



Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus

Quarterly Web Meeting

December 13, 2019 | 10 am EST/9 am CST



**GREAT LAKES-ST. LAWRENCE
LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS**



MIDWEST

Webinar Technology

- This event is being recorded. The recording will be available later today at www.greatlakeslegislators.org.
- All lines will be in listen-only mode during the presentations.
- To ask a question:
 - Raise your hand
 - Type into the “questions” pane
 - Email your question to glc@csg.org
- Lines will be unmuted as needed during the discussion period.
- If you are calling in and wish to speak, you must enter the audio PIN.

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Senator Ann Rest (Minnesota), Past Chair of the GLLC

Featured Presentation:

Key Great Lakes-Related Policy Developments to Follow in 2020

Joel Brammeier, President & CEO, Alliance for the Great Lakes

Business Session

Report from the Task Force on Nutrients

Senator André Jacque (Wisconsin), Task Force Chair

2020 Annual Meeting in Detroit

Location Announcement for the 2021 Annual Meeting

MNA Gilles Bélanger (Québec), GLLC Executive Committee

About the GLLC

- Organized around the principle of assuring that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River continue to provide a plentiful source of clean, affordable water to the region's residents, businesses, and industries.



GLLC Policy Agenda

- Water Consumption
- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Toxic Substances
- Nutrient Pollution
- Coastal Communities



Featured Speaker

Joel Brammeier

President & CEO

Alliance for the Great Lakes

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ALLIANCE *for the*
GREAT LAKES
Protecting Water, Sustaining Life

Great Lakes Policy 2020

Great Lakes Legislative Caucus
December 13, 2019

Joel Brammeier, President & CEO

Today's Discussion

- About the Alliance for the Great Lakes
- Great Lakes Policy Agenda 2020
 - Invasive Species
 - Agriculture & Algae
 - Water Infrastructure
 - Lake Levels
 - The 2020 Election
- How You Can Help
- Q&A

*“Our Vision is a healthy
Great Lakes for all
people and wildlife,
forever.”*

About the Alliance

Nonprofit nonpartisan U.S.-based NGO

Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit, Cleveland, Buffalo

Expertise on policy, government affairs, urban planning,
communications and organizing

Engage and activate tens of thousands of advocates
and volunteers annually

Celebrating Our 50th Anniversary in 2020!

The Great Lakes Basin





THE GREAT
LAKES
CONTAIN
20%
OF THE
EARTH'S
SURFACE
FRESH
WATER





To Lake Michigan 

Boat Launches,
Upstream and Downstream

Flushing Lock

Engineering Channel extends from
existing walls, Acoustic Fish Deterrent

Support Facilities

Fish Entrainment
Deterrent

Electric Dispersal Barrier in
Engineering Channel

Boat Launches: Provides access for nonstructural measures, safety and OMRR&R.

Flushing Lock: Flushes floating life stages from the Lock.

Acoustic Fish Deterrent: Underwater sounds to deter targeted fish

Engineering Channel: Creates a concrete channel without fish habitat. Increases the effectiveness and reduces the impacts of some measures and is a platform for future technologies.

Electric Dispersal Barrier: Creates an electric field that deters fish.

Fish Entrainment Deterrent: Bubble curtain removes small and stunned fish entrained in spaces between barges.

Support Facilities: Infrastructure to support operations and maintenance of controls.

How to Help

- Tell Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker to sign the “design agreement” between IL and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Support authorization of construction of the Brandon Road Lock and Dam Project in the federal 2020 Water Resources Development Act
- Pass state resolutions indicating support



