

Great Lakes Commission des Grands Lacs

1955-2025 70 YEARS

2025 Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting

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

Draft Agenda: October 23, 2025

ALL TIMES CENTRAL

Tuesday, October 28, 2025		
10:00 a.m.	Great Lakes Green Events & Great Lakes St. Lawrence Trees Initiative Tree Planting	
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.	St. Louis River Estuary Field Tour on the Duluth River Train *Bus will depart at 1:00 p.m. from Pier B hotel and return by 5:00 p.m.*	
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Movie Screening: Ripples of Plastic *Zeitgeist Zinema 2, 222 E Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802* *Discussion with the filmmaker immediately following. Light refreshments provided.*	

Wednesday, October 29, 2025		
7:30 a.m.	Registration and continental breakfast *Harbor Side Ballroom (DECC)*	
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.	Mayor Roger J. Reinert, City of Duluth	
9:00 a.m.	Report of the Chair	Mary Mertz, GLC Chair
9:20 a.m.	Business of the Great Lakes Commission • Review and approval of agenda • Approval of 2025 Semiannual Meeting minutes • Climate Resilience Committee Report • Presentation of resolutions and action items ○ Resolutions Review Committee Report • Report of the Executive Director	Kay Nelson, Commissioner, Indiana Marc Smith, Commissioner, Michigan

10:00 a.m.	Break	
10:15 a.m.	Microplastics in the Great Lakes	Dr. Sam Mason, Gannon University Kirk Koudelka, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Dr. Yongli Wager, Wayne State University
11:25 a.m.	Observer Comments	GLC Observers
11:45 a.m.	Lunch buffet *Optional Tours of the R/V Heron*	
1:15 p.m.	Duluth Youth Engagement Programs	Harbor City International School Duluth Public Schools
1:50 p.m.	Solving Harmful Algal Bloom Mysteries: Lake Superior and Beyond	Dr. Cody Sheik, University of Minnesota-Duluth
2:20 p.m.	Great Lakes St. Lawrence Sustainable Agriculture Initiative	Cailyn Andrews, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers
2:40 p.m.	Observer Comments	GLC Observers
3:00 p.m.	Break	
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, *Purified: How Recycled Sewage Is Transforming Our Water*
4:00 p.m.	Water Demand, Sustainability and Reuse	Megan Cunningham, Alliance for the Great Lakes Lora Shrake, Council of the Great Lakes Region Bruno Pigott, WateReuse Association
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn for the day	
5:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Great Lakes Commission 70th Anniversary Celebration at historic Glensheen Mansion *Transportation provided from Pier B hotel.*	

Thursday, October 30, 2025		
8:00 a.m.	Registration and breakfast buffet *Harbor Side Ballroom (DECC)*	
8:30 a.m.	Call to order	Mary Mertz, GLC Chair
8:35 a.m.	Awards and Recognitions	
8:45 a.m.	Vision and Priorities for the Port of Duluth-Superior	Kevin Beardsley, Executive Director, Duluth Seaway Port Authority
9:05 a.m.	Updates on Great Lakes Maritime Strategies	Emily Finnell, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy Jean-François Hould, Québec Government

		Eric Oberhart, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers
9:45 a.m.	Observer Comments	GLC Observers
10:05 a.m.	Break	
10:20 a.m.	Managing PFAS in Sediments • Minnesota PFAS Blueprint Update • Michigan PFAS Sediment Testing and Dredging Operations Case Study	Katrina Kessler, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Abby Hendershott, Michigan Dept. of Environment Great Lakes and Energy
11:20 a.m.	Business of the Great Lakes Commission • Resolutions and action items	Mary Mertz, GLC Chair
11:50 a.m.	Nominating Committee Report • Election of Officers	Loren Wobig, Commissioner, Illinois
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