Convening Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan Mayors to Advance Coastal Priorities

February 2022
About the Cities Initiative

• Binational coalition of nearly 200 U.S. and Canadian mayors working to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River

• Current focus on COVID relief, water equity, water infrastructure funding, and coastal resilience
Advisory Team

- Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission
- City of Green Bay
- City of Milwaukee
- Great Lakes Committee, Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association
- Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership
- Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
- NEW Water
- Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust
- University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Western Lake Michigan Working Group
- Wisconsin Coastal Management Program
- Wisconsin DNR
- Wisconsin Emergency Management
- Wisconsin Office of Great Waters
- Wisconsin Sea Grant
Status of Invited Cities

Participating:
- Green Bay
- Sturgeon Bay
- Kewaunee
- Two Rivers
- Manitowoc
- Sheboygan
- Kenosha
- Port Washington
- Mequon
- Milwaukee
- Milwaukee County
- Oak Creek

Pending:
- Algoma – working on form, will submit soon
- Marinette – have not received response
- Racine – already receiving similar services
Eligible Projects

• Shoreline stabilization and erosion
• Flooding
• Stormwater management
• Water infrastructure
• Critical public infrastructure
• Habitat and natural feature restoration
Selection Criteria

FEMA Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA)- As Guidance for Prioritization:

- Property risk
- Systemic risk – cascading effects of hazard event
- How problem and solution impacts critical services
- Social equality and vulnerability
- Environmental/ecosystem benefits
- Broader economic implications
- Feasible, Permittable, and Community Ready?

All project-dependent and somewhat subjective and layered
Project Outcomes

Implementation frameworks will include:

- Description of coastal resilient challenges or needs to be addressed
- Description of proposed solution including key project components
- Estimated magnitude of project costs
- Project lead(s) and key partners
- Preliminary assessment of project feasibility
- Funding strategy including identification of potential grants
- Implementation roadmap outlining critical steps and sequencing (e.g., land acquisition, permitting, grant application deadlines, etc.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Timeline / Next Steps</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| **FALL 2021** | • Convene advisory team  
|              | • Invite and convene selected mayors and city staff  
|              | • Collaborate with cities to review and inventory existing plans  
|              | • Brainstorm priority locations for potential coastal resilience projects |
| **WINTER 2022** | • Solidify a long list of potential coastal resilience solutions in each community  
|              | • Develop criteria for assessing feasibility and prioritizing projects  
|              | • Narrow list to roughly 10-15 priority projects total for further planning |
| **SPRING – SUMMER 2022** | • Technical consultants develop implementation frameworks for selected projects in close collaboration with participating communities |
| **FALL 2022** | • Project implementation frameworks finalized and presented to cities including recommended next steps and target funding  
|              | • Technical consultants provide general guidance and coaching to evaluate grant funding opportunities and partnership strategies |
Intentional Collaboration
Questions?

Tori Graves
U.S. Policy Advisor
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
victoria.graves@glslcities.org