



GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 12-13, 2023
CLEVELAND, OHIO



WELCOME! THANK YOU FOR HELPING SHAPE THE FUTURE
OF THE GREAT LAKES.

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 Cleveland for our 2023 Great Lakes Conference. After a shorter in-person conference last year following two years of virtual conferences, we are excited to expand our time together into two full days. Plenaries and breakout sessions will cover both days, and we're offering the addition of optional field trips and an evening reception on the first day.

This year has been a time of reflection as we look at what progress has been made, what remains to be done, and what has been missed in the Great Lakes restoration effort that was launched nearly 20 years ago by the Great Lakes Regional Collaborative Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes, spawning the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and other programs.

After big legislative wins during the 117th Congress and facing tough political headwinds, we focused efforts this year to create a set of recommendations for the next Action Plan of the GLRI, which guides the EPA and other federal agencies in directing GLRI investments. In general, the recommendations were related to three areas: 1) strengthening the capacity of historically underserved communities so that they can participate in decision making, collaboratives, workforce development, job training, and other efforts to help communities address climate change and prepare for the climate impacts we know are coming; 2) investing in tools for projects in communities most impacted by pollution and environmental harm; and 3) advancing adaptive projects that will keep up the momentum for public, economic, and ecological health.

We believe that these recommendations respond to the threats that the Great Lakes face today and in the future. These recommendations were not created in a vacuum; every step of the way we engaged with our partners

across the Great Lakes region, from community-based organizations to large regional groups. We hosted a series of sessions for our partners to give feedback on our draft recommendations, recognizing that a restoration agenda for the Great Lakes needs to include everyone in the region, especially the communities that have been left out of the conversation over the years.

While we know that pollution, environmental harm, and climate change are devastating to ecosystems, we also know that these threats are devastating to communities and to people. In the past, traditional restoration activities have not always acknowledged the serious impacts to communities, and therefore have not prioritized actions that benefited the communities most impacted by pollution and harm. In our ongoing federal policy work, we aim to push for a more holistic and inclusive approach to restoration, highlighting the social and community needs, as well as the physical and environmental ones. Restoration needs to be about people, planet, and wildlife, and the Coalition is committed to leading all of our work with that as our framework.

Finally, I want to thank all of you. Whether you're a longtime partner, a new Coalition member, or this is your first interaction with the Coalition, thank you for coming into this space with us. I hope you leave the conference feeling energized with new information, inspiration, and connections with fellow advocates.

We look forward to getting to know all of you and further building on our collective commitment to Great Lakes restoration and protection for all who call this region home.



Laura Rubin
Coalition Director
Healing Our Waters–Great Lakes Coalition

INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

The Healing Our Waters–Great Lakes Coalition works to ensure that federal Great Lakes restoration investments benefit all of the people and communities in the region – particularly those who have borne the brunt of racial, environmental and economic injustice. Centering equity in our work means we will strive to intentionally include those who have been historically excluded – specifically People of Color, Indigenous communities, and people from low income backgrounds.

We aim to restore and protect the Great Lakes so that all of the region's people can have access to affordable, clean, safe drinking water; can eat fish that are safe and not toxic; and can live healthy lives that are not undermined by toxic pollutants and legacy contaminants. Further, we will work to ensure that public officials keep the doors to democracy open and break down barriers to inclusion so that the region's many communities, especially those most impacted and who have been intentionally left out of decision making, have the opportunity to participate in decisions that affect their livelihood.

OUR VALUES

- Collective Impact
- Equity and Justice
- Informed Solutions
- Inclusion
- Democracy and Public Engagement

As such we expect attendees, field trip hosts, speakers, and organizers, to uphold these values and reflect them in their conduct at the Coalition's events. We are committed to providing a safe and respectful experience for people of every gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, ability, physical appearance, religion, race, and ethnicity.

GREAT LAKES GREEN EVENT

The 2023 Great Lakes Conference is the first official Great Lakes Green Event! This regional initiative from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers encourages destination stewardship and environmentally beneficial practices for conferences and other events in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region. Host organizations are encouraged to adopt practices like reducing food waste and eliminating single-use plastic bottles at their events.

The initiative also supports tree planting in the host city due to the multiple environmental benefits of trees, such as storing carbon, absorbing stormwater, and improving the health of streams and lakes, as well as public health benefits like reducing urban heat effects, providing shade, and improving local air quality. A tree planting ceremony with Governor DeWine and other dignitaries is planned for Friday, October 13 at 2:45 PM at Cleveland's Great Lakes Science Center, in partnership with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy and the Cleveland Trees Coalition.



