Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council
Meeting Summary
June 18, 2026
Approximately 9:53 a.m. EDT
Case Western Reserve University School of Law, George Gund Hall
11075 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44106
Remote participation was available to individuals registering at:
https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/19378ee4-1643-4a46-b42f-24917803859b@aae478b6-e0ab-443d-bafb-1f1358f6696f
Listening Options at:
+1 213-516-2941
Passcode: 975814275#

Notice:
Notice of the public meeting was issued on May 19, 2026.

Call of Meeting:
At approximately 9:53 a.m. EDT, Dena Barnhouse, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, called the meeting to order. Ms. Barnhouse chaired the meeting as Governor Mike DeWine's alternate to the Compact Council.

Roll Call:
The Compact Council alternates and proxies listed below constituted a quorum:
Illinois (alternate of Governor J.B. Pritzker): Rick Pohlman, Acting Director, Office of Water Resources, Illinois Department of Natural Resources.
Indiana (alternate of Governor Mike Braun): Ryan Mueller, Deputy Director, Indiana Department of Natural Resources.
Michigan (alternate of Governor Gretchen Whitmer): Emily Finnell, Head, Office of the Great Lakes, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.
Minnesota (alternate of Governor Tim Walz): Katie Smith, Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
New York (alternate of Governor Kathy Hochul): John Hock, Section Chief for Water Quantity Management, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.
Ohio (alternate of Governor Mike DeWine): Dena Barnhouse[1], Chief, Division of Water, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, serving as proxy for Director Mary Mertz.
Pennsylvania (alternate of Governor Josh Shapiro): Tim Bruno, Chief, Office of the Great Lakes, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.
Wisconsin (alternate of Governor Tony Evers): Adam Freihoefer[1], Water Use Section Manager, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, serving as proxy for Secretary Karen Hyun.

[1] Signed proxy forms for individuals participating on behalf of official member alternates are available upon request.

Actions Taken

Review of December 11, 2025 Compact Council meeting minutes

Ms. Barnhouse stated that the minutes of the December 11, 2025 Compact Council meeting required revisions. The Council deferred consideration of the minutes until its next meeting.

Reports

State updates on implementation of the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (Compact).

Ms. Barnhouse noted that the Regional Body had heard reports on the same topics at its meeting immediately before the Compact Council meeting. She offered to have any of those reports presented again. No member requested a repeat presentation.

Ms. Finnell moved to incorporate the state updates on implementation of the Compact, including the oral reports and any written reports submitted after adjournment, along with the administrative report, into the Compact Council's record. The motion was seconded and approved without objection. The reports are reproduced below as documented in the June 18, 2026 Regional Body meeting summary.

Illinois

Summary of Mr. Pohlman's oral report

Illinois continued to manage its Lake Michigan diversion under the amended U.S. Supreme Court decree, which limits the diversion to 3,200 cubic feet per second on a 40-year running average. Mr. Pohlman reported that the running average remained at 3,066 cubic feet per second and that water year 2019 was still the latest year certified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps was revising its calculations to account for an undercount of Indiana water supply pumpage reaching the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal during periods of high lake levels.

Northeastern Illinois received 29.76 inches of precipitation in water year 2025, about six inches less than in 2024. Domestic use of Lake Michigan water averaged 787 million gallons per day in water year 2024, about seven million gallons per day above 2023. In water year 2025, diversion into the Chicago waterway system for discretionary use and navigation averaged 134 cubic feet per second. South Barrington and Oak Brook had yet to file allocation applications. A meeting with Batavia was scheduled for July 1, and a final hearing on Aqua Illinois's Oak View system in Will County was scheduled for June 24.

At the Brandon Road Interbasin Project, Increment 1B was complete. Following the nearly $114 million award for Increment 1A, construction was expected to begin in July 2026 and finish in January 2029. An $85 million design services contract would support

later work on the right descending bank, bubble deterrents, an electric barrier, and a flushing lock. The project team was addressing geotechnical investigations and groundwater testing related to potential hazardous waste remediation. Illinois continued to seek full federal funding for long-term operations and maintenance.

The Coastal Management Program awarded nearly $1 million to eight coastal communities and partners and expected to award another round of competitive grants in early 2027. A coastal resilience study with the Corps was expected to produce draft recommendations in fall 2026 and conclude in 2028. A separate study at Illinois Beach State Park was expected to deliver baseline hydrology, vegetation, and water quality data in 2027 to guide wetland and beach restoration.

