BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Office of the Governor of Indiana

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Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

BASIL SEGGOS
Commissioner, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

MARY MERTZ
Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources

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Senior Manager, Government of Ontario Office of International Relations and Policy

TIMOTHY J. BRUNO
Chief, Office of the Great Lakes, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

MARTINE HÉBERT
Québec Government Delegate in the Midwest,
Government of Québec

NOAH ROBERTS
Policy Analyst, Office of the Governor of Wisconsin

Board of Directors list is as of December 2020.

Cover photo: Lake Ontario, Point Pelee National Park, Leamington, Ontario ©istockphoto/jmfeng.
This page: Lake Michigan, Port of Green Bay, Wisconsin, ©istockphoto/imagesbyK.
or 65 years, the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) has worked to address issues of common concern and develop shared solutions to the region’s most difficult issues. The GLC continued this important work in 2019 and 2020 with significant successes and amidst notable events in the agency’s history.

In 2019, the GLC celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration of Partnership signed in 1999 by the eight U.S. Great Lakes states and the two Canadian Great Lakes provinces. This important milestone was recognized as part of the GLC’s 2019 Annual Meeting in Québec City, and through the passage of a resolution committing the states and provinces “to continuing their work together to accomplish the purposes of the Great Lakes Basin Compact.”

In 2020, the world was dramatically impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic. This crisis has forced us all to adapt our routines and strategize new ways of working together. While this pandemic halted in-person engagement between the GLC and its many stakeholders, the agency expanded its use of technology to advance important binational dialogue on key issues. This effort including hosting the first-ever virtual GLC meetings in May and November 2020.

2020 also brought the departure of Executive Director Darren Nichols. During his time with the GLC, Director Nichols shared his specific experience with interstate compacts and led an effort to better understand the nature and foundations of our agency, as established through the Great Lakes Basin Compact of 1955. Throughout his tenure, he encouraged us to recognize the strength of the commitments made through the Compact. We appreciate his service to the GLC and the Great Lakes basin.

Along with these notable events, we also made meaningful progress on numerous priorities for the Great Lakes states and provinces in 2019 and 2020. On behalf of the agency staff and Great Lakes Commissioners, we are pleased to highlight several major outcomes of our work over the last two years.

A VOICE FOR THE REGION

The GLC continued to provide a forum for the states and provinces to convene, share information, and speak with a common voice on regional priorities. Our top regional priorities are communicated to the U.S. Congress and presidential administration annually and include reducing the threat of harmful algae; building needed maritime navigation infrastructure; preventing damaging invasive species from entering the Great Lakes; building resilient coastal communities; and protecting and ensuring clean drinking water for all citizens across the basin.

Each year, the key event of our advocacy efforts is Great Lakes Day in Washington, D.C. Alongside our partners at the Northeast-Midwest Institute, the GLC welcomed more than two hundred Great Lakes leaders and twenty members of Congress to the 2020 Great Lakes Day Congressional Breakfast Reception in February. In addition, the GLC continued to facilitate a binational coalition of regional agencies, legislators, local communities, tribes, and business and environmental groups to establish shared priorities for restoring the Great Lakes and supporting the region’s economy. This work contributed to several important legislative wins at the end of 2020, including reauthorization and increased funding for the bipartisan Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

continued on next page >
INFORMING REGIONAL DECISION-MAKING

The GLC established a new regional partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to support habitat restoration in Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs) and other priority watersheds. Awards under the new partnership will continue to address AOC needs in Michigan, Ohio, and in New York along the Niagara River AOC, as well as priority coastal areas in Michigan along Lake St. Clair and in Illinois near the Calumet River.

Over its nearly 30-year history, the Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program has provided funding for tribal, state, and local units of government and nonprofit organizations working to reduce the impacts of sediment and nutrient loss on the basin’s waterways. In 2019 and 2020, new grants were awarded to partners for 22 projects across the basin.

COLLABORATING TO SOLVE COMPLEX ISSUES

The GLC recognizes that no one group, state, or even country can protect the lakes alone. Over the course of 2019 and 2020, the agency continued to serve the region as a trusted convener, bringing together multiple partners to address shared problems and develop collaborative solutions. The GLC worked with its member states and provinces, the U.S. and Canadian governments, tribes and First Nations, communities, conservation groups, industry, and others to tackle critical issues facing the lakes. Such forums include the Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative, Invasive Mussel Collaborative, Harmful Algae Blooms Collaborative, the Great Lakes Dredging Team, and the Great Lakes Stormwater Collaborative.

A new and important area of focus for the GLC is identifying opportunities to support and advance a healthy and resilient Great Lakes region. The GLC began taking concrete steps toward a more resilient future in 2019, when it convened Commissioners from all eight U.S. Great Lakes states and both Canadian Great Lakes provinces to develop a list of recommended actions to address basinwide resilience. In January 2020, the Commission adopted these recommendations, including establishing a standing committee on climate resilience comprised of experts and decision-makers from across the region. The concept of resilience touches on numerous aspects of our environment, economy, and communities, and work on this issue is already underway in each of the Great Lakes states and provinces and by many of our partners. The GLC is committed to helping coordinate those efforts and leverage our collective expertise for the benefit of the entire region. The outcome of this work will be a joint action plan for Great Lakes basin resilience.