Wireless internet network: **Hilton_Meeting** • Wireless internet password: **HOW2023**

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).

We're also on Facebook and LinkedIn (@HealthyLakes)!

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

8:00	Registration / Breakfast / Exhibits & Posters
9:00	Welcome Opening Plenary
10:00	Break Breakout Sessions
11:00	Lunch
12:00	Breakout Sessions
1:00	Field Trips
2:00	Field Trips
3:00	Field Trips
4:00	Field Trips
5:00	Field Trips
6:00	Reception
7:00	Reception
8:00	Reception
9:00	

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

8:00	Registration / Breakfast / Exhibits & Posters Welcome
9:00	Plenary
10:00	Get Up and Get Moving Breakout Sessions
11:00	Breakout Sessions
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Breakout Sessions
2:00	Plenary
3:00	Conference Ends
4:00	
5:00	
6:00	
7:00	
8:00	
9:00	

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

8:00 **REGISTRATION / EXHIBITORS / BREAKFAST**

Registration: Lakeside Foyer • Exhibitors: Hope B Foyer • Breakfast: Hope Ballroom DE

9:00 **WELCOME AND TRIBUTE TO JACQUIE GILLON**

- **Kira Davis**, Co-Chair, Healing Our Waters–Great Lakes Coalition and Great Lakes Senior Program Manager, National Parks Conservation Association
- **David Wilson**, Black Environmental Leaders Association

9:15 **OPENING PLENARY: PEOPLE, POWER & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN CLEVELAND**

- **Moderator: Crystal Davis**, Vice President of Policy and Strategic Engagement, Alliance for the Great Lakes
- **Kim Foreman**, Executive Director, Environmental Health Watch
- **Da'Na Langford**, CEO & Medical Director, Village of Healing
- **Jade Davis**, Senior Vice-President, Public Affairs and Energy Policy, Port of Cleveland
- **Shanelle Smith Whigham**, Senior Vice President and Director of Community Relations and Corporate Initiatives, Key Bank

10:15 **BREAK**10:30 **BREAKOUT SESSIONS****Plastic-Free Collaborations: Building a Sustainable Movement to Reduce Plastics**

Hope Ballroom A

The plastics crisis demands collaborative problem solving and systemic solutions to reduce the harms plastics have on human and environmental health. Join members of the Plastic-Free MKE and Plastic-Free Cleveland coalitions to hear how they are working to build and expand their local movements to reduce plastics and participate in a collaborative visioning session to kickstart or enhance ideas for reducing plastics in your own community!

- **Leah Holloway**, Program Manager, Milwaukee Riverkeeper
- **Deidre Peroff**, PhD, Social Science Outreach Specialist, Sea Grant, University of Wisconsin
- **Cathi Lehn**, PhD, Sustainability Senior Manager-Circular Economy, City of Cleveland - Mayor's Office of Sustainability
- **Katharyne Starinsky**, Program Officer, Department of Sustainability, Cuyahoga County

Going Green in Green Bay: A Case Study on Advancing Green Infrastructure Policy through Dynamic Community Engagement

Hope Ballroom B

Clean Wisconsin is excited to present their dynamic strategy for advancing green infrastructure policies through sharing a case study of their work in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Through targeted engagement with diverse stakeholder groups, we built promising partnerships and created a resource rich in policy and engagement ideas for creating more sustainable cities in Wisconsin. This resource, the Green Infrastructure Toolkit for Wisconsin Municipalities, was informed by qualitative and quantitative research that also demonstrates its need and promise to be useful in advancing sustainable policies and practices at the municipal level.

- **Nancy Retana**, Resilient Communities Program Director, Clean Wisconsin

Tribal Stream and Michigan Fruitbelt Collaborative: Outcomes and Lessons Learned from this Regional Conservation Partnership Program Initiative

Hope Ballroom C

Michigan's first Indigenous-led, multi-agency collaborative created under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program authority to restore and protect the ecology of streams and rivers across the entire northwest Lower Michigan will be showcased during this session. Key staff leading the Tribal Stream and Michigan Fruitbelt Collaborative will share lessons learned and highlight successes in implementing this 20+ agency collaborative that has opened over 281 miles of stream habitat and protected over 3,500 acres from development.

