

Great Lakes Coastal Assembly

2025-2026 Action Plan

January 2025 – December 2026

<i>Assembly-Led Actions</i>					
Actions	Major Milestones and Deliverables	Leads	Timeline	Status	Priorities Addressed
Review Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review milestones, leads, timeline, and status of current actions. Identify any new actions that align with priorities or emerging coastal challenges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator Assembly & Workgroup Co-chairs 	Annually (Dec/Jan)	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collaboration ✓ Expertise ✓ Comm/Learning <input type="checkbox"/> Science/Tools <input type="checkbox"/> Holistic Approach
Review Charter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major shifts in mission. Significant structural changes. External changes (e.g., new binational agreements, funding). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator Assembly Co-chairs 	Every 5-10 Years	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collaboration ✓ Expertise ✓ Comm/Learning ✓ Science/Tools ✓ Holistic Approach
Report Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present a summary of accomplishments to Assembly members. Develop a written summary of accomplishments that can be distributed to Assembly members, their leadership, and other key partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator Assembly & Workgroup Co-chairs 	Annually (Dec/Jan)	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collaboration ✓ Expertise ✓ Comm/Learning <input type="checkbox"/> Science/Tools ✓ Holistic Approach
Assess Assembly Membership, Workgroups, and Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify gaps in membership and seek new members to fill gaps. Determine whether new workgroups are needed to address priorities and identify workgroup co-chairs. Assess Assembly Co-chair positions. Host new member orientation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator Assembly Co-chairs 	Annually (Dec/Jan)	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collaboration ✓ Expertise ✓ Comm/Learning <input type="checkbox"/> Science/Tools <input type="checkbox"/> Holistic Approach

<i>Assembly-Led Actions</i>					
Actions	Major Milestones and Deliverables	Leads	Timeline	Status	Priorities Addressed
Hold Biennial In-Person Member Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select date and location. Arrange facility, lodging, and other logistics. Develop goals, objectives, and meeting agenda. Prepare meeting summary and follow-up actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator Assembly & Workgroup Co-chairs Sponsor (if applicable) 	Biennially alternating with the Symposium (Spring/Fall)	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collaboration ✓ Expertise ✓ Comm/Learning <input type="checkbox"/> Science/Tools <input type="checkbox"/> Holistic Approach
Coordinate Virtual Monthly Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop agenda, notes, and action items. Feature projects and lessons learned from Assembly members. Identify topics of interest and guest speakers. Report on workgroup progress. Explore topics beyond coastal wetlands (4/year). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator Assembly Co-chairs Workgroup Co-chairs 	Monthly	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collaboration ✓ Expertise ✓ Comm/Learning <input type="checkbox"/> Science & Tools <input type="checkbox"/> Holistic Approach
Assess the Need for a Workgroup of Landscape Conservation Planning and Prioritization Efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold an exploratory discussion with partners to understand how a workgroup would add value. Identify shared priorities, barriers, and gaps that a workgroup could address. Determine whether to pursue a formalized workgroup or simply maintain awareness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator 	Fall 2026	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collaboration ✓ Expertise ✓ Comm/Learning ✓ Science/Tools ✓ Holistic Approach

Assembly-Led Actions

Actions	Major Milestones and Deliverables	Leads	Timeline	Status	Priorities Addressed
<p>Use and Promote Products Developed through Assembly Collaborations</p>	<p>Use products and tools developed through Assembly collaborations to guide future work</p> <p>Host demonstrations of products and tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Framework • Saginaw Bay-Western Lake Erie Blueprint • Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Decision Support Tool • Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Restoration Assessment • Blue Accounting Metrics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wetland Breeding Bird IEC ○ Wetland Breeding Amphibian IEC ○ Coastal Wetland Investments ○ Flood Mitigation <p>Develop brief use-case examples to help members apply tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Members • Coordinator • Assembly Co-chairs • Coordinator 	<p>NA</p> <p>Semi-Annual</p> <p>Fall 2026</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Not Started</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collaboration ✓ Expertise ✓ Comm/Learning ✓ Science/Tools ✓ Holistic Approach

