



HTAC Voting Members Present

Name		Organization
Ed	Anderson	City of Superior - Citizen Rep
Dan	Belden	WLSSD
Cameron	Bertsch	Douglas County Land & Water Conservation Dept
Steve	Brossart	US Army Corps of Engineers
Natalie	Chin, Ph. d	Wisconsin Sea Grant/UW
John	Downing	Minnesota Sea Grant/UMD
Kris	Eilers	St Louis River Alliance
Jessica	Felix	WisDOT NW Region (<i>alternate</i>)
Patty	Fowler	MnDNR
Ken	Gerasimos	Great Lakes Fleet/Key Lakes
Gary	Glass	Izaak Walton League
Barb	Huberty	MPCA
Dewey	Johnson	St Louis County Emergency Mgmt
Joel	Johnson	Lakehead Boat Basin, Inc.
Brandon	Kohlts	WLSSD (<i>alternate</i>)
Jason	Laumann	NWRPC
Capt Ed	Montgomery	Sea Service, L.L.C.
Nick	Patterson	JF Brennan Company Inc
Steven	Robertson	City of Duluth
Jason	Serck	City of Superior
CMDR Frances	Smith	USCG/Marine Safety Unit Duluth
Jeff	Stollenwerk	Duluth Seaway Port Authority

HTAC Voting Members Absent

Name		Organization
Brian	Boder	St. Louis County Public Works
Marshall	Elder	Midwest Energy Resources
Matti	Erpestad	Recreation - Non-Motorized
Cherie	Hagen	Wisconsin DNR
Dan	Hartman	DECC
Shawn	Krizaj	City of Duluth Fire Dept
Mark	LaLiberte	Compass Minerals
Robb	McGhie	Perkins Specialized Transportation Contracting
Patrick	Phenow	Mn/DOT
Dena	Ryan	WisDOT - Northwest Region
Lou	Weichseldorfer	CN



Others Present

Name		Organization
Hannah	Alstead	Office of US Senator Tina Smith
David	Bolgrien	USEPA ORD Duluth
Dan	Breneman	MPCA
Ron	Chicka	MIC
Ken	Dammer	Hallett Dock 8-Envirotech Services
Eric	Dott	Barr Engineering Co
Josh	Dumke	UMD, Natural Resources Resource Institute
Kate	Ferguson	Duluth Seaway Port Authority
Peter	Hirthe	GL/SLS Development Corp
Jayson	Hron	DS Port Authority
Patrick	Huston	MnDOT
Seth	Johnson	AMI Consulting Engineers
LTJE Joe	McGinnis	USCG-Duluth Marine Safety Unit (<i>alternate</i>)
Barb	Peterson	MIC
Kelsey	Prihoda	MN Sea Grant
Ida	Rukavina	Office of Senator Amy Klobuchar
Daniel	Rust	UW Sup-Transportation & Logistics Res Ctr
Chad	Scott	AMI Consulting Engineers
Lisa	Stern	WisDOT
Dr Richard	Stewart	UW Sup-Transportation & Logistics Res Ctr
Mike	Sullivan	Maritime Administration/MARAD
Jacob	Warkentin	REP/Veteran's Adv for Cong Stauber's Off
Natalie	White	SEH
Kate	Williams	USEPA
Mike	Wenholz	Former MIC
Hans	Wronka	Burns & McDonnell Engineering Co
Marie	Zhuikov	WI Sea Grant



Introductions / Agenda Review / Committee Business

HTAC Chair Ed Anderson called the meeting to order at approximately 9:02 AM. Ron Chicka and Mike Wenholz welcomed everyone to the quarterly meeting and addressed a few issues to help assure the meeting goes smoothly.

Chair Anderson asked if there were requested changes to the September 1, 2021, Meeting Summary. Chair Anderson asked for a motion to approve.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Joel Johnson/Jeff Stollenwork moved to approve the 9.1.21 meeting summary. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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MIC Updates, Ron Chicka

- Ron Chicka welcomed everyone and stated that we are working on trying the Hybrid meeting again soon. This meeting for many reasons just didn't work out that way but possibly in March or June, we can try it again.
- Ron continued stating that he had been working with staff, and the DOTs concerning the hazardous material movement. Some of you here today have taken part in some meetings discussing this. Longtime member and friend of the HTAC, Dale Bergeron has been doing some research on his own about the hazardous material movement in this area. After some meeting with MnDOT Central office and Federal Highway we are not sure where to go with this discussion. It has been decided to set up a separate meeting inviting all of the MIC committee members sometime before Christmas break. Since Dale has done a great deal of research into this topic, he will present the research he has done and then it will be open to discussion.
- Lastly, Ron shared that Mike Wenholz has moved back to WI DNR after almost 5 years with the MIC. The MIC will be doing some hiring and will continue the normal HTAC work throughout the next year. He then asked Mike to say a couple words.