- **DJ Shook**, Biologist and Senior Project Manager, Conservation Resource Alliance
- **Melissa Witkowski**, Fish, Wildlife, and Soil Conservationist, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

Building Community Capacity & Creating Equitable Access to a Restored Rouge River

Center Street Room A

Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) is spearheading the community led effort to create meaningful and equitable access to the Rouge River. The water trail and network of connected greenways impacts 10 municipalities, each with varying resources and capacity to drive the trails vision forward. FOTR's intentional approach to inclusion and diversity in the planning/development process has helped formalize community coalitions in each municipality that work advance this effort despite limited staff capacity, funding, and historical challenges developing capital improvement projects.

- **Herman Jenkins**, Trails Manager, Friends of the Rouge

11:45

LUNCH

Hope Ballroom DE

12:45

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Engaging Dugway Brook Communities in Designing Stream and Wetland Restoration

Hope Ballroom A

Learn about the community engagement approach that is underway and currently exploring the feasibility of a potential stream daylighting project in an under-resourced urban neighborhood in Cleveland. In this working/input breakout session, participants will have the opportunity to not only learn about the community engagement methods and approaches that are underway for this project, but also share their expertise on best practices for community engagement in under-resourced and urban areas.

- **Andrew Sargeant**, Enterprise Rose Landscape Architectural Fellow, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress
- **Laura Bonnell**, Associate Director, Chagrin River Watershed Partners
- **Pamela McClarin**, Co-founder and Chief Volunteer Officer, East Cleveland Concerned Citizens

From Research to the Runway: New Crops Poised to Deliver Clean Water AND Prosperity; The Amazing Potential for Winter Oilseeds to Enhance Great Lakes Water Quality

Hope Ballroom B

If you're into water quality or jet fuel, you NEED to know about winter camelina. This is an exciting new crop that could change the way we protect water quality and the way we fly. Learn from policy and commercialization experts how this crop is "taking off."

- **Steve Morse**, Executive Director, Minnesota Environmental Partnership
- **Colin Cureton**, Supply Chain Development Specialist, University of Minnesota's Forever Green Initiative

Changing the Game: Rethinking Community Advisory Committees for Broader Community Engagement

Hope Ballroom C

The work to clean up our waterways is complicated but important. To do it well, all of us must be a part of the process. The Milwaukee AOC CAC works to ensure Milwaukee residents, especially those underrepresented in/excluded from environmental decision making, play an active role in shaping the decisions made during the Area of Concern delisting process. The workshop will be an interactive introduction to the unique approach of Milwaukee's CAC, including its triumphs and challenges, and an opportunity for group sharing of best practices around community engagement.

- **Shalina S. Ali**, Community Advisory Committee, Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern
- **Nancy Retana**, Resilient Communities Program Director, Clean Wisconsin
- **Steven Hunter**, Member, Milwaukee Area of Concern Community Advisory Committee

Lake Erie Volunteer Science Network: Empowering Communities with Credible Water Monitoring

Center Street Room A

How can volunteer-driven water quality monitoring programs collaborate with one another to increase their credibility and drive collective impact at the scale of a Great Lake? A network of local stewardship and STEM programs around Lake Erie have been working out the answer.

- **Max Herzog**, Program Manager, Cleveland Water Alliance
- **Dr. Ge (Jeff) Pu**, Water Innovation Postdoctoral Fellow, Cleveland Water Alliance
- **Breoni Turner**, Natural Resources Specialist, Cleveland Metroparks

2:00

FIELD TRIPS

Green 'n Tha Ghetto: Rid-All Green Partnership Urban Ag Tour

Hosted by Rid-All Green Partnership

Introduction to Lake Erie Fish Identification & Aquatic Plant Identification

Hosted by Cleveland Metroparks

From Remediation to Revitalization: Exploring the Cuyahoga Area of Concern

Hosted by Cuyahoga Area of Concern/Ohio Sea Grant

Downtown Cleveland Trail Network Bike Ride

Hosted by Cleveland Metroparks

Guided Native Plant Garden Tour: National Wildlife Federation's Sacred Grounds Program

Hosted by National Wildlife Federation

GLRI Restoration at Cuyahoga Valley National Park: Stanford Run

Hosted by Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Cleveland's Portage Escarpment Ravines: Connecting Underserved Neighborhoods with Nearby Nature

