



Coordinating Regional Monitoring

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Straddling the Divide: Water Supply Planning in the Lake Michigan Region

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Overview

- ◆ Issue Introduction
 - ◆ What is the problem?
 - ◆ Scale of issue
- ◆ Coordination Approaches
 - ◆ Monitoring coordination bodies
 - ◆ Data inventories and exchanges
 - ◆ Collaborative events and programs
- ◆ How does this affect water supply?



Issue Introduction

- ◆ Sound management policies should build on reliable information
- ◆ Policies and management should scale to resource
- ◆ Ecosystem management requires information integrated from various fields of study



Two Issues

1. Information collected according to political boundaries rather than resource boundaries
2. Information collection agencies focused on narrow fields of study



Great Lakes Hydrologic and Political Boundaries



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Great Lakes Commission

- ◆ Binational agency representing Great Lakes states and provinces
- ◆ Formed in mid 1950s via U.S. state and federal law: provincial associate membership in 1999
- ◆ Promotes the informed use, management and protection of the water and related natural resources of the Great Lakes Basin and St. Lawrence River



Great Lakes Commission

- ◆ Addresses resource management, environmental protection, transportation and sustainable economic development issues
- ◆ Functions are information sharing, policy research and development, and advocacy
- ◆ “Information and research broker” that focuses on hydrologic, rather than geo-political boundaries



Monitoring Coordination Bodies

- ◆ Lake basin councils and committees
 - ◆ LaMPs
 - ◆ Connecting Channels
- ◆ Resource-based entities
 - ◆ Wetlands
 - ◆ Groundwater
 - ◆ Surface water (watersheds)



What can these groups do?

- ◆ Develop partnerships and relationships across a multi-jurisdictional region
- ◆ Identify needed and available information
- ◆ Compare methods, data and analytical techniques
- ◆ Establish data sharing mechanisms and link networks
- ◆ Improve awareness of the need and use of monitoring information



Lakewide Groups

- ◆ Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council
- ◆ Lake Erie Millennium Project
- ◆ 4-party monitoring committee (upper connecting channels)
- ◆ Lake Ontario Study



Resource-based Groups

- ◆ Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium
- ◆ Wisconsin Groundwater Protection Network
- ◆ Watershed partnerships
- ◆ Great Lakes Fishery Commission
 - ◆ Lake-based fishery committees



Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council

◆ Objectives:

- ◆ Document activities, identify gaps and contribute to a monitoring plan for the basin
- ◆ Maintain collaborative partnerships
- ◆ Document data quality and comparability
- ◆ Link basinwide information systems
- ◆ Improve general awareness

