

# Great Lakes Commission Semiannual Meeting and Great Lakes Day 2024

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YOTEL WASHINGTON, D.C. • 415 NEW JERSEY AVE NW • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

## Speaker Biographies

**Connor Bevan** – *Inland Fisheries Policy Manger, American Sportfishing Association,*

Connor Bevan has joined ASA's Government Affairs staff as the new Inland Fisheries Policy Manger. He most recently worked as a Research Fellow for the National Hydropower Association, focusing on non-powered dam development to limit the impact of hydropower on fisheries. He previously worked on a Senate campaign and held a communications and fundraising fellowship with Salzburg Global Seminar, an international leadership development organization. Bevan is a California native and a graduate of Davidson College in North Carolina with a major in Political Science. Bevan started his career as an intern with the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation in Washington, D.C.

**Sarah Froman** – *Ports Initiative Team Lead, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*

Sarah has led several voluntary and regulatory initiatives to advance the measurement and mitigation of mobile source emissions since joining U.S. EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality in 2005. She is currently the team lead for EPA's Ports Initiative, a collaborative effort with port stakeholders to advance next-generation, clean technologies and practices that can improve air quality and increase economic prosperity. She has a Bachelor of Arts from Tufts University and a Master of Public Affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University.

**Dave Kidwell** - *Director, NOAA Competitive Research Program (CRP)*

Dave Kidwell is the director of the NOAA Competitive Research Program which funds ecosystem research focused on providing science-based solutions for harmful algal blooms, sea level rise, coastal inundation, ecosystem management, and other threats to our nation's coasts. Dave also serves as co-chair for the Interagency Working Group for HABs and Hypoxia and actively collaborates with partners to advance the HAB and coastal resilience portfolio for the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS). Dave joined NCCOS in 2007 as a Sea Grant Knauss Fellow after receiving M.S. degree from the University of Maryland in Marine, Estuarine, and Environmental Science and B.A. degree from University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Prior to NCCOS, he conducted his graduate work with the U.S. Geological Survey where he collaborated on a wide-ranging study of waterfowl that included satellite telemetry, foraging ecology, and physiological assessments.

**Debbie Lee** – *Director, NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL)*

Debbie Lee is the director of NOAA's GLERL, conducting integrated scientific research on the Great Lakes and coastal ecosystems. In addition to her role as director of GLERL, Ms. Lee serves as NOAA's Regional

Team Lead for the Great Lakes, facilitating collaboration across a network of more than 800 NOAA employees and partners representing the agency's diverse capabilities across the region. To her position at GLERL, Ms. Lee brings 35 years of professional experience in water resources research and management at NOAA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She is Past President of the Environmental Water Resources Institute, representing 20,000 water resources professionals. To her position at GLERL, Ms. Lee brings 35 years of professional experience in water resources research and management at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and NOAA. Prior to her current assignment, she served as the Chief of Water Management for the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 2001 to 2014. In that role, she directed lower Ohio and Mississippi River flood control and oversight of Great Lakes regulation. During that time, she served a detail as the Acting Regional Business Director and Dam and Levee Safety Officer from July 2013 to July 2014. Ms. Lee is a licensed professional engineer, certified professional hydrologist, and board certified by the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers. She has received multiple awards, including three Superior Civilian Service Awards, certificates of appreciation from the International Joint Commission and the Mississippi River Commission, International Joint Commission Award of Merit for Professional Contribution, and the 2017 NOAA Research Inclusion and Diversity Award. Ms. Lee holds bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from The Ohio State University and completed post-graduate civil and environmental engineering studies at the University of Michigan.

**Cindy Lodge** – *Deputy Director for Operations, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)*

Cindy leads science strategy planning and execution for the day-to-day activities of the USGS regional programs to ensure that the USGS stays at the forefront of science initiatives. Prior to organizational changes in 2020 that created two deputy positions (Deputy Director—Operations and Deputy Director—Administration and Policy), Cindy served as the USGS Deputy Director. Cindy joined the USGS in April 2015 as the Associate Director for the Office of Budget, Planning, and Integration (BPI), the Bureau's chief adviser for all matters related to strategic budgetary and financial strategies. Prior to joining the USGS, Cindy's career included 27 years with NASA at the Kennedy Space Center and Washington, D.C., Headquarters, in a variety of engineering and senior executive positions in research and development, program management, operations, and budget. Throughout her career, she has assessed and changed operational processes, eliminating waste and improving the efficiency of a multitude of projects. She improved scientific and engineering methods with innovative enhancements, evaluated and selected proposals for space systems, and planned and produced analytical studies involving the substance of key agency programs. She also served a year as a congressional fellow in 2003 as a legislative assistant.

