

Program Areas

Administration

Goal: To enhance the Commission’s leadership role in regional coordination, policy development and advocacy through efficient, cost-effective and responsive service to its members and the larger Great Lakes-St. Lawrence community

The Administration Program provides an environment in which Commission members, Observers, partners and staff work collegially to address the goals of the organization under the terms of the Great Lakes Basin Compact. Program efforts ensure that the organization is well-funded, efficiently managed, professionally staffed, and fully responsive to member priorities through vibrant research, policy development, communications and advocacy initiatives. Specific responsibilities include coordinating all aspects of revenue generation, financial management, program development, meeting planning and conduct, organizational publicity, and member/constituent support services.

President/CEO: Mike Donahue, mdonahue@glc.org

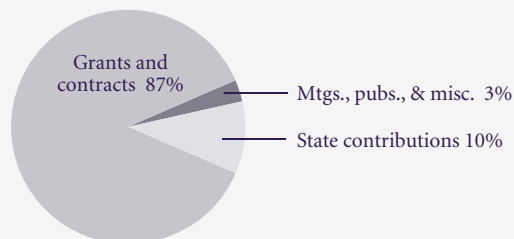
Selected accomplishments

- Managed the largest budget in the Commission’s 48-year history
- Provided a positive “return on investment,” with 45 percent of total Commission budget returned to member jurisdictions
- Broadened funding base through creative partnerships with federal agencies and other organizations
- Processed more than 100 grants and contracts, both incoming and outgoing
- Initiated Strategic Plan update to prepare for future challenges and opportunities
- Laid groundwork for 50th anniversary celebration in 2005
- Supported Commission and Board of Directors priorities under leadership of Chair Sam Speck and Vice Chair Tom Huntley

Revenues and expenses: Fiscal Year 2003

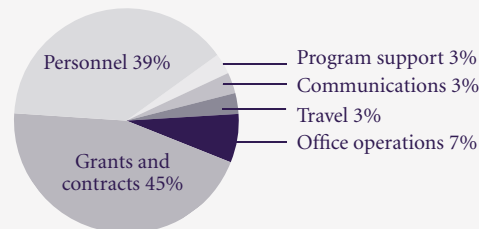
Revenues

Grants and contracts	\$4,094,237
State contributions	\$480,000
Meetings, publications, & misc.	\$134,371
Total	\$4,708,608



Expenses

Grants and contracts	\$2,088,303
Personnel	\$1,853,137
Office operations	\$320,498
Travel	\$150,739
Communications	\$125,379
Program support	\$143,775
Total:	\$4,681,831



Revenues over expenses (\$26,777) were placed in a reserve fund for contingencies and future use.



Resource Management

Goal: To promote the informed use, management and protection of the water, land, air and natural resources of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system

The Resource Management Program contributes to the sustainable use and conservation of the region's natural resources through multiple projects and regional services. Working with scores of project partners throughout the public and private sectors, program efforts are directed at identifying regional priorities, developing policy, conducting and coordinating research, and sharing information on a broad range of resource management and protection initiatives. Program manager: Tom Crane, tcrane@glc.org

Selected accomplishments

- Directed nearly \$1.9 million in conservation grants to local authorities under the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control
- Published educational brochure on the economic and environmental costs of erosion and sedimentation
- Surveyed conservation practices among regional water suppliers as part of a "tool kit" for water conservation
- Advised the U.S. Coast Guard on the development of ballast water discharge standards for invasive species control
- Completed in-depth report on Great Lakes water resource management, with findings and recommendations for implementing the 2001 Great Lakes Charter Annex
- Inventoried and analyzed information on Great Lakes biohydrologic resources and identified unmet data needs
- Led efforts to refine a model rapid response plan for Great Lakes aquatic invasions
- Assisted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the development of sediment transport models for Great Lakes tributaries in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan

Environmental Quality

Goal: To restore and maintain a healthy environment by promoting the cleanup of contaminated sites, protecting high-quality areas and ensuring a strong foundation of scientific research and monitoring

The Environmental Quality Program supports efforts to restore beneficial uses in Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs) and other degraded areas; strengthen environmental monitoring programs; improve management of coastal wetlands; and protect high-quality areas. Program staff employ cutting-edge information technologies to advance project goals, and leverage and coordinate the resources and expertise of public agencies and other stakeholders to achieve a healthy and sustainable Great Lakes ecosystem. Program manager: Matt Doss, mdoss@glc.org

Selected accomplishments

- Developed a monitoring inventory and strategic plan for the Lake St. Clair watershed
- Built a framework for an inventory of monitoring programs in the Great Lakes basin
- Facilitated a peer review evaluation of Michigan's fish contaminant trend monitoring program
- Compiled a wetlands inventory and identified methodologies for reporting on key indicators for the Great Lakes coastal wetlands monitoring program
- Completed a comprehensive management plan for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River
- Assisted U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) in implementing the Great Lakes Legacy Act, which provides funding for cleaning up contaminated sediments in AOCs
- Provided outreach and support services to assist Remedial Action Plan (RAP) participants in restoring AOCs
- Collaborated on a pilot project to facilitate early detection and monitoring of aquatic nuisance species in Lake Michigan

