

ACAPS

AOC CROSS-AGENCY
PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT



2025 Areas of Concern Cross-Agency Partnership Summit

September 16 – 18, 2025

Glass City Convention Center

401 Jefferson Ave, Toledo OH

WiFi - Network: ASMGuest

Password: Guest25!

Tuesday, September 16

Time	Overview	Location
11:00 am – 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Check-In Available	Glass City Center – 2 nd floor
11:00 am	Begin poster setup	Glass City Center – 2 nd floor Monroe Street hallway
12:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Oak Openings Tour	Bus will depart from Glass City Center – Jefferson Street entrance
1:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Coastal Wetlands Tour	Bus will depart from Glass City Center – Jefferson Street entrance
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Maumee River R to R to R Tour	Walk to boat departure, dock at Jefferson and Summit St near the Glass City Center
5:15 pm – 8:00 pm	Welcome Reception and R/V Lake Guardian Tours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complimentary shuttles from Glass City Center provided throughout the evening, leaving at 4:45 pm through 8:00 pm Apps & drinks: 5:15 pm – 7:15 pm 6:30 pm Group Drone Photo (find your favorite Great Lake!) 	National Museum of the Great Lakes 1701 Front St, Toledo, OH

Optional AOC Tours

Choose from one of three Maumee AOC tours. Registration through [Whova](#) is required, please note that tours have limited capacity.

12:00 pm – 4:30 pm – Oak Openings Region and Stream Restoration of the Western Portion of the Maumee AOC

Field trip participants will depart via bus to see wildlife and aquatic habitat management action project sites and hear about the challenges/lessons learned for each site located in the Western portion of the Maumee AOC. The trip will include site visits led by the project implementer at several stream and upland restoration sites such as Maumee State Forest. The route between stops will include narrated drive by/window viewing that enables participants to experience even more projects, restoration methods, and learn about the Maumee AOC's progress.

1:00 pm – 4:30 pm – Coastal Wetlands and Stream Restoration in the Eastern Portion of the Maumee AOC

Field trip participants will depart via bus to see wildlife and aquatic habitat management action project sites and hear about the challenges/lessons learned for each site located in the Eastern portion of the Maumee AOC. The trip will include site visits led by the project implementer at several coastal wetland, stream, and upland habitat sites such as Oregon Recreational Complex and Maumee Bay State Park. The route between stops will include narrated drive by/window viewing that enables participants to experience even more projects, restoration methods, and learn about the Maumee AOC's progress.

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm – Maumee River R to R to R in the Maumee AOC

Field trip participants will depart via boat to see wildlife and aquatic habitat management action project sites and contaminated sediment sites while hearing about challenges and lessons learned for these projects along the Maumee River. Depending on river conditions, the narrated trip will pass by contaminated sediment, habitat restoration and/or island creation sites. Additional information about the Glass City Riverwalk, downtown Metroparks, and the associated economic revitalization will also be shared with participants.

5:15 pm – 8:00 pm – Welcome Reception at the National Museum of the Great Lakes

Location: National Museum of the Great Lakes, 1701 Front Street, Toledo, Ohio

U.S. EPA's R/V Lake Guardian will be docked next to the museum and tours will be available throughout the reception! Last call at 7:30 pm.

Wednesday, September 17 (Day 2)

Time	Overview
8:00 am – 10:00 am	Check in
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Breakfast
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Welcoming Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anne Vogel, Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Region 5 John Logue, Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Teresa Seidel, Director, U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office
10:00 am – 10:45 am	Celebrating AOC Successes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrea Schaller, Branch Manager, U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office Kristina Patterson, Lake Erie Program Administrator, Ohio Lake Erie Commission
10:45 am – 11:15 am	Break
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Federal AOC Partner Capabilities
12:15 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wade Kapszukiewicz, Mayor of Toledo
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	GLRI Focus Area 1.1 Funding Overview
1:30 pm – 2:45 pm	State and SRMT AOC Program Updates and Outlooks
2:45 pm – 3:15 pm	Break
3:15 pm – 4:45 pm	Breakout Sessions (choose 1 of 2 to attend) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Engagement in the AOC Process GLLA Successes and Perspectives
3:15 pm – 4:45 pm	Federal, State, and SRMT AOC Planning Session
4:45 pm – 5:45 pm	Interactive Poster Session

8:30 am – 9:30 am: Breakfast

Location: Grand Ballroom

9:30 am – 10:00 am: Welcoming Remarks

Location: Grand Ballroom

Speakers:

