

Lake Michigan Stakeholders

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name shall be “**Lake Michigan Stakeholders**” unless vote to change by steering committee.

ARTICLE II: VISION, MISSION AND PURPOSE STATEMENT

Vision Statement

A diverse network of Wisconsin stakeholders working together to ensure that Lake Michigan and the resources of the basin are environmentally sustainable and economically viable for present and future generations.

Mission Statement

Recognizing that while individual special interests groups have unique agendas related to the Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan basin, the health and viability of the lake and it’s basin as a resource is held in common to all of the groups. This group recognizes that it is in the best interest of all the member groups and the State of Wisconsin to work together to promote and protect those ideas and actions that are held in common.

For the Wisconsin portion of the Lake Michigan Basin we will:

- Establish an action plan based on a common set of goals and priorities to implement the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration
- Strive for consensus to provide consistent and reliable guidance for policy makers
- Promote a stewardship ethic among all constituents

ARTICLE III: BENEFITS

The ultimate benefit is the successful restoration of Lake Michigan by aligning stakeholder efforts along a common set of priorities to ensure that shared goals are achieved.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION

We seek to involve all individuals, organizations, businesses, and government agencies in the Lake Michigan Basin who want to protect and restore the Lake Michigan watershed.

Each individual or organization may determine how much participation they will provide within the stakeholder group. However, members are expected to do the following:

- Attend LMS events
- Comment upon and approve Annual Action Plan
- Nominate and elect Steering Committee Members
- Help set annual priorities through an annual survey assessment
- Share expertise, contribute or collaborate
- Explore synergies
- Educate by sharing LMS messages
- Recruit new members

STEERING COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

The Steering Committee is the principal decision making body for the Lake Michigan Stakeholders.

Members:

- Attend meetings (must be present to vote but phone-in conference calls are allowed)
- Prepare for meetings
- Participate in decision making
- Provide fiscal authority and responsibility
- Provide visioning and strategic planning
- Elect Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary
- Develop press releases
- Recruit Membership

STEERING COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

To have representation from the following groups with a maximum of 3 from any group, and 8 - 15 members total.

Federal/State Agencies
Tribal Nations
County Governments
Municipal Governments
Special Districts
Research/Universities

Regional Planning Commissions
Non-Governmental Organizations
Fish & Game Clubs
Educational and Outreach Organizations
Private Sector
Members-at-Large

Steering Committee Member Selection

- Nomination (both self-nomination and nomination by second party)
- Steering Committee Membership will be for up to two, 2-year terms;
- For current members, 2011 will constitute a voluntary first year of a two-year term;
- Terms operate on the calendar year beginning Jan. 1, 2010;
- A 1-year break will be required after serving two, 2-year terms;
- Voted on by membership and annual fall meeting of the LMS.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1. It is the responsibility of the officers to know as much as possible about the organization's origins, aims and purposes and to attend as much as is reasonably possible, all LMS meetings.

Chair

- Must be re-elected by the Steering Committee every two years;
- Any Steering Committee member can run for Chair;
- Run meetings;
- Formulate and post agenda with decision points noted 3 days prior to meeting
- Serve as liaison with Lake Michigan Forum
- Networking and communication
- Coordinate fiscal authority and accountability
- Recruit LMS Membership
- Develop and distribute news releases

Vice Chair

- Vice Chair fills in for Chair when Chair is absent
- Coordinates logistics of meetings
- Performs monthly website updates
- Fiscal support
- Recruits LMS Membership
- Recruits Steering Committee Members

Secretary

- With Vice Chair, performs monthly updates on website
- Completes and distributes minutes
- Posts agendas three days prior to any meeting
- Maintains mailing list maintenance,
- Distributes news releases

Section 2. Officers shall be elected at the fall LMS meeting and shall hold office for one two-year term.

Section 3. Vacancies. When a vacancy of an office exists, any existing officer from the steering committee membership may receive nominations at least two weeks in advance of a scheduled meeting. These nominations shall be sent out to the membership with the regular meeting announcement, to be voted upon at the next steering committee meeting. Vacancies will be filled only to the end of the open term.

