

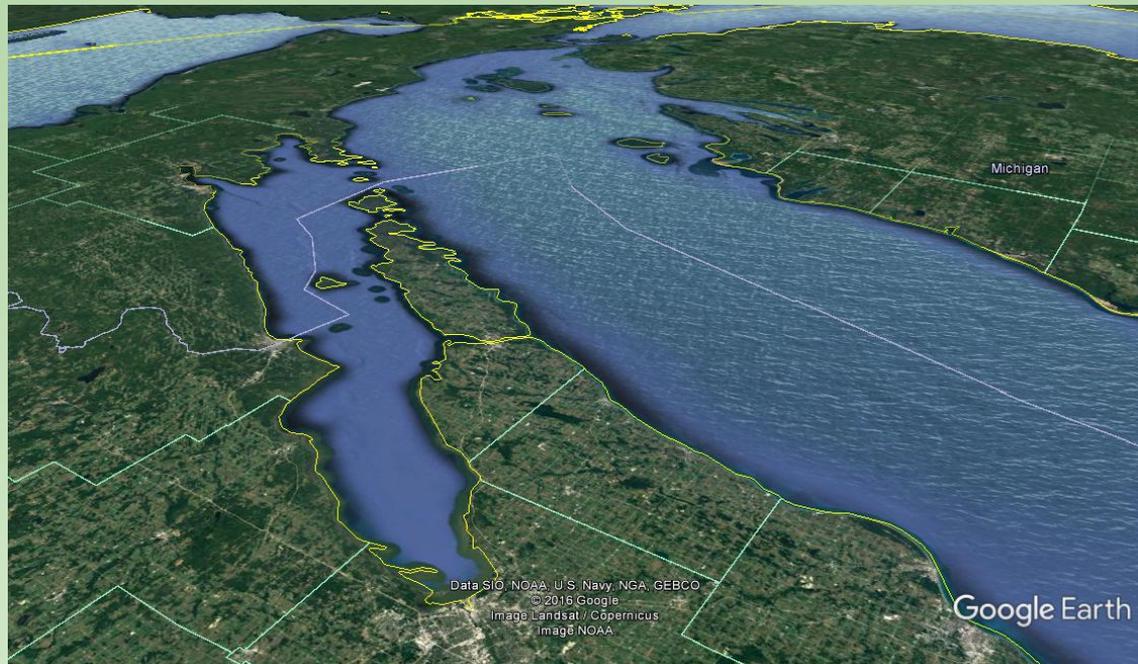
# Green Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)

Wisconsin Coastal Management Council Meeting  
September 24, 2020

# Key Takeaways

- The Why and What of NERR
- Benefits to UWGB and Community
- Process and Timeline