LOOKING AHEAD

The GLC is committed to its role as a trusted partner that convenes leaders, experts and stakeholders invested in sustainable management of Great Lakes water resources. We will build on our past successes and continue to work collaboratively with our many partners to solve complex problems and ensure that the Great Lakes remain a valuable resource for the diversity of people and communities across the region.

Erika S. Jensen, Interim Executive Director

Sharon Jackson, Chair
**FISCAL YEAR 2019**

**REVENUES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants and contracts</td>
<td>$8,384,181</td>
<td>93.42%</td>
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<tr>
<td>State contributions</td>
<td>480,000</td>
<td>5.35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meetings, publications, misc.</td>
<td>49,026</td>
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<td>Interest income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in fair value of investments</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,974,886</strong></td>
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**EXPENSES**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Grants and contracts</td>
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<td>Personnel</td>
<td>2,379,502</td>
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<td>Office operations</td>
<td>392,016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program activities</td>
<td>126,596</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>115,273</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>55,747</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,331,133</strong></td>
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Change in net position ($356,247) -3.97%

**FISCAL YEAR 2020**

**REVENUES**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<td><strong>$7,138,381</strong></td>
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**EXPENSES**

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<td>Office operations</td>
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<td>Travel</td>
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<td>Program activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>49,018</td>
<td>0.65%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,578,361</strong></td>
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Change in net position ($439,980) -6.16%

**FINANCIALS**
Overall, the GLC continues to effectively manage its general, restricted and cash reserve funds to achieve the agency’s goals and objectives. These figures were confirmed by an independent audit, which is conducted each year to examine the GLC’s financial operations.
COMMISSIONERS, ALTERNATES AND OBSERVERS

As of December 2020. Delegation chairs are in bold.

**ILLINOIS**

Loren Wobig, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources
Stephanie Comer, Comer Family Foundation
John J. Kim, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Yu-Feng Forrest Lin, Illinois Water Resources Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Josina Morita, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

**MICHIGAN**

James Clift, Michigan Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
Hon. Candice Miller, Macomb County Public Works
Hon. Dana Nessel, Michigan Attorney General
Marc E. Smith, National Wildlife Federation
Hon. Rick Snyder

**MICHIGAN ALTERNATES**

Kara Cook, Office of the Governor of Michigan
Stanley Pruss, Michigan Dept. of the Attorney General
S. Peter Manning, Michigan Dept. of the Attorney General
Jennifer McKay, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

**INDIANA**

Sharon Jackson, Office of the Governor of Indiana
Steven A. Fisher, American Great Lakes Ports Association
Kay L. Nelson, Northwest Indiana Forum
Jody W. Peacock, Ports of Indiana
Bruno Pigott, Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management

**INDIANA ALTERNATES**

John Davis, Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources
Chris Smith, Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources

**NEW YORK**

Basil Seggos, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
James M. Tierney, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Donald E. Zelazny, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

**NEW YORK ALTERNATES**

Sean Mahar, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Eileen Murphy, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

**OHIO**

Mary Mertz, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources
Hon. John Eklund, State Senator
Hon. Haraz N. Ghanbari, State Representative
Laurie A. Stevenson, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
James H. I. Weakley, Lake Carriers’ Association

**OHIO ALTERNATES**

Mindy Bankey, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources
John D. Baker, International Longshoremen’s Association
Tiffani Kavalec, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Thomas Rayburn, Lake Carriers’ Association

**MINNESOTA**

Laura Bishop, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Hon. Ann Rest, State Senator
Hon. Carrie Ruud, State Senator
Hon. Jennifer Schultz, State Representative
Hon. Paul Torkelson, State Representative

**MINNESOTA ALTERNATES**

Katrina Kessler, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Deb DeLuca, Duluth Seaway Port Authority
ONTARIO
Ranissah Samah, Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs
Craig Brown, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Ian Freeman, Ministry of Transportation
Kelly McAslan, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Chloé Stuart, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

ONTARIO ALTERNATES
Tija Dirks, Ministry of Transportation
Thom Hagerty, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Jennifer Keyes, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Ling Mark, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Trevor Snyder, Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs

QUÉBEC
Martine Hébert, Québec Government Office in Chicago
Vincent Gagnon-Lefebvre, Ministère de l’Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques
Nicole Trépanier, Fednav Limited

QUÉBEC ALTERNATES
Guillaume Dubreuil, Groupe CSL
Jérôme Faivre, Ministère de l’Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques
Kerith Iverson, Québec Government Office in Chicago
Frederic Lecomte, Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs
Denis Simard, Ministère des Transports

WISCONSIN
Noah Roberts, Office of the Governor of Wisconsin
Todd Ambs, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Melonee Montano, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

WISCONSIN ALTERNATES
Stephen G. Galarneau, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

PENNSYLVANIA
Timothy J. Bruno, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection
Hon. Patrick J. Harkins, State Representative
Brenda Sandberg, Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority

PENNSYLVANIA ALTERNATES
Aneca Y. Atkinson, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection
Hon. Kathy Dahlkemper, Erie County Executive

GLC STAFF

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ABOUT THE GLC

The Great Lakes Commission is a binational government agency established in 1955 to protect the Great Lakes and the economies and ecosystems they support.

Its membership includes leaders from the eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces in the Great Lakes basin. The GLC recommends policies and practices to balance the use, development, and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes and brings the region together to work on issues that no single community, state, province, or nation can tackle alone.