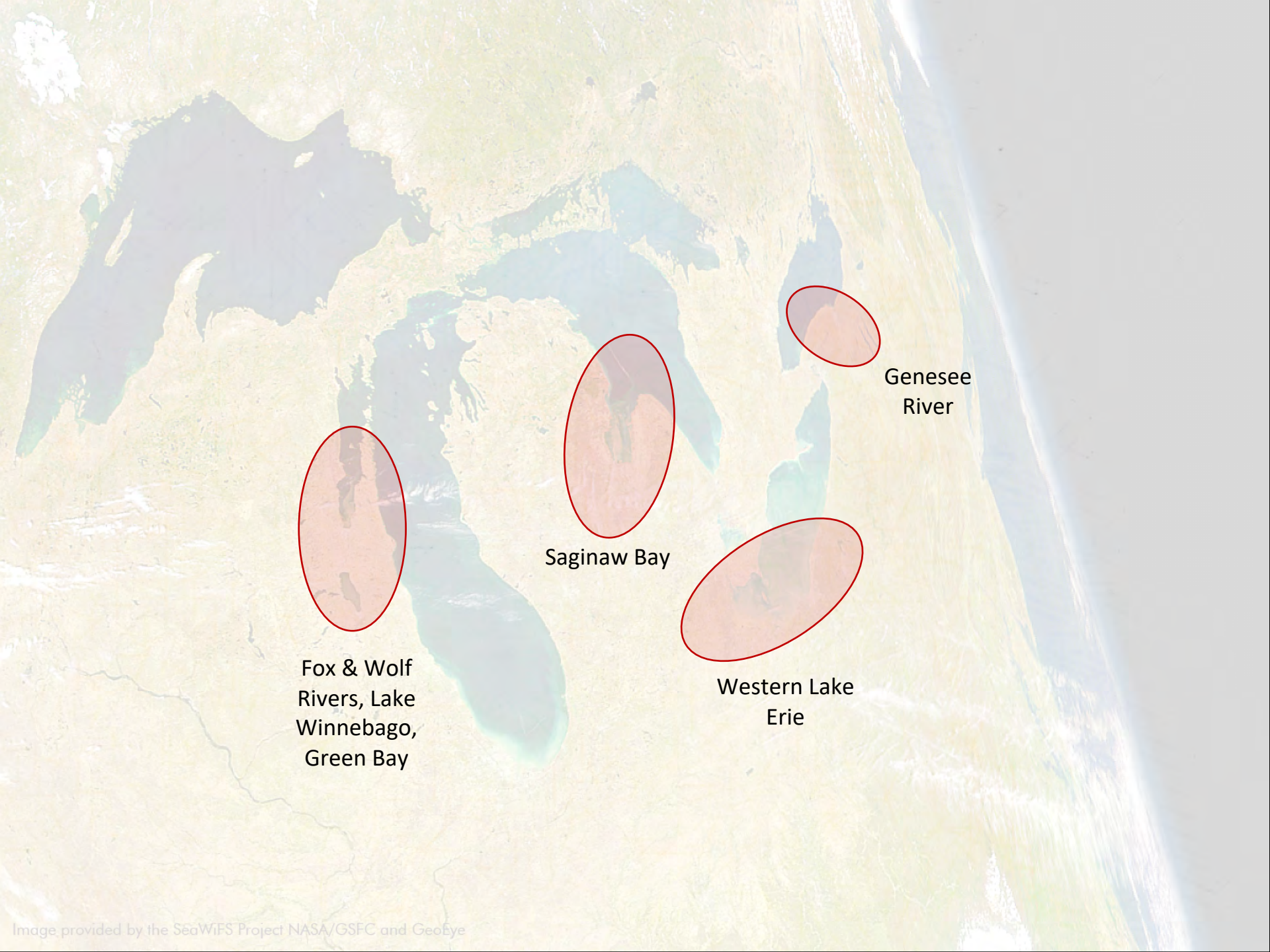
Ballast water: the front door for invasive species. Credit: FedNav

How to Help

- Comment on U.S. EPA VGP when published – Alliance will provide guidance
- Support funding of Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Invasive Species program at \$50 million – research on laker treatment options, and early detection/rapid response programs
- Support Minnesota's leadership on applying water quality standards to lakers



