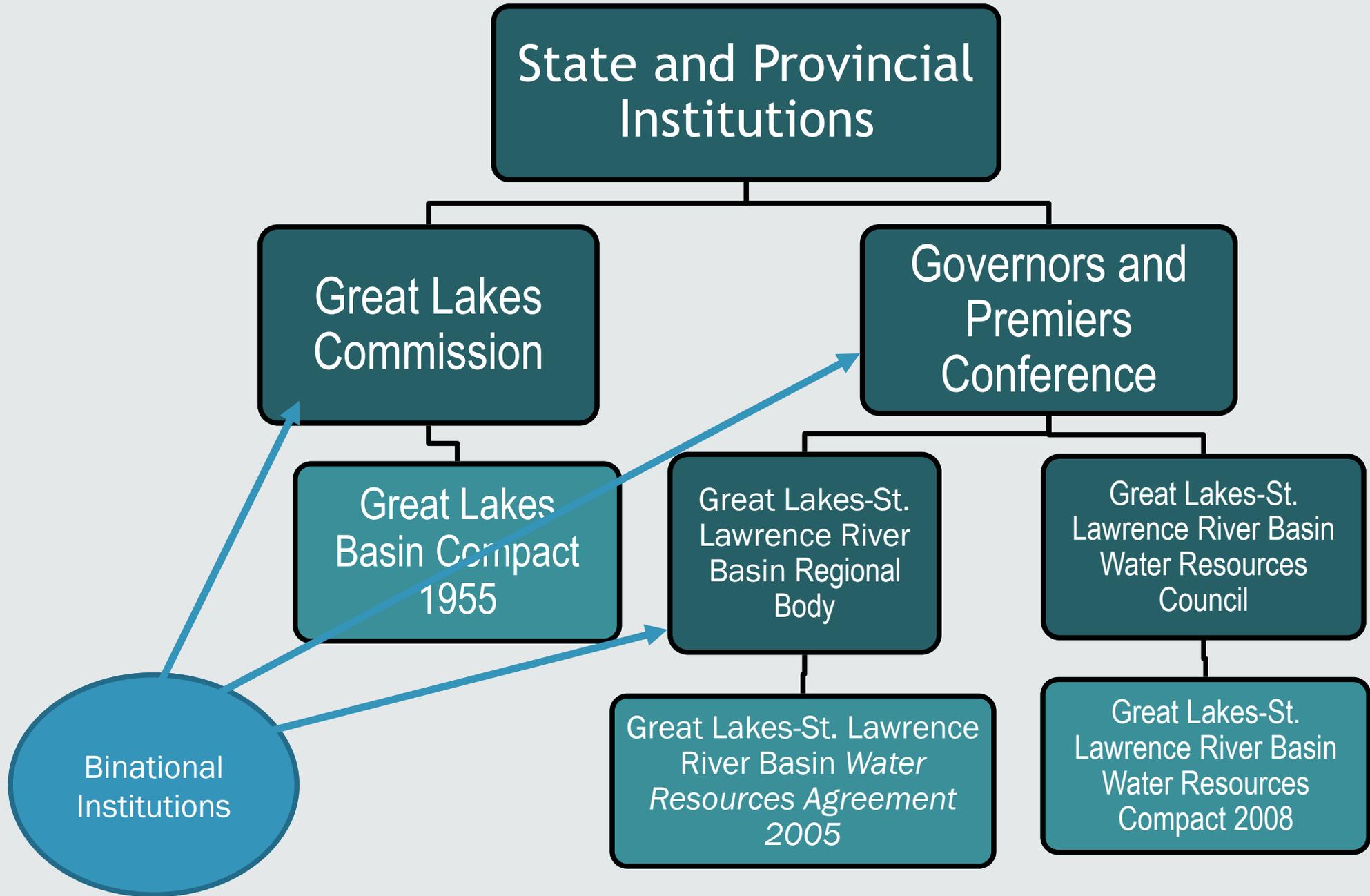


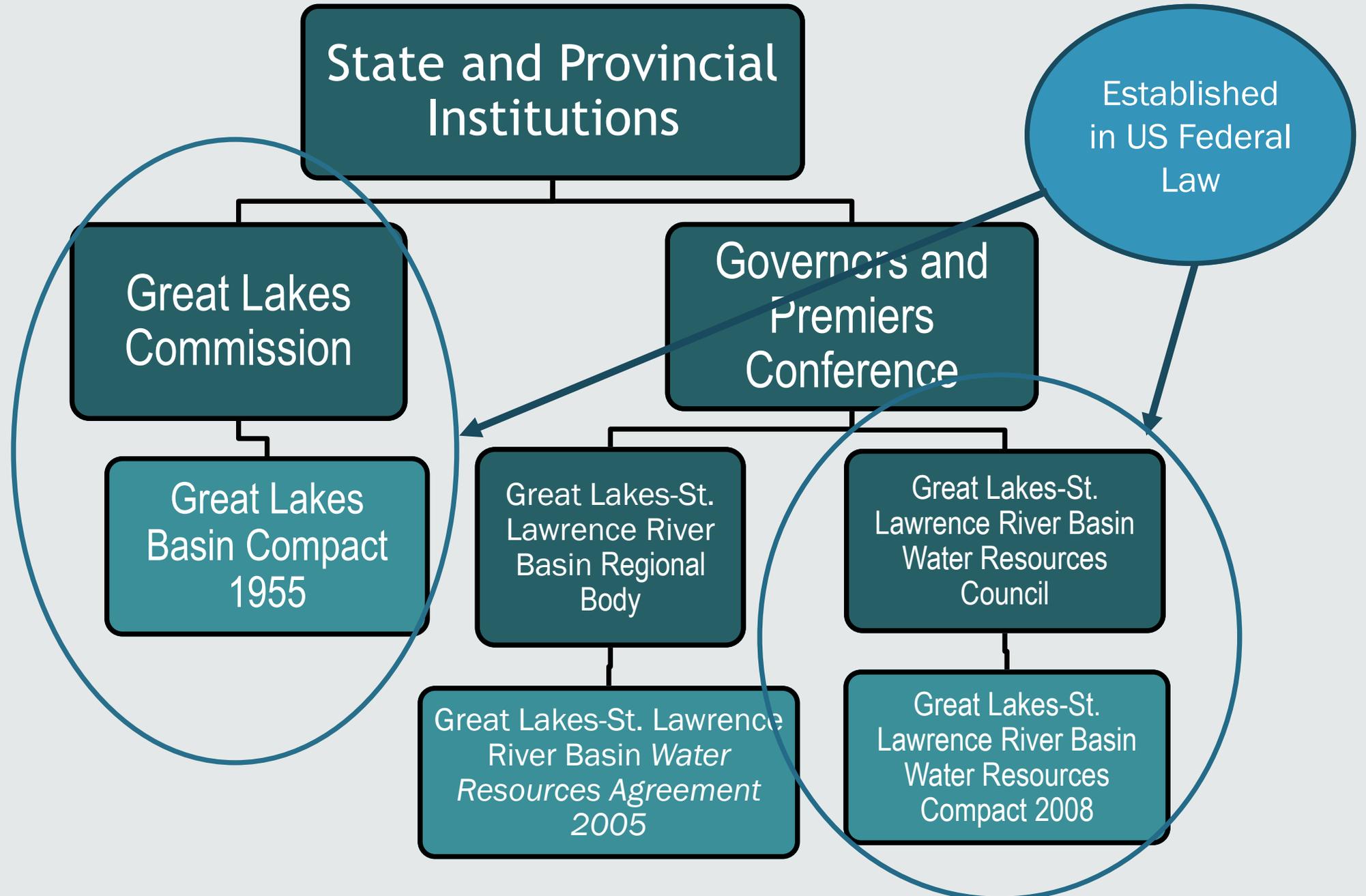
GREAT LAKES GOVERNANCE AT THE STATE AND PROVINCIAL LEVELS