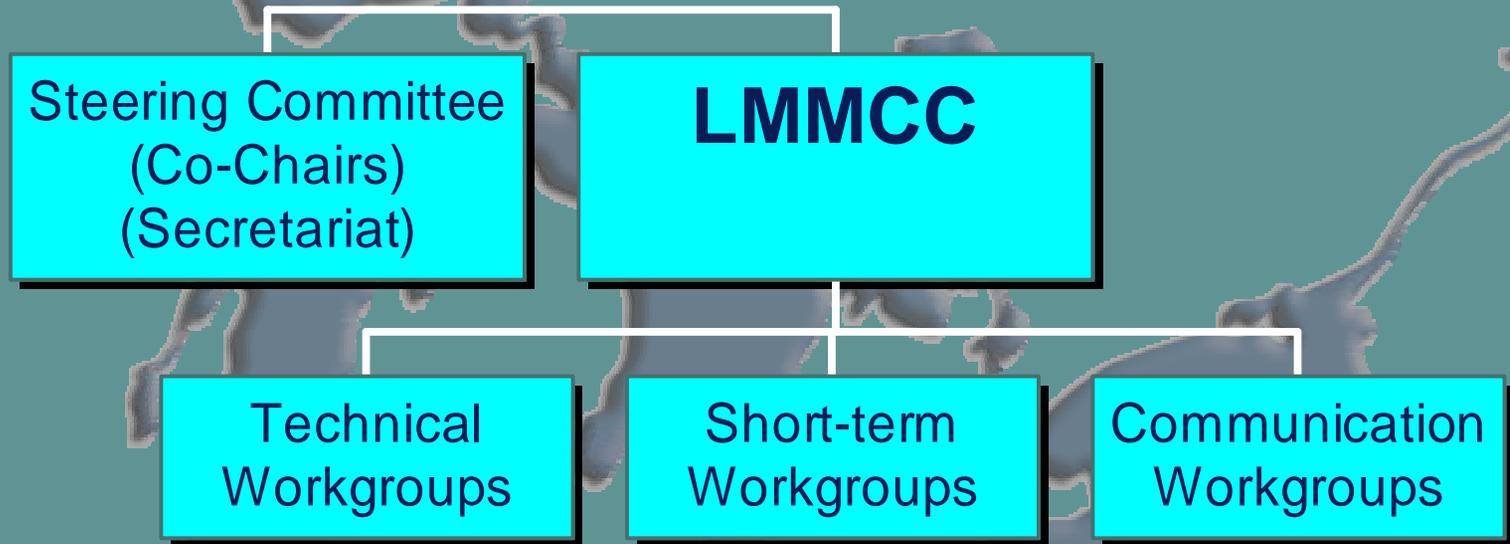


Membership

- ◆ State agencies (8)
- ◆ Federal agencies (7)
- ◆ Tribal nations/associations (2)
- ◆ Business, industry and consultants (2)
- ◆ Agricultural groups (1)
- ◆ Local volunteer or environmental groups (2)
- ◆ Sea Grant Programs or university-based institutes (4)
- ◆ Lake Michigan LaMP Forum (1)
- ◆ Local government/planning agencies (4)
- ◆ Great Lakes Fishery Commission (1)
- ◆ Chair of LaMP Technical Coordinating Committee and Great Lakes Commission (ex officio members)



Council Organization



Technical Workgroups

- ◆ Air
- ◆ Aquatic Nuisance Species
- ◆ Fisheries
- ◆ Groundwater
- ◆ Land Use
- ◆ Open Lake
- ◆ Recreational Waters
- ◆ Tributaries
- ◆ Wetlands
- ◆ Wildlife



Products

- ◆ Basinwide monitoring inventory
- ◆ Issue/discussion papers
 - ◆ Objectives analysis
 - ◆ LM Mass Balance continuation
 - ◆ Network considerations
 - ◆ Surface water monitoring network design
- ◆ Workgroup projects
 - ◆ Tributary Monitoring Project
 - ◆ ANS Early Detection System
- ◆ Communications tools