Indiana

Summary of Mr. Mueller's oral report

Indiana had 1,062 registered significant water withdrawal facilities in the basin. Water use in 2024 totaled about 472 billion gallons, including 35 billion gallons of groundwater and 437 billion gallons of surface water. Mr. Mueller reported that use had declined by about 250 billion gallons over the previous five to ten years, largely because power producers and industrial users had conserved water or ceased operations. The Department of Natural Resources had posted the 2024 withdrawal data and was finishing its collection and review of 2025 data.

Under Governor Braun's April 2025 executive order, Indiana was developing a statewide water inventory and management plan that built on regional studies by the Indiana Finance Authority. The plan would establish a statewide planning framework, recommend additions to water monitoring networks, and provide for an online water data portal. Studies of water use, availability, and future demand were due August 31, 2026. The state was seeking input from water users and the public through workshops and expected to deliver the final report to the governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2026.

Michigan

Ms. Finnell submitted the following report:

Michigan Program Update for the June 18, 2026, Compact Council and Regional Body Meetings

Water Use Program Highlights and Projects

Michigan's program continues to fulfill its Compact requirements and has had no major changes to its program.

Michigan has experienced several extreme and severe weather events in recent years. This spring Michigan experienced an early tornado season followed by damaging ice storms, followed by massive flooding that resulted in the failure of numerous small dams and a near failure of the Cheboygan dam in northern Michigan. Immediately after this period of heavy rainfall and flooding, Michigan had very high temperatures

combined with an extended dry period that caused growers to need to irrigate to a level we typically see in July. These events have impacted water management, infrastructure, and public health and safety across the state.

Water Use Reporting of Large Quantity Withdrawals
To date in calendar year 2026, there have been 214 new large quantity water withdrawals registered or permitted. Program staff members conducted 87 reviews of these withdrawal requests or permit applications, and 127 were self-registered via the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool. Michigan will be reporting its annual water use data later this summer to the Great Lakes Commission.

Water Management Program, Tools, and Projects
The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) Groundwater and Geological Services Section (GSS) includes the Groundwater Data Unit and the Water Use Assessment Unit. Staff members administer water use and reporting programs, facilitate aquifer dispute resolution, maintain and enhance groundwater data systems, and support groundwater and surface water monitoring and modeling efforts.

In the last several years over $27 million has been invested through a combination of state and federal funding to enhance Michigan's water use program. These projects will enhance the Water Withdrawal Assessment process, data collection, analysis, and application of groundwater and geologic data to advance resource management, environmental protection, and water sustainability across Michigan.

Enhancements to Michigan's Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool and Process
In September 2025, EGLE launched a new version of the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool (WWAT) with an updated system for estimating stream depletion. The Michigan Water Withdrawal Assessment Process takes a precautionary approach to prevent Adverse Resource Impact from surface or groundwater withdrawals. This new version of the WWAT was developed in partnership with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The updated WWAT gives the regulated community access to tools that were previously only used internally. It also includes live maps that show current water availability in each regulated area, along with public data on water withdrawals. The latest update, in February 2026, provided a portal to upload site-specific data and introduced two additional models for streamflow depletion.

The redevelopment of the WWAT was presented at the International Association of Great Lakes Research and Society of Canadian Aquatic Sciences joint conference in May 2026.

Monitoring and Data Collection
Several projects are underway to improve Michigan's understanding of its groundwater resources. The latest project as part of the Hydrologic Enhancement for Michigan

(HEMI) suite of projects was the Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) survey in Southwest Michigan. AEM surveys are conducted using a helicopter flying at low altitudes while towing a hoop equipped with sensors. The sensors collect data about aquifer materials by measuring the resistivity of the subsurface. The HEMI project is also evaluating the spatial distribution of groundwater monitoring wells and stream gage networks to support Michigan's work to develop state-lead networks for these datasets. The AEM surveys were completed in early June 2026.

EGLE is working on several data management projects to feed into one system that will improve EGLE's ability to better understand the state's geology and groundwater resources, which will lead to more informed decisions about the use, cleanup, and protection of groundwater.

EGLE is also working with Wayne State University to develop software that will be able to read boring logs, analytical reports, and site maps to extract data to feed into the groundwater data management system.

Modeling, Assessment, and Scientific Research

EGLE, Michigan State University (MSU) and the USGS are continuing efforts to develop the Michigan Hydrologic Framework (MHF). The MHF will be a publicly available model sharing and generation environment. It will facilitate submittal, visualization, validation, and the download of shared MODFLOW-based groundwater flow models. The MHF will also provide centralized access to external linked datasets within a GIS-enabled interface.