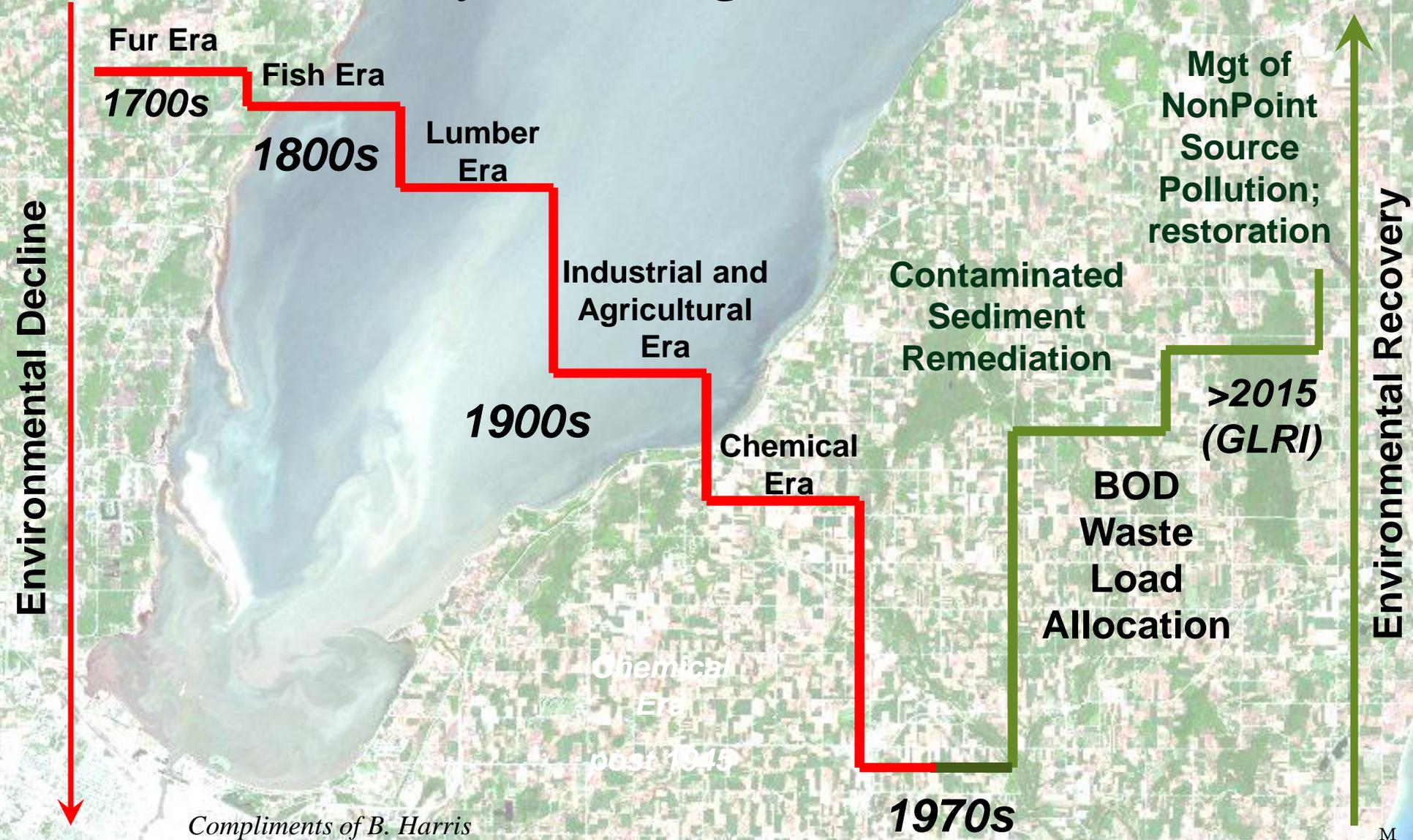
# Green Bay



- Largest freshwater estuary on the planet
- Watershed comprises nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  of drainage into Lake Michigan
  - Commercial and recreational uses of Green Bay contribute > \$100 million annually to regional economy

