



Lake Erie
Commission

2019 Areas of Concern Conference

September 11-12, 2019

Windows on the River

2000 Sycamore St.

Cleveland Ohio

<http://windowsontheriver.com/>

OPTIONAL PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

3:00-5:00 pm: ***Walking Tour of the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern***

Meet in the lobby of Windows on the River

3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, and 6:00 pm:

Tour of the U.S. EPA Research Vessel Lake Guardian on the Cuyahoga River

Tours will last approximately one hour

5:30-9:00 pm ***Dinner and Tour of the Greater Cleveland Aquarium (\$35)***

Aquarium tour: 5:30-7:00pm

Dinner at Windows on the River: 6:30-8:30pm

Cash bar on the banks of the Cuyahoga River: 5:30-9:00 pm

DAY ONE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

DAY 1 SCHEDULE		LOCATION
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Registration	3 rd Floor
8:30 am – 6:45 pm	Poster and Video Viewing	Cocktail Room/City View Loft
9:00 am – 10:15 am	Plenary Session	Bridge View Room
10:15 am – 10:45 am	Break	
10:45 am – 12:05 pm	Plenary Session	Bridge View Room
12:05 pm – 1:30 pm	Buffet Lunch	Bridge View Room
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Breakout Session A	Bridge View, River View, City View Rooms
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Break	
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Breakout Session B	Bridge View, River View, City View Rooms
5:00 pm – 6:45 pm	Poster Session	Cocktail Room/City View Loft
6:45 pm – 9:15 pm	Optional Dinner Cruise	Meet at Nautica Queen Riverwalk

#GLAOC2019

WiFi: CLE Guest Password: powerhouse

Conference Moderators: Marc Tuchman, U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO), and Lynn Garrity, Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC)

9:00 am Welcoming Remarks

The Honorable Frank Jackson, Mayor of Cleveland
Director, Ohio Lake Erie Commission, Joy Mulinex

9:20 am GLRI Update

Chris Korleski, Director, EPA GLNPO

9:40 am Interactive Polling Session

Interactive polling of the audience on key issues and concerns in the implementation of the AOC program.

Moderator: Matt Doss, Great Lakes Commission (GLC)

10:00 am Getting Work Done at AOCs

Amy Pelka, EPA GLNPO

10:15 am Break

10:45 am Introduction to Ohio AOCs/AOC Showcase: Cuyahoga River AOC

The Ohio AOC program will share the current work and progress underway in its AOCs. As the Cuyahoga River reached a milestone in 2019, local AOC partners will share its history, success and path ahead in its restoration progress.

Lynn Garrity, OLEC, Bill Zawiski, Ohio EPA, Jenn Grieser, Cuyahoga AOC Advisory Committee

11:15 am Restoration and Maintenance of Fish Spawning Reefs

Ed Roseman of USGS will describe how reef habitat was created in the St. Clair and Detroit River AOCs and how success is measured over the long term, as well as how this habitat is maintained.

Ed Roseman, USGS

11:45 am National Geographic Photo Showcase

National Geographic photographer, Peter Essick, will showcase photos taken in Great Lakes Areas of Concern and share his experience telling the AOC story.

Peter Essick, National Geographic Photographer



Join us on Instagram & Twitter:
#GLAOC2019



12:05 pm **Buffet Lunch**

Cuyahoga River Video

Orientation Overview of Dinner Cruise tour

Jane Goodman, Cuyahoga River Restoration and Matt Doss, GLC

1:30 pm **Breakout Session A**

Session A-1, City View Room:

Utilizing Visual Media Technology to Enhance AOC Outreach

Technology provides us with new and exciting ways to communicate about AOCs. Come learn how AOC communities are harnessing this technology to enhance storytelling, communicate difficult environmental concepts, and engage broad audiences. Videos, drone footage, professional photography, and artist renderings are just a few media that will be showcased from AOCs around the Great Lakes basin. An interactive, facilitated discussion will help AOC leaders learn how to incorporate this technology into their own strategic communication programs.