**François Marier** - *Director of International Marine Policy, Transport Canada*

François Marier has served Transport Canada for 23 years. Earlier in his career, he worked at Natural Resources Canada and the Policy Research Initiative. He is responsible for economic policy related to international shipping. This includes economic regulation of shipping; competition and trade related matters; liability, compensation and insurance; as well as issues affecting cross-border shipping. His responsibilities include the negotiation, adoption and implementation of international conventions and the development of domestic legislation and regulations. International Marine Policy also represents Canada at various international fora and in bilateral relations with other countries. François holds a bachelors' degree in Geography from Laurentian University and a master's degree in geography from the University of Ottawa.

**Janet McCabe** – *Deputy Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*

Janet had returned to the EPA after spending seven years working as Acting Assistant Administrator and Principal Deputy to the Assistant Administrator in the Office of Air and Radiation under President Barack Obama. Prior to rejoining EPA, Janet McCabe was a Professor of Practice at the Indiana University McKinney School of Law and Director of the IU Environmental Resilience Institute, where she started as Assistant Director for Policy and Implementation in 2017. Her work at Indiana University centered on establishing innovative, research-informed, and actionable solutions to reduce environmental risks and help protect the health of communities and families. Over the course of her career, McCabe has spent time working for state environmental agencies in Massachusetts and her long-time adopted home state of Indiana, with a focus on implementation of the Clean Air Act and other air quality issues. Prior to joining EPA in November 2009, McCabe was Executive Director of Improving Kids' Environment, Inc., a children's environmental health advocacy organization based in Indianapolis. McCabe knows firsthand through these experiences that programs to improve public health and protect our environment are strongest when they are informed by a diversity of perspectives, and rooted in science, transparency, and the law.

**Josh Messner** – *Technology Manager, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)*

Messner is a technology manager with the Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO) at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and holds a Project Management Professional certification. Working out of the Golden Field Office located in Golden, CO, Josh is responsible for a number of projects within BETO's Systems Development & Integration (formerly the Advanced Development & Optimization) Program. He focuses primarily on strategies for scaling-up and reducing risks for biofuels and bioproducts. Josh is active in BETO's efforts in biofuels for marine use, national laboratories process development units, and the utilization of high-performance computing strategies to reduce scale-up risk. Prior to working at DOE, Josh received a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering with an interdisciplinary study in biotechnology from Colorado State University.

**Susan Pasko** - *Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force Executive Secretary, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)*

Susan Pasko is the executive secretary for the ANS Task Force at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In her role, she coordinates activities of the ANS Task Force, which is a team of federal and non-federal organizations that take action to protect the waters of the United States from the threat of aquatic invasive species. This work is accomplished by the development and implementation of work plans to advance the long- and short-range strategic objectives of the aquatic invasive species program developed under the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act. Susan also coordinates and facilitates semiannual meetings of the ANS Task Force that bring together Federal, State, tribes, and local agencies, the private sector, and other North American interests.

**Adam Tindall-Schlicht** – *Administrator, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS)*

Adam Tindall-Schlicht serves as the eleventh Administrator of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS), an operating administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Appointed by President Joe Biden on November 6, 2022, Administrator Tindall-Schlicht oversees the federal corporation responsible for the operation and maintenance of the U.S. portion of the St. Lawrence Seaway between Montréal and Lake Erie. Prior to his appointment as Administrator, Mr.

Tindall-Schlicht was the Director of Port Milwaukee from August 2018 until October 2022, serving as a member of the mayor's cabinet. As Port Director, Mr. Tindall-Schlicht oversaw and directed the port's multimodal, commercial, and passenger operations, which generates over \$100 million in local economic activity annually. In addition to his responsibilities as Port Director, Mr. Tindall-Schlicht was appointed by Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers as both a Commissioner of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in 2020 and a member of the Board of Directors of the Great Lakes Protection Fund in 2022. He also previously served as President of the Wisconsin Commercial Ports Association. Administrator Tindall-Schlicht returns to GLS where he previously worked in both Washington, D.C. and Cleveland, Ohio, on marine transportation, international marketing, and Great Lakes Seaway System shipping from 2010 to 2018.