

Great Lakes Restoration: Science, Policy & Politics

National Conference for Ecosystem Restoration
April 20, 2016

Mike Shriberg, Ph.D.

Region Executive Director, Great Lakes

National Wildlife Federation

Co-Chair of Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes
Coalition

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The Great Lakes Basin



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Great Lakes

Environment

- 20% of world fresh surface water



Quality of Life

- Vast region of interconnected fresh surface water



Economy

- Critical resource for economy, recreation and environment



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National Economy Depends on the Great Lakes

- 30% of GNP
- 125 million tons cargo
- \$53 billion in annual revenue
- Boating supports 250,000 jobs



Healing Our Waters Conference

25-27, 2004

2004 Original HOW Conference
Michigan

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Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy



To Restore and Protect the Great Lakes



December 2005



GLRC 

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Great Lakes Regional Collaborative

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Prescription for Great Lakes Ecosystem Protection and Restoration

(Avoiding the Tipping Point of Irreversible Changes)

December 2005

Jack Bails, Vice President, Public Sector Consultants

Alfred Beeton, Ph.D., retired Director of Great Lakes Environmental Laboratory, Adjunct Professor, University of Michigan

Jonathan Bulkley, Ph.D., Professor, University of Michigan

Michele DePhilip, Aquatic Ecologist, Great Lakes Program, The Nature Conservancy

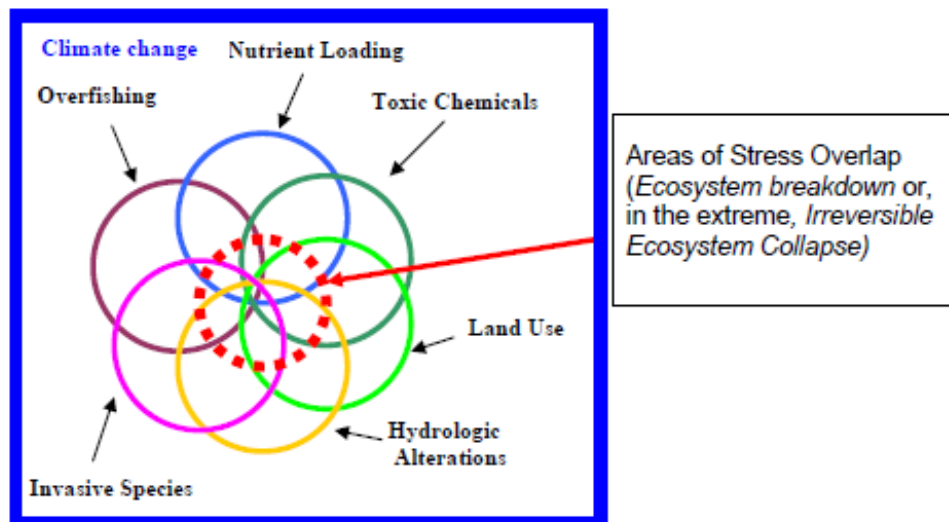
John Gannon, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, International Joint Commission

Michael Murray, Ph.D., Staff Scientist, Great Lakes Natural Resource Center, National Wildlife Federation

Henry Regier, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto

Donald Scavia, Ph.D., Professor and Sea Grant Director, University of Michigan

Figure 1.



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7 Years of Successes

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

(in millions)

\$475.00

\$300.00

\$300.00

\$285.00

\$300.00

\$300.00

\$300.00

FY 2010

FY 2011

FY 2012

FY2013

FY2014

FY2015

FY2016

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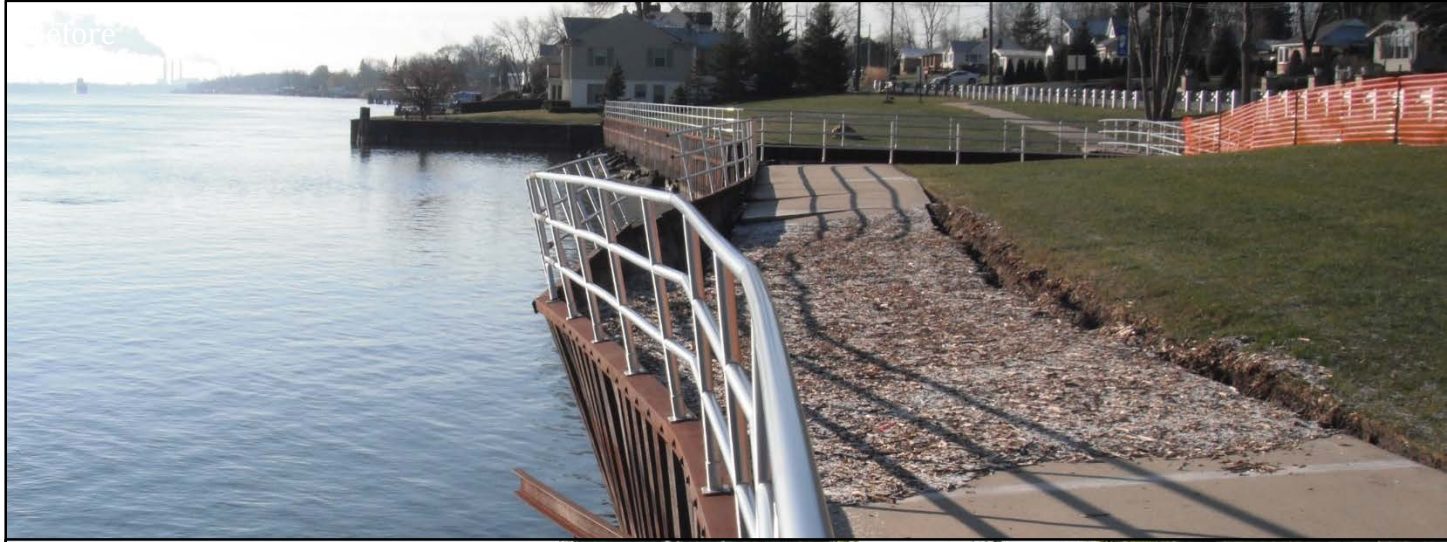
Milwaukee's Kinnickinnic River



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Marysville, MI



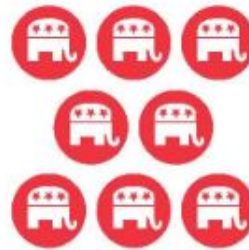
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HUGE MAJORITIES OF REPUBLICANS, DEMOCRATS AND INDEPENDENTS SUPPORT GREAT LAKES RESTORATION.

In this era of intense political party polarization, support for funding Great Lakes restoration transcends party politics.

86% OF GREAT LAKES CITIZENS SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONTINUE SPENDING \$300 MILLION A YEAR ON GREAT LAKES RESTORATION.



80% of Republicans



92% of Democrats



88% of Independents

Supporting the Great Lakes is a factor in how people in the region vote.



58% are less likely to vote for members of Congress if they hadn't supported Great Lakes funding.



53% are less likely to vote for presidential candidates if they hadn't supported Great Lakes funding.

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