- Anne Vogel, Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Region 5
- Archie Lunsey, Deputy Director, Ohio EPA
- Teresa Seidel, Director, U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office

10:00 am – 10:45 am: Celebrating AOC Successes

Location: Grand Ballroom

Speakers:

- Andrea Schaller, Branch Manager, U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office
- Kristina Patterson, Lake Erie Program Administrator, Ohio Lake Erie Commission

10:45 am – 11:15 am: Break

11:15 am – 12:15 pm: Federal AOC Partner Capabilities

Location: Grand Ballroom

Speakers:

- JC Nelson, Acting Deputy Regional Director, U.S. Geological Survey
- Jim Luke, GLRI Program Coordinator, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Julie Simmons, Great Lakes Restoration Program Manager, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Stephanie Hummel, GLRI Focus Area 1 Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Session Description:

Partner federal agencies, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service all provide crucial technical expertise to U.S. EPA GLNPO, state and local partners in the cleanup and restoration of Great Lakes Areas of Concern. Long-time collaborators from each of these agencies will present on how their agency supports the AOC program, their agency's capabilities, key personnel for AOC work, recent project highlights and anticipated upcoming work.

12:15 pm – 1:30 pm: Lunch

Location: Grand Ballroom

- Wade Kapszukiewicz, Mayor of Toledo

1:00 pm - 1:30 pm GLRI Focus Area 1.1 Funding Overview

- Andrea Schaller, Branch Manager, U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office

Session Description:

During the lunch break, U.S. EPA GLNPO will give an overview of the GLRI Focus Area 1.1 funding process, including some common FAQs.

1:30 pm – 2:45 pm: State and SRMT AOC Program Updates and Outlooks

Location: Grand Ballroom

Speakers:

- Jim Lehnert, Statewide AOC Coordinator, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Jessica Jock, Remediation and Restoration Program Manager, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division
- Kendra Axness, LAMP and AOC Coordinator, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Kristina Patterson, Lake Erie Program Administrator, Ohio Lake Erie Commission
- Melanie Foote, Unit Supervisor – Great Lakes Management Unit, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
- Michael Spinar, LAMP/RAP Program Coordinator, Indiana Department of Environmental Management
- Tyler Kaspar, St. Louis River Area of Concern Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Session Description:

State and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe representatives will each share their perspective on progress, current updates, challenges, and outlooks for the AOC program. This will be a plenary session with a panel giving brief remarks and slides.

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm: Break

Breakout Sessions: Choose 1 of 2 to attend

3:15 pm – 4:45 pm: Public Engagement in the AOC Process

Location: Jefferson Rooms A-B

Speakers:

- Jennifer Grieser, Director of Natural Resources at Cleveland Metroparks, and Chair of the Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee
- Mary Bohling, Southeast Michigan Educator at Michigan Sea Grant Extension, and Chair of the Statewide Public Advisory Council

Session Description:

Community/Public Advisory Committees serve a critical role in restoring our AOCs through engaging with the public and developing strategic priorities for removing BUIs and delisting. Advisory Committee compositions and levels of engagement vary across the Great Lakes. The Detroit River and Cuyahoga River AOCs have been successful in reinvigorating their Advisory Committees to remain active in the AOC restoration process. This session focuses on the approach to creating engaged Advisory Committees as well as the challenges faced along the way.

3:15 pm – 4:45 pm: Great Lakes Legacy Act Successes and Perspectives

Location: Jefferson Rooms D-G

Speakers:

- Huck Raddemann, Senior Scientist, Jacobs
- Jessica Telano, Senior Remediation Manager, Honeywell
- Jtannar Wiens, Senior Technologist, Jacobs
- Mark Rupnow, Senior Director – Environmental Remediation, U.S. Steel
- Paul LaRosa, Principal Engineer, Anchor QEA
- Scott Inman, Senior Managing Engineer, Anchor QEA

Session Description:

Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA) sediment remediation projects require wide-ranging partnerships and innovative remedial approaches to be successful. U.S. EPA GLNPO's project teams, including contractors and non-federal sponsors, will present on successful GLLA projects, both completed and current, design-phase and implementation-phase. Panelists will provide perspectives on collaboration and project management throughout a GLLA project's lifecycle.

Presenters represent the Milwaukee GLLA, Torch Lake GLLA, and Spirit Lake GLLA project teams.