Section 4. Resignations. Resignations must be in writing and received by the Secretary or other officers.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 1. Frequency, date and location of regular LMS meetings shall be determined by the Membership at the current meeting.

Section 2. Structure of meetings will be based on the following guidelines:

Ground Rules For Steering Committee Meetings:

- 1) Participate -- be an active participant
- 2) Offer off-site participation at LMS Steering Committee meetings for those who cannot be there in person, e.g. conference calling
- 3) Take notes and provide to committee members, especially absent members
- 4) Note & capture decision-making points and then move on
- 5) Don't monopolize conversation
- 6) Adhere to meeting agenda
- 7) Respect group decision-making process and one another's comments and ideas
- 8) Come prepared for meetings
- 9) Establish meeting frequency.

Process for Decision Making;

- 1) Strive for consensus as much as possible
- 2) If not consensus, then majority = 2/3 of Steering Committee or Strategic Planning Group
- 3) Decision points need to be on agenda which will come out 3 working days ahead of time
- 4) A quorum will be 50% plus one of Steering Committee or Planning Group; includes phone participants
- 5) E-votes are allowed; directed e-mail will be sent out on specific issues/votes
- 6) Attendance – 3 consecutive, unexplained absences will allow the Steering Committee to consider replacements
- 7) We will strive to e-mail Steering Committee minutes to LMS members and post agenda on website (once established) within 3 working days.

Section 3. Meetings. The Steering Committee should meet every other month or at least six times per year. The broader Lake Michigan Stakeholders membership should meet at least three times per year. Agendas shall be developed by the steering committee and should at a minimum follow these guidelines:

Winter meetings: Approve Annual Action Plan and Endorse Recommended (by steering committee) Projects

Spring meetings: Project Reports and Review of Annual Assessment Survey

Fall meetings: Elect Steering Committee and Review Funding Opportunities

Section 4: Special Meetings. Special meetings can be called by Chair and Vice-Chair.

Section 5. Notice. Notice of each meeting shall be given to the membership by either mail or electronic message (email). The notice shall state the date, time and place of the meeting and, if a special meeting, the purpose of the meeting.

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all active steering committee members present after being distributed to all members in writing at least three days prior. The proposed amendments are to be submitted to the membership in writing and read at one meeting prior to being voted upon.

ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES

Overarching Purpose and Action Plan is defined by the **Wisconsin Great Lakes Strategy: Restoring and Protecting our Great Lakes**. Note that Federal strategies can also be reviewed and acted upon.

IMPLEMENTATION

Wisconsin Strategy: Continue to promote and support the breadth of projects already contributing to Great Lakes restoration. Make every attempt to move a significant number of additional implementation projects into a much more active phase with the aid of federal funding opportunities newly available or proposed at the time of publication. Seek implementation approaches that are flexible and adaptive, able to respond to the dynamic and evolving nature of funding availability, with the goal of implementing restoration and protection consistent with this strategy at the forefront.

PRIORITIES

WATER MANAGEMENT

Ensure the sustainable use of our water resources while confirming that the States retain authority over water use and diversions of Great Lakes waters.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Stop the introduction and spread of non-native aquatic invasive species.

HABITAT AND SPECIES

Enhance fish and wildlife by restoring and protecting coastal wetlands, fish and wildlife habitats.

COASTAL HEALTH

Promote programs to protect human health against adverse effects of pollution in the Great Lakes ecosystem.

AREAS OF CONCERN / CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

Restore to environmental health the Areas of Concern identified by the International Joint Commission as needing remediation.

NONPOINT POLLUTION

Control pollution from diffuse sources into water, land and air.

PERSISTENT BIOACCUMULATIVE TOXINS (PBT)

Continue to reduce the introduction of PBTs into the Great Lakes ecosystem.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Adopt sustainable use practices that protect environmental resources and enhance the recreational and commercial value of our Great Lakes.

INDICATORS AND INFORMATION

Standardize and enhance the methods by which information is collected, recorded and shared within the region.