

Tinka Hyde
Great Lakes National Program Office
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Ms. Hyde,

Congratulations on your new role as Director of the Great Lakes National Program Office. We are encouraged by this and hope that this is an opportunity to build on your predecessor's work to enhance engagement of the public and nongovernmental groups in restoration activities taking place all across the Great Lakes Basin. In recognition of this opportunity, we wanted to request a meeting with you to discuss our ideas for engagement, the essential aspects of which are described below.

- We share a desire with your office to build a robust set of mechanisms to fully engage all stakeholders, including the general public, in the ongoing work around the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA), the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and the Lakewide Area Management Plans (LAMP);
- These engagement approaches should build on the efforts currently underway to develop the Lake Partnership Governance and Organizational Structure so momentum is not lost;
- One approach could be a series of "Advisory Networks" for each of the Great Lakes;
- These Networks would be asked to engage on various aspects of the LAMP's and restoration activities connected to the GLWQA and the GLRI, when needed;
- Network discussions would be focused and facilitated by professional facilitators, funded by the U.S. EPA;
- A smaller subset of each Network, perhaps a small self-determined advisory committee, could be tasked from time to time with the responsibility for bringing overarching issues to the attention of each Lake Partnership, Region 5 or other federal or binational entities, as appropriate;
- Your office will share these ideas at the upcoming meeting of the Great Lakes Executive Committee;
- Your office, with assistance from the Great Lakes Network if needed, will reach out to key stakeholders, especially those formerly associated with the Lakewide Forums, to get their input and guidance regarding this new engagement process;

It should be noted that through the HOW Coalition, we brought many of the points above previously to the attention of Susan Hedman at a meeting and follow up letter last May 2015.

We fully recognize that these are just concepts at this juncture and that much more work and discussion must occur before any final outreach and engagement approach is completed.

We believe this model of public engagement would serve both public and government interests. We look forward to additional dialog and discussion as we work together to build on the foundation of a robust, transparent and inclusive approach to conservation activities in the Great Lakes Basin – a foundation that has already positioned the region for great achievements, now and into the future.

Once again, thanks for your time. Please do not hesitate to contact any one of us to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Name, title, organization