Mike shared that it was not an easy decision since he thoroughly enjoyed time with Ron and the MIC staff. Certainly, a huge part of my time with the MIC was the HTAC and its subcommittees. It was a very interesting and unique experience. He then thanked everyone for their time and patience. Mike said he will be in the Superior office so stop by if you're in the area.

Subcommittee Updates

Navigation Subcommittee Meeting, Joe McGinnis

Joe stated that there is a full calendar of events coming up this Spring and Summer. He is hoping that we can get a calendar together to discuss at the Navigation Subcommittee sometime in March 2022.



Joe also presented to Mike Wenzholz a certificate of appreciation and recognition of notable contributions and cooperation which have assisted in furthering the aims and functions of the Coast Guard. He also presented Mike with the Coast Guard Unit Coin to say thanks for all of his support.

Blatnik Bridge Update & Exercise, Jessica Felix (WisDOT), Pat Huston (MnDOT)

Jessica opened the discussion giving an update of where this project is. She shared that we have climbed out of the basement and are on the first floor but have a “skyscraper” above us.

Pat provided the presentation which included:

- A Project overview
- Recap of Project Purpose statement and Project Needs
- Schedule and milestones
- Alternatives Development and Screening
- Alternatives Recommended for Further Study
- Next Steps

Jessica addressed the “homework assignment” sent out by Barb last night. If you have your answers today great please share them or we would appreciate emails to us or even phone calls with responses.

Comments can be made at the websites below:

<https://www.publiccoordinate.com/#/projects/blatnikbridgeSEPTEMBER2021>

<https://www.dot.state.mn.us/d1/projects/blatnik-bridge/index.html>

Great Lakes Dredging Team Update, Dan Breneman, MPCA

Dan began by describing that the Great Lakes Dredging Team is just a group associated with the Great Lakes Navigation Team which is lead by the Army Corps of Engineers. It provides a forum for the exchange of information on topics associated with managing dredge material throughout the region. There has currently been some rebranding for the team due to a review by the Army Corps General Counsel concerning the Federal Advisory Committee Act language. The Army Corps will also be maintaining the website which had been the maintained by the Great Lakes Commission staff.

They are hoping to have a webinar sometime in February and their annual meeting in the Spring of 2022.

For more info check out the website below:

[Great Lakes Dredging Team](#)



Great Lakes St Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation Updates, Peter Hirthe (GLS)

Peter shared that he is an International Trade Specialist for the Great Lakes St Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. He reviewed the tonnage running through the seaway which is up overall year to date. Of interest to the Duluth Superior Port, iron ore tonnage is up 20% and continues to be strong.

Peter then shared that they received some additional funding for marketing to do some comprehensive marketing and trade development work throughout the seaway. Working with a stakeholder group he is working on ways to increase and enhance the visibility of the Great Lakes to global markets. They are also working on promoting the Cruise industry.

For more details check out the presentation and the website.

St Louis River Alliance Updates & Upcoming Events, Kris Eilers (SLRA)

Kris stated that due to the pandemic the group has not doing much public outings as they normally would. She shared who the St Louis River Alliance is; a nonprofit grassroots group who originally was a Citizens Action Committee and when the EPA designated the river an estuary, they eventually became who they are today. They are committed to protecting, restoring and enhancing the Saint Louis River. The group is currently working on the river becoming a national water trail. Kris continued describing the work they are doing. They are inviting everyone to come home to the river.

For more information check out their website and/or join one of their activities this spring and summer.

[St Louis River Alliance](#)

Roundtable

Kelsey Pihoda added that the St Louis River Summit will be held March 7th – 9th using a hybrid platform. There will be Poster Presentations and field trips which will be in person.