Great Lakes Orientation for Congressional Staff
March 29, 2019

Victoria Pebbles, Program Director, Great Lakes Commission







State and Provincial Institutions

Great Lakes Commission

Great Lakes Basin Compact 1955

Governors and Premiers Conference

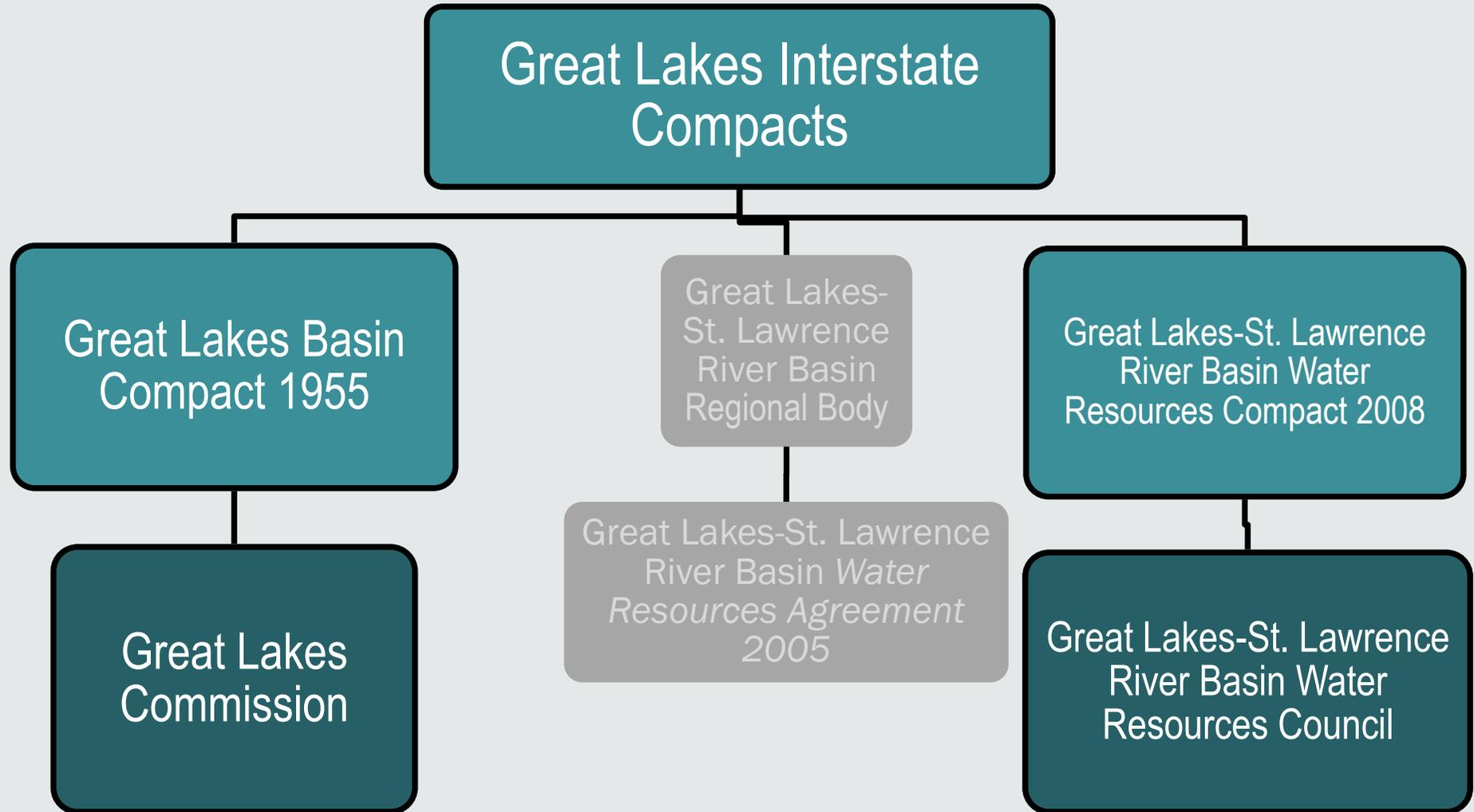
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Regional Body

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Agreement 2005

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact 2008

Established in US Federal Law



Great Lakes Interstate Compacts

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graph TD; A[Great Lakes Interstate Compacts] --> B[Basin Compact of 1955]; A --> C[Water Resources Compact of 2008]; B --> D[Great Lakes Commission]; C --> E[Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council];
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Basin Compact
of 1955

Great Lakes Commission

Water Resources
Compact of 2008

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin
Water Resources Council

Great Lakes Interstate Compacts

Basin Compact 1955

Great Lakes
Commission

*To promote the orderly, integrated,
and comprehensive development,
use, and conservation of the water
resources of the Great Lakes Basin*

Water Resources
Compact 2008

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence
River Basin Water
Resources Council

*to protect, conserve, restore, improve
and effectively manage the Waters
and Water Dependent Natural
Resources of the Basin*

Great Lakes Interstate Compacts Compared

Article I: Basin Compact of 1955

1. To promote the orderly, integrated, and **comprehensive development, use, and conservation** of the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin (hereinafter called the Basin).
2. To **plan** for the welfare and development of the water resources of the Basin as a whole as well as for those portions of the Basin which may have problems of special concern.
3. To make it possible for the states of the Basin and their people to derive the maximum benefit from utilization of **public works**, in the form of navigational aids or otherwise, which may exist or which may be constructed from time to time.
4. To advise in securing and maintaining **a proper balance among** industrial, commercial, agricultural, water supply, residential, recreational, and other legitimate **uses** of the water resources of the Basin.
5. To establish and maintain an intergovernmental agency the end that the purposes of this compact may be accomplished more effectively.