Hosted by Bluestone Conservation

6:00

RECEPTION

Ariel International Center, 1163 E. 40th Street • (216) 344-9441

Shuttles will be available from the hotel to get attendees to and from the reception

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

8:00

REGISTRATION / EXHIBITORS / BREAKFAST

Registration: Lakeside Foyer • Exhibitors: Hope B Foyer • Breakfast: Hope Ballroom DE

8:45

WELCOME

- **Rebecca Meuninck**, Co-Chair, Healing Our Waters—Great Lakes Coalition and Executive Director, Great Lakes Regional Center, National Wildlife Federation
- **Chris Ronayne**, Cuyahoga County Executive

9:00

PLENARY: SUPREME PROBLEM FOR WATER? WHAT SACKETT V. EPA MEANS FOR THE GREAT LAKES

- **Moderator: Chad Lord**, Policy Director, Healing Our Waters—Great Lakes Coalition; Senior Director, National Parks Conservation Association
- **Jim Murphy**, Director, Legal Advocacy, National Wildlife Federation
- **Melanie Houston**, Managing Director of Water Policy and Chief of Organizational Planning, Ohio Environmental Council
- **Brian Vigue**, Freshwater Policy Director, Audubon Great Lakes

10:00

GET UP AND GET MOVING

10:45

BREAKOUT SESSIONS**Partnering to Advance Equity & Resilience: CHEERS in Cleveland***Hope Ballroom A*

Join project partners to learn about CHEERS, an effort to build resilience along Lake Erie in Cleveland's east side neighborhoods. The session will introduce the project, demonstrate engagement tools, and gather project feedback from attendees. The partners will highlight some of the challenges of equitable engagement and the community relationship building necessary to address environmental justice.

- **Joyce Pan Huang**, Director of City Planning, City of Cleveland
- **Linda Sternheimer**, Vice President, Urban Planning and Engagement, Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority
- **Kelly Coffman**, Principal Planner, Cleveland Metroparks
- **David Wilson**, Co-Director, Black Environmental Leaders Association/Director of Parks & Community, LAND Studio

Survey Says....Come on Down! How to Create Fun, Accessible Engagement Opportunities*Hope Ballroom B*

This workshop will educate attendees in creative ways to engage with the public about water quality issues to move them to make impactful changes for the environment. We will share how we created multiple interactive games such as Jeopardy, The Price is Right, and Family Feud, and we will spend most of the time in this workshop actually playing them!

- **Cara Decker**, Stormwater Program Coordinator, Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds
- **Robert Cloy II**, Urban Waters Ambassador for the Urban Water Federal Partnership, Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

Technical Assistance and Financing for Water Infrastructure in Communities Living with Environmental Justice Concerns*Hope Ballroom C*

Water-focused Technical Assistance (TA) programs are evolving and expanding—and are often complex to navigate. This session will provide an overview of available Great Lakes region-focused water TA from representatives spanning federal, nonprofit, and for-profit sectors, and will discuss how to identify and implement sustainable water infrastructure solutions. Audience engagement will be proactively cultivated throughout the session to ensure two-way/multi-way dialogue and peer learning occurs.

- **William (Bill) Schleizer**, CEO, Delta Institute
- **Sanjiv Sinha**, CEO, Corvias Infrastructure Solutions, LLC
- **Isabelle Horvath**, PhD, Infrastructure Specialist, Water Division at USEPA Region 5

Restoring Coastal Wetlands for Birds and People*Center Street Room A*

Join Audubon Great Lakes to discuss and learn best practices for community-oriented conservation design and delivery. We will also explore a new effort to utilize birds as a measuring stick for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative success.

- **Stephanie Beilke**, Senior Manager, Conservation Science, Audubon Great Lakes
- **Jennifer Johnson**, Wild Indigo Program Associate, Audubon Great Lakes

12:00

LUNCH*Hope Ballroom DE*

12:45

BREAKOUT SESSIONS**Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs): Legal and Scientific Perspectives on Why Lake Erie's HABs Aren't Going Away***Hope Ballroom A*

Despite decades of research, multiple lawsuits, millions of dollars of investments, and even a bi-national treaty, Lake Erie's harmful algal blooms (HABs) are not going away. Many factors have frustrated progress, including political resistance to reasonable regulation of large-scale industrial livestock facilities, a legal and enforcement framework that has proven ineffective. This panel will explore the scientific, legal, and historic reasons for the stagnation that is keeping Lake Erie polluted and propose some potential solutions.