Kate Ferguson announced that she and Jason Serck, City of Superior had an idea to develop a plan to have a workforce development session for port related and waterfront businesses. They are working closely with the City of Duluth Workforce Development Center as well as many other workforce development organizations around the Northland on both side of the bridge. You may have received an invitation to a workforce development meeting. If there is anybody at this meeting that is interested in being a part of this work group let me know.

Melissa Sjolund MN DNR will be providing the AOC update in place of Barb Huberty who had to be at another meeting. Barb did provide a fact sheet that is attached to this summary. Melissa shared a few:

At the Thompson Hill Visitor Center, there is a new electronic kiosk that shows a large panoramic view of the estuary and highlights some of it's history. Mike W added that a Hamlin University grant provided the kiosk. If you are up in the area check it out.



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
HARBOR TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary
December 1, 2021

Great Lakes Aquarium – there is an exhibit showing watersheds at work – check it out.

The Ponds behind Erie Pier is a cleanup project and is about half done – work will continue next year
The Munger Landing cleanup site – an environmental assessment worksheet is being prepared and is out for public notice now through December 23rd.

Scanlon Reservoir Remediation Project-contractor selection to be done in January

You can find the rest in the fact sheet.

With no other items brought forward, Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:23 AM.

St. Louis River Area of Concern

Minnesota's role in this bi-state effort to restore the river & revitalize the community

The St. Louis River Area of Concern, one of 31 Areas of Concern on the U.S. side of the Great Lakes, was designated by the U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in 1987. Since then, many partners have been addressing legacy impacts that occurred here before environmental laws were enacted. The largest and most expensive projects will reduce risks to human health and the environment by applying remedies to contaminated sediments and restoring fish and wildlife habitat. Projects in Minnesota & Wisconsin are concentrated in the St. Louis River, from the Scanlon Reservoir (near Cloquet) down through the Twin Ports shipping harbor (see map on back page).

The nine “Beneficial Use Impairments” that apply here are listed below. A Remedial Action Plan describes the targets to remove those impairments, along with the eighty management actions needed to reach them targets. Three impairments have already been removed. Six more impairments are scheduled to be removed as shown below. Once all the impairments are removed, the St. Louis River Area of Concern can be proposed for delisting!

BUIs:	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Aesthetics	✓											
Fish Tumors & Deformities						✓						
Sediments & Nutrients							✓					
F&W Populations									●			
Beach Closings/ Body Contact												●
Dredging Restrictions											*	●
Benthos												> ●
Fish Consumption Advisories												> ●
F&W Habitat											*	●

** The Dredging Restrictions impairment can be removed after the contaminated sediment remedies are in place. The Loss of Fish & Wildlife Habitat impairment can be removed after habitat restoration projects are done. These construction projects are currently slated for completion by 2024.*

Federal funding support from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers & National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Contaminated Sediment Remediation Projects (status as of 9/30/21)



Minnesota Slip (2018)

Cost: \$6.62M (GLRI, MN Bonds, CWF, Duluth Bonds)

- 3.25-acre former industrial slip
- 35,000 yds³ sediment contaminated by heavy metals & polycyclic aromatic



Slip 3 (2018)

Cost: \$1.15M (GLRI, MN Bonds, CWF)

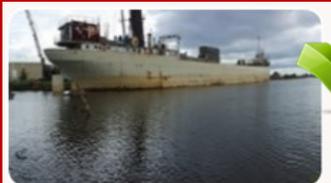
- 2.75-acre former industrial slip
- 6,000 yds³ sediment contaminated by PAHs & heavy metals; capped & armored



Slip C (2018)

Cost: \$2.35M (GLRI, MN Bonds, CWF)

- 12-acre active industrial slip
- 110,000 yds³ sediment contaminated by PAHs & heavy metals; capped &



Azcon/DSPA Slip (2020)

Cost: \$4.73M (GLRI, MN Bonds, CWF)

- 6.4-acre active industrial slip
- 55,000 yds³ sediment contaminated by PAHs, zinc & dioxins/furans; removed



Ponds behind Erie Pier (2021-2022)

Estimated Cost: \$16.72M (GLRI, MN Bonds, CWF)

- 20-acre ponds formed by railroad cutoff of estuary
- 45,000 yds³ sediment contaminated by heavy metals, PAHs, polychlorinated biphenyls



