



Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus Web Meeting

June 7, 2019 | 10 am EST/9 am CST



GREAT LAKES-ST. LAWRENCE
LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS



MIDWEST

Housekeeping

- This event is being recorded. The recording will be available later today at www.greatlakeslegislators.org
- To reduce noise on the phone lines, all participants will be in “listen-only” mode during the presentations.
- There will be time for questions after the presentations.
 - Click on the “raise hand” icon in the webinar console, or
 - Type questions using the “questions” pane in the webinar console.
- If you wish to speak, you must enter the audio PIN.

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Senator Ed Charbonneau (Indiana), GLLC Chair

Featured Presentations

Federal Update: *Matthew McKenna, Director, Great Lakes Washington Program
Northeast-Midwest Institute*

Reports on State and Provincial Legislation: *Members of the GLLC Executive
Committee*

Business Session

Report from the Task Force on Lead

Representative Jennifer Schultz (Minnesota)

Invitation to 2019 Annual Meeting in Chicago

Representative Robyn Gabel (Illinois), GLLC Vice Chair

About the GLLC

- Binational, nonpartisan group of state and provincial lawmakers from the Great Lakes region.
- 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.



Featured Speaker

Matthew McKenna

Director

Great Lakes Washington Program

Northeast-Midwest Institute

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Federal Legislative Update

Matthew McKenna

Director, Great Lakes Washington Program

June 7, 2019

Key Regional Appropriators

- House Defense Subcommittee
 - Chairman Peter Visclosky (IN)
- House Energy and Water Subcommittee
 - Chairwoman Marcy Kaptur (OH)
- House Interior and Environment Subcommittee
 - Chairwoman Betty McCollum (MN)
 - Ranking member David Joyce (OH)
- Senate Defense Subcommittee
 - Ranking member Dick Durbin (IL)

FY 2020 Appropriations Process

- New House majority looking to pass all of the annual appropriations bills before it recesses for summer.
 - House approved 302(b) allocations early in May.
 - House Appropriations Committee has moved ten out of the twelve appropriations bills out of the full Committee.
 - The full House is expected to take up its first “minibus” appropriations bill, which will likely of five appropriations bills, that will include Labor-HHS-Education, Legislative Branch, Defense, State-Foreign Operations, and Energy and Water Development.
- The Senate Appropriations Committee has not marked up any of their drafts and are still holding oversight hearings.
 - Senate has not yet approved their 302(b) allocations.
 - Senate appropriators are hoping to strike a two-year bipartisan budget agreement on overall spending between Congress and the Administration, that would lift spending caps and raise domestic and defense spending for FY20 & FY21.
 - If no deal is found, the Senate could simply set funding levels at current FY19 levels.

House Interior Appropriations Bill

- The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) – Is funded at \$320 million.
 - As EPA distributes funds across the five focus areas, tribal related activities should be maintained at not less than \$15 million.
 - Supports ongoing work to reduce the growth of HABs and encourages targeting of watersheds that could pose a threat to human health in drinking water.
 - Notes that VIDA placed the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Invasive species program in the GLNPO and urges the EPA to prioritize efforts to reduce the risk of introduction of invasive species in the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain, using funds from the appropriate Geographic Program.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - \$485,000 to implement the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act.
 - \$11.6 million for Asian carp control, of which \$2 million is to expand the use of contract fishing.
 - \$1.01 million sea lamprey administrative costs.
- U.S. Geological Survey
 - \$8.62 million for Asian carp control, of which \$3 million is for grass carp research.
 - \$3 million increase for the USGS Great Lakes Science Center for new biological assessment tools and technology.
 - \$4.97 million for HABs research.

Interior (continued)