- **Dr. Julie Weatherington-Rice**, Sr. Scientist, Bennett & Williams Environmental Consultants Inc.
- **Dr. Jeff Reutter**, Special Advisor, Ohio Sea Grant and Stone Lab
- **Rob Michaels**, Senior Attorney, Environmental Law and Policy Center

New Dairy Concept: Rethinking Production Dairy Focusing on Emerging Markets and the Environment*Hope Ballroom B*

Studies have shown that managed grazing of ruminant livestock on perennial ground cover virtually eliminates phosphorus runoff and soil erosion while providing a host of other environmental and social benefits. This session will explain how managed grazing can be used in dairy production systems and scaled in a way that serves emerging markets and transforms Ag land management in the most sensitive regions. Join Joe Tomandl, III, a dairy farmer of 25 years and 2022 recipient of the Wisconsin Leopold Conservation Award, for a discussion about this regenerative farming method and a development model that provides solutions for our waters, ecosystems, and rural communities.

- **Joe Tomandl**, Dairy Farmer and Executive Director of Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship

The Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program: Successes, Challenges, and Case Studies of Regional Restoration Work*Hope Ballroom C*

The Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program (GLSNRP) presents a unique grant structure to combat regional water pollution. Come learn about project successes, new challenges to connect grantees for better learning, and about two case studies from grantees inspiring regional change. Participants will have a chance to share their insights about community building to assist our grantees.

- **Connor Roessler**, Program Specialist, Great Lakes Commission
- **Kristi Heuser**, Stormwater Resource Consultant, Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network
- **Kim Brewster Shefelton**, Deputy Director, Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc.

Equity in Every Drop: Navigating Water Affordability, Community-Centered Legislation, and Nationwide Initiatives*Center Street Room A*

Everyone needs access to clean water, but for many people in the U.S., the cost of having clean water puts it out of their reach. Advocates across the country are pushing back on this inequity, including the newly formed Water Equals Life Coalition—a collective of local, state-based, regional, and national entities who have come together in a Michigan-wide campaign to ensure everyone's basic human need for water is met, regardless of income. Hear from some of the group's leaders in this panel discussion.

- **Kristy Meyer**, Campaign Director, Water Equals Life
- **Monica Lewis-Patrick**, President and CEO, We the People of Detroit
- **Denise Poloyac**, Associate Director, Great Lakes Regional Center, National Wildlife Federation
- **Jill Ryan**, Executive Director, Freshwater Future

-
- 2:00 **PLENARY: CENTERING COMMUNITIES IN GREAT LAKES ECOSYSTEM AND RESTORATION PROGRAMS**
- **Moderator: Laura Rubin**, Director, Healing Our Waters–Great Lakes Coalition
 - **Deanna Erickson**, Reserve Director, Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve
 - **Sridhar Vedachalam**, PhD, Director, Water Equity and Climate Resilience, Corvias Infrastructure Solutions, LLC (CIS)
 - **Katie (Kathleen) Williams**, PhD, Geographer, Ecosystem Services Branch, Great Lakes Toxicology and Ecology Division, US EPA
-
- 3:00 **CONFERENCE ENDS**
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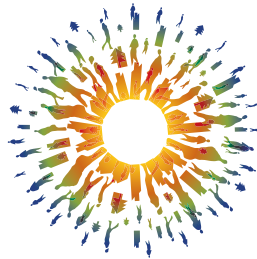


THANK YOU TO THE
Conference Sponsors and Partners

LAKE SUPERIOR LEVEL (\$25,000)



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- Great Lakes, Great Communities Campaign
- Sierra Club, Michigan Chapter
- In-Situ
- International Joint Commission
- Izaak Walton League of America
- Minnesota Environmental Partnership
- Shedd Aquarium

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- Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research
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- Great Lakes Business Network

2023 HEALING OUR WATERS—GREAT LAKES COALITION

Governance Board and Equity, Advisory and Action Committee

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Kira Davis, National Parks Conservation Association
Erma Leaphart, Sierra Club - Michigan Chapter
Rebecca Meuninck, National Wildlife Federation

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Gary Belan, American Rivers
Amy Beyers, Conservation Resource Alliance
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Jennifer McKay, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
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Milan Tropf, Western Reserve Land Conservancy
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Ernest Coverson, Amnesty International
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Kira Davis, National Parks Conservation Association
Erma Leaphart, Sierra Club – Michigan Chapter
Monica Lewis-Patrick, We the People of Detroit
Harshini Ratnayaka, Save the Dunes
Alicia Smith, Junction Coalition
Brian Vigue, Audubon Great Lakes



THANK YOU TO THE Local Host 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!