3:15 pm – 4:45 pm: Federal, State, and SRMT AOC Planning Session

Location: Summit Room D

Session Description:

A limited number of federal, state, and SRMT partners will convene for required high-level AOC program coordination, planning, and forecasting exercises. All other Summit attendees are encouraged to attend one of the two breakout sessions or use the time to preview posters and network.

4:45 pm – 5:45 pm: Interactive Poster Session

Location: 2nd floor of Glass City Center – Monroe Street hallway

Session Description:

Come talk to the poster presenters to learn more about work going on across the Great Lakes' Areas of Concern. Pick your 2 favorites and submit your paper ballot in the box so we can recognize the interesting and well-prepared poster presenters and their projects tomorrow!

Thursday, September 18 (Day 3)

Time	Overview
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Introduction to the Day
9:15 am – 10:00 am	Maumee AOC: Habitat and Ecological Community Restoration
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Break
10:30 am – 11:45 am	Breakout Sessions (choose 1 of 3 to attend) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative Approaches for Completing Contaminated Sediment Remediation in Great Lakes AOCs• Native Mussel Restoration• Paths to Delisting
11:45 am – 12:00 pm	Break/Exit Survey
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Closing Remarks

8:00 am – 9:00 am: Breakfast

Location: Grand Ballroom

9:00 am – 9:15 am: Introduction to Day 3

Location: Grand Ballroom

Speakers: Mark Loomis (U.S. EPA GLNPO) and Kristina Patterson (OLEC)

9:15 am – 10:00 am: Maumee AOC: Habitat and Ecological Community Restoration

Location: Grand Ballroom

Speakers:

- Cherie Blair, Maumee AOC Coordinator, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Session Description:

This session will share how the Maumee AOC went via a data-driven process from impaired BUIs to funded wildlife and aquatic project implementation, highlighting many of the recent projects, their challenges, and lessons learned.

10:00 am – 10:30 am: Break

Breakout Sessions – Choose 1 of 3 to attend

10:30 am – 11:45 am: Innovative Approaches for Completing Contaminated Sediment Remediation in Great Lakes AOCs

Location: Jefferson Rooms D-G

Speakers:

- Heather Williams, Project Manager, U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office
- Jim Luke, GLRI Program Coordinator, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- LaRae Lehto, Contaminated Sediment Program Coordinator, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Meaghan Kern, Project Manager, U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office
- Sam Noffke, Aquatic Biology Specialist, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy

Session Description:

Case studies from the St. Louis River, Milwaukee Estuary and Detroit River AOCs. We will discuss ways that these AOCs have removed, and are addressing, barriers to successfully implement Great Lakes Legacy Act sediment remediation projects. Topics will include generating non-federal cost share funding, partnership recruitment, coming up with creative sediment disposal options, beneficially using dredged sediments to reduce project costs, and working cooperatively with regulatory agencies ahead of time to streamline construction implementation.

10:30 am – 11:45 am: Native Mussel Restoration

Location: Jefferson Rooms A-B

Speakers:

- Amber Bellamy, Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Jessica Jock, Remediation and Restoration Program Manager, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division
- Will Tucker, Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Session Description:

Freshwater mussels are an important part of the ecosystem that is often overlooked during restoration. While mussels have inherent value, they also provide a benefit to the habitat they occupy. This session will provide an overview of GLRI restoration projects, including example projects and important considerations for working with mussels. Presenters will discuss the basics of mussel ecology, the effects of mussels on the environment, and the connection between mussels and BUIs. This session will provide attendees with the information necessary to make a preliminary assessment about the feasibility of mussel projects within their AOC.

10:30 am – 11:45 am: Paths to Delisting

Location: Summit Room D

Speakers:

- Jim Lehen, Statewide AOC Coordinator, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Kathy Evans, Board Member, Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership
- Mark Loomis, Section Supervisor, U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office

Session Description:

Representatives from EPA and two AOCs which have recently completed or are nearing completion of the delisting process share experiences relating to start-to-finish planning, developing the delisting report, consultation and community engagement, setting the stage for life after delisting, and hopefully offer some helpful hints for AOCs with delisting on the horizon. Each panelist is representing a different type of organization – a federal agency, a state agency, and a local non-profit, thus offering unique perspectives on the delisting process.

11:45 am – 12:00 pm: Break

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm: Closing Remarks

Location: Grand Ballroom

Speakers:

- Joy Mulinex, Executive Director, Ohio Lake Erie Commission
- Andrea Schaller, Branch Manager, U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office