Great Lakes Commission
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**RESOLUTION**

Adopted October 30, 2025

# Advancing Stormwater Management in the Great Lakes Basin

**Whereas,** watersheds across the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin are affected by increasing intensity and variability in precipitation patterns; and

**Whereas,** since 1951, total annual precipitation in the region has increased by 14% and is projected to continue to increase;[1] and

**Whereas,** future precipitation projections vary by season with lake effect snowfall expected to increase until mid-century before transitioning to more winter rain; and

**Whereas,** increasing precipitation intensity has led to flooding events disruptive to life and commerce in affected communities; and

**Whereas,** increasing precipitation leads to more nonpoint source pollution, transmitting sediment, nutrients, plastics, and other contaminants across watersheds to the Great Lakes; and

**Whereas,** the strategic plan of the Great Lakes Commission aims to achieve goals related to resilience, clean and safe water, sustainable and equitable water use, and healthy aquatic ecosystems; and

**Whereas,** the Great Lakes Commission continues to lead collaborative networks of resource managers and scientists committed to solving pressing problems affecting the Great Lakes, including the Great Lakes Stormwater Collaborative; and

**Whereas,** the Clean Water State Revolving Fund serves as a low-interest source of funding for eligible stormwater management projects in the United States, including traditional stormwater conveyance pipe, storage, and treatment systems; bioretention ponds and bioswales; and wetland and shoreline protection and restoration; and

**Whereas,** tremendous opportunities exist for state, provincial, local, tribal, and federal governments to coordinate efforts to improve stormwater management to capture, store, and use water, attenuate flooding, and reduce pollution; and

**Whereas,** Section 319 of the Clean Water Act has historically provided states with funding to address nonpoint sources of pollution identified through development of local watershed management plans, including numerous projects focused on stormwater management; and

[1] GLISA. (2025). Precipitation. https://glisa.umich.edu/resources-tools/climate-impacts/precipitation/

**Whereas,** the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 authorized $5,000,000 for each of Fiscal Years 2022 through 2026 for the U.S. EPA to designate and provide competitive grants to 3-5 Centers of Excellence for Stormwater Control Infrastructure Technologies to conduct research on new and emerging stormwater control technologies; and

**Whereas,** the Great Lakes region does not yet have a federally designated Center of Excellence for Stormwater Control Infrastructure Technologies; and

**Whereas,** the Great Lakes Stormwater Collaborative is utilizing limited funding appropriated by New York State to effectively operate as a center of excellence to strengthen the expertise of state and provincial agency staff and other regional partners, including, but not limited to, analyzing the economic impact of natural stormwater infrastructure and developing metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of these efforts.

**Therefore, Be It Resolved,** that the Great Lakes Commission affirms the importance of advancing innovative solutions to manage stormwater across seasons, in both rural and urban areas throughout the world's largest connected freshwater system; and

**Be It Further Resolved,** that the Commission commends the Great Lakes Stormwater Collaborative for its efforts to establish and improve communication; transfer knowledge; and more efficiently connect the regional research to implement effective, natural, and technological solutions to Great Lakes communities; and

**Be It Further Resolved,** that the Commission encourages the U.S. federal government to maintain and expand funding for the Section 319 program such that states may continue to support critical local efforts to improve stormwater management and reduce nonpoint sources of pollution, including sediment, nutrients, and plastics.

**Be It Further Resolved,** that the Commission urges the U.S. Congress to appropriate the fully authorized amount of $5,000,000 for FY2026 to continue its support for stormwater Centers of Excellence; and

**Be It Further Resolved,** that the Commission urges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to designate the Great Lakes Stormwater Collaborative as the fifth Center of Excellence for Stormwater Control Infrastructure Technologies in coordination with universities and/or technical institutions; and

**Be it Further Resolved,** that the Commission calls upon the U.S. federal government to allocate $1,000,000 annually to the Great Lakes Stormwater Collaborative, to be facilitated by the Great Lakes Commission in partnership with the region's research institutions; and

**Be It Finally Resolved,** that the Commission will continue to coordinate stormwater management efforts, knowledge sharing, research and collaboration across boundaries and in coordination with Indigenous Nations to advance innovative solutions to protect the Great Lakes.

*Adopted at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission, October 29-30, 2025, held in Duluth, Minnesota. The resolution was passed unanimously.*