Emily Bacha, Ohio Environmental Council
Crystal Davis, Alliance for the Great Lakes
Jeannie Smith, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
Jennifer Grieser, Cleveland Metroparks
Samantha Martin, Cleveland Water Alliance
Lisa Petit, National Park Service

Ciera Rawson, National Wildlife Federation
Jean Smith, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
Milan Tropf, Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Marnie Urso, Audubon Great Lakes
SeMia Bray, Black Environmental Leaders

2023 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
Faith in Place
For Love of Water (FLOW)
Freshwater Future
Great Lakes Business Network
Great Lakes Islands Alliance
Great Lakes Observing System
Great Lakes Spirituality Project
Izaak Walton League of America
Lake Erie Charter Boat Association
Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy
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
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
Just Transition Northwest Indiana
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 Education Fund
Michigan United Conservation Clubs
Michigan Wildlife Conservancy
Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds
Mona Lake Watershed Council
Northern Initiatives
Sierra Club Michigan – Great Lakes Program
Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
Wastewater Education 501(c)3
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We the People of Detroit
West Michigan Environmental Action Council

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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 Division of the Izaak Walton League
New York State Zoo
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
Ohio Wetlands Association
Partners for Clean Streams
Tinkers Creek Watershed Partners
West Creek Conservancy
Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Winous Point Marsh Conservancy

PENNSYLVANIA

Environment Erie
Lake Erie Region Conservancy
Nature Abounds
Penn Environment
PennFuture

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



Get To Know The Healing Our Waters- Great Lakes Coalition Staff



LAURA RUBIN, COALITION DIRECTOR

Laura Rubin has spent more than 30 years working on Great Lakes environmental protection, policy, and conservation issues. As director of the Coalition, she works to harness the collective power of the Coalition's

leadership and members to provide a space for dialogue, learning, and advocacy in restoring and protecting the Great Lakes. Before her role at the Coalition, Rubin worked as executive director of the Michigan-based Huron River Watershed Council, where she transformed the nonprofit from a low-profile organization to a high-impact, high-visibility national leader in the field of watershed management. She currently serves as a board member to the Great Lakes Protection Fund, a member of the US EPA's Great Lakes Advisory Board.

Fun Fact: As a young activist, she rappelled off a water tower to place a first-place blue ribbon for ozone destruction at a Dupont facility.



CHAD WILLIAM LORD, POLICY DIRECTOR

Chad Lord serves as the Policy Director, where he leads a team focused on the Coalition's D.C.-based advocacy. Chad has 27 years of government affairs experience.

Fun Fact: Though now based in Washington, D.C. with his husband and 9-year-old daughter, Chad was raised in Southwest Minnesota.



JORDAN LUBETKIN, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Jordan Lubetkin is the communications director for the Healing Our Waters–Great Lakes Coalition. Jordan is based in Ann Arbor, Mich., at the National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes Regional

Center. Jordan also oversees NWF's work to restore and protect the Ohio River basin. Prior to joining NWF, Jordan served as a reporter and editor at community newspapers around the country. He oversaw marketing and development efforts at the Toledo Jazz Society and gained media for the non-partisan Americans Discuss Social Security, based in Washington, D.C.

Fun Fact: Jordan has spent lots of time in our host city! He earned his degree in English from Case Western Reserve University.



CELIA HAVEN, FIELD DIRECTOR

Celia Haven is the Field Director for the Coalition and leads our organizing and engagement strategy. Her work allows her to engage with Coalition members and partners around the region in a variety of capacities,

including leading our state leads, planning Great Lakes Day and the conference, managing our membership, and most visibly, communicating through the HOW email listserv. She lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and has been working with the HOW Coalition in various capacities since 2010.

Fun Fact: Celia is currently learning Spanish and loves word puzzles!



**ALEXIS
LOPEZ-CEPERO,
SENIOR PROGRAM
MANAGER**

Alexis serves as the Coalition's Senior Program Manager. Based in Washington, DC, Alexis works with staff and partners to support HOW's federal policy advocacy and

help guide advocates in engaging with and understanding the federal legislative and budgetary processes. He has worked with the Coalition since 2019.