# Continue to preserve, but must also restore!

## A story that can guide the world.



# Restoration & Culture



Photo by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District



<https://twitter.com/cmoratz>

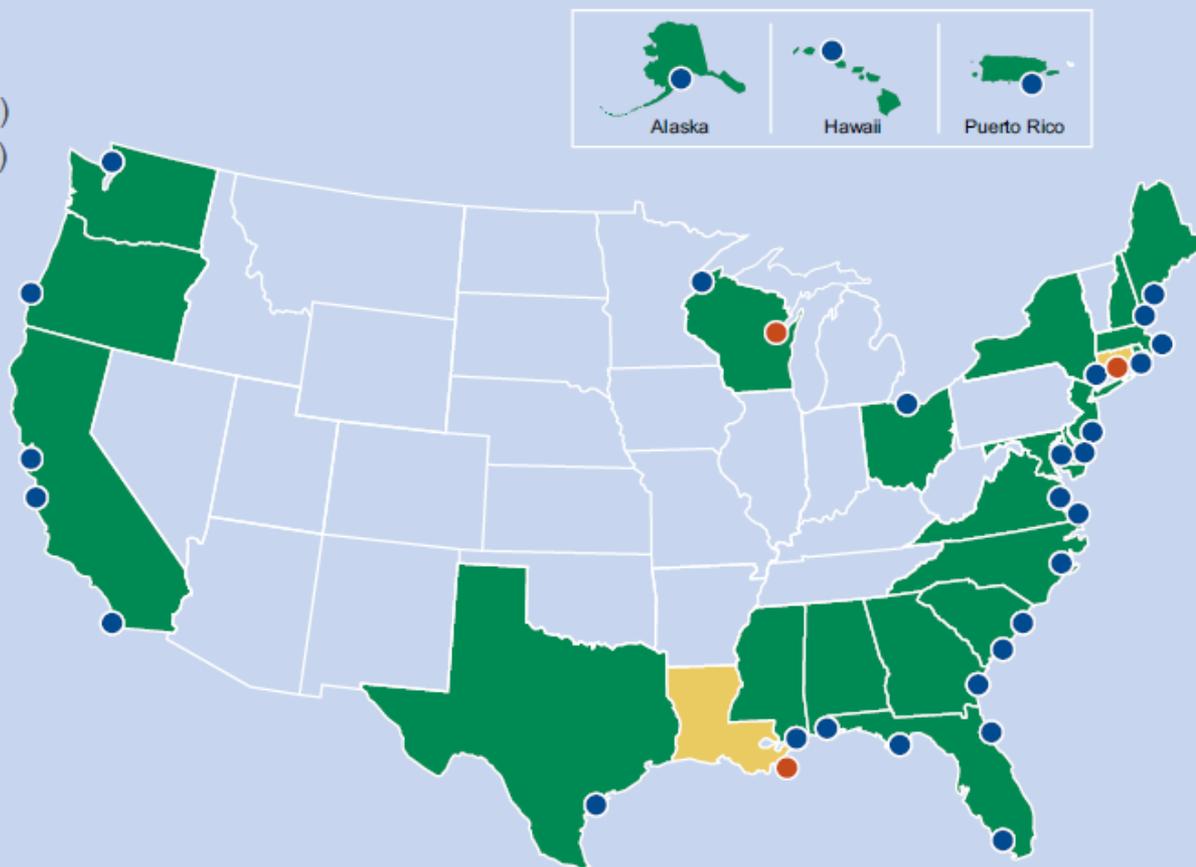


Photo courtesy Tom Prestby

# Designation of the Green Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)

## NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE SYSTEM SITES

- ACE Basin (SC)
- Apalachicola (FL)
- Chesapeake Bay (MD)
- Chesapeake Bay (VA)
- **Connecticut, in process**
- Delaware
- Elkhorn Slough (CA)
- Grand Bay (MS)
- Great Bay (NH)
- **Green Bay, (WI) in process**
- Guana Tolomato Matanzas (FL)
- He'eia (HI)
- Hudson River (NY)
- Jacques Cousteau (NJ)
- Jobos Bay (PR)
- Kachemak Bay (AK)
- **Louisiana, in process**
- Mission-Aransas (TX)
- Narragansett Bay (RI)
- North Carolina
- North Inlet-Winyah Bay (SC)
- Lake Superior (WI)
- Old Woman Creek (OH)
- Padilla Bay (WA)
- Rookery Bay (FL)
- San Francisco Bay (CA)
- Sapelo Island (GA)
- South Slough (OR)
- Tijuana River (CA)
- Waquoit Bay (MA)
- Weeks Bay (AL)
- Wells (ME)



# Why join the NERR network?

- Federal base funding to support local research and education operations
- ‘Locally Relevant, Nationally Significant’
- Join national monitoring + stewardship programs
- NERR Vision Statement, to promote: “resilient estuaries and coastal watersheds where human and natural communities thrive.”

# Representation for the Lake Michigan-Lake Huron basin!

## SCIENCE THAT MATTERS

Every **15 minutes**, **280** NERRS monitoring stations track water quality, pollution, and weather across **1.3+M** acres of public land and water. **42M** data points are used to help with hazardous spills, shellfish industry operations, storm damage, and more every year. **100+** universities and research institutions are Reserve partners.

## PROTECTING NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

~**1.3+M** acres of public land and waters, with **4.5K** miles of waterfront and diverse habitat. **95%** of Reserves allow recreational fishing; **85%** allow hunting. **36,000+** volunteers and community members support NERRS restoration, education, and stewardship.

## EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE

**3,000+** educators and **81,000+** K–12 students receive outdoor STEM education. **29** Fellows inaugurate the Davidson Graduate Research Fellowship. NERRS programs help sustain **10,000+** jobs, provide training to **13,400+** people, and assist **2,000+** decision makers and **570+** businesses.

**NERRS** =



AQUACULTURE

+



FISHING & HUNTING

+



PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

+



CLEAN WATER

+



DISASTER RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

+



EDUCATED CITIZENS

A non-regulatory partnership built on *local* control

# General Site Statistics

- Functional sites receive ~\$619,000/year for basic operations.
- Local funds - an additional minimum ongoing match of 30% (~\$265,000/year).
- Existing facilities range in size: 7,900-28,950 sq ft., avg. 15,176 sq ft.
- We are actively pursuing public-private partnership opportunities!
- Significant increase in additional extramural granting, and research related revenue.