EGLE, MSU, and the USGS are also working together on two correlated projects related to streamflow accounting. One examines the relationships between long-term changes in index flows (IFs) and IF yield, and the other project tests two major hypotheses: the attenuation of peak depletion from channel dispersion and the attenuation of peak depletion by near-stream storage. The results of all work under this agreement will be available for publication by the USGS.

The Aquifer Data Assessment Tool Project is a collaborative effort among Fishbeck, MSU, and EGLE, focused on improving the aquifer properties transition and storage used in the WWAT analytic solutions through data cleanup and updated glacial aquifer interpolations. The study also identified areas where aquifers are confined vs unconfined to assure appropriate storage assumptions.

The Streamflow Depletion project was established during the 2024 Water Use Advisory Council recommendation process and is the modern version of the 1960's USGS Little Plover River streamflow-depletion experiment conducted in Wisconsin. The primary objectives of this project are to empirically demonstrate streamflow depletion from a high-capacity well and pump, collect detailed data for model creation, and build

relationships with water users. The project is set to kick off in 2027 by the USGS, MSU, Farm Bureau, EGLE, and local irrigators and continue for two growing seasons.

Water Conservation
Two projects are ongoing to deliver water efficiency education programs to the agricultural sector.

The MSU Extension educators are providing additional capacity to deliver education programs and training on water efficiency to improve irrigation efficiency and crop water management as well as expand the programs to include animal industries. They continued their engagement with farmers during winter and early spring meetings throughout the region.

MSU Extension is also working on a program to evaluate and retrofit existing irrigation systems to improve water and energy efficiency. To do so, MSU Extension launched the Mobile Irrigation Lab. The lab allows on-location evaluation of center pivot irrigation systems including uniformity, pressure, and flow rate tests, creates management plans to repair and/or upgrade current irrigation systems, estimates water and energy cost savings and customizes irrigation scheduling. The mobile lab is built and operational, and evaluations started in April and May 2026.

The Water Conservation and Efficiency Committee is working on developing recommendations for the next Water Use Advisory Council biennial report to the legislature due at the end of 2026.

Outreach and Education
EGLE continues to organize multiple events to address Michigan's education and outreach goals to promote water sustainability and stewardship.

New Program Website
The GSS is developing a new website to enhance communication and information sharing about their programs and highlight the numerous projects underway due to recent investments that are supporting the development of several tools and projects to enhance various aspects of groundwater management in Michigan. The new website will be live in the coming months and will increase public access to information about water management in Michigan.

Great Lakes and Fresh Water Week
EGLE and its partners hosted the annual Great Lakes and Fresh Water Week June 6 to June 14, 2026, to celebrate Michigan's water resources, encourage Michigan residents to experience water resources, become educated about water resources, and take action to become water stewards. Under the theme *Protecting the Great Lakes Sustains Us*, EGLE and partners focused on resources and activities to foster community connections and improve stewardship through the impacts of individual and group

actions, strengthening the water-focused economy, and furthering lakes-based education.

From Students to Stewards Initiative
EGLE is implementing Phase 3 of the From Students to Stewards Initiative with additional funding from the United State Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. EGLE released a comprehensive freshwater education program database that connects teachers, classrooms, and partners to educational programming, community resources, and water-focused career pathways. EGLE received the first round of applications for student-led, community-based water stewardship projects that address local issues and for field trip travel expenses for hands-on Great Lakes learning experiences on and around bodies of water in Michigan.

Other Water Resource Management Updates
EGLE and the EPA announced $10 million in funding to support continued restoration and remediation efforts of the Detroit River. This is the first investment of what is estimated to be a larger 20-year public private partnership to remove contaminated sediments from the river. The announcement was made during a press conference at the William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor, a site that reflects the transformation and recovery taking place along Detroit's waterfront, on June 8.

EGLE has been participating regularly in the water demand and water forecast project led. The team is led by Drew Gronewold, professor at the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability and Lead Principal Investigator at the Global Center for Climate Change and Transboundary Waters.