Lake Erie Algae Bloom. Credit: International Joint Commission



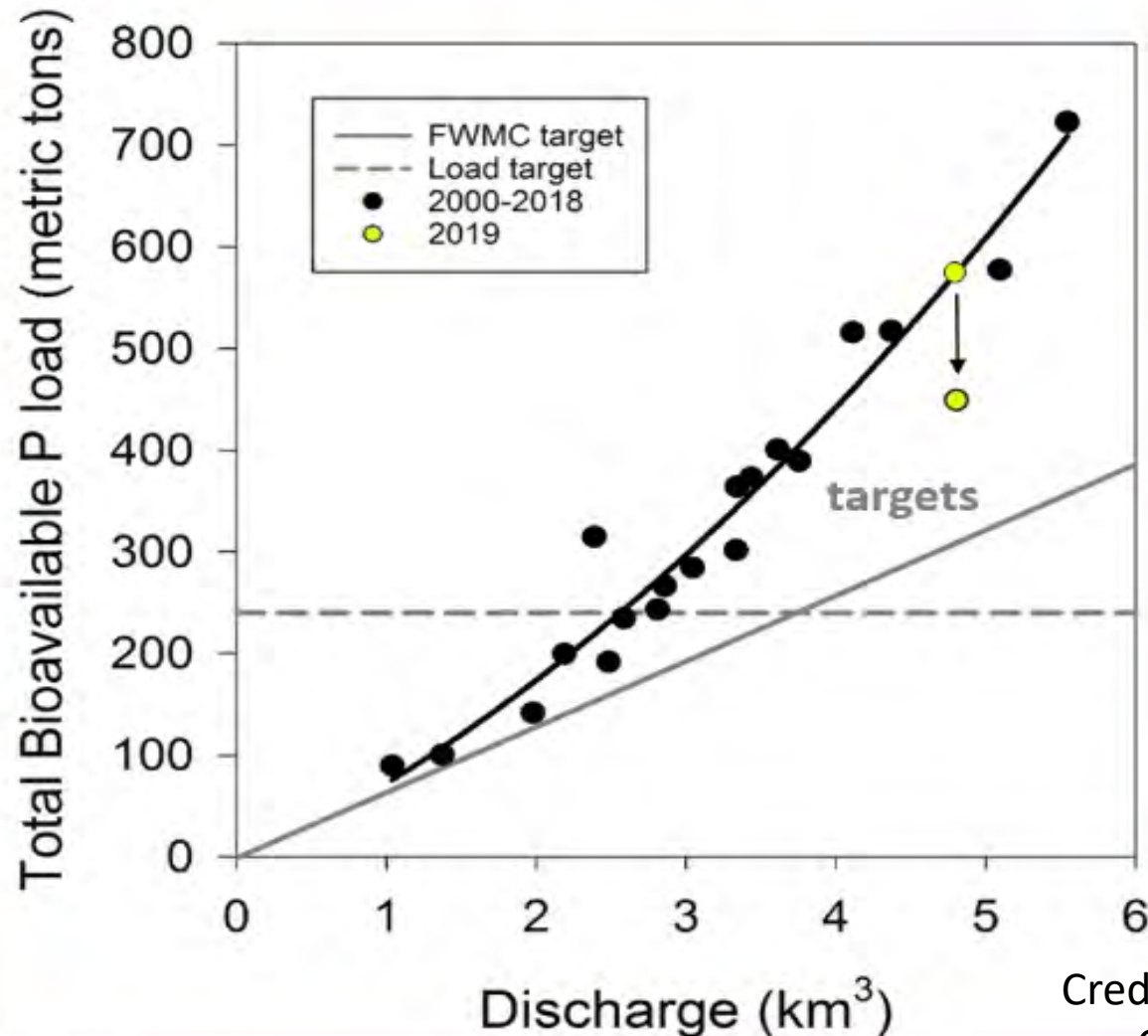
Fox & Wolf
Rivers, Lake
Winnebago,
Green Bay

Saginaw Bay

Western Lake
Erie

Genesee
River

TBP loads are 24% lower than expected based on flow



Credit: Dr. Chris Winslow,
Ohio Sea Grant - OSU

How to Help

- Hold all pollution sources – urban and agricultural – to account for implementation of existing plans such as the Lower Fox River “pollution diet” for Green Bay or Annex 4 of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement for Lake Erie
- Tie state conservation program spending, such as H2Ohio, to water quality outcomes and only pay for practices that demonstrate success
- Support new regulations and governance structures around agriculture where gaps exist, such as in Lake Erie
- Michigan concentrated animal feeding operations general permit comments due 12/18
- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) or “Pollution Diet” for Lake Erie



Ensuring Access to Safe, Clean and Affordable Drinking Water

WATER AFFORDABILITY IN OHIO

IDENTIFIED ISSUES

PAYING FOR BASIC WATER AND SEWER SERVICES IS A CHALLENGE FOR MANY OHIOANS.

