

Mayors Commission on Water Equity

Nine Mayors from major Great Lakes and St. Lawrence cities are coming together to address water equity challenges as part of a new Mayors Commission on Water Equity.

"Many residents throughout the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region lack access to clean and affordable drinking water," said Waukegan Mayor Sam Cunningham, Chair of the new Water Equity Commission. "While water equity challenges are particularly severe for poor communities and communities of color, they are relevant for all citizens."

Members of the Commission include:

- Mayor Sam Cunningham, Waukegan, IL (Commission Chair)
- Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot, Chicago, IL
- Mayor Mike Duggan, Detroit, MI
- Mayor Gino Moretti of Saint-Anicet, QC
- Mayor Jerome Prince, Gary, IN
- Mayor Tom Barrett, Milwaukee, WI
- Mayor Valerie Plante, Montreal, QC
- Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, Toledo, OH
- Mayor Billy McKinney – Zion, IL

The Commission will be convened in December and will focus on identifying the range of issues to address, including access, affordability, community and economic benefits from water infrastructure investments and community resilience to climate change.

In early 2021 the Commission will conduct stakeholder listening sessions and policy briefings, and explore collaborative partnerships. The Commission will present recommendations to the Cities Initiative members at its annual meeting outlining key issues and a proposed agenda for an ongoing water equity initiative aimed at implementing solutions to key water equity challenges.

“We look forward to working with these Mayors as we address these critical water equity issues,” said Mike Vandersteen, Chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.