Scanlon Reservoir (2021-2022)

Estimated Cost: \$8.23M (GLRI, MN Bonds, CWF)

- 40-acre Minnesota Power production reservoir
- 60,000 yds³ sediments contaminated by dioxin/furans; will apply carbon amendment



Munger Landing (2022-2023)

Estimated Cost: \$32M (GLRI, MN Bonds, CWF)

- 77-acre backwater bay
- 110,000 yds³ sediment contaminated by heavy metals, dioxin/furans, PAHs & PCBs; will



Thomson Reservoir (2023)

Estimated Cost: \$21.75M (GLRI, MN Bonds, CWF)

- 330-acre Minnesota Power production reservoir
- 240,000 yds³ sediments contaminated by dioxin/furans; will apply carbon amendment



AGP/Northland Slip (2023)

Estimated Cost: \$4M (GLRI, MN Bonds, CWF)

- 9-acre active industrial slip
- 48,000 yds³ sediment contaminated by PAHs & heavy metals, to be capped & armored

Sites that, after investigation, did not need remedial action: Mud Lake West, Slip near 21st Ave, & End of Rice's Point-Off Channel East.
 Sites completed using funds from other sources, including private funds: Slip 2, DSPA Garfield Slip D, & St. Louis River/Interlake/Duluth Tar.

Habitat Restoration Projects (status as of 9/30/21)



Radio Tower Bay (2015)

Cost: \$4.8M (GLRI, OHF, others)

- Removed 218 railroad pilings & 115,000 yd³ wood waste and increased water depth
- The restored 29-acre shallow sheltered bay improves diverse plant and fish communities



Chambers Grove (2015)

Cost: \$1.2M (GLRI, CWF, OHF)

- Restored 1,000 ft shoreline formerly hardened by sheet piling & reconnected to floodplain
- Restored critical spawning habitat for lake sturgeon



Interstate Island (2021)

Cost: \$2.8M (OHF, GLRI, HMTF, other)

- Added clean dredge material to increase the island's elevation and footprint for resiliency
- Refurbished & protected the Common Tern nesting area, including new fencing



21st Avenue West (2021)

Cost: \$12.9M (GLRI, CWF, HMTF)

- Added 750,000 cy³ of clean dredge material in 5 shoals to limit contaminant exposure
- Restored depth diversity in 350 acres of shallow sheltered bay habitat for fish & birds



Kingsbury Bay & Grassy Point (2021)

Estimated Cost: \$18M (GLRI, NRDA, OHF)

- Removed excess sediment, wood waste & invasive cattails from 240 acres in two bays
- Improved depth diversity & fish habitat; restored shallow sheltered bay conditions



40th Avenue West (2022)

Estimated Cost: \$6.5M (GLRI, CWF, HMTF)

- Eliminated contaminant exposure by adding 300,000 cy³ of clean dredge material in 6 shoals
- Added depth diversity to restore 300 acres of shallow sheltered bay habitat for fish & birds



Perch Lake (2022-2023)

Estimated Cost: \$7.1M (GLRI, OHF)

- Will remove excess sediment to create depth diversity to improve fish habitat
- Will improve water flow between the lake & the river



Mud Lake (2022-2023)

Estimated Cost: \$10.5M (GLRI, OHF)

- Will remove wood, sediment, & invasive cattails to create depth diversity
- Openings will be added &/or improved to improve water flow



Spirit Lake (2021-2023) - led by EPA

Estimated Cost: \$75M (US Steel, GLRI)

- 415,000 yd³ of contaminated sediment to be removed & 96 acres capped or covered
- Improve depth diversity for fish habitat, including spawning areas