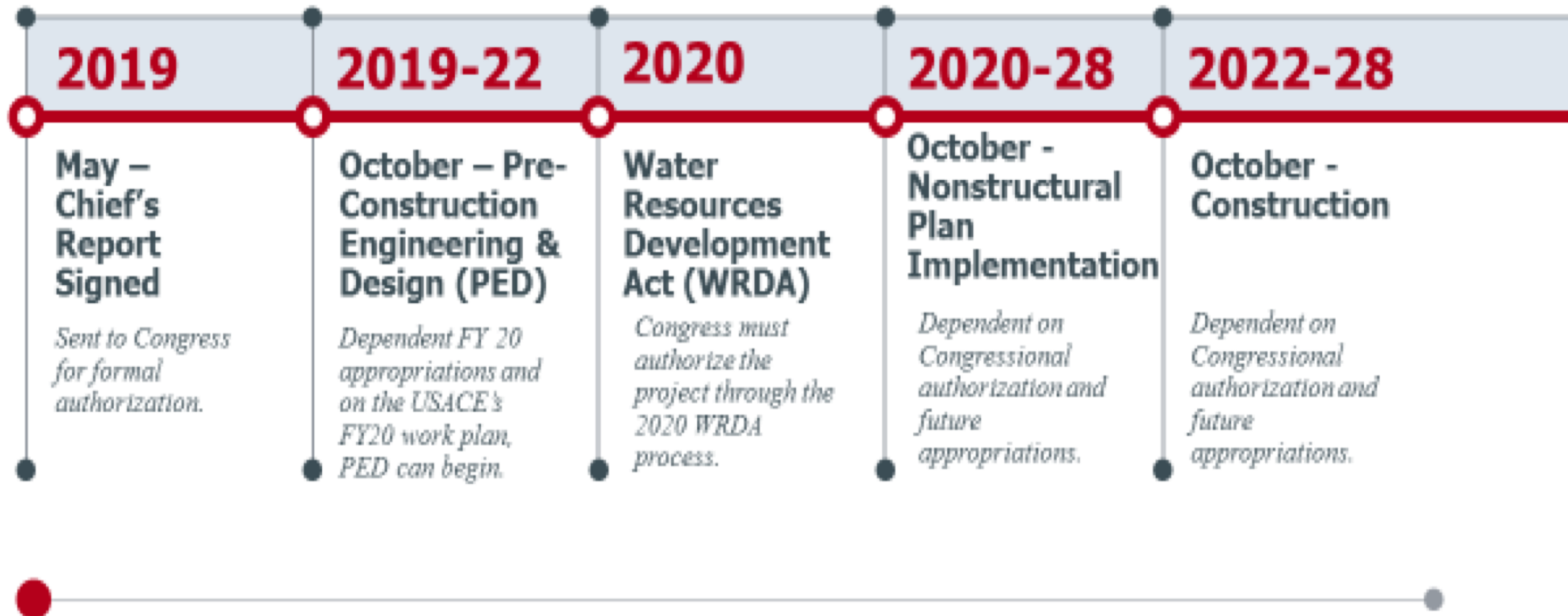
Other key accounts

- Clean Water SRF: \$1.784 billion
- Drinking Water SRF: \$1.3 billion
- Sec. 106 Clean Water State Grants: \$240.8 million
- Sec. 221 Sewer Overflow Grants: \$90 million
- Sec. 319 Grants: \$175.9 million

FY20 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill

- The Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) – the bill provides \$50,000, which is the same as the Administration’s request.
- Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Dispersal Barrier – the bill provides \$13.94 million of the O&M of the electric fish barriers, which is the same as the Administration’s request.
- Asian Carp:
 - Congress included additional funding for the Corps in the Investigations account, in which the Brandon Road Recommended Plan is eligible to compete for preconstruction engineering and design (PED) funding. As the Corps prioritizes projects, it shall consider critical projects to prevent the spread of invasive species, that includes Brandon Road.
 - The Corps shall continue to collaborate at levels commensurate with previous years with the USCG, the USFWS, the State of Illinois, and members of the ACRCC, including to identify navigation protocols that would be beneficial or effective in reducing the risk of vessels inadvertently carrying aquatic invasive species, including Asian carp, through the Brandon Road Lock and Dam.
- \$75.5 million for the construction of a new lock at Sault Ste Marie (Soo Lock).
- Midwest Flooding – Report language was included emphasizing the 2019 spring flooding in the Midwest is a reminder of the importance of flood risk management efforts at the federal, state, and local levels.
- Aquatic Nuisance Research Programs – The bill includes an additional \$4 million to supplement activities related to harmful algal blooms.
- Coastal Resilience Study – The bill acknowledges the Corps role in managing flood risk and threats from Coastal hazards, and directs the Comptroller general to provide Congress with recommendations on how to increase the Corp’s capacity to repair and maintain existing projects before they deteriorate.