Minnesota
Ms. Smith submitted the following report:

Overview of Water Use in Minnesota's Lake Superior Basin

- There are currently 136 active water appropriation permits in Minnesota's Western Lake Superior Basin, which is unchanged from December's report.
- We will have a better understanding of 2025 water use in the basin after data has been through QA/QC. We will provide that report in December.
- The Minnesota DNR has issued notice to begin updating 10-year water supply plans, required for municipal water suppliers serving over 1,000 people. These water supply plans will emphasize water loss prevention and will include plans for water conservation and water efficiency actions. The 17 suppliers in the Lake Superior Basin required to update plans will not have due dates until after 2027.

Natural Resources and Conservation

General updates

- The Minnesota Department of Agriculture, working with area partners, completed the project Detect and Control Emerging Invasive Plant Populations in the Lake Superior Basin in May 2026. Project achievements during the five-year project period include:
  - 558 outdated Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS) infestation reports were revisited and updated to provide current infestation status. These reports are helpful for understanding the size and distribution of infestations and inform prioritization and other decision-making.
  - Surveys identified 1,181 new occurrences of preciously undetected target invasive species in EDDMapS.
  - 184 infestations were treated and 9 were eradicated within the project period.

Data centers

- DNR has been engaging with MN Department of Employment and Economic Development on implementation of recent data center legislation as it pertains to early coordination under DNR's permitting authorities.
- We are aware of approximately a dozen data centers considering locations in Minnesota
- Google is exploring a facility in Hermantown, a city that purchases Lake Superior water from Duluth.

Status of St. Louis River Area of Concern (SLRAOC) actions:

- Minnesota is making progress toward delisting the St. Louis River as a Great Lakes Area of Concern (AOC) by completing remediation of contaminated sediments and continuing large-scale habitat restoration projects. AOC progress and success is the result of strong coordination between MN DNR and our partners at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
  - As of 6/01/2026, 66 of 80 (82.5%) AOC management actions have been completed (includes actions that require no further action), and four of nine Beneficial Use Impairments have been removed.
    - Management actions that require no further action (7; 8.8%)
    - Completed (59; 73.75%)
    - Remediation projects in progress (4)
    - Restoration projects in progress (4)
    - Other actions, including studies, assessments, plans, data management and tracking, currently in progress (6)
    - Total management actions (80)
  - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency completed Thompson Reservoir sediment remediation project in September 2025, which was the final sediment remediation project to complete in Minnesota for the SLRAOC. Remediation of

~245,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment was achieved by placing a thin layer of powdered activated carbon (PAC) amendment over 65 acres to treat dioxin/furan contaminated sediments at the active hydropower generation reservoir.

- Minnesota DNR is on track to complete the final habitat restoration project in Minnesota for the SLRAOC in 2027.

Lake Superior Binational Partnership

- The Minnesota DNR is working with State, Tribal, and Canadian partners through the Binational Program to restore and protect the Lake Superior Basin.
  - DNR and local partners continue to identify, prioritize, and fund multiple habitat projects through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) that will advance the goals of the Lake Superior Lakewide Action and Management Plan.
  - DNR and our partners have also received GLRI funding for projects that improve public and recreational access at habitat restoration project sites.

Education

Minnesota DNR continues coordinating Project WET and has trained an additional member in the Lake Superior Basin to be part of the statewide Project WET Training Team. A new Project WET curriculum will be released in the coming months and will include a lesson on the Great Lakes, which the Minnesota DNR is excited to use. Outside the basin in northern Minnesota, Project WET trainers have continued training both teachers and environmental learning facility educators on using Project WET.

Project WET is a resource for formal and informal educators and improves understanding of water resources by providing trainings, educational materials and guidance to individuals or groups by collaborating on watershed events, working on boards/planning groups, organizing and engaging in a variety of community events such as festivals and field days for the public.

New York

Mr. Hock submitted the following report:

- Good morning, my name is John Hock, and I am the Section Chief for Water Quantity Management in New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation. I am currently serving as alternate and designee for Governor Kathy Hochul. I will now share NY's report

- Approximately 80 percent of New York state's fresh surface water, 700 miles of shoreline, and 40 percent of New York's land, is contained in the watersheds of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. More than four million New Yorkers depend on the fresh water of these watersheds for drinking water.

- NYS's Water Withdrawal Program continues to comply with all provisions of the Compact & Regional Agreement. DEC currently regulates by permit or registration all water withdrawal systems with the capacity to withdraw 100,000 gallons per day or more from either surface or groundwater sources. The Department currently regulates approximately 750 active facilities within the Great Lakes Basin.

- In 2026, DEC has issued 50 water withdrawal permits statewide, with 17 of those permits located within the Great Lakes basin. All water withdrawal permits contain water conservation conditions which may include requirements to perform metering, leak detection and repair, and water auditing. Additionally, all permit applicants are required to provide a water conservation plan to promote implementation of environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation measures.