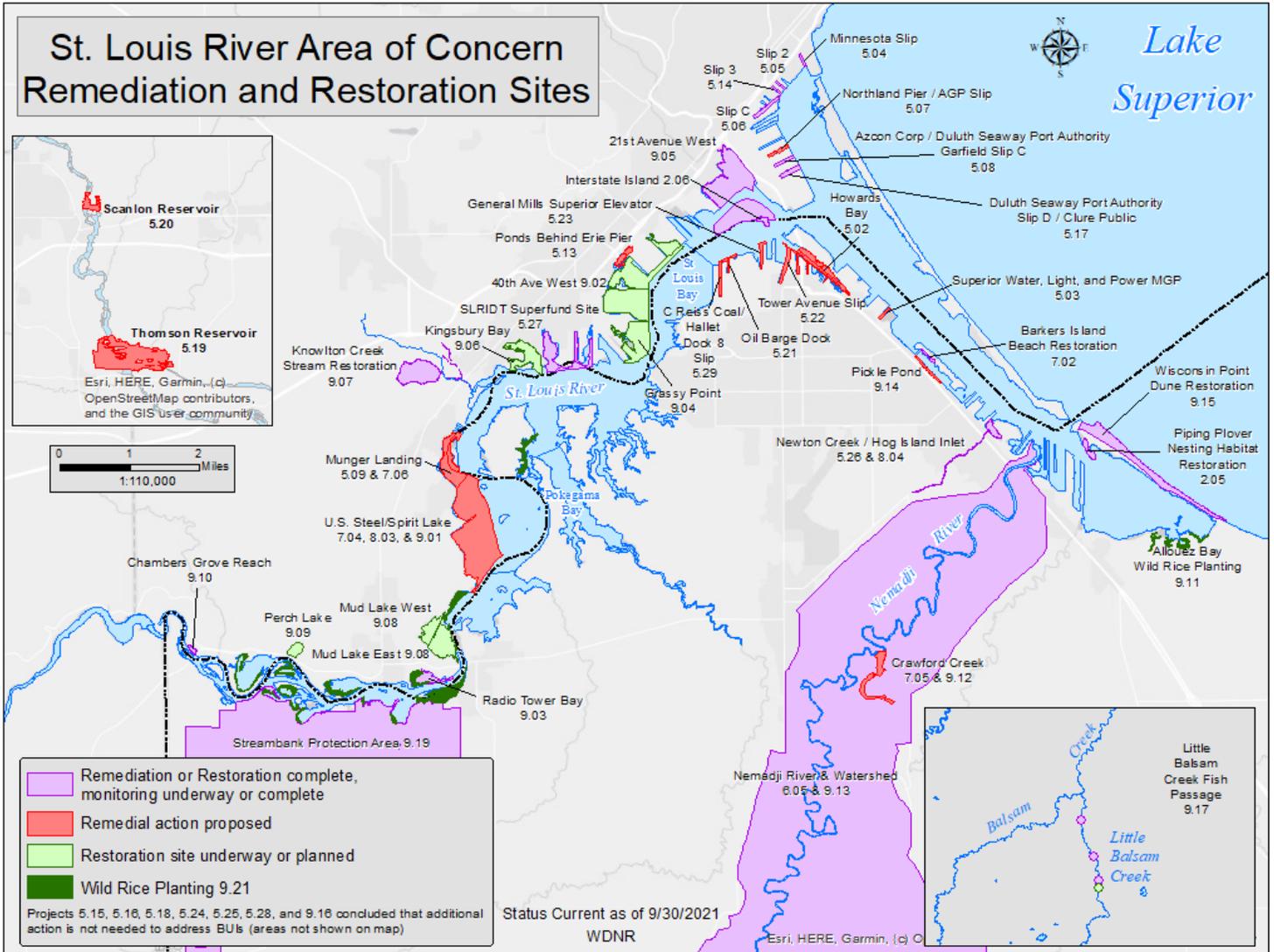


Wild Rice (2024)

Estimated Cost: \$1.2M (OHF, CWF)

- Developed wild rice restoration plan and selected priority sites over 275 acres for seeding
- Since 2015, yearly seeding & monitoring of density & acreage goals to evaluate success

Bi-State Construction Projects in the Lower St. Louis River



Success in Completing Management Actions

59% of Management Actions Are Complete as of 9/30/21

7	No further action needed
40	Completed
11	Remediation projects in progress
11	Restoration projects in progress
11	Other in progress (studies, assessments, plans, data management & tracking)
0	Not started
80	Total Management Actions

MN Funding

Rem/Resto Project Costs (9/30/21):

- \$82.5M GLRI (32%)
- \$175.9M MN share (68%)

Estimated remaining MN need:

- \$69.2M GLRI (52%)
- \$64.5M MN share (48%)

m DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

m MINNESOTA POLLUTION
CONTROL AGENCY

For more information—<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/st-louis-river-area-concern-resources> or contact:

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