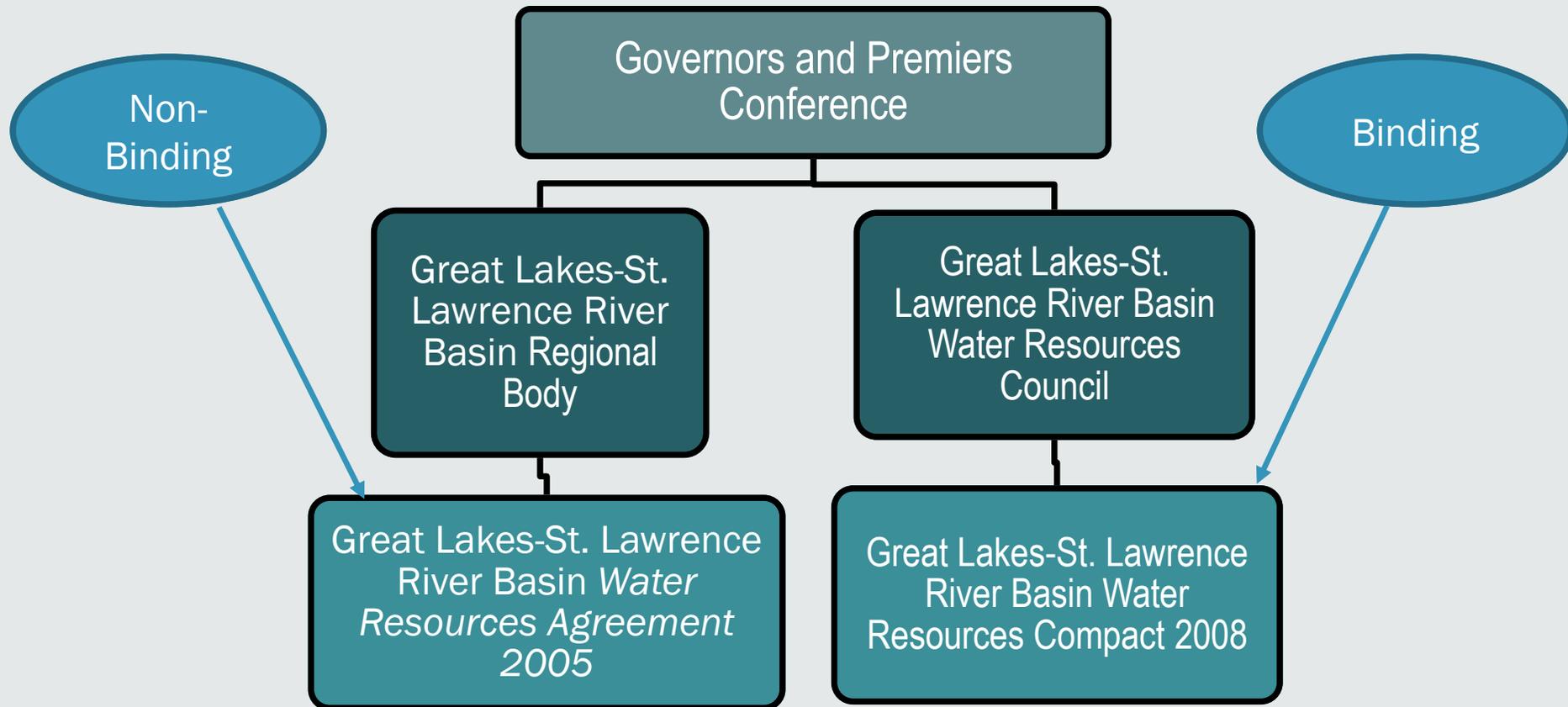
Water Resources Compact of 2008 *(section 1.3)*

- a. To act together to protect, conserve, restore, improve and effectively manage the Waters and Water Dependent Natural Resources of the Basin under appropriate arrangements for intergovernmental cooperation and consultation....;
- b. To **remove causes of present and future controversies**;
- c. To provide for cooperative planning and action by the Parties with respect to such Water resources;
- d. To facilitate consistent approaches to Water management...while retaining State management authority over Water management decisions...;
- e. To facilitate the exchange of data, **strengthen the scientific information base upon which decisions are made** and engage in consultation on the potential effects of proposed Withdrawals and losses on the Waters and Water Dependent Natural Resources of the Basin;
- f. To **prevent significant adverse impacts of Withdrawals and losses** on the Basin's ecosystems and watersheds;
- g. To promote interstate and State-Provincial comity; and,
- h. To promote an Adaptive Management approach to the conservation and management of Basin Water resources...