Moderators: Caitie Nigrelli, IL-IN Sea Grant

Melanie Foose, Michigan Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)

Panelists: Peter Essick, National Geographic Photographer

Jessica Amico, Senior Digital Marketing Coordinator

David Ruck, Great Lakes Outreach Media

Brian James Egen, River Raisin Commission on the Environment and Water Quality

Session A-2, Bridge View Room:

Long Term Maintenance of AOC Habitat Restoration Projects

Strategies and practices to promote sustainability and long-term benefits of habitat restoration projects will be shared from the Maumee River AOC, Muskegon Lake AOC, Niagara River AOC and St. Louis River AOC.

Moderators: Carl Platz, USACE and Julie Sims, NOAA

Panelists: Cherie Blair, OEPA

Melissa Sjolund, Minnesota DNR

Kathy Evans, West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission

Brett Fessell, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

Session A-3, River View Room: Beach Closings BUI in Depth

This breakout session will begin with an introduction to the Beach Closings BUI. Then, hear an example from a WI AOC that has recently completed a beach closings project, followed by the strategy a NY AOC followed to meet their BUI criteria for removal. Next, learn about new advances in molecular methods to determine the sources of fecal contamination. Last, the session will transition to an interactive panel discussion based on audience questions.

Moderator: Leah Medley, EPA GLNPO
Panelists: Carly Norris, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE)
Tami Sivy, Saginaw Valley State University
Matt Steiger, Wisconsin DNR
Michael Kuzia-Carmel, New York State DEC

3:00 pm Break

3:30 pm Breakout Session B

Session B-1, City View Room: Great Lakes Legacy Act - Generating nonfederal cost-share

The Great Lakes Legacy Act provides AOC communities with a mechanism to clean up contaminated sediment, but generating cost-share can present a significant hurdle. This session will overview previous strategies for producing match via panelist engagement and a new Sea Grant video. Panelists and attendees are invited to help brainstorm creative cost-share solutions and opportunities for partnerships on remaining sediment sites.

Moderator: Scott Cieniawski, EPA GLNPO
Panelists: Caitie Nigrelli, IL-IN Sea Grant
Rebecca Fedak, WDNR



Join us on Instagram & Twitter:
#GLAOC2019



Session B-2, Bridge View Room: BUI Round Table

Are you struggling with a particular BUI issue? Would you like to converse with others who might be able to help? This session will be broken into three, half-hour mini-sessions. At each one, participants can choose one of four BUI-focused tables for a deeper dive. On each half-hour mark, there will be four new BUI tables to choose from for another focused discussion. Each table will be staffed with that BUI's Technical Review Lead or another AOC staffer with expertise in that area. If you have already removed a BUI, please feel free to attend and share your lessons learned.

Moderators: Jenn Grieser, Cuyahoga AOC Advisory Committee
Barb Huberty, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

3:30 - 3:55pm	Fish Consumption - Dave Krabbenhoft, USGS Fish and Wildlife Populations - Amy Roe, USFWS Dredging - Karen Keil, USACE Benthos - Beth Hinchey Malloy, EPA GLNPO
4:00 - 4:25pm	Eutrophication - Paul Buszka USGS Fish Tumors - Amy Roe & Andrew Stevens, USFWS Dredging - Karen Keil, USACE Phyto- and Zooplankton - Beth Hinchey Malloy, EPA GLNPO
4:30 - 5:00pm	Bird or Animal Deformities - Mandy Annis, USFWS Fish and Wildlife Habitat – Amy Roe & Andrew Stevens, USFWS Aesthetics - Leah Medley, EPA GLNPO Benthos - Beth Hinchey Malloy, EPA GLNPO

Session B-3, River View Room: What Makes an Effective PAC?

Speakers will explore the operations and organization of environmental advisory groups, both broadly and specific to the Areas of Concern. Information will be provided based on research into a number of different organizations including specific Public Advisory Councils (PACs). Time will be set aside for specific questions to the panelists and for ideas from the audience members.