- As of today, New York received most of the 2025 Annual Water Withdrawal Reports from its 1700 regulated facilities across the state. Water withdrawal data will shared with the Great Lakes Commission as usual for inclusion in the 2025 Commission report. We continue to update our reporting database and QA/QC the annual reporting data as necessary.

- New York has continued to work on improving data quality and the type of data that is made available to the public. Water withdrawal spatial information and individual water well information available on an online mapper called DECinfo Locator on the NYS DEC website. The data is also available in various map and tabular formats on NYS Open Data. Both the mapper and tabular data are updated twice annually.

- Using out withdrawal data, DEC recently released a new water use dashboard tool, which is an interactive GIS tool that displays statewide water use data from 2018 to present. Users can utilize the tool to see how much water is being used in a given area, how ground and surface water use is trending in a given area, and for what purposes the water is being used.

- Starting in September of 2025 New York State experienced its second consecutive rapid onset drought which impacted individuals, businesses, and public water suppliers. Localized drought conditions across the state, including the Great Lakes regions, persisted until March of 2026. DEC worked with partner agencies to track drought conditions, provide messaging to the public, and respond to public water supplies. As of today, NYS has returned to "normal" drought status with the exception of Drought Region 1 on Long Island.

- Just earlier this week, New York State announced the re-establishment of the NY Great Lakes Research Consortium. The Consortium is an organization of 18 colleges and universities in New York, with nine affiliate campuses in Ontario, dedicated to collaborative research and education on the Great Lakes. The State University of New

York University at Buffalo (UB) will serve as the new host, working under a $5M grant to facilitate scientific research, scholarship, and education in the basin.

- And finally, DEC would also like to thank the jurisdictions for providing feedback and comment on its first ever "public notice" of a project as required under the Compact and Agreement. The Water Withdrawal permit for Onondaga County Water Authority was ultimately issued by DEC on June 8, 2026.

- New York looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the jurisdictions to protect the waters of our Great Lakes.

With that, I conclude my report. A written report will be submitted.

Ohio

Ms. Barnhouse submitted the following report:

Ohio's 2026 Mid-Year Compact-Related Activities

For the presentation by the Director of ODNR (or designated proxy) to the mid-year Regional Body/Compact Council on June 18, 2026

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Water Resources (Division) is actively collecting 2025 water withdrawal data from its 2,127 registered active facilities. To date, 93% of the facilities within the Lake Erie Basin have submitted their reports. The Division is diligently working to gather the remaining data. Utilizing this information, Division staff have commenced compiling Ohio's 2025 Lake Erie Basin water withdrawals, consumptive uses, and diversions, which will be submitted to the Great Lakes Commission by August 15th.

On July 31, 2025, ODNR received a Water Withdrawal and Consumptive Use Permit Application from First Quality Tissue Midwest, LLC for a proposed surface water intake structure on the Maumee River near Defiance, Ohio with a new capacity for surface water withdrawals in the Lake Erie watershed of 8.3 million gallons per day for use at its planned home care paper products facility. On January 13, 2026, the Chief issued an Order approving the Application and issuing a Withdrawal and Consumptive Use Permit to First Quality with conditions. The Chief's Order and the permit are available on the Division's website for viewing.

In February 2025, ODNR and Ohio EPA published a comprehensive Central Ohio Water Study to assess water infrastructure in the region, and project how both population and economic growth will impact the region's water resources. The 15-county study inventoried water supply and demand and analyzed where improvements can be made to the distribution and discharge of water. Deliverables from the study are now available publicly on ODNR's website. The agencies have commenced work on the

southeast and southwest regions with completion dates near the end of 2026. Northeast and northwest regions will follow soon after to complete the entire state.

In 2019, ODNR shared Governor DeWine's new H2Ohio initiative, which is a water quality initiative to ensure safe and clean drinking water for all Ohioans. The Governor, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio EPA, and the Lake Erie Commission, along with many partners have worked together to invest in projects across Ohio that will reduce nutrients and provide other long-term economic and water quality benefits to communities statewide.

ODNR's newest completed projects within the basin include:

H2Ohio Wetlands Program:
The H2Ohio Wetlands program continues to focus on improving water quality through voluntary wetland restoration in Ohio. With 515 funded wetland projects across the state, and 378 of these now complete, an array of different types of restored wetland acreage is absorbing floodwater and nutrient runoff before entering downstream water bodies such as Lake Erie. The data collected by the H2Ohio Wetland Monitoring program shows the H2Ohio wetlands are improving water quality across the state while providing valuable insight for future funding decisions.

