

*"The Great Lakes community as a whole is bound together by the common goal of restoring and protecting the Great Lakes. All players make positive contributions to solutions from their own perspective and by applying their unique talents and expertise. None has a monopoly on answers. We must continue to build upon mutual and complimentary interests and continue to nurture action by the Great Lakes community."*

—IJC (International Joint Commission), 9th Biennial Report

*"To achieve sustainability in the ecosystem, a policy of stewardship is required on the part of individuals, governments, and nongovernmental organization making collaborative decisions on strategies to restore and protect the Lake Michigan Basin ecosystem"*

—Lake Michigan LAMP (Lakewide Management Plan) 2000

*"In order to effectively deal with ...local struggles...we must start working as a Great lakes wide community. The waters of the Great Lakes are the vital lifeblood of the Great Lakes Basin that bring life to all its inhabitants"*

—Fate of the Great Lakes, Canadian Environmental Law Association

## We Need You

Council membership was developed to include a wide range of Lake Michigan Basin stakeholders. Efforts undertaken by Council working groups will need involvement from additional members of the Lake Michigan basin monitoring community. If you are involved in monitoring in the basin, please view the LMMCC web site at:

<http://wi.water.usgs.gov/lmmcc/>

Sign into the guest book and participate in one of the working groups or provide information on your monitoring program.

For additional information, contact:

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# Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council

*A Framework for Collaboration*

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## Why a Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council?

Each year government agencies, industry, tribes, academia, and other organizations devote enormous amounts of time, energy, and money to monitor, protect, manage, and restore the Lake Michigan watershed.

Critical differences in monitoring objectives, methods, data analysis, and data management often make it difficult to share monitoring information and results.

## Purpose

The Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council (Council) was formed in 1999 to provide a regional forum for coordinating and supporting consistent, scientifically defensible monitoring methods and strategies in the Lake Michigan basin. The focus of the Council is to improve monitoring collaboration and data comparability and to define a regional agenda for monitoring and assessment of the Lake Michigan basin.

## Strategy

The Council has 31 members-representing federal, state, tribal, and local governments, watershed groups, the volunteer and environmental communities, universities, and the regulated community. The Council meets twice per year in locations throughout the watershed.

Council meetings, biennial conferences, and feedback from constituents shapes the Council's work plan and activities. The Council will develop goals, each with an active working group, whose

broad membership will expand the core Council membership.

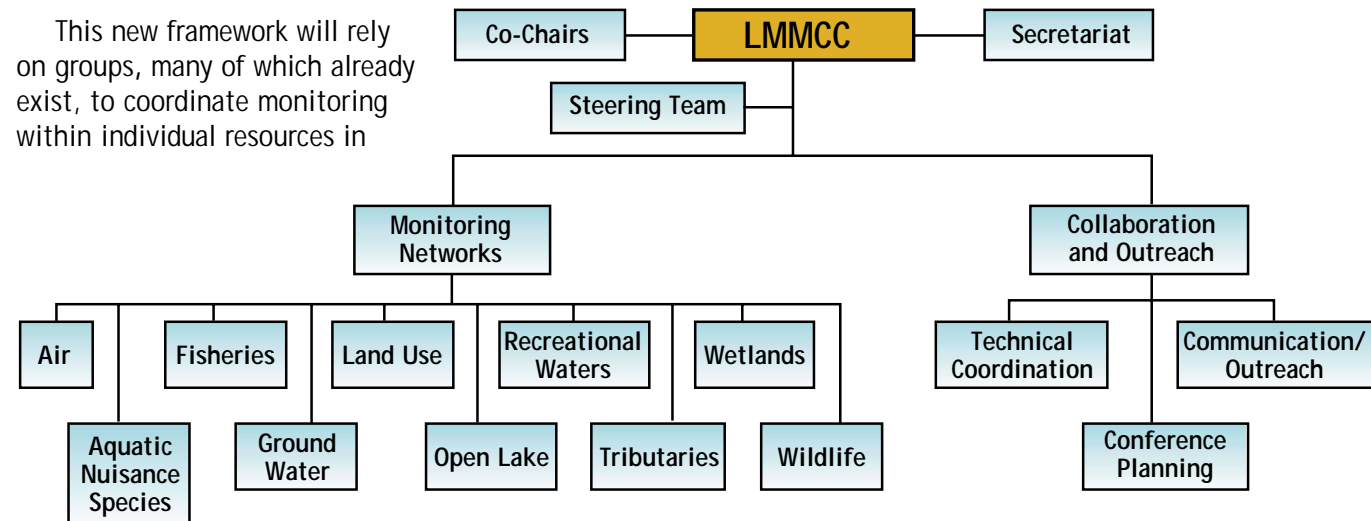
## History

In 1999 four short-term working groups were formed to develop information to move the Council forward. The progress of those short-term working groups: (Data Inventory and Analysis; Monitoring Objectives; Watershed Pilots; and Outreach and Collaboration) set the stage for the development of a new Council operating framework in 2001.

## Council Framework

The new Council framework was developed to more effectively facilitate coordination between appropriate monitoring entities, allow the development of a strategic plan for monitoring, and add value to the individual efforts of the Council's member organizations. The new Council framework takes advantage of the logical interactions between the various resource-based monitoring entities.

This new framework will rely on groups, many of which already exist, to coordinate monitoring within individual resources in



order to best take advantage of previous progress. These working groups will each base their efforts to coordinate existing networks around a common set of considerations: monitoring objectives; spatial, temporal and parameter network design; methods comparability; QA/QC planning; database sharing; and data analysis approaches.