



2025 Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting

DULUTH ENTERTAINMENT CONVENTION CENTER | 350 HARBOR DRIVE | DULUTH, MINNESOTA 55802

Draft Agenda: September 12, 2025

ALL TIMES CENTRAL

Tuesday, October 28, 2025	
1:00 – 4:30 p.m.	St. Louis River Estuary Field Tour on the Duluth River Train <i>Depart at 1:00 p.m. from Pier B hotel. Advanced registration required.</i>
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Movie Screening: Ripples of Plastic <i>Zeitgeist Zinema 2, 222 E Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802</i> <i>Discussion with the filmmaker and researchers immediately following. Light refreshments provided. Advanced registration required.</i>

Wednesday, October 29, 2025		
7:30 a.m.	Registration and continental breakfast <i>Harborside Ballroom (DECC)</i>	
8:30 a.m.	Call to order and roll call	Mary Mertz, Great Lakes Commission (GLC) Chair and Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources
8:40 a.m.	VIP Remarks	
9:00 a.m.	Report of the Chair	Mary Mertz, GLC Chair
9:20 a.m.	Business of the Great Lakes Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and approval of agenda • Approval of 2025 Semiannual Meeting minutes • Climate Resilience Committee Report • Presentation of resolutions and action items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Resolutions Review Committee Report • Report of the Executive Director 	
9:45 a.m.	Break	

10:00 a.m.	Microplastics in the Great Lakes	Dr. Sam Mason, Gannon University Kirk Koudelka, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Dr. Yongli Wager, Wayne State University
11:10 a.m.	Observer Comments	GLC Observers
11:30 a.m.	VIP Remarks	
11:50 a.m.	Lunch buffet <i>Optional Tours of the R/V Heron</i>	
1:10 p.m.	Duluth Youth Engagement Programs	Speakers TBA
1:40 p.m.	Solving Harmful Algal Bloom Mysteries: Lake Superior and Beyond	Dr. Cody Sheik, University of Minnesota-Duluth Dr. Andy Bramburger, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Invited)
2:20 p.m.	Nutrient Management Solutions	Speaker(s) TBA
2:50 p.m.	Break	
3:10 p.m.	Observer Comments	GLC Observers
3:30 p.m.	What we know and what we can learn from water recycling efforts across the U.S.	Peter Annin, Burke Center for Ecosystem Research, and Author, <i>Purified: How Recycled Sewage Is Transforming Our Water</i>
4:00 p.m.	Water Sustainability and Reuse Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Lakes Water Innovation & Stewardship Exchange AWS Water Sustainability WaterReuse Association Discussion	Lora Shrake, Council of the Great Lakes Region Speaker TBA Bruno Pigott, WaterReuse Association Panelists and Commissioners
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn for the day	
5:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Great Lakes Commission 70th Anniversary Celebration at historic Glensheen Mansion <i>Transportation provided from Pier B hotel. Advanced registration required.</i>	

Thursday, October 30, 2025

8:00 a.m.	Registration and breakfast buffet <i>Harborside Ballroom (DECC)</i>	
8:30 a.m.	Call to order	Mary Mertz, GLC Chair
8:35 a.m.	VIP Remarks	
8:50 a.m.	Vision and Priorities for the Port of Duluth-Superior	Kevin Beardsley, Executive Director, Duluth Seaway Port Authority
9:10 a.m.	Observer Comments	GLC Observers

9:40 a.m.	Updates on Great Lakes Maritime Strategies	Emily Finnell, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy Ashley Lawrence, Ontario Ministry of Transportation Eric Oberhart, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers
10:10 a.m.	Break	
10:30 a.m.	Managing PFAS in Sediments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minnesota PFAS Blueprint Update • Michigan PFAS Sediment Testing and Dredging Operations Case Study • U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Approach Discussion	TBA, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Abby Hendershott, Michigan Dept. of Environment Great Lakes and Energy Carl Platz, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Panelists and Commissioners
11:30 a.m.	Business of the Great Lakes Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolutions and action items 	Mary Mertz, GLC Chair
11:50 a.m.	Nominating Committee Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of Officers 	Loren Wobig, Illinois Commissioner
11:55 a.m.	Invitation to 2026 Great Lakes Day and GLC Semiannual Meeting	Erika Jensen, Executive Director
12:00 p.m.	Closing remarks and adjournment	Mary Mertz, GLC Chair