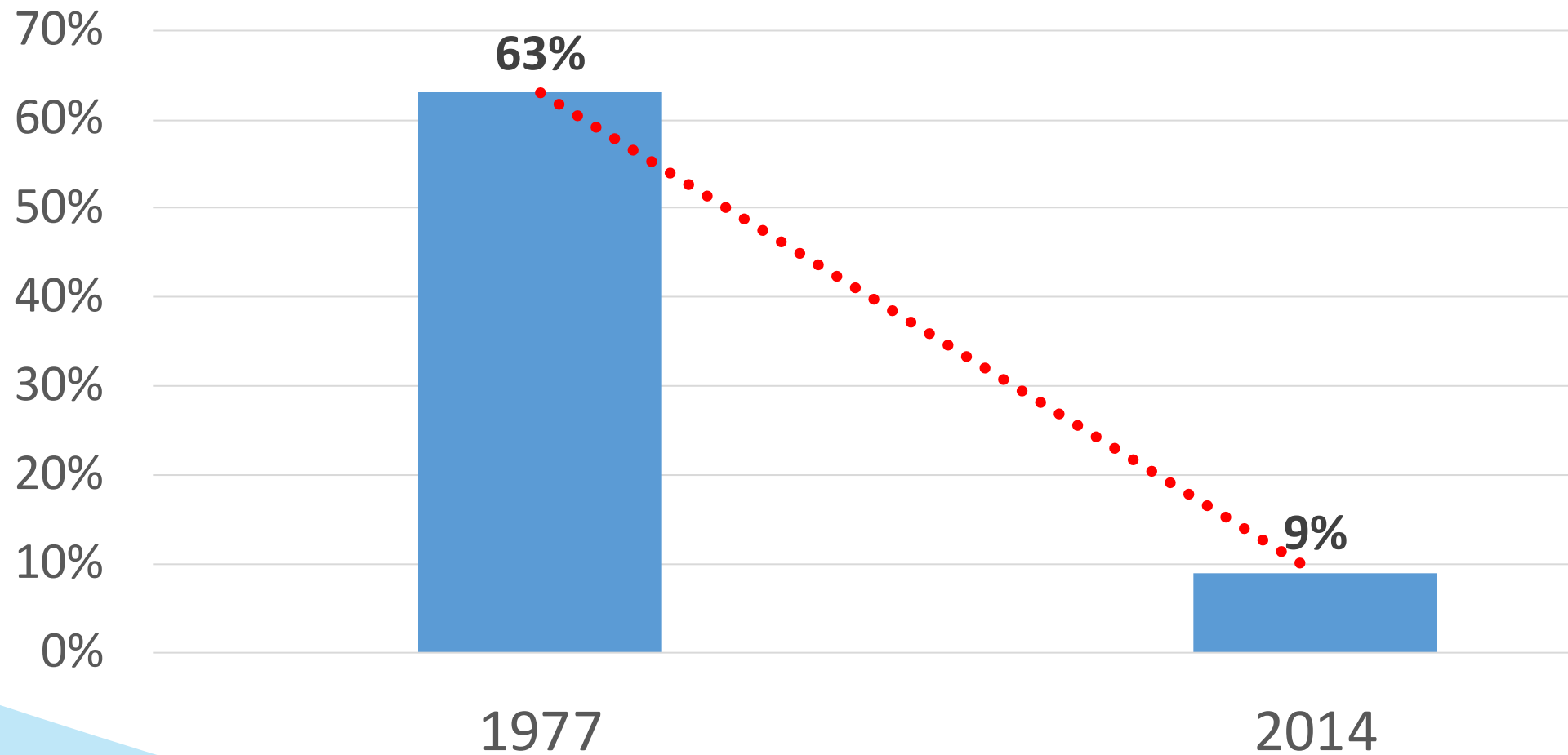
New research assessing the affordability of basic water and sewer prices across the state of Ohio found:

- In nearly 80% of Ohio communities, a month of basic water and sewer service requires more than eight hours of labor at minimum wage. In about 45% of Ohio communities a household at the 20th income percentile must pay more than 10% of disposable income for basic water and sewer service.
- Water affordability in Ohio is not specific to urban, suburban, or rural communities.
- There is no evidence that water and sewer affordability is entirely a racial or ethnic issue in Ohio. And, the report finds that affordability is strongly correlated with income inequality.

