Great Lakes Stormwater Technology Transfer Collaborative

Draft Charter

Initially prepared by the Great Lakes Commission for revision by the Great Lakes Stormwater Technology Transfer Collaborative

September 25, 2017

## Preamble

In 2016, the Great Lakes Commission partnered with Lawrence Technological University to explore the need for a stormwater technology transfer collaborative in the Great Lakes region. An advisory team, consisting of public and private stakeholders, was formed to guide the project. To understand the needs of the region, a two-step information gathering process was undertaken.

First, from November of 2016 to January of 2017, 43 interviews were conducted with stormwater professionals from the public and private sectors in the Great Lakes region to identify barriers to stormwater technology transfer and whether a regional collaborative could help overcome those barriers. Second, the Needs Assessment was vetted and validated through three focus groups in spring 2017 (Mississauga, ON; Cleveland, OH; and, Appleton, WI).[[1]](#footnote-1) The *Stormwater Technology Transfer in the Great Lakes Region: A Needs Assessment* outlines the major barriers, and validates the need for an organization to facilitate the adoption of stormwater technology and green stormwater infrastructure strategies.

This charter outlines the mission, principles, and structure for a Great Lakes Stormwater Technology Transfer Collaborative.

## Mission and Objectives

The Great Lakes Stormwater Technology Transfer Collaborative (GLSTTC)[[2]](#footnote-2) is a multi-sector coalition of stormwater stakeholders that engage collaboratively to facilitate the deployment of technologies that capture and treat stormwater to minimize flooding, water quality degradation, and related social and economic impacts. The mission of the GLSTTC is to provide *a forum for networking and information exchange to advance stormwater technology transfer and deployment* in the binational Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River region .[[3]](#footnote-3)

The objectives of the GLSTTC are:

### Objective one: Help match available technology to the needs of communities.

### Objective two: Build confidence in the performance of stormwater management technology.

### Objective there: Develop and promote the cost-benefit ratio of stormwater management.

### Objective four: Reduce the risk associated with trying new stormwater management technologies and help sift the culture to try new technologies/approaches.

### Objective five: …

### Objective six: …

## Operating Principles

The GLSTTC strives for broad, balanced membership across multiple sectors of stormwater management. The organization and its members recognize that the credibility and authority of GLSTTC work products derive from the fact that they were developed through a collaborative process that enables consideration of a wide range of concerns and perspectives. Participants will make decisions and take positions by consensus. The GLSTTC defines consensus as overwhelming agreement among GLSTTC members attained through a good-faith effort to meet the interests of all stakeholders. Consensus means that all members can accept, but not necessarily fully support, a decision being considered.

Decisions made by the GLSTTC do not necessarily reflect the opinions or positions of the agencies, organizations, or companies that employ the individuals who participate in the GLSTTC. As such, decisions of the GLSTTC shall not prevent or preclude a GLSTTC member from taking positions that differ from those of the GLSTTC.

## Organizational Structure

The following structure supports the GLSTTC to achieve its stated mission:

• **Co-chairs (Leadership Team)** provide leadership and guidance for the GLSTTC. One co-chair shall represent the supply side of stormwater technology: entities that manufacture, develop, distribute or promote stormwater technologies. The other co-chair shall represent the demand side of stormwater technology: entities that desire or require the use and deployment of stormwater technology and green stormwater infrastructure strategies. Co-Chairs shall be nominated by the broader GLSTTC membership and shall serve 2 year terms. Co-chairs shall be responsible for:

* Leading the development of an annual workplan that supports the GLSTTC mission
* Convening the GLSTTC according to the annual workplan
* Leading efforts or forming committees to secure funding, as may be necessary, to support the annual workplan
* Forming committees that may be needed to implement the annual workplan

• **General Members** who reflect a broad, balanced membership across multiple sectors of stormwater management. Membership in the GLSTTC is open to groups and individuals that agree to: a) follow the operating principles and; b) work to fulfill the mission of the GLSTTC. General member Responsibilities include:

* Participation in periodic GLSTTC events
* Organize or help to organize at least one event, or activity in conjunction with or under the auspices of the GLSTTC each year.
* Those interested in joining can email techtransfer@glc.org.
* **Task Committees** may be formed on an ad-hoc basis to focus on select GLSTTC priorities.

## Workplan

An annual workplan shall guide the activities of the GLSTTC. Co-chairs shall lead the development of such workplan and may form a committee for this purpose. The workplan shall be shared with general members with an opportunity for input and feedback before it is finalized. The GLSTTC work plan shall include proposed priorities, a process to achieve them, and other details, as appropriate, based on availability of funds to complete the work.

## Role of outside organizations

The GLSTTC may seek support from outside organizations in the area of administration, membership recruitment, work team support, financial management, logistics support, meeting facilitation, data management, web site design and management, research, report production, communication and information services, and public liaison.

## Amendments

This Charter may be amended at any time as necessary by consensus of the general membership. In the case of major revisions, an ad-hoc subcommittee may be formed to facilitate this process.

## Agreement and Ratification

Members of the GLSTTC agree to participate in collaborative activities and will operate under the terms set forth in this Charter. Members can terminate their participation at any time by notifying the Leadership Team 60 days in advance of the termination. This Charter shall be effective for five years from the date of ratification below.

Herewith, this document officially ratifies the Great Lakes Stormwater Technology Transfer Collaborative, on this 14th day of November, 2017 by consensus of all member in attendance.

1. Mississauga, ON: April 25th, 2017; Cleveland, OH: May 3rd, 2017; and, Appleton, WI: May 19th, 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This name is subject to revision by members [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This mission is subject to change after review by members [↑](#footnote-ref-3)