<i>Assembly-Led Actions</i>					
Actions	Major Milestones and Deliverables	Leads	Timeline	Status	Priorities Addressed
Connect to Existing Plans, Strategies, & Partnerships	Strengthen alignment with GLWQA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and summarize intersections with the GLWQA. Participate in relevant GLWQA annex team meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator Assembly Co-chairs 	Summer 2026	Not Started	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collaboration ✓ Expertise ✓ Comm/Learning ✓ Science/Tools ✓ Holistic Approach
	Strengthen GLRI Focus Area Coordination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconnect with the new Focus Area 4 Lead. Expand understanding of how other Focus Areas align with Assembly priorities. Coordinate presentations from Focus Area leads to highlight high-level accomplishments, emerging priorities, and opportunities for collaboration. 		Summer 2026	In Progress	
	Enhance Engagement with LAMPs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host presentations from LAMP representatives, incorporating foundational overviews from US and CA leads and a “one slide per lake” format summarizing high-level accomplishments, contacts, and opportunities for Assembly engagement. Support optional deeper dives (e.g., Lake Erie) at meetings or webinars. 		Summer 2026	Not Started	
	Connect with Emerging Strategic Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host a presentation on the Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative to identify shared priorities and collaborative opportunities. 		Summer 2026	Not Started	

<i>Workgroup-Led Actions</i>					
Actions	Major Milestones and Deliverables	Leads	Timeline	Status	Priorities Addressed
Hold Biennial Great Lakes Coastal Symposium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish 2024 proceedings. Identify a theme, solicit nominations for host and location, select meeting dates. Identify collaborators and secure funding. Establish a workgroup. Arrange facility, lodging, and other logistics. Identify keynote speakers; solicit abstracts for organized and concurrent sessions, workshops and panels, and field trips; design meeting program. Call for sponsors. Host 4th Great Lakes Coastal Symposium Publish 2026 proceedings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator Symposium Workgroup Event Planner 	2025 (Winter) 2025 (Spring/Fall) 2025 (Fall) 2025 (Fall) 2026 (Spring) 2026 (Spring) 2026 (Spring) 2026 (Fall) 2026 (Winter)	Completed Completed Completed Completed In Progress In Progress Not Started Not Started Not Started	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collaboration ✓ Expertise ✓ Comm/Learning ✓ Science/Tools ✓ Holistic Approach
Finalize Western Lake Erie to Saginaw Bay Blueprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize website (fws.gov). Publish online decision support mapping tool, implementation plan, and project reporting form. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blueprint Workgroup 	September 2026 September 2026	In Progress In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collaboration ✓ Expertise ✓ Comm/ Learning ✓ Science/Tools ✓ Holistic Approach
Implement Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft geospatial products from remaining Great Lakes. Finalize Lake Erie Pilot of the Framework. Determine next lake to implement the Framework. Form Steering Team for next lake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framework Workgroup Coastal Assembly Members 	August 2026 January 2027 Undetermined Undetermined	In Progress In Progress Not Started Not Started	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collaboration ✓ Expertise ✓ Comm/Learning ✓ Science/Tools ✓ Holistic Approach
Great Lakes Islands Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene Islands Workgroup. Members and guests present at Islands Workgroup meetings. Finalize the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River islands prioritization reference guide. Begin Lake Erie Islands Prioritization reference guide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Islands Workgroup 	Bi-monthly Bi-monthly Spring 2026 Spring 2026	Ongoing Ongoing In Progress Not Started	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collaboration ✓ Expertise ✓ Comm/Learning ✓ Science/Tools ✓ Holistic Approach



<i>Workgroup-Led Actions</i>					
Actions	Major Milestones and Deliverables	Leads	Timeline	Status	Priorities Addressed
Coastal Resilience Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations on coastal resilience by workgroup members and guest speakers. • Document and share ongoing resilience projects and initiatives. • Discuss best practices and support development of evidence base for nature-based solutions. • Communicate info on programs and funding mechanisms for coastal resilience projects. • Workgroup members re-evaluate existing priorities and prioritize new projects at least yearly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Resilience Workgroup 	Bi-monthly Winter 2026-27 Fall 2027 Winter 2026-27, Annually Annually	Ongoing Not Started Not Started Not Started Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collaboration ✓ Expertise ✓ Comm/Learning ✓ Science/Tools ✓ Holistic Approach
Cultivate Assembly Brand and Broader Outreach Efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconvene the Outreach Workgroup. • Revisit Assembly audience types and identify outreach needs. • Review and update web content and fact sheets. • Provide regular updates to a broader list of partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinator • Outreach Workgroup 	Spring 2026 Spring 2026 Summer 2026 Ongoing	Started Not Started In Progress Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collaboration ✓ Expertise ✓ Comm/Learning ✓ Science/Tools ✓ Holistic Approach