Key Provisions of the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact & Agreement

- Bans new diversions of water from the Basin, with limited exceptions
- Sets a standard to review proposed uses “to prevent significant adverse impacts”
- Supports collection and sharing of data and information
- Requires cumulative impact assessments with climate change in mind
- Requires establishment of water conservation and efficiency programs
- Requires reporting on consumptive water uses

Water Withdrawals, Diversions and Consumptive Use Management Framework



Drivers for Great Lakes Interstate Compacts

Basin Compact

- Desire for waterway bigger than Welland Canal
- Canadian threat to build new Seaway entirely in Canada
- Uncertainties about the St. Lawrence Seaway
 - Economic prosperity
 - Potential increased competition among states and provinces
- Desire for states to determine how the Great Lakes Basin was managed



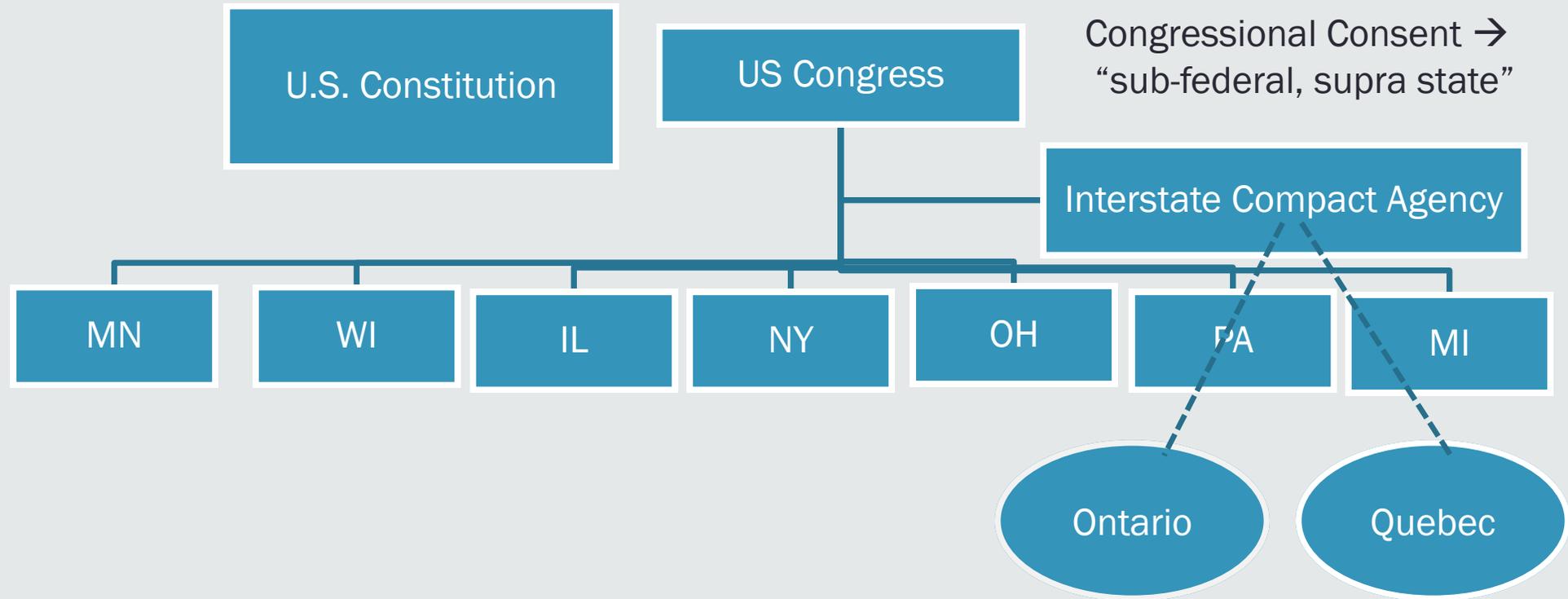
Great Lakes Commission Is...

- “Intergovernmental agency”
- “Agency of the party states”
- A public agency established under the Great Lakes Compact
- Part of the unique governance structure of the Great Lakes Compact
- Part of a uniquely powerful, competent, and independent organization of the eight Great Lakes basin states, two provinces and the United States

NOT . . .

- . . . a state agency
- . . . a federal agency
- . . . an NGO
- . . . an association
- . . . a private organization
- . . . a consulting firm
- . . . an advocacy organization

Interstate Agency “Org Chart”



GLC Composition

- The “Commission”
 - *3-5 Commissioners appointed by each state/province*
 - *Board of Directors (1 delegation chair from each state/province)*
- Staff
 - *Executive Director hired by Commission*
 - *Other staff hired by Executive Director*

Basin Compact: Article I

1. To promote the orderly, integrated, and comprehensive **development, use, and conservation** of the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin (hereinafter called the Basin).
2. To **plan for** the welfare and development of the **water resources** of the Basin as a whole as well as for those **portions** of the Basin which may have problems **of special concern**.
3. To make it possible for the states of the Basin and their people to derive the maximum benefit from utilization of **public works**, in the form of **navigational aids** or otherwise, which may exist or which may be constructed from time to time.
4. To advise in securing and **maintaining a proper balance among** industrial, commercial, agricultural, water supply, residential, recreational, and other legitimate **uses of the water** resources of the Basin.
5. To establish and maintain an **intergovernmental agency** the end that the purposes of this compact may be accomplished more effectively.