Transportation and Sustainable Development

Goal: To promote sustainable, water resource-based economic activity and the use, development and maintenance of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence transportation system



The Transportation and Sustainable Development Program focuses on economic activity in the Great Lakes region and its relationship to the environment. Primary areas of interest are maritime transportation, recreational boating, and land use and conservation, all pursued under the guiding principles of sustainable development. Program staff have extensive experience in Great Lakes policy development and maritime issues, and wide-ranging contacts with the region's maritime, policy and natural resource communities. Program manager: Steve Thorp, sthorp@glc.org

Selected accomplishments

- Established a Great Lakes ports and harbors specialist position through an agreement with NOAA
- With binational partners, promoted “short sea shipping” as a strategy to relieve congestion on land routes
- Assisted Great Lakes ports and operators in meeting new maritime security requirements
- Compiled a Geographic Information System database for Lake St. Clair and developed decision support tools for coastal habitat conservation and restoration
- Developed a regional framework for evaluating and testing dredged material for upland beneficial uses
- Conducted the first of a series of state brownfields-greenfields policy roundtables
- Assisted in the development and implementation of basinwide ecosystem indicators for the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC)
- Provided co-secretariat support for the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors
- Facilitated the operations of the Great Lakes Dredging Team

Regional Coordination

Goal: To strengthen the collective Great Lakes management effort by providing regional leadership, generating consensus on regional priorities among diverse interests and building partnerships for decisive regional action

The Regional Coordination Program carries out the Commission's mandate for regional advocacy, as embodied in the Great Lakes Basin Compact, our enabling legislation. This includes building consensus among members; forming coalitions with regional, national and international partners; and presenting recommendations to regional and national leadership. Program staff have extensive experience in shaping legislation and bringing resource management issues to the attention of elected officials and other decisionmakers. Program manager: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, jonmacd@glc.org

Selected accomplishments

- Developed and advanced blueprint for ecosystem restoration and protection (*The Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity*)
- Presented congressional testimony advancing member priorities
- Initiated a series of regional workshops in partnership with Sea Grant programs and the Council of Great Lakes Governors to identify and advance ecosystem restoration priorities
- Co-hosted annual Great Lakes Day events in Washington for members of Congress, their staff and regional leadership
- Co-hosted Great Lakes Odyssey II, a binational tour acquainting congressional staff with Great Lakes issues
- Formulated draft strategic plan identifying priorities for Great Lakes restoration, protection and management with a focus on roles for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Shared lessons learned from Great Lakes management at international forums in Otsu, Japan, and Burlington, VT.
- Facilitated the participation of visiting fellows from the Baltic Sea region in the World Large Lakes Conference (Chicago) and sediment toxicity training at U.S. EPA laboratories

Data and Information Management

Goal: To provide the data, information and technical support processes needed for informed decisionmaking on a range of public policy issues

The Data and Information Management Program promotes the development and application of decision support systems and procedures, including database systems, regional networks, information inventories, geographic information systems (GIS) and related tools. The program facilitates regional GIS coordination to benefit Great Lakes coastal wetlands studies, biological and hydrological monitoring programs, multimedia pollution studies, emergency response planning and regional water quantity and quality management. Program manager: Roger Gauthier, gauthier@glc.org

Selected accomplishments

- Mapped areas vulnerable to the effects of toxic spills for U.S. EPA's area contingency planning initiative
- Compiled environmental, hydrologic and cultural data for inclusion in the Lake Michigan Online Atlas
- Updated the regional inventory of toxic air emissions in the Great Lakes region
- Supported air research and information exchange among scientists, managers and policymakers through the Great Lakes Air Deposition (GLAD) grant program
- Developed integrated Internet mapping tools and a document management system for the International Joint Commission's Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study
- Initiated design of a regional association for the Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS) to integrate data collection, analysis and product development across the region
- Initiated a Great Lakes regional data exchange agreement to improve distribution of environmental data among state, provincial and federal agencies

Communications and Internet Technology

Goal: To promote awareness and active participation in public policy decisionmaking through the application of communications techniques and technologies

The Communications and Internet Technology (CIT) Program oversees the writing, design and marketing of all Commission products, both online and traditional print publications. This includes the Commission's annual report, bimonthly *Advisor* newsletter and its entire suite of web sites. Primary among these is the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN), the region's premier source for Great Lakes information. Through their training in journalism, print/web design and data management, CIT staff provide Commission-wide editing and design services.

Program manager: Christine Manninen, manninen@glc.org

Selected accomplishments

- Developed BeachCast, offering an online source for Great Lakes beach advisories and monitoring information
- Hosted a regional forum to discuss new strategic directions for GLIN
- Celebrated the 10th anniversary of GLIN, including design of an interactive, multimedia program highlighting the project's history and features
- Designed online meeting registration sites for numerous large-scale Great Lakes events, including the inaugural Great Lakes Sustainability Conference
- Developed a "Current Lake Conditions" section on GLIN, which will be expanded through a NOAA-funded Great Lakes Observing System initiative
- Awarded the sixth Carol Ratza Memorial Scholarship to Kevin Bennardo at Miami University of Ohio