Moderators: Dr. Paul Seelbach, University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability
Rick Hobrla, EGLE
Panelists: Dr. Julia Wondolleck, University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability
Allison Voglesong Zejnati, International Joint Commission (IJC)

Dr. Katie Williams, EPA ORD

5:00 pm Poster Viewing Session

6:45 pm Adjourn

6:45 pm Optional Lake Erie and Cuyahoga River Dinner Cruise

The dinner cruise will depart and return from adjacent to Windows on the River, with boarding at 6:45 pm, departure at 7:15 pm, and return at 9:15 pm.

The shuttle to hotels will be running.

DAY TWO: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

DAY 2 SCHEDULE		LOCATION
8:00 am – 8:45 am	Networking, Breakfast	Bridge View Room
8:45 am – 9:00 am	Reconvene, Recap and Review Agenda	Bridge View Room
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Breakout Session C	Bridge View, River View, City View Rooms
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Break	
11:00 am – 12:15 pm	Revitalization Plenary	Bridge View Room
12:15 pm – 12:30 pm	Wrap-up, Polling and Follow-up Actions	Bridge View Room
12:30 pm	Adjourn	

8:45 am Reconvene, Recap Day 1 and Review Agenda for Day 2

Marc Tuchman, EPA GLNPO and Lynn Garrity, OLEC

9:00 am Breakout Session C

Session C-1, City View Room:
Transitioning to Life After Delisting

The journey toward delisting an AOC is not an endpoint but a beginning. How do AOCs and their stakeholders -- who have invested years of time and resources -- transition as delisting approaches? What strategies can AOCs use to begin to think about Life after Delisting? This session will provide insights from various AOCs at various stages of the process of preparing for Life after Delisting.

Moderator: Michael Kuzia-Carmel, NYSDEC

Panelists: Margaux Valenti, Buffalo River AOC

Kathy Evans, Muskegon Lake AOC



Join us on Instagram & Twitter:

#GLAOC2019



Session C-2, Bridge View Room: Habitat Restoration Effectiveness

During this session, we will explore conceptual thinking behind habitat restoration and approaches/tools to evaluate habitat restoration projects.

Moderator: Meaghan Kern, EPA GLNPO
Panelists: Julie Sims, NOAA
Tony Friona, USACE
Dan Breneman, MPCA
Kate Golden, City of Lorain, OH
Chip Wendt, Coldwater Consulting

Session C-3, River View Room: Improving BUI Removal Criteria

BUI removal targets provide the basis for designing BUI assessments, selecting AOC projects, and determining when BUI removal can occur. As AOC program leaders and partners work with these targets, they may find that they pose challenges and need to be reconsidered. This session will examine the reasons that targets may be challenging to work with, how those challenges were addressed through target clarifications or revisions, and stakeholder engagement during revision processes.

Moderator: Kendra Axness, WDNR
Panelists: Scott Collins, Niagara County (NY) SWCD
Brie Kupsky, WDNR
John Riley, EGLE
Amy Roe, USFWS

10:30 am Break

11:00 am Revitalization in AOCs

How does a community transform itself in response to AOC remediation and restoration activities? What does revitalization look like? And what are the social and economic impacts of the GLRI in AOCs? A cornerstone of the AOC program is to bring back areas from environmental degradation. This session will present an overview of the GLRI Economic Impacts Report and community revitalization successes in relation to AOC efforts.

Moderators: Lynn Garrity, OLEC and Caitie Nigrelli, IL-IN Sea Grant

Panelists: Matt Doss, GLC & CGLI study

Kris Eilers, St. Louis River AOC

Don Romancak, Black River AOC

John Hartig, IAGLR, Great Lakes Science-Policy Advisor

12:15 pm Wrap-up, Polling and Follow-up Actions

Marc Tuchman, EPA GLNPO and Lynn Garrity, OLEC

12:30 pm Adjourn



Join us on Instagram & Twitter:
#GLAOC2019