IN OHIO

PAYING BASIC WATER & SEWER SERVICE EACH MONTH COSTS THE EQUIVALENT OF 8-10 HOURS OF MINIMUM WAGE LABOR.

Percentage of total water infrastructure spending



Credit: Healing Our Waters Coalition

GREAT LAKES WATER AND SEWER PRICES ANNUAL COST

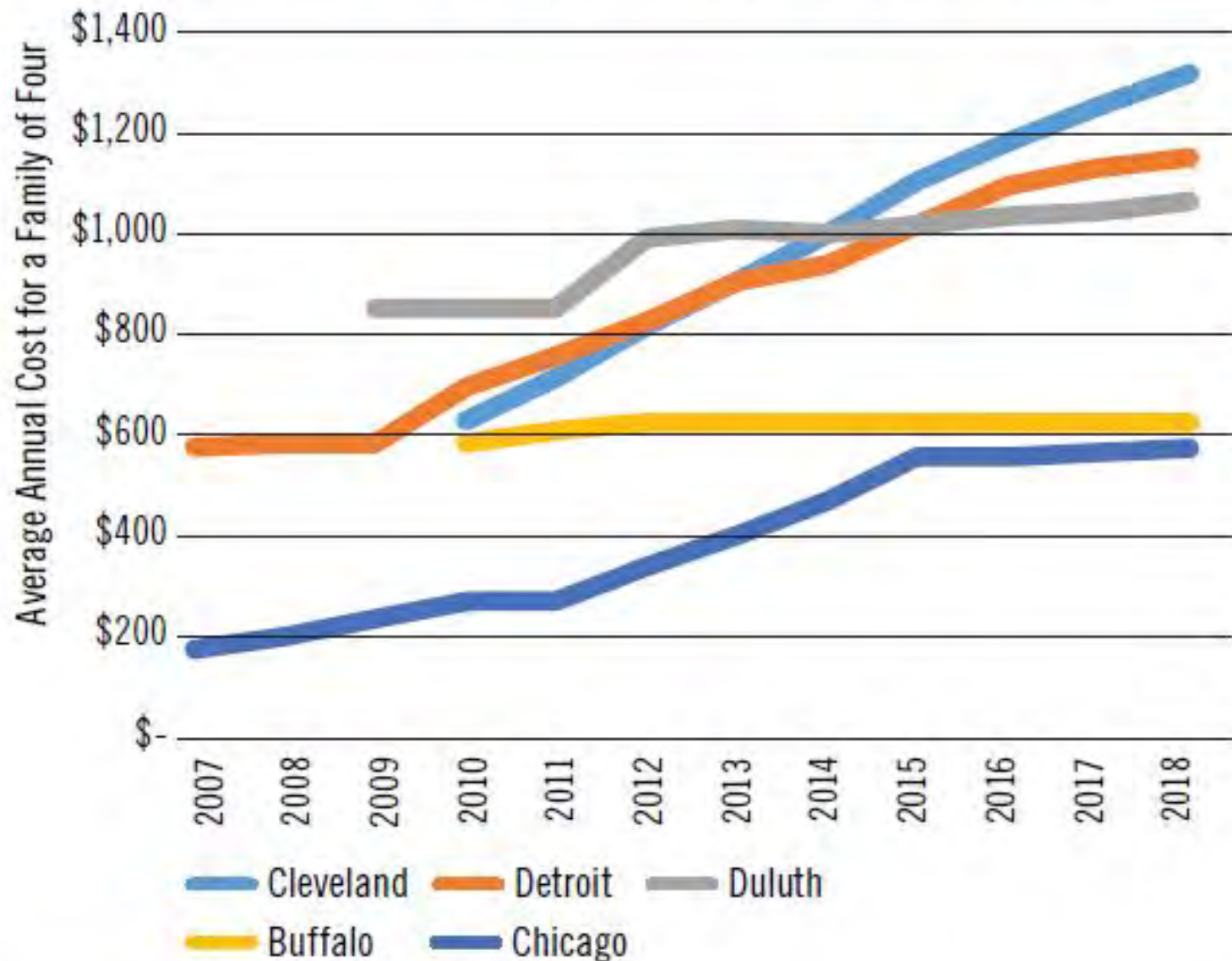


Chart data from American Public Media in collaboration with Great Lakes Today and NPR. "So Close, Yet So Costly: In cities on the Great Lakes, water pipes are crumbling and poor people are paying the price." <https://www.apmreports.org/story/2019/02/07/great-lakes-water-shutoffs>

How to Help

- H.R. 1497 – Water Quality and Job Creation Act. It would:
 - Reauthorize the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which provides low-interest financing to states for sewage and stormwater projects
 - Mandate a 15 percent set-aside for green infrastructure and energy & water efficiency initiatives
 - Mandate that 10 percent of annual funds to states be provided as grants to communities with affordability concerns
 - Authorization level should be increased – currently starts at \$2.4 B in 2021.



Lake Levels Reaching Record Highs – Rogers Park, Chicago. Credit: Chicago Tribune

How to Help

- Fund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Resiliency Study
 - Identify built and natural areas most susceptible to extreme volatility in lake levels
 - Can help identify opportunities for new investment in coastal infrastructure
 - Only requires \$1.2 M to get started!
 - Prepare now for when lake levels go down

2020 Elections

- Opportunity to set a Great Lakes regional agenda for candidates
 - Fund Great Lakes restoration and water infrastructure
 - Stop invasive species
 - Strengthen clean water standards
 - Reduce pollution from agriculture
- Healing Our Waters presidential platform:
<https://healthylakes.org/great-lakes-platform-for-2020/>
- Great Lakes Governors (5 of 8) 2020 Presidential agenda:
https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90640-502798--m_2019_3,00.html

- Great Lakes Voter Toolkit – Update coming spring 2020:
<https://greatlakes.org/2018midterms/>



Protect the
Great Lakes
this Election
Season

Summary of Actions

