Recommendations (Draft)

Great Lakes Blue Accounting

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Should Michigan turn its water into money? Some believe state should benefit more from the world's largest fresh-water supply.

Detroit News Op-Ed 2-17-2014

Our view:
Future prosperity of the Great Lakes region hinges on creating strategic value and regional competitive advantage, through effective leveraging of its primary asset – the world’s largest freshwater storage system.
The Problem:
We mostly know how water resources drive environmental services, but we have no clue how water supports and translates into economic and social values.
Therefore!!
We must invest in development and operation of Great Lakes *knowledge systems* that connect water-related management decisions and investments to core desired outcomes: environmental, *economic*, and *social*.
9 Desired Outcomes from Water System

Healthy Waters and Wildlife
1. Functional Nearshore/Riparian Processes
2. Functional Habitats
3. Productive, Diverse Populations

Appreciated individual quality of life
8. Awareness of water ~ quality of life
9. Investment in water resources

Flourishing communities and economies
4. Natural resource economies
5. Water-consuming economies
6. Water-dependent economies
7. Supply of potable water
Management decisions and actions

Water quantity and quality

Supply of potable water

Values

Blue Accounting: create information supply that wraps around management of each desired outcome; summaries per subregion

(Adaptive management cycle)
Desired Outcomes

**Quality of Life**
- Awareness
- Investment

**Communities & Economies**
- Potable water
- Resource Economies
- Consumptive Economies
- Dependent Economies

**Waters & Wildlife**
- Coastal Processes
- Habitats
- Populations

Selected Water System Indicators

- Infrastructure status
- Source water quality
- Health alarms

Hydrologic/ecological intermediate-scale map units
Selected Water System Indicators

- Infrastructure status
- Source water quality
- Health alarms

Desired Outcomes

**Quality of Life**
- Awareness
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**Communities & Economies**
- **Potable water**
- Resource Economies
- Consumptive Economies
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**Waters & Wildlife**
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Societal intermediate-scale map units
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Great Lakes Blue Accounting Program

1. Common spatial information platform

✓ Shared measurement systems
2. Pilot modules for 2 outcomes
   • Operationalize the Blue Accounting concept of the inner management cycle and the outer ring of information supply
3. New information development for select info gaps
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4. Establish collaborative, multi-sector, basin governance of water system information
   • Governors and Premiers charge existing organizations with: oversight, implementation, and secretariat support

✓ Common Agenda
✓ Complimentary Roles
✓ Backbone Organization
Must begin water accounting
• Create strategic values
• Create competitive advantage
• Assure water security

Report to Governors/Premiers in late April

Ask your help
• Bringing home agencies up to speed
• Identify a champion in each