H2Ohio has established strong partnerships with other entities whose mission advances water-quality focused projects such as the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The H2Ohio-GLRI partnership has resulted in nine restoration projects implemented and over $6.5 million dollars in leveraged GLRI funding. In 2026, the H2Ohio program was awarded funding for the Heron Crest Restoration project located in Paulding County, Ohio. This Maumee River floodplain restoration project will be managed by Black Swamp Conservancy to improve water quality by reducing nutrient loading and capture surface runoff by restoring over 100 acres of a formerly row cropped floodplain. Additionally, the Heron Crest project will permanently protect over 1.2 miles of the Maumee River, an Ohio State Scenic River.

H2Ohio Rivers Program:
The last six months the program announced another $1M of grants to Ohio communities to improve road salt storage and handling through Chloride Reduction Grant Program. Other new projects include removal of two dams that impair water quality and block fish passage (adding to the 13 dam removals completed or in-contract through the program) and the announcement of another round of the Healthy Rivers Livery Grants, which will provide funds to 12 canoe liveries to help increase Ohioans' opportunities to connect with and clean up their local river.

In 2026, several key projects have been completed. The program removed an additional 150,000lbs of trash from our rivers and streams -partly thanks to the Queen of Clean's first completed season cleaning up the Ohio River (75,000 lbs) -bringing the Rivers

Program's 3-year trash removal total to over 650,000lbs. Two other very impactful acid mine drainage reduction projects were completed that will bring several miles of Monday Creek and Rush Creek 'back to life' by reducing or neutralizing millions of pounds of acid per year. This work was performed in coordination with ODNR's Division of Mineral Resources Management.

Pennsylvania

Mr. Bruno submitted the following report:

Pennsylvania continues to implement the requirements of the Compact and Agreement through facilitating state and local programs on water use. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is preparing to assemble the Great Lakes water withdrawal and consumptive use statistics for Water Year 2025 for compilation into the Annual Report of the Great Lakes Regional Water Use Database. Pennsylvania currently has no diversions within our jurisdiction. It is expected that Pennsylvania's trend of annual water use in the Great Lakes Basin will continue into the 2025 Water Year and represent just a small fraction of overall Great Lakes water use.

On the water quality front, DEP Great Lakes Program has been updating the Pennsylvania Lake Erie Phosphorus Reduction Domestic Action Plan to reaffirm and update the Commonwealth's commitments to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and the Lake Erie Action and Management Plan. The plan identifies the programs and approaches that will be used to contribute to efforts to reduce phosphorus in Lake Erie, address algal blooms and low oxygen conditions, and apply actions to address localized watershed and lake impacts due to nutrients. The updates are expected to be finalized by Fall 2026.

In the coming year, Pennsylvania will review and update elements of the Pennsylvania Great Lakes Water Conservation and Efficiency Program. DEP staff will be referencing and learning from the programs of other Compact and Agreement states and provinces in this effort to reaffirm our commitments to wise water use within the Basin.

DEP continues to maintain the Great Lakes Program webpages which include information about the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Compact and Agreement. Resources available on the site include the Pennsylvania Great Lakes Water Resources Inventory and Reporting document. Interested individuals can view registered water users within the Pennsylvania Great Lakes Basin and their annual water use from the 2005 Water Year forward. This document and other information regarding DEP Great Lakes Program can be found at the DEP webpage dep.pa.gov and searching "Great Lakes Program".

Pennsylvania previously reported that DEP assembled a team of policy, legal, and permitting staff to examine regulatory implementation of the Compact in Pennsylvania and the team continues to work toward a potential rulemaking process.

Wisconsin

Mr. Freihoefer submitted the following report:

Wisconsin Report
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Regional Body and Compact Council Meeting
June 18, 2026

City of Waukesha Diversion

In 2025 the City of Waukesha diverted approximately 5.49 million gallons per day from Lake Michigan and discharged approximately 5.09 million gallons per day of treated wastewater to the Lake Michigan basin, approximately 93% of the volume diverted. The volume returned was less than the volume diverted because the return flow target is based on the previous year's annual average diversion. The difference in volume will be made up this year with the new return flow target. The Wisconsin DNR will provide the annual diversion report to the Regional Body and Compact Council in August 2026 as required by the 2016 Compact Decision. Correspondence between the City and the Wisconsin DNR is available on the City of Waukesha diversion page. Wisconsin DNR representatives are happy to discuss any aspects of City of Waukesha's diversion approval and implementation further with interested parties.