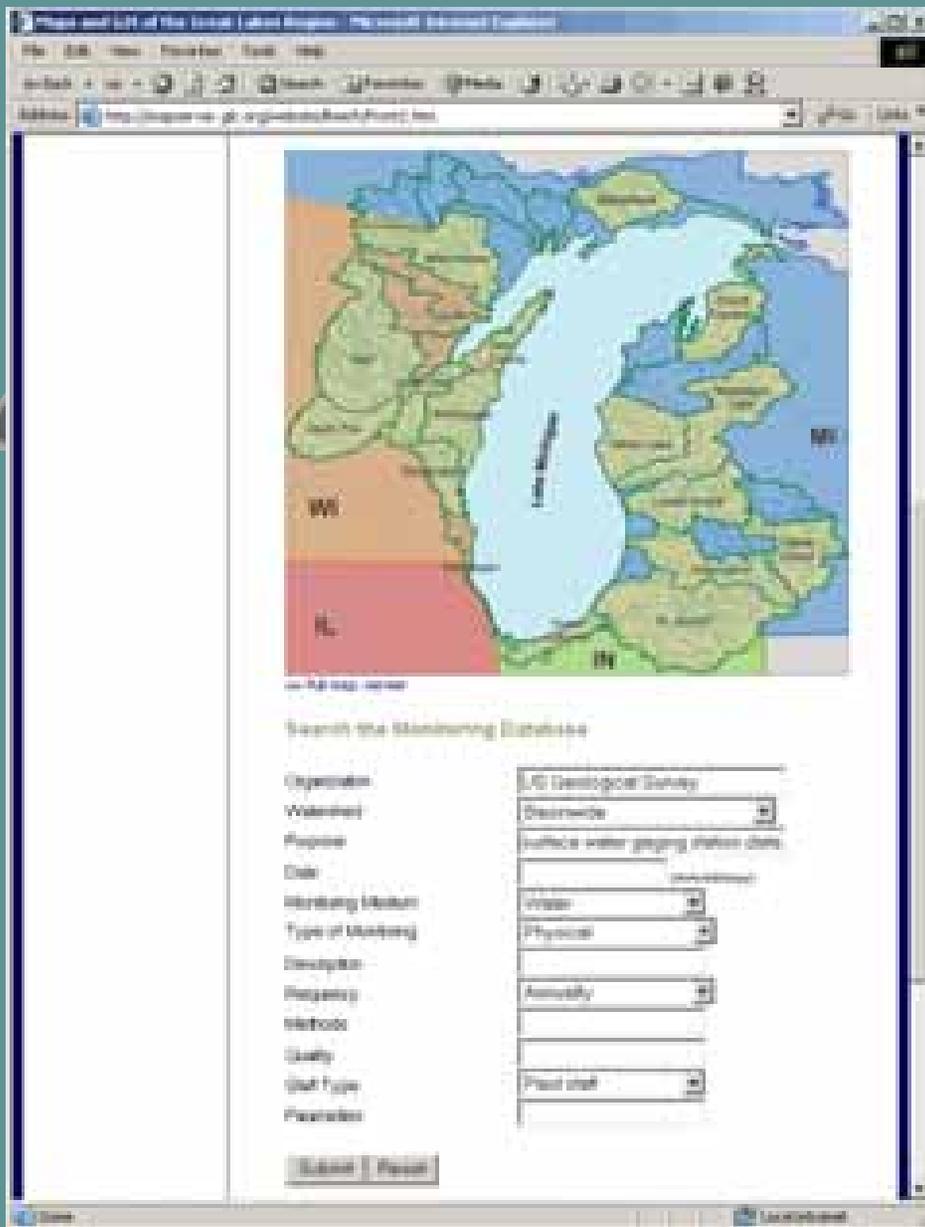


Data Inventories & Exchanges



- ◆ Monitoring inventories building to Great Lakes Monitoring Inventory
- ◆ Online meta-databases
- ◆ Other shared databases
- ◆ Training or methodological resources





