New York
 Genesee River Watch
 Genesee Valley Audubon Society
 League of Women Voters of New York
 New York State Zoo
 New York State Division of the Izaak Walton League
 NYPIRG
 Onondaga Audubon
 Residents for Responsible Government
 Save the River
 Seneca Park Zoo
 Western New York Environmental Alliance

OHIO

Environment Ohio
 Environmental Health Watch
 Headwaters Chapter Izaak Walton League of America
 Junction Coalition
 Lake Erie Advocates
 Lake Erie Foundation
 League of Ohio Sportsmen
 League of Women Voters of Ohio

Ohio Conservation Federation
 The Ohio Division of the Izaak Walton League of America
 Ohio Environmental Council
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 Ohio Sierra Club
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 Partners for Clean Streams
 Tinkers Creek Watershed Partners
 West Creek Conservancy
 Western Reserve Land Conservancy
 Winous Point Marsh Conservancy

PENNSYLVANIA

Environment Erie
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 Nature Abounds
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WISCONSIN

Clean Wisconsin
 Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship
 Discovery World
 Gathering Waters: Wisconsin's Alliance for Land Trusts
 Green Lake Association
 Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin
 Midwest Environmental Advocates
 Milwaukee Riverkeeper
 Milwaukee Water Commons
 River Alliance of Wisconsin
 River Revitalization Foundation
 Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter
 Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc.
 Superior Rivers Watershed Association
 Wisconsin Environment
 Wisconsin Green Muslims
 Wisconsin Lakes
 Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters
 Wisconsin Trout Unlimited
 Wisconsin Wetlands Association
 Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

CANADA

Friends of the Coves
 Georgian Bay Association
 Georgian Bay Eco Museum
 Georgian Bay Forever
 Nature Quebec
 ReForest London
 Sierra Club Ontario
 Toronto Green Community



2022 HEALING OUR WATERS-GREAT LAKES COALITION

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GOVERNANCE BOARD CO-CHAIRS

Brenda Coley, Milwaukee Water Commons
Lynn McClure, National Parks Conservation Association
Marnie Urso, National Audubon Society
Mike Shriberg, National Wildlife Federation

GOVERNANCE BOARD MEMBERS

Andrea Densham, John G. Shedd Aquarium
Anna-Lisa Castle, Alliance for the Great Lakes
Alicia Smith, Junction Coalition
Erma Leaphart, Sierra Club – Michigan Chapter
Kyle Rorah, Ducks Unlimited
Jennifer McKay, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
Jennifer Orr-Greene, Trout Unlimited
Milan Tropf, Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Monica Lewis-Patrick, We the People of Detroit
Pete Bucher, Ohio Environmental Council
Sheyda Esnaashari, River Network
Steve Morse, Minnesota Environmental Partnership

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Ernest Coverson, Amnesty International
Crystal Davis, Alliance for the Great Lakes
Kira Davis, National Parks Conservation Association
Sheyda Esnaashari, River Network
Michael Harris, Flint Development Center
Erma Leaphart, Sierra Club – Michigan Chapter
Monica Lewis-Patrick, We the People of Detroit
Francisco 'Paco' Ollervides, Earth Advocate
Alicia Smith, Junction Coalition

COALITION STAFF

Laura Rubin, Coalition Director
Chad Lord, Policy Director
Jordan Lubetkin, Communications Director
Celia Haven, Field Director
Alexis Lopez-Cepero, Senior Legislative Analyst, Water Policy
Lindsey Bacigal, Communications Coordinator
Sophee Langerman, Equity and Justice Partnerships Coordinator