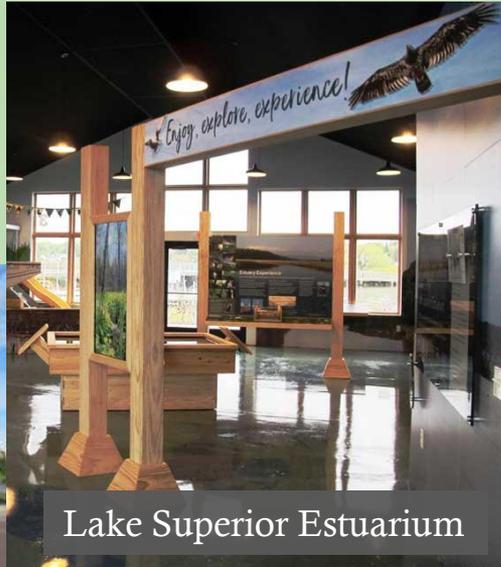
# Reserve Staff

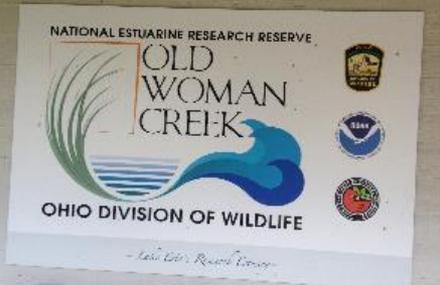
- Reserve Manager
- Research Coordinator
- Educator
- Stewardship Coordinator
- Coastal Training Coordinator



# Lake Superior NERR

Established  
2010





**Established  
1980**



# NERR Designation Process



# Site Selection & Nomination

1. **Develop pre-screening criteria reflective of GBNERR goals + NOAA site criteria**
2. **Identify candidate sites**
3. **Solicit public feedback**
4. **Identify top tier candidate site**
5. **Generate public support and partnerships for proposed final site**
  - Public meeting held jointly with NOAA
6. **Site Nomination Document to Governor**

# Committee Structure

NOAA-State  
Coordination  
Team

NOAA

UWGB

Governor's  
Office

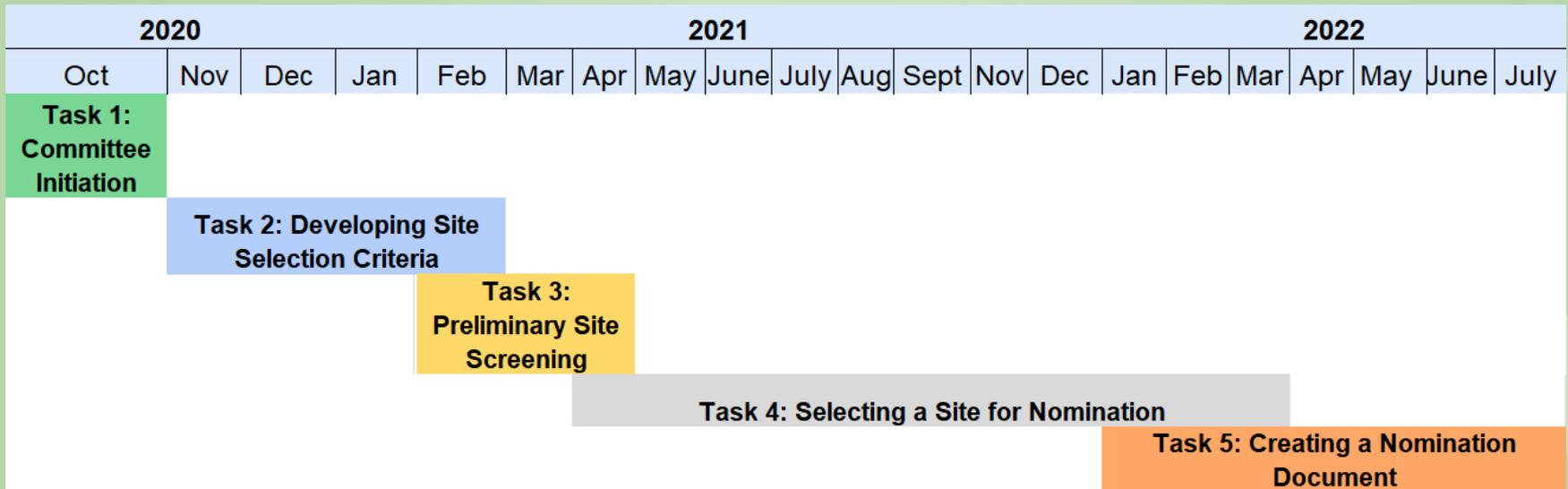
Site Coordination Team

Site Selection Team

Site Evaluation Team

# Timeline

## Site Selection & Nomination



Site  
Coordination  
Team

Site Selection  
Team

Site  
Evaluation  
Team

Site  
Coordination  
Team

# Timeline

## NERR Designation

Reserve & Receipt of Letter of Intent	Site Selection Process	Developing Nomination Package	Drafting EIS/MP	DEIS/DMP Review and Public Comment	Finalizing EIS/MP	NOAA Record of Decision	Designation	Estimated Time
<b>He`eia July 2012</b>	8 months	9 months	21 months	3 months	2 months	1 month	<b>January 2017</b>	<b>4.5 years</b>
<b>Lake Superior March 2004</b>	11 months	10 months	17 months	3 months	2 months	1 month	<b>October 2010</b>	<b>6.5 years</b>

# Additional Questions?

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