Basin Compact: Article IV

- Legal action
- Acquire, hold property
- Bylaws
- Executive officers
- Voting
- Bonded executive
- Hire qualified personnel
- Borrow, accept, contract
- Establish one or more offices
- Issue reports, recommendations
- Annual Budget with recommendations of amount to be paid by each state
- Annual report to Governor and Legislature of each state
- Written record of meetings

Basin Compact: Article VI

- Collect and report data
- Recommend methods for orderly, efficient, balanced development, use and conservation
- Consider need for public works and improvements
- Consider means of improving and maintaining navigation and ports
- Consider means of improving fisheries
- Recommend uniform laws, ordinances, regulations
- Recommend water resource policies
 - *Flood plain*
 - *Zoning laws*
- Recommend compact amendments and supplementary agreements
 - *Assist in drafting*
- Cooperate with US, Canada, states

States' Duties: Article VII

Each state agrees to consider the Commission's actions in . . .

- Stabilization of lake levels
- Measures for combating pollution, beach erosion, floods and shore inundation
- Uniform navigation regulations within the constitutional powers of the states
- Proposed navigation aids and improvements
- Uniform laws in fishing, wildlife, AIS and other water resource issues
- Suitable hydroelectric power developments
- Programs for soil and bank erosion
- Diversion of waters from and into the Basin
- Other measures the Commission may recommend to the states

QUESTIONS?

Victoria Pebbles, vpebbles@glc.org



TRANSITION SLIDE

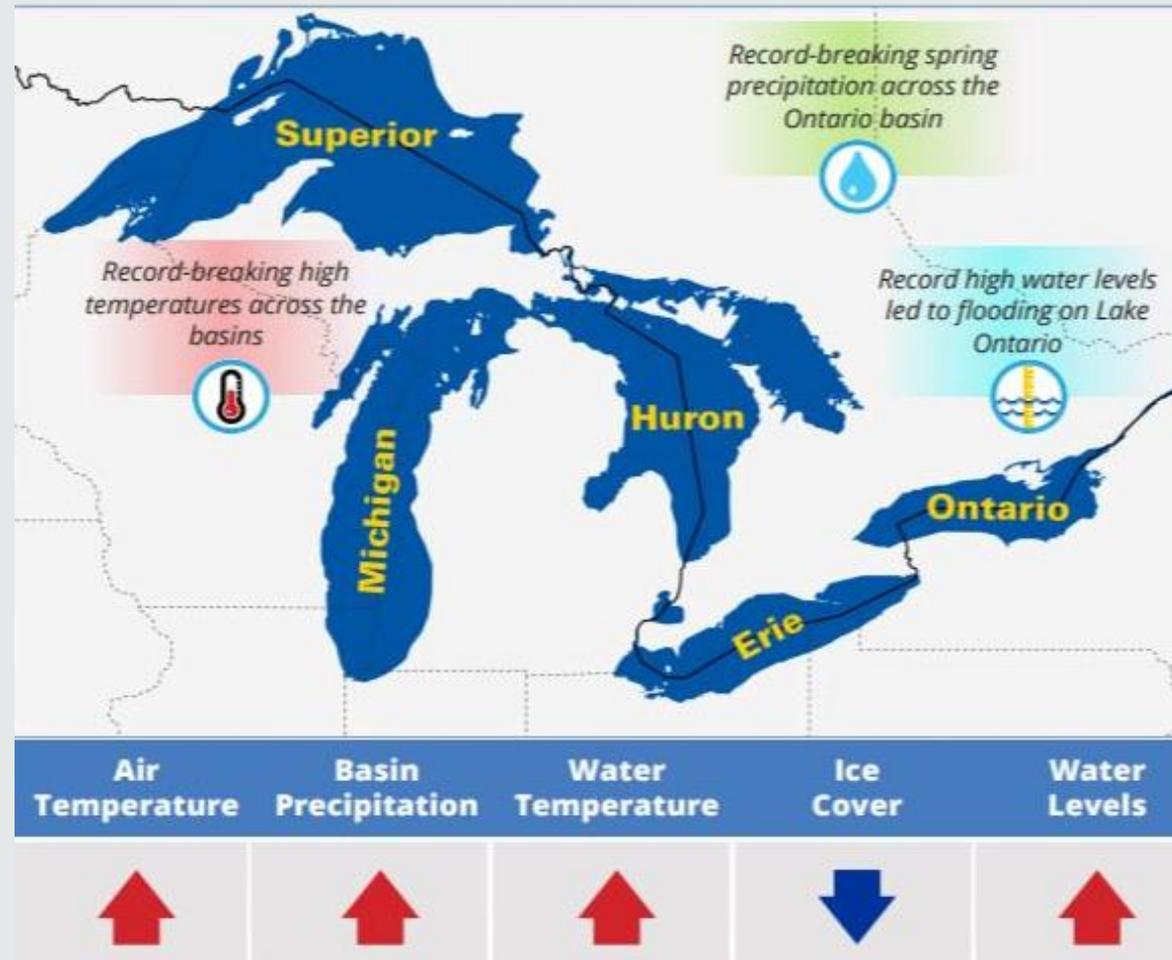
RESILIENCY AND (GREEN) WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Great Lakes Orientation for Congressional Staff
March 29, 2019