Diversion Approvals

Wisconsin has three other diversions approved under the Great Lakes Compact for the City of New Berlin, the City of Racine and the Village of Somers. These communities are all required to submit annual reports to the Wisconsin DNR these reports are made available to the public on Wisconsin DNR water use webpage after review by the Wisconsin DNR staff.

Water Use

Water use reports for 2025 were due to the Wisconsin DNR March 1, 2026. Wisconsin has received reports on more than 14,300 ground and surface water sources to date. These reports account for about 92 percent of the expected reports. Sixty-seven percent of these reports were submitted online. Our online reporting percentage decreased from the previous year due to a new online reporting access system implemented for IT security. The Water Use program expects that the increasing trend in online reporting will resume as more people become familiar with the new system. The Water Use program continues to implement more embedded QA/QC measures in the online reporting system to improve the quality of data submitted based on the work conducted with the support of a USGS Water Use Data and Research Grant. These embedded QA/QC measures are intended to reduce level of review needed to correct and compile reports for the Great Lakes Commission water use submission. Wisconsin is on track for

reviewing the water use data and submitting the water use report to the Great Lakes Commission in August 2026.

Data Centers

Wisconsin has three new hyperscale data centers under construction, additional facilities have also been proposed. These data centers are all planning on using closed loop, liquid cooled cooling water systems with a range of 2 – 10 million gallons of water required annually. Their water sources are all from municipal water supplies with two of the municipal supplies coming from Lake Michigan and one from groundwater. The water needs are being met under existing municipal system capacity. Wisconsin has not received any permit applications for new or increased withdrawals from groundwater or surface water in support of proposed or planned data centers – either as direct applications or from a municipality. Due to historic higher uses of Lake Michigan water for industrial activity, many of the communities with Lake Michigan water supplies have excess water withdrawal capacity in their permits. The energy demand for two of the three facilities range from 900 MW to 1.3 GW. Wisconsin's water supply service area planning law went into effect last year for communities that serve more than 10,000 residents. A water supply service area plan is a general planning document communities use to conduct long-term water supply planning and to demonstrate that a public water supply system can supply an adequate and sustainable amount of water. These plans appear to be effective for communities considering data center facilities for understanding how a large water use industry would affect their municipal system. Finally, the general topic of data centers and water use has been of significant interest, in the last year the Water Use program has provided informational presentations to interested groups.

Wisconsin USGS Water Use Data and Research Grant

Wisconsin received a USGS Water Use Data and Research grant to develop quality control checks to identify, flag, and address outliers within the self-reported water use dataset. The project implemented automated quality control checks when self-reported data is entered to identify potential outliers to allow users to self-correct data, or staff to follow up with owners of recently reported data that may contain errors. The project allowed the Wisconsin DNR to include photodocumentation functionality for self-reporters and add historical water use data from the 1970's-1980's and early 2000's to the state's water use database and finally provided funding to conduct a water supply service area boundary feasibility study. This feasibility study demonstrated that water supply area identification and tracking are a challenge as current datasets do not provide enough information to properly identify where municipal water is being supplied across all municipalities in the state.

Administrative Reports.
Ms. Barnhouse invited Peter Johnson, on behalf of the Regional Body's Secretariat, to give an administrative report. Mr. Johnson reported the following:

I would like to thank the Canada-U.S. Law Institute and Case Western Reserve University Law School for hosting this year's meetings, especially Stephen Petras and Eric Siler for their work. I also congratulate the Canada-U.S. Law Institute on its 50th anniversary and thank them for inviting me to speak at their May celebration in Washington, D.C.

I also want to thank the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and CEO Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells for a tour of their projects in the Cleveland area. As one participant noted, NEORSD is a national leader, and we appreciated learning about their work.

The Regional Body and Compact Council chaired a session at the 2026 International Association for Great Lakes Research conference in Winnipeg on quantifying groundwater resources in the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River region, a Science Strategy priority. Presenters included U.S. Geological Survey representatives, James Polidori of the Great Lakes Commission, and Shaili Pfeiffer of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. I particularly want to thank Ms. Pfeiffer for co-chairing and helping organize the session, and all those who presented. We look forward to next year's conference in Duluth.

