



To: Members and Friends of the Great Lakes – St Lawrence Waters

The Great Lakes –St Lawrence Legislative Caucus will be hosting a series of virtual meetings reviewing some of the policies and programs that the states and provinces in the region have implemented to reduce and control the nutrient runoff into the waters of the Great Lakes.

On Friday, April 23 we will be hearing from Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota on some of their state efforts, following with Ohio, New York and Ontario programs on Friday, May 7. The Great Lakes Commission efforts at quantifying the impact of these programs will be the focus of the Friday, May 21 meeting on Blue Accounting.

Please join us for these important discussions on preserving the water quality of the Great Lakes.

Separate registration is required for each event in the series.

Please plan on participating on the following dates.

Friday, April 23 10:00-11:30 AM CT/ 11:00 AM-12:30 PM ET

This virtual meeting will offer the opportunity to discuss:

- **Michigan’s Environment Environmental Assurance Program**

Speaker – The Honorable Dan Lauwers, Michigan Senate

Senator Lauwers is Majority Floor Leader and Chairman of the Energy and Technology Committee. The Senator also served six years as a State Representative. Lauwers founded Eastern Michigan Grain and has worked for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the National Milk Producers Federation. He is former chair of the St Clair Soil Conservation Service, the St Clair MSU Extension Advisory Board and a member of the American Society for Agronomy, American Soybean Association, National Corn Growers Association and the National Grain and Feed Association.

Introduced by – Michigan State Representative Rachel Hood



- **Wisconsin Producer Led Watershed Management Grants**

Speaker – Dr. Don Niles, DVM, President of Peninsula Pride

Dr Niles, is co-owner of Dairy Dreams LLC, a 2800 cow dairy in NE Wisconsin. He is also President of Peninsula Pride Farms, (<https://peninsulapridefarmsinc.org/>) an organization led by farmers to leverage the ingenuity of the agricultural community, university research and scientists to meet water quality challenges. He is a member of the American Veterinary Medicine Association, The American Association of Bovine Practitioners, Dairy Cattle Welfare Council, Dairy Business Council and National Mastitis Council.

Introduced by Wisconsin Senator Andre Jacques



- **Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program and Buffer Strip Law**

Speaker - Angie Becker Kudelka, Assistant Director, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

Ms. Becker Kudelka is also an adjunct instructor in Sociology at Minnesota State University Mankato. Prior to the Board of Water and Soil Resources, Becker Kudelka worked in conservation nonprofits and local government.

Introduced by Minnesota Representative Todd Lippert



Register in advance for the April 23rd meeting:

<https://csg-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvfu-uqDloH9EYqBTEsIbYllxJgb7p6oYS>

Friday, May 7 10:00-11:30 AM CT/ 11:00 AM-12:30 PM ET

This virtual meeting will offer the opportunity to discuss:

- **H2Ohio**

Speaker- Dr. Scudder Mackey – Chief of the Office of Coastal Management, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources.

Dr. Mackey holds a Ph.D. in sedimentology from the State University of New York and has been actively involved with Lake Erie since 1992. He holds adjunct and Associate Research professorships in the Departments of Biological Sciences and Earth Sciences at the University of Windsor, Canada.



- **New York's Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan**

Speaker - Chastity Jock-Miller-District Manager, Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District. Jock-Miller has her Master's degree in Environmental Science from the University of New Haven.



- **Ontario's Lake Erie Agriculture Demonstrating Sustainability**

Register in advance for the May 7 meeting:

<https://csg-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpd--sqjgoGdz0mDvh14V1C4D3aMRh2BgJ>

Friday, May 21 10:00-11:30 AM CT/ 11:00 AM-12:30 PM ET

This virtual meeting will offer the opportunity to beta test the Great Lakes Commission Blue Accounting website. Blue Accounting is an information service to track the region's progress toward shared goals for the Great Lakes. Hundreds of different entities – across eight states and two provinces – currently invest billions of dollars in restoring and maintaining the Great Lakes, but until Blue Accounting, there hasn't been a way to measure the effectiveness of these efforts.

Speaker – Nicole Zacharda, Program Manager, Great Lakes Commission
Zacharda leads the GLC's water quality and infrastructure team and coordinates the Blue Accounting initiative. She has been with the Great Lakes Commission since 2016, following 16 years with Michigan's environmental agency.



Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://csg-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvcu-qrjwuEtZ5CqOobtA3ryHSzPMUPBu2>

These virtual meetings are open to all legislators and staff as well as other interested parties. Please feel free to share this invitation with other stakeholders.

For questions and comments, please contact Carolyn Orr, (859)265-0658 or Carolyn@strawridgeservices.com