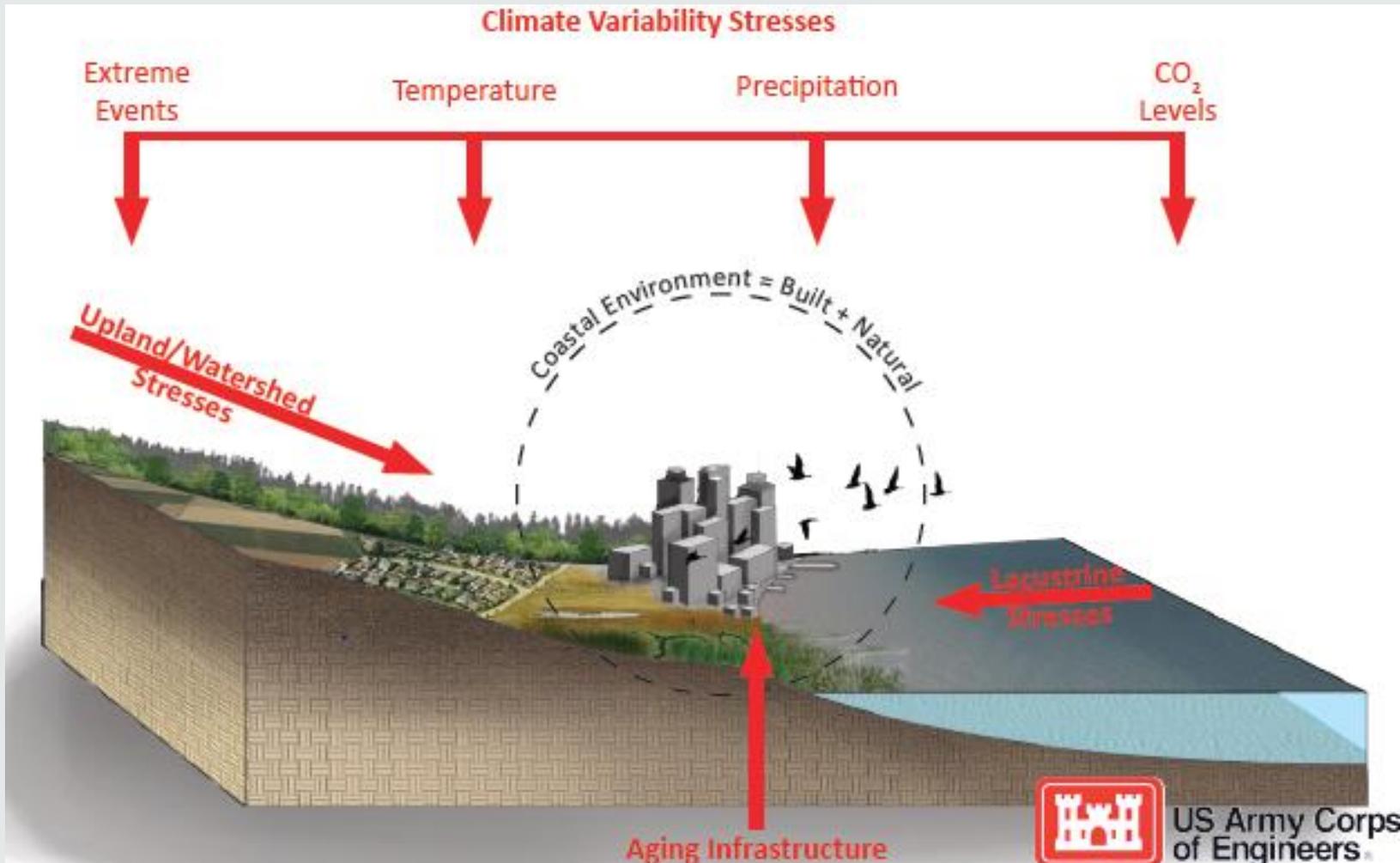




2017 ANNUAL CLIMATE TRENDS AND IMPACTS SUMMARY FOR THE GREAT LAKES BASIN



How does climate relate to water infrastructure?



