



# More Like Grant Lakes

**Leveraging federal money to secure clean water for the Great Lakes Region**

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## **Logan Glasenapp**

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Logan Glasenapp focuses his practice on Environmental Law. He works with clients on due diligence in real estate and business transactions, brownfields redevelopment, environmental permitting and enforcement defense. His state and federal regulatory compliance work includes advising on the evolving regulatory landscape of PFAS, the Spill Law, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Superfund, TSCA, and FIFRA. In addition to regulatory compliance, Logan counsels clients on available state and federal environmental incentive programs.

# **Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement**

- "Framework for binational consultation and cooperative action to restore, protect and enhance the water quality of the Great Lakes to promote the ecological health of the Great Lakes basin."
- Initially signed in 1972, amended 1978, 1983, 1987, 2012

# **Great Lakes National Program Office**

- 1983 – initial water quality survey on Erie, Huron, and Michigan
- 1986 – expanded to Ontario
- 1987 – GLNPO officially established within EPA
- 1992 – sampling begins on Superior
- 2002 – Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA)
- 2010 – Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

## **GLRI and GLLA**

- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative authorizes and provides federal funding to accelerate efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes
- Great Lakes Legacy Act is voluntary cost-share program used to accelerate remediation of contaminated sediments in Areas of Concern (AOCs)

## **Why do we care?**

- There's money
- GLRI funds appropriated to GLNPO for grants to federal and state partners as well as direct grant recipients
  - GLRI appropriations set through federal budget
  - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law infused additional \$1 billion to GLRI\*
- GLNPO will provide 65% of funds for projects

## **Process at 10k feet**

- GLNPO (or other federal agency) puts out notice of funding opportunities (NOFOs) or NFS identifies need for remediation
- NFS submits project proposal, including site assessment and remedial alternatives evaluation
- GLNPO and NFS develop project agreement and statement of work
- Remediation work begins within a year of receiving funds

## **The why**

- It is generally good to have cleaner, more resilient Great Lakes
- States and political subdivisions can use funds to conduct projects
- Private NFS can use this structure to mitigate CERCLA liability while doing a good thing, saving money and reputation

## **Success Stories**

- Thomson Reservoir along St. Louis River (MN)
  - \$35 million project; \$22 million from GLNPO
- Milwaukee Public Schools playground revitalization (WI)
  - \$600,000 from GLNPO via grant, not match
- Zephyr Oil Refinery (MI)
  - \$16 million project; >\$10 million from GLNPO

## **Spirit Lake cleanup**

- 4-year, \$186 million sediment cleanup and habitat restoration project near Duluth
- EPA contributed \$92 million in a cost-sharing partnership with U.S. Steel
- Former U.S. Steel Duluth Works site
- Any potential CERCLA liability is addressed proactively and beneficially without any admission of guilt or culpability

# Feel free to follow up!



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