

**GREAT LAKES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO THE GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Governments of Canada and the United States (the Parties), pursuant to the requirements of the 2012 *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA)*, are committed to “maximize their efforts to:

- (a) cooperate and collaborate;
- (b) develop programs, practices and technology necessary for a better understanding of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem; and
- (c) eliminate or reduce, to the maximum extent practicable, environmental threats to the Waters of the Great Lakes.”

This is further articulated under the Articles and Annexes of the GLWQA.

In order to meet these challenges and assist in the implementation of the *GLWQA*, the Parties hereby establish the Great Lakes Executive Committee (GLEC) pursuant to *GLWQA Article 5 – Consultation, Management and Review*.

2. MANDATE

Pursuant to *Article 5* of the *GLWQA*, the GLEC will meet at least twice each year, alternating between Canada and the U.S., as directed by the Parties. If mutually agreed upon by the Parties, GLEC meetings need not be conducted in-person. Meetings of the GLEC and its members shall serve as discussion *fora* with the purpose of providing advice to the Parties via the two GLEC Co-Chairs, one from each Party. The Parties may also consider advice from other bodies in making any decisions.

The role of the GLEC is to help coordinate, implement, review and report on programs, practices and measures undertaken to achieve the purpose of the *GLWQA* by:

- Providing the Parties with perspectives and insights from federal agencies, state and provincial governments, tribal governments, First Nations, Métis, municipal governments, watershed management agencies, and local public agencies on issues relating to the implementation of the *GLWQA*.
- Advising the Parties on establishing binational priorities for science and action.
- Advising the Parties on work priorities for the Annex subcommittees to ensure effective implementation of the *GLWQA*.
- Advising the Parties on the preparation of the *Progress Report of the Parties*.

- Recommending chemicals of mutual concern to the Parties.
- Providing a forum for the Parties and GLEC members to report on domestic and binational action and progress in the Great Lakes.
- Providing a forum for the Parties to notify each other of planned activities that could lead to a pollution incident or that could have a significant cumulative impact on the Great Lakes.
- Providing a forum for non-member participants to provide input and advice, as appropriate.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The GLEC will be co-chaired by the Parties. Senior-level representatives from Canadian and U.S. entities that are responsible for decisions or actions that contribute to the implementation of the GLWQA and the achievement of its general and specific objectives will be invited to participate on the GLEC, including federal agencies, state and provincial governments, tribal governments, First Nations, Métis, municipal governments, watershed management agencies, and other local public agencies.

Canada Members	United States Members
<p><i>Federal Agencies and Departments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and Climate Change Canada - <u>Canadian GLEC Co-Chair</u> • Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada • Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency • Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission • Fisheries and Oceans Canada • Global Affairs Canada • Health Canada • Infrastructure Canada • National Energy Board • Natural Resources Canada • Parks Canada • Public Services and Procurement Canada • Transport Canada 	<p><i>Federal Agencies and Departments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agency - <u>U.S. GLEC Co-Chair</u> • Department of Agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Forest Service • Natural Resources Conservation Service • Department of the Interior <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau of Indian Affairs • U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service • U.S. Geological Survey • U.S. National Park Service • Council on Environmental Quality • Department of Commerce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration • Department of Defense <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Army Corps of Engineers • Department of Health and Human Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry • Department of Homeland Security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Coast Guard

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Housing and Urban Development • Department of State • Department of Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Highway Administration • Maritime Administration
<i>Provincial Agencies</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs • Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change • Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry 	<i>States</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minnesota • Wisconsin • Illinois • Indiana • Michigan • Ohio • Pennsylvania • New York
<i>First Nations</i> <i>Métis</i>	<i>Tribal Governments</i>
<i>Canadian Municipalities and/or their representatives</i>	<i>U.S. Municipalities and/or their representatives</i>
<i>Canadian watershed and other local public agencies and/or their representatives</i>	<i>U.S. watershed and other local public agencies and/or their representatives</i>

4. SECRETARIAT SUPPORT

A Secretariat, composed of the Manager of the Canadian Great Lakes National Program Office, Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Director (or delegate) of the Great Lakes National Program Office, U.S. EPA, with the assistance of their respective staffs, shall support the GLEC Co-Chairs and have the following responsibilities:

- Preparations for GLEC meetings, including the development of:
 - an agenda, to be approved by the GLEC Co-Chairs, with input from members and Annex subcommittee co-leads;
 - briefing packages; and
 - meeting notices and summaries.
- Recording GLEC meeting results/minutes.
- Consolidating strategic input and advice provided during GLEC discussions.
- Tracking Annex subcommittee workplan activities.

December 20, 2012, as amended on May 10, 2023

- Managing GLEC agendas and tasks within the context of the Triennial Management Cycle and other strategic directions as provided by GLEC Co-Chairs.
- Overseeing and tracking progress and activities pursuant to the *GLWQA* Articles.
- Any other activities as determined by the GLEC Co-chairs necessary for binational coordination during the implementation of the *GLWQA*.

5. PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, COMMISSIONS AND OTHER OBSERVERS

The Province of Quebec and the following Commissions shall be represented at GLEC meetings:

- Great Lakes Commission
- Great Lakes Fishery Commission
- International Joint Commission

Non-governmental organizations interested in attending GLEC meetings may request observer status. Non-governmental organizations that have been recognized as Observers and that shall be represented at GLEC meetings are listed in Appendix A, which will be updated on an as-needed basis.

6. GLEC MEETINGS

GLEC meetings shall be open to the public.

APPENDIX A

LIST OF OBSERVERS – last updated May 10, 2023

Canada Observers	United States Observers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canadian Environmental Law Association• Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters• Georgian Bay Association• Georgian Bay Forever• Great Lakes Ecoregion Network• Great Lakes Policy Research Network• Invasive Species Centre• Freshwater Future• SOS Great Lakes• Toxics Free Great Lakes Network (binational organization)• Pollution Probe• Environmental Defence• Water Institute, University of Waterloo• Blue Fish Canada• Ontario Aquaculture Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alliance for the Great Lakes• Council of Great Lakes Industries• National Wildlife Federation• Ohio Environmental Council• Council of Great Lakes Governors• Benedictine Sisters of Erie, PA• Northeast Midwest Institute• Council of the Great Lakes Region• Lake Erie Waterkeeper• The Nature Conservancy• Toxics Free Great Lakes Network (binational organization)