Cascading impacts on coastal assets and water infrastructure

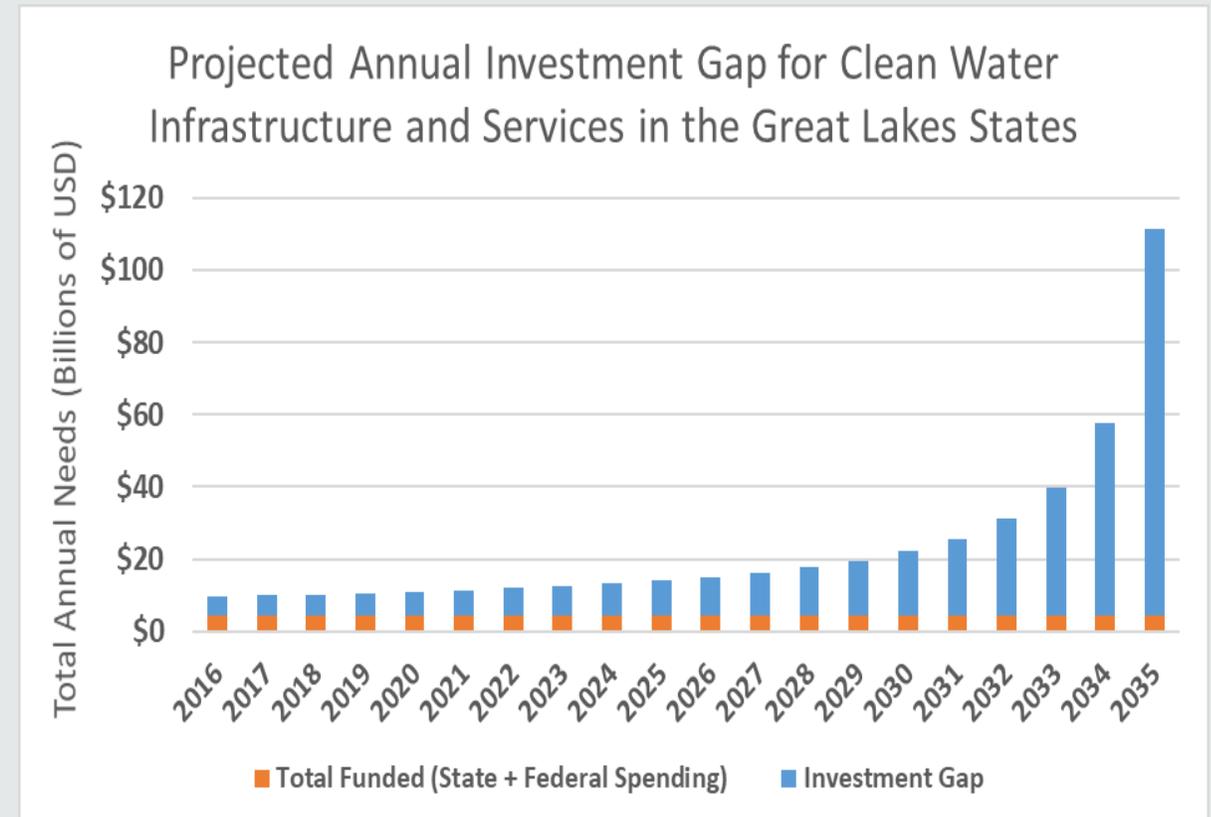
- Exacerbated coastal erosion
 - *rates can be as high as 17 ft/yr*
- Increased pollutant loads
 - *Urban stormwater*
 - *Sewer overflows*
 - *Agricultural runoff → Harmful Algal Blooms*
- Increased stress on all water infrastructure → accelerated degradation



Town of Hamlin, New York, Lake Ontario basin
(photo credit: New York Sea Grant)

Decades of underinvestment

- Estimated \$9.6 billion needed for GL States *annually* over the next 20 years for drinking, waste and stormwater infrastructure
- Green Infrastructure is part of stormwater infrastructure
- *Expand the use of green infrastructure to improve storm and wastewater management*
 - *One of 17 recommendations*



Joint Action Plan for Clean Water Infrastructure and Services (GLC 2017)

Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study

- Proposed Army Corps of Engineers study would:
 - *