Brandon Road Timeline



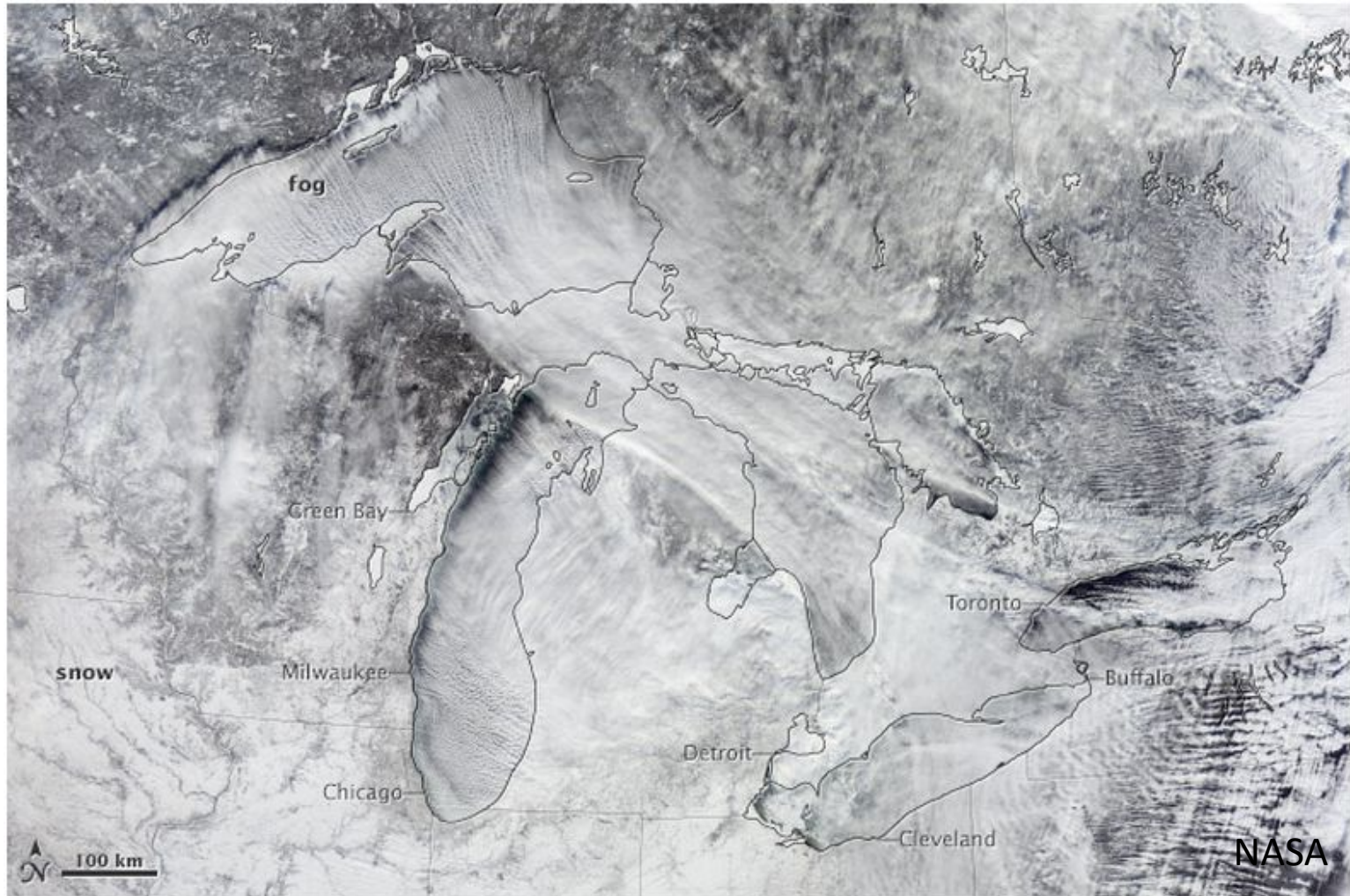
Infrastructure Bills

- Comprehensive infrastructure package
 - Democrats were pushing for a \$2 trillion package.
 - Talks between Congress and the Administration have largely broken down.
 - Instead, Congress will likely look to move infrastructure through a six-year surface transportation authorization that is set to expire in October 2020.
- The Leading Infrastructure For Tomorrow's (LIFT) America Act
 - \$40 billion for the deployment of secure and resilient broadband.
 - \$22.56 billion for drinking water infrastructure.
 - Over \$17 billion for energy infrastructure.
 - More than \$3 billion for healthcare infrastructure.
 - \$2.7 billion for Brownfields redevelopment

The Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA)

- Passed as part of the Coast Guard Authorization that was signed into law last Fall.
- Bipartisan agreement reached that gives:
 - EPA the lead role in establishing national standards for discharges.
 - The Coast Guard will have the primary role for monitoring and enforcing these standards and ensuring vessel safety.
- Several key Great Lakes provisions that were negotiated by Senators Stabenow and Portman (Great Lakes Task Force Co-Chairs):
 - Allows Great Lakes states to cooperatively establish unique and more stringent ballast water standards or best management practice (BMP).
 - Authorizing \$50 million annually for a new Great Lakes monitoring program within the EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office.

Questions



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Business Session

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Regional Roundtable



**Senator Ed
Charbonneau
Indiana, GLLC Chair**



**Senator Laura Fine
Illinois**



**Representative
Jennifer Schultz
Minnesota**



**Assemblyman
Peter Lawrence
New York**



**Representative
Michael Sheehy
Ohio**



**MPP Jennifer
French
Ontario**



**Representative
Curt Sonney
Pennsylvania**



**Representative
Beth Meyers
Wisconsin**

Business Session

- Report from the Task Force on Lead
- Invitation to 2019 Annual Meeting in Chicago

Task Force on Lead

- Elements of Model Policy were approved by the Executive Committee in April
 - Test all schools (5 ppb)
 - Test all licensed day care centers (5 ppb)
 - Encourage municipalities to conduct lead service line inventories



Task Force on Lead

- **Educational Activities**
 - Task Force Workshop on September 13 (Chicago)
 - Session at GLLC Annual Meeting on September 14 (Chicago)
- **Made possible by a grant from the Joyce Foundation**



2019 Annual Meeting

- September 13-14 in Chicago at the Wyndham Grand Riverfront Hotel
- Early registration for GLLC members opened June 3
- September 13 site visit will focus on efforts to prevent the spread of Asian carp and other aquatic invasive species
- All-day meeting on September 14



Thank you for attending!

***Please join us at this same
time on September 6, 2019.***

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