

Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS)
Proposed GLOS Board of Directors
Approved by GLOS Steering Committee, Jan. 18, 2005

Proposed GLOS Board of Directors Structure

The GLOS Business Plan identifies that the Board of Directors should consist of no less than 12 and no more than 24 members. On Jan. 18, 2005, the GLOS Steering Committee agreed that initial representation of the Board would be constituted as follows:

Federal Partners

6 members representing key U.S. federal agencies within the region, one each from:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- Department of Homeland Security (i.e., U.S. Coast Guard)

These members of the Board would be permanent positions on the Board.

The Great Lakes Commission, on behalf of the GLOS Steering Committee and as the recipient of the federal grant supporting this effort, is soliciting one representative to be appointed from each of the federal agencies. Letters have been drafted to members of the Interagency Task Force. The Task Force includes 10 U.S. Cabinet and Agency heads who are overseeing the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration initiative.

State Partners

6 members representing Great Lakes states, one from the Great Lakes Commission as a permanent member, one from the Great Lakes Protection Fund as a permanent member, and 4 rotating members from state governments.

The Great Lakes Commission is soliciting representation from the Great Lakes Protection Fund. The 4 rotating members of the initial group will be determined through voluntary nominations for 2 two-year terms and 2 four-year terms. If each of the 8 Great Lakes states nominates a representative, a lottery would be conducted on initial Board representation. After terms expired, the states that are not represented would be afforded an opportunity to participate, with no state being excluded for a period longer than 4 years.

Academic Partners

6 elected members representing academic institutions across the region.

The initial group of 6 Board members would be determined via nomination through appropriate institutional channels and voted upon by the members of the Steering Committee initially. Membership would be staggered for this group, 2 positions for 2-year terms, 2 positions for 3-year terms, and 2 positions for 4-year terms, determined by lottery. At least one academic partner should represent the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network.

At-large Partners

6 members representing non-profit organizations, industrial and commercial ventures, professional organizations, Native American tribes and specific user communities within the region.

The Steering Committee would nominate organizations they feel should be requested by the GLOS Secretariat to nominate a representative. After nominations are received, the GLOS Steering Committee would vote on membership for the initial Board. The tenure of these initial positions would be staggered with 3 positions being 2-year terms and 3 positions being 4-year terms with a lottery determining tenure.

Observers

The Board of Directors should offer observer status to the International Joint Commission, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the Canadian departments of Environment and Fisheries and Oceans, the Province of Ontario and the Government of Quebec.. The Board should encourage the four non-voting Great Lakes states to provide an observer, as well.

The Great Lakes Commission will solicit participation from these organizations, in close coordination with the GLOS Steering Committee, and provide all necessary resources to initiate their involvement.

Schedule

- Legal consultation (in process) – to be completed by July 31, 2005.
- Letters requesting nominations/appointees for the GLOS Board of Directors (in process) – to be mailed by June 30, 2005
- Nomination and election process for the initial Board of Directors – to be completed by Sept. 30, 2005.
- The Articles of Incorporation – to be filed by Sept. 1, 2005.
- Initial GLOS Board of Directors would approve By-Laws, including membership structure, roles and responsibilities of partners, election of officers, and future voting procedures within 60 days of filing for incorporation.