

## **Interagency Ecological Restoration Quality Committee (IERQC) – Advancing Applications of Quality Assurance in Ecological Restoration Across the Laurentian Great Lakes**

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The Interagency Ecological Restoration Quality Committee (IERQC) was formed in 2012 to support the U.S. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The central role of the committee is to serve as a ‘think-tank’ focused on advancing applications of quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) practices in ecological restoration. The IERQC is chaired by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) and is composed of representatives from federal, tribal, state, and non-governmental organizations. The committee provides a collaborative environment for developing and advancing quality best practices and includes developing guidance publications and factsheets, virtual- and in-class workshops, a monthly webinar series, and contributing symposia and presentations at scientific meetings. The committee invites speakers to present on topics addressing quality best practices used in planning, implementation, and monitoring in ecological restoration across the Laurentian Great Lakes region. Published in 2019, “Application of Quality Assurance and Quality Control Principles to Ecological Restoration Project Monitoring,” EPA-905-K-19-001

(<https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPURL.cgi?Dockey=P100XC2E.txt>) represents the committee’s flagship publication. This publication is a comprehensive treatise on QA/QC best practices fundamental to planning, implementing, and assessing ecological restoration projects. Other resources developed by the committee include a set of tools to support developing data management plans, an annotated bibliography on quality concepts applied to adaptive management (AM), an online Zotero Group® reference database on AM, and a synopsis publication describing a variety of online AM tools and resources. In addition, the committee recently developed guidance on quality oversight specific to ecological restoration projects that involve a construction phase (e.g., installation of engineered solutions, grade and elevational contouring, capping, wetland reconstruction, among others). This presentation is funded under an EPA contract in support of the GLRI and the concepts described have wide application to large and small ecological restoration programs and projects.

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