



Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus 2025 Annual Meeting

Aloft South Bend
South Bend, IN
September 15-16, 2025

Agenda

Illinois Senator Laura Fine, GLLC Chair, Presiding

Monday, September 15

- 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Registration**
Outside of the Ballrooms
- 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. **Task Force Breakfast**
Ballroom 1
- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Task Force on Emerging Contaminants Workshop**
Ballroom 4
Sandy Wynn-Stelt, Co-Chair, Great Lakes PFAS Action Network
Matthew Child, Physical Scientist, International Joint Commission
- 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. **Task Force Lunch**
Ballroom 1
- 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. **GLLC Executive Committee Meeting and Lunch**
Ballroom 4
- 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. **Site Visit: City of South Bend Smart Sewers and the St. Joseph River**
A bus will take attendees to site visit points of interest
Kieran Fahey, Director, Long-term Control Plan, City of South Bend
Matthew Meersman, Director, St. Joseph River Basin Commission
- 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. **Opening Reception**
Century Center
120 S Doctor MLK Jr Blvd
South Bend, IN 46601
A bus will shuttle attendees from the hotel to the reception venue



Tuesday, September 16

- 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Registration**
Outside of the Ballrooms
- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. **Member Breakfast**
Ballroom 1
- 9:00 – 9:15 a.m. **Welcome and Introductions**
Ballroom 4
Illinois Senator Laura Fine, GLLC Chair
- 9:15 – 10:00 a.m. **GLLC Business Meeting**
Ballroom 4
- **Chair Report**
Illinois Senator Laura Fine, Chair, GLLC
 - **Director Report**
Jess Lienhardt, Director, GLLC
 - **Report from the Task Force on Emerging Contaminants**
Michigan Representative Morgan Foreman
 - **Report from the Indigenous Engagement Committee**
Illinois Representative Sonya Marie Harper
 - **Report from the Water Use Committee**
Michigan Senator Rosemary Bayer
 - **Presentation of Resolutions**
Indiana Representative David Abbott
- 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. **Building Workforce Best Practices for Conservation Districts**
Ballroom 4
Nicole Zacharda, Program Manager, Great Lakes Commission
Dr. Ramiro Berardo, Professor of Environmental Policy, The Ohio State University
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Water Considerations in Data Center Planning**
Ballroom 4
Robin L. Richards, REM, Principal, Water Quality and Management
Rachel Schwaab, PE, Project Manager, Water Infrastructure and Climate Adaptation

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch Session: Working Towards a Binational Great Lakes Waterfront Trail

Ballroom 1

Dr. John Hartig, Great Lakes Way Advisory Committee

Patrick Lydon, Landscape Architect, RTCA Midwest, National Park Service

Christopher Morgan, Community Planner, RTCA Midwest, National Park Service

1:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Action Plan for Economic Transformation: Partnership with the Cities Initiative

Ballroom 4

Jon Altenberg, President/CEO, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Federal Great Lakes Priorities in the U.S. and Canada

Ballroom 4

Anne Vogel, Administrator, EPA Region 5

Mark Fisher, President, Canada Water Agency

Moderator: **Elizabeth Cisar**, Director of the Environmental Program, Joyce Foundation

3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Briefing on the Brandon Road Interbasin Project

Ballroom 4

Jason Smith, Program Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District

3:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Discussion Session: Federal Funding and Binational Partnership

Ballroom 4

4:00 – 4:30 p.m.

GLLC Business Meeting Conclusion

Ballroom 4

Action Items:

- Resolutions
- Shared Stewardship Acknowledgement

4:30 – 4:45 p.m.

Closing Roundtable Discussion

Ballroom 4

4:45 – 5:00 p.m.

Other Business/Wrap Up