Fun Fact: An avid baseball fan, Alexis is aiming to go to every MLB park and has hit 4 in the past year.



**SOPHEE LANGERMAN,
EQUITY AND JUSTICE
PARTNERSHIPS
COORDINATOR**

Sophee Langerman is the Equity and Justice Partnerships Coordinator for the Coalition. Located in Chicago, IL, Sophee enjoys eating good food and riding her

bike. She is passionate about environmental justice, and people-centered transportation and infrastructure.

Fun Fact: While birding at Montrose Beach this summer, she saw all four resident Piping Plovers at the same time: Imani, Sea Rocket, Wild Indigo and Prickly Pear!



**LINDSEY BACIGAL,
COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR**

Lindsey Bacigal is the Communications Coordinator for the Coalition. Following her graduation in Communication and Women's Studies from Aquinas College, Lindsey moved to

Ireland and obtained her Master's degree in Gender, Globalisation and Rights from the University of Galway. Her final thesis explored the intersections between gender-based environmental violence, Indigenous women, colonialism, and human rights. From there, Lindsey moved to Canada where she worked for various Indigenous organizations and became heavily involved in local and national activism around Indigenous rights and climate justice. Missing her home of Michigan, Lindsey moved back and began working for the Coalition in 2021.

Fun Fact: Lindsey has over 15 tattoos and being a bit of a nerd, her first was from the video game *Final Fantasy X*.