On January 27, 2026, we held a virtual meeting of the Regional Body and Compact Council's Science Team, where we heard from experts on a variety of topics. Recordings of several sessions are available on the Regional Body and Compact Council websites.

In the preceding two days, we held in-person Science Team meetings to hear from additional experts. Presenters included Brian Coughlan of the Ohio WateReuse Association, Jim Milne from the State of Michigan, and JC Nelson of the U.S. Geological Survey. We also held roundtable discussions on issues of pressing concern, including data centers.

As announced at our last meeting, we have been working to "future proof" the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Compact and Agreement, ensuring that the region's landmark water management framework remains strong, effective, and resilient for decades to come. The initiative is supported by The Joyce Foundation, Fred and Barbara Erb Family Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, and Great Lakes Protection Fund. This proactive, collaborative process will:

- Maintain the institutional memory, expertise, core values, and relationships that underpin the Compact and Agreement;
- Conduct succession planning and build leadership capacity across States and Provinces, with assistance from Wishnick & Associates, LLC and Serendipity Consulting, Inc.;

- Identify potential sources of future pressure on regional water resources and governance systems; and
- Equip jurisdictions with tools and strategies to respond effectively over time.

Research on potential future pressures is being conducted by experts from the Global Center for Climate Change and Transboundary Waters and the School for Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan; the Sustainability Institute, Department of Integrated Systems Engineering, and Department of Civil, Environmental and Geodetic Engineering at The Ohio State University; and the Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

A great deal of work has been completed since the initiative was announced at the December meeting. Over the preceding two days, we heard from and held productive discussions with the principal investigators from all three universities and our succession planning consultants. We look forward to sharing further updates at the next meeting.

As part of our ongoing effort to educate the next generation of leaders, researchers, and the general public about the importance of the Compact and Agreement, I have been speaking at universities, conferences, and other forums. GSGP Executive Director Dave Naftzger and I participated in a congressional staff briefing in Washington, D.C., hosted by the Northeast-Midwest Institute, on data centers and water use.

I also want to thank the Canadian Studies Center at Michigan State University for arranging classes and meetings where I had the opportunity to speak with students and faculty about our work. I spoke at the annual conference of the Universities Council on Water Resources last week, will speak with a University of Michigan public policy class this summer, and plan to visit other classrooms this fall. We welcome additional opportunities to speak and raise awareness of the Compact and Agreement and the work being done together by the States and Provinces.

As questions about the Compact continue to arise, we have given “Compact 101” presentations and answered questions about how the Compact and Agreement are organized, their legal status, and how they are implemented. We encourage individuals and organizations with questions to reach out to us.

On May 26, 2026, I participated in a webinar we hosted entitled “Data Centers, Water Use and the Great Lakes Compact.” I want to thank our panelists: Adam Freihoefer, Water Use Section Manager, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Jonathan Noble, Senior Director, Infrastructure Government Affairs, Microsoft; and Helena Volzer, J.D., Senior Source Water Policy Manager, Alliance for the Great Lakes. I particularly want to thank Peter Annin of the Burke Center for Ecosystem Research for organizing and moderating the webinar. A recording is available on the Regional Body and Compact Council websites.

These are some of our more recent activities, and I would be happy to share more information with anyone interested in reaching out. The next meetings of the Compact Council and Regional Body will take place virtually in December 2026. Notice will be provided 30 days in advance.

Opportunity for public comments.
Mr. Pohlman moved to incorporate the public comment from the immediately preceding Regional Body meeting into the Compact Council minutes. Mr. Hock seconded the motion. The motion was approved without objection.

Laura Campbell, representing Michigan Farm Bureau. Ms. Campbell noted that she serves on the advisory committee assisting the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers, Compact Council, and Regional Body, thanked members for their work. She emphasized farmers' interest in protecting water quality and quantity, acknowledged Michigan's and Ohio's collaboration with farmers on water and energy efficiency, and invited members to contact her or their state and provincial agricultural organizations to strengthen collaboration. She highlighted farmers' interest in stewardship across generations and being part of the solution.

Ms. Barnhouse invited additional public comments in person and online and limited remarks to five minutes per speaker. No additional public comments were offered.

New business.
No new business was raised.

Other business.
No other business was raised.

Adjourn.
Ms. Finnell moved to adjourn, and Ms. Smith seconded. The motion passed without objection. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:58 a.m. EDT. The next meeting was planned for December 2026 by videoconference.

Compact Council website www.glslcompactcouncil.org