- Now – Increase funding levels and support policy changes in H.R. 1497 – Reauthorize and improve the Clean Water State Revolving Fund
- Now – Tell U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to fund Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study
- Now – Tell IL Gov. J.B. Pritzker to sign design agreement for Brandon Road project
- Early 2020 – U.S. EPA Vessel General Permit for ballast water out for comment
- Now through Spring 2020 – Support authorization of Brandon Road Lock and Dam construction in federal Water Resources Development Act – tell your member of Congress and Senators and pass state resolutions
- March 4 – 5th – Great Lakes Days in Washington, D.C. – a great time to register your support for increasing the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding authorization and for full annual appropriations of \$300+ million
- July 2020 – Lake Erie algae bloom forecast will likely demonstrate we will not meet 20 percent interim phosphorus reduction goal – get aggressive for 2025

Thank you!

Joel Brammeier

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Business Session

- Report from the Task Force on Nutrients
- 2020 Annual Meeting in Detroit
- Location Announcement for the 2021 Annual Meeting

Task Force on Nutrients

- Background
 - 21 GLLC Members form the Task Force on Nutrients
 - 2019 Birkholz Institute on Reducing Nutrient Pollution
- Outcomes
 - Resolution
 - Action Plan
 - Model Policy



Task Force on Nutrients

- Webinar and Workshop in 2020
- Assistance from the Great Lakes Commission
- Made possible by a grant from



Fred A. and Barbara M.
Erb Family Foundation



2020 Annual Meeting

- September 18-19 in Detroit at the Westin Book Cadillac Hotel
- Election of officers and Executive Committee members
- Early registration for GLLC members will open on June 1
- Travel scholarships may be available for active GLLC members



Committees & Task Forces

- Executive Committee (elected)
- Task Force on Lead
- Task Force on Nutrients
- Task Force on Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Appreciation Day
- Nominating Committee
- Committee on GLLC 2020 Priorities



2021 Annual Meeting

- The National Assembly of Québec will host in Québec City