Great Lakes Crossword

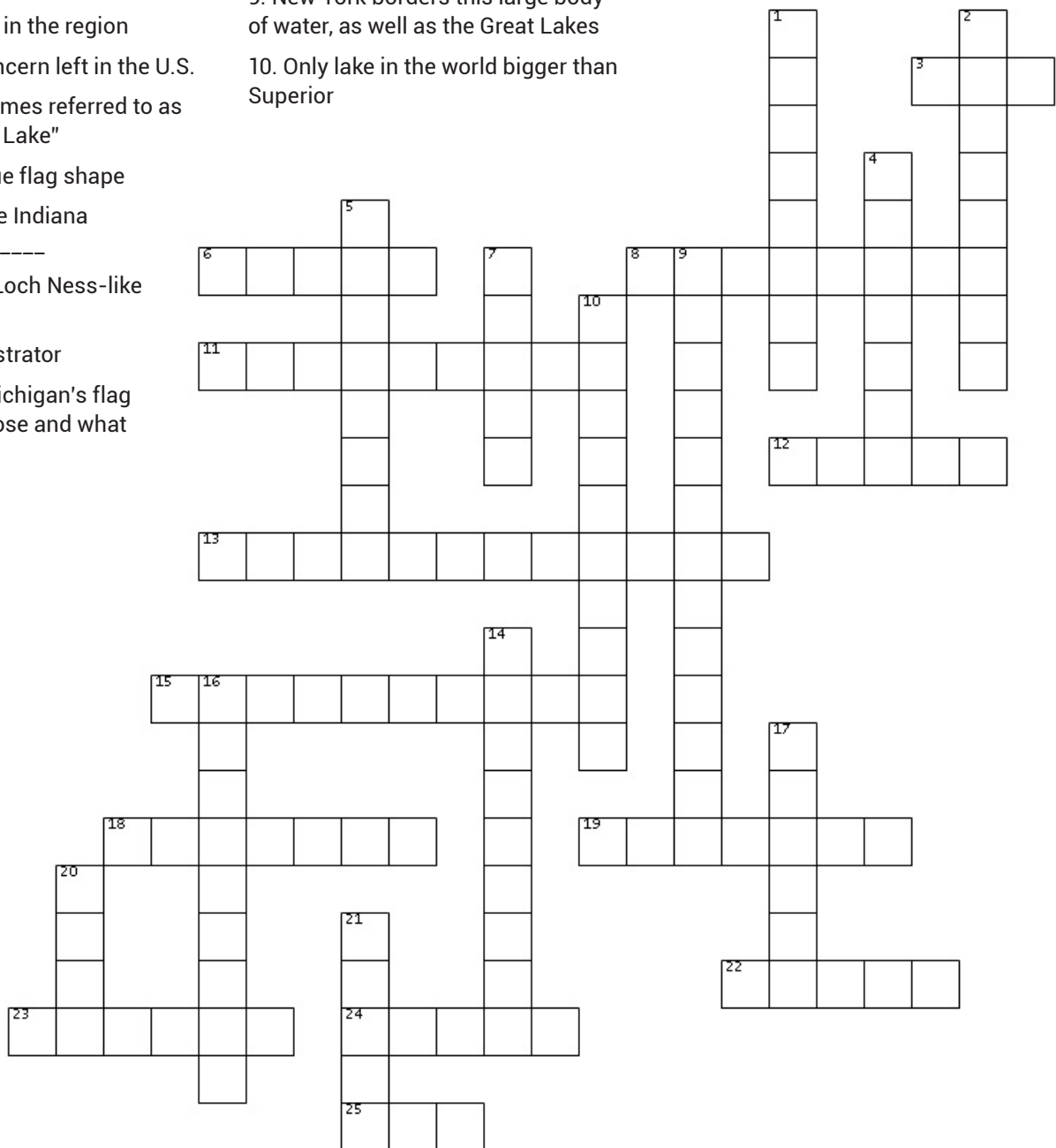
ACROSS

3. Number of Canadian provinces
6. Healing Our Waters Coalition Director
8. Plant culturally important to many Anishinaabe
11. River that famously caught fire, igniting the environmental movement
12. Other name for lake herring
13. Oldest state in the region
15. Areas of Concern left in the U.S.
18. Lake sometimes referred to as the "sixth Great Lake"
19. Ohio's unique flag shape
22. Tallest of the Indiana Dunes. Mount _____
23. Lake Erie's Loch Ness-like sea monster
24. EPA Administrator
25. Shield on Michigan's flag is held by a moose and what other animal

DOWN

1. First state to ratify the 13th amendment
2. Peninsula part of "Copper Country"
4. River that connects Lake Superior to Lake Huron
5. Only Great Lake entirely in the U.S.
7. EPA Region 5 Administrator
9. New York borders this large body of water, as well as the Great Lakes
10. Only lake in the world bigger than Superior

14. State name comes from the Dakota and means "sky-tinted water"
16. Barbie is from the fictional town of Willows in this state
17. Only state that has more coastline than Michigan
20. Monty the Piping Plover's mate
21. Number of Canadian territories



Great Lakes Word Search

- Wisconsin
- Public health
- Restoration
- Pollution
- Runoff
- New York
- Huron
- Farm Bill
- Ohio
- Tribes
- Local jobs
- Coalition
- Ontario
- Minnesota
- Equity
- Congress
- Indiana
- Erie
- Wildlife
- Superior
- Lead
- Carp

C	H	P	L	A	E	S	U	P	E	R	I	O	R
N	I	U	O	N	A	E	U	O	E	R	I	E	O
O	O	B	C	A	C	O	A	L	I	T	I	O	N
I	N	L	A	I	O	W	I	L	D	L	I	F	E
T	T	I	L	D	N	N	E	U	S	C	A	R	P
A	A	C	J	N	G	H	Y	T	I	U	Q	E	L
R	R	H	O	I	R	L	L	I	B	M	R	A	F
O	I	E	B	S	E	I	N	O	M	R	S	N	T
T	O	A	S	N	S	D	O	N	U	E	O	O	J
S	L	L	L	O	S	A	E	N	O	R	L	H	S
E	E	T	I	C	A	T	O	S	E	N	N	I	M
R	A	H	C	S	W	F	B	E	H	U	R	O	N
S	D	L	N	I	F	O	T	R	I	B	E	S	E
I	R	R	R	W	A	N	E	W	Y	O	R	K	O

Ohio Trivia

Test your knowledge of Ohio! The answers are upside down at the bottom of the page.

1. How long would it take to Zamboni Lake Erie?
2. What superhero was created in Cleveland?
3. How many presidents were born in Ohio?
4. Ohio is known as the "Buckeye State." What is a buckeye?
5. What Ohio city is known as the rubber capitol of the world?
6. What Ohio college was the first interracial and coeducational college in the U.S.?
7. The largest drumsticks in the world are in Warren, Ohio. They were made to honor what rocker who was born there?
8. What was Ohio's first state capital?
9. Who designed the iconic Rock and Roll Hall of Fame?



Janet Nelson is an Indigenous tattoo artist and folk-art painter. Connection to the Earth and animals is what gives her motivation and the visions to make what she creates. You can find her on Instagram @j.nelson.tattoo

THE NEXT GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE WILL BE IN CHICAGO, FALL 2024.

CONFERENCE DATES TO BE DETERMINED.
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