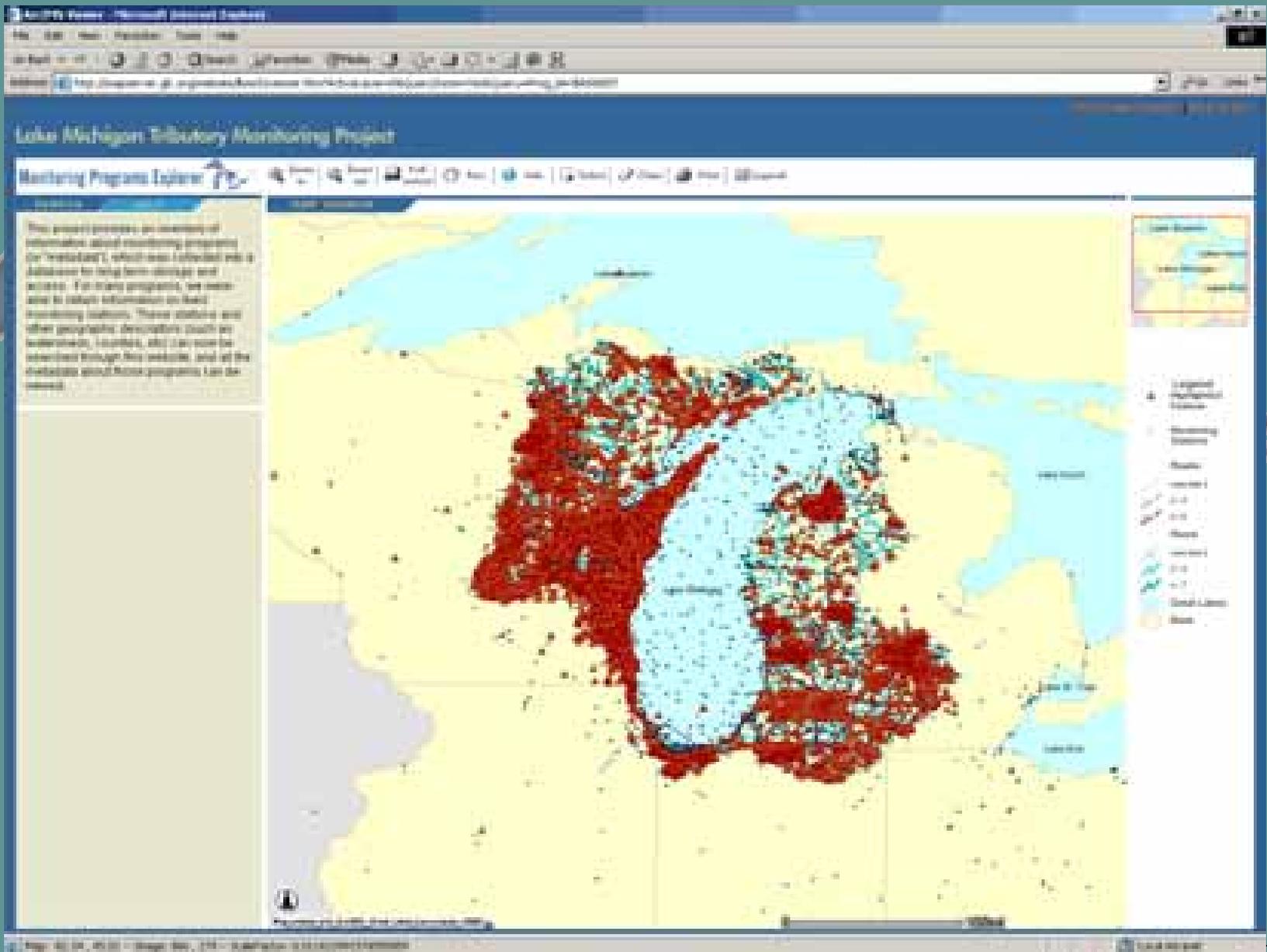
Prototype online inventories developed for Lake Michigan and Lake St. Clair





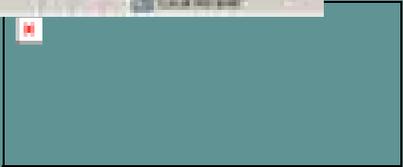
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Collaborative Events & Programs

- ◆ Various approaches to manage resources require collection of information
- ◆ Single or regular events or programs can address a single issue
- ◆ Focus resources to coordinate data collection, analysis and reporting
- ◆ Partners must be willing to compromise
- ◆ Central funding source can drive the process



Examples

- ◆ TMDL development and similar designs
 - ◆ Lake Michigan Tributary Monitoring project
- ◆ Watershed planning
 - ◆ Michigan Clean Water Corps
- ◆ SOLEC Indicator Groups
 - ◆ Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium
- ◆ Sediment modeling projects



How does this relate to water supply?

- ◆ Water supply issues can be complex and broad in geographic scope
- ◆ Information from a number of sources may be required
- ◆ Larger studies may provide information to help multiple jurisdictions
- ◆ Data sharing standards and communication will be necessary



Questions to ask?

- ◆ What information do we need to understand the issues?
- ◆ Who collects that data?
- ◆ Are others dealing with the same issues or sources?
- ◆ What framework should we use to take advantage of scale efficiencies?
- ◆ How best can we combine resources?



For More Information

- ◆ Great Lakes Commission
 - ◆ <http://www.glc.org/>
- ◆ Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN)
 - ◆ <http://www.great-lakes.net/>
- ◆ Me – Ric Lawson
 - ◆ 734.665.9135 or rlawson@glc.org

