

# **Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council**

## **Charter**

*Revised March 2016*

### ***Establishment***

The Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council is established jointly by various federal, state, tribal and other signatory parties involved in environmental protection and resource management efforts in the Lake Michigan basin.

### ***Mission***

The mission of the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council is to provide a forum for coordinating and supporting ecosystem based monitoring activities in the Lake Michigan basin. The Council will develop and make broadly available a shared resource of information, based on documented standards and protocols, that is useable across agency and jurisdictional boundaries. The Council will provide guidance and recommendations on monitoring needs and data gaps for the Lake Michigan basin.

### ***Objectives***

- Document monitoring activities, identify data gaps and contribute to the development of a monitoring framework for the Lake Michigan basin in conjunction with other plans.
- Establish and maintain collaborative partnerships that link federal, state, tribal, local and nongovernmental monitoring organizations and initiatives in the Lake Michigan basin to allow for the assessment of ecosystem resources in the basin.
- Foster the implementation of monitoring activities that document data quality and are comparable throughout the basin.
- Support information networks that link basinwide information systems and allow efficient sharing and updating of monitoring information.
- Provide guidance and assistance to members of the Council so they can improve general awareness of the value of monitoring.
- Assist Council members and workgroups with communications and outreach mechanisms to promote their products for use by the Lake Michigan monitoring community.

### ***Membership***

The council's standing membership shall consist of representatives from the following entities:

(8) State agency members (one representative each from the environmental management and natural resources agencies/divisions from the states of Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin);

(8) Federal agency members (one representative each from U.S. EPA Region 5, U.S. EPA-Great Lakes National Program Office, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Park Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

(1) Lake Michigan Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) Partnership; and

(1) Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative (CSMI).

Each of the above entities shall appoint an alternate representative.

Council membership is also open, but not limited, to the following:

- Great Lakes Fishery Commission.
- Agricultural groups;

- Business, industry and consultants;
- Local government/planning agencies;
- Local volunteer or environmental groups;
- Sea Grant programs or university-based institutes; and
- Tribal authorities/associations

Ex officio members will include a representative from the Great Lakes Commission. Any other individual or organization is welcome to participate in Council meetings, workgroups, and other efforts.

### ***Operations***

#### ***Chairs:***

The council shall be chaired jointly by two members elected by the full Council membership, with an election taking place during the annual in-person meeting of the Council for one of the co-chairs. One chair shall be from a federal agency; the other from a state agency. During even years, the state co-chair shall be elected. During odd years, the federal co-chair shall be elected.

#### ***Executive Committee:***

The Executive Committee of the Council shall consist of the two co-chairs and their alternates, and the Lake Michigan LAMP Partnership manager or his/her designee. A representative of the secretariat shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.

#### ***Workgroups:***

Council workgroups shall form and meet as needed with communication and coordination to occur at their discretion.

#### ***Meetings and Conference Calls:***

The Council shall meet once in person and once via teleconference annually. Every effort shall be made to coordinate the in person meeting with other Lake Michigan conferences or workshops.

#### ***Secretariat:***

The Council co-chairs shall guide secretariat staff in planning meetings, establishing agendas, and coordinating council operations. The secretariat shall administer funding for Council operations and for special projects of interest to Council members, unless determined otherwise. The secretariat will also provide staff support to workgroups as needed.

#### ***Decision Making:***

The Council shall operate by consensus in all aspects of its work and decision making. In the event that consensus cannot be reached on a specific decision by the full Council, the matter shall be decided by consensus of the Executive Committee.

#### ***Time and Travel Expenses:***

Council members shall be expected to cover expenses associated with their time and travel.