

A Framework for Action

The Great Lakes Commission Special Committee on Climate Resilience recommends the following draft framework for action in 2020. The framework sets forth initial action items and suggested timelines for completion. This framework is not intended to be comprehensive; rather, it is to capitalize on momentum of the Special Committee and guide the initial next steps for the Commission as it works to address climate resilience throughout the Great Lakes Basin.

Recommendation 1:

Establish a Standing Committee on Climate Resilience, comprised of Commissioners from each jurisdiction and authorized to convene additional representatives from the jurisdictions as needed. Timeframe: immediate and continuing

Recommendation 2:

Task the Standing Committee to develop and recommend a common definition of “Resilience” for the Great Lakes Basin. Timeframe: For consideration by the public at the Commission’s semi-annual meeting in Kenosha, WI and by the end of Q2.

Recommendation 3:

Develop a compilation and clearinghouse of progress that highlights state, provincial and regional efforts related to climate resilience in the Great Lakes Basin (Timeframe: Q2 2020) and establish partnerships with government agencies, research institutions and NGO’s to produce a report that compiles and assesses the environmental, economic, and social impacts of climate change to the Great Lakes Basin. Timeframe: immediate and continuing.

Recommendation 4:

Develop a Great Lakes Climate Resilience “State of the Basin” - a long-term outlook and an action plan that prioritizes efforts that form a roadmap to advance climate resilience in the Great Lakes Basin. Timeframe: to be explored by Standing Committee in 2020.

Recommendation 5:

Establish processes for sharing data, evaluating risks and challenges, and deploying strategies to advance climate resilience in the Great Lakes in collaboration with local, regional, and federal partners.

Recommendation 6:

Establish regular dialogue focused on climate resilience among Commissioners, Observers, and other stakeholders during Commission annual and semi-annual meetings. Timeframe: structure to be developed and recommended by Standing Committee in 2020.

Recommendation 7:

As needed or recommended by the Standing Committee, develop and adopt a clear, consistent and consensus-based policy statement on climate resilience for the Great Lakes Basin. Timeframe: Commission action not later than Q3 2020.