Great Lakes Commission: Joint Action Plan for Clean Water Infrastructure and Services in the Great Lakes Region

Joint Action Plan for Clean Water Infrastructure and Services in the Great Lakes Region

A product of the Great Lakes Commission
Clean Water Infrastructure and Services Working Group

Presented by
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The Great Lakes Commission

Who we are & What we do

- Interstate Compact Agency established in 1955 by the Great Lakes Basin Compact
- Members include 8 Great Lakes states, with associate member status of Ontario & Quebec
- Represent, advise & assists member states & provinces by speaking with a unified voice to advance regional goals
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Background & Process

- Responded to three previous resolutions passed by GLC calling for action to improve CWIS in the Great Lakes Basin
- Literature review (50+ documents)
- Iterative process with input from Working Group and Great Lakes Commission Board sub-committee
- Analyses current state of CWIS needs and provides recommendations for mitigating identified issues
- Endorsed via resolution adopted by the Great Lakes Commission, September 2017
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Total CWIS Needs for All Great Lake States & Provinces

Figure 1: Total 20-Year Regional Clean Water Infrastructure and Service Needs (in Billions of USD and CAD) for the Great Lakes States and Provinces.

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How did we arrive here?

- Decreased federal funding w/o offset from state/provincial & local govts or other sources
- Lack of long-term planning for maintenance, system upgrades, replacement
- End of natural lifespan for some infrastructure
- Urbanization, demographic change, & changing climate increases stress on systems
- Lack of comprehensive CWIS asset & needs inventory
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Deferred Action and the Growing Investment Gap

Figure 3: Projected Annual Investment Gap for Clean Water Infrastructure and Services in the Great Lakes States Based on 20-Year Needs Estimates and 2016 Funding Levels\(^{10}\)

Source: Great Lakes Commission, 2017: *Joint Action Plan for Clean Water Infrastructure and Services in the Great Lakes Region*
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Water-Dependent Economy

Figure 2: Annual Wages from Water Dependent Industries in the Great Lakes States and Provinces

Table 1: Thousands of Jobs in Water Dependent Industries and percentage of all jobs in the Great Lakes States and Provinces

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Total Jobs in Water Dependent Industries</th>
<th>% of Total Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>769</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>961</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>848</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>1,063</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>1,480</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>933</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>1,117</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>611</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>9,144</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Recommendations

• 17 recommendations targeted at the State/Provincial, Federal, and Local levels

• Emphasizes State/Provincial, but maintaining and improving CWIS is the shared responsibility of all levels of government

• Strong overlap among recommendations at each level: improved coordination is key

• 17 recommendations are distilled into 6 general recommendations for all levels of government
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Recommendations

1. Embrace an integrated planning, or “one water” approach through creating offices, positions, or other opportunities to prioritize CWIS investments, assist with evaluating CWIS needs, and better coordinate the delivery of programmatic, technical, and financial services.

2. Create policies and guidelines supporting water infrastructure asset inventories and asset management plans to better inform strategic investments, and consider a regional effort to track and report on clean water infrastructure and services investments and outcomes.
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**Recommendations**

3. Promote the development of regional water authorities and the consolidation and integration of utilities.

4. Explore the strengths and weaknesses of private-public partnerships (P3s) as a potential source of private sector investment in clean water infrastructure and services.

5. Increase state and provincial-level funding allocations and economic incentives for CWIS improvement projects.

6. Create enabling conditions for local utilities to implement measures that address affordability.
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Reception & Next Steps

• **Synergy with other organizations and state initiatives**
  - US Water Alliance
  *An Equitable Water Future: Opportunities for the Great Lakes Region (March 2018)*
  - State of Michigan office of the Governor
  *21st century Infrastructure Commission Report*

• **Asset Inventory Management**
  - GLC continues to explore funding options and partnerships to pilot a basin-wide asset management inventory tracking program.
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Thank You!

Questions?

View and download the Joint Action Plan on GLC’s website (glc.org):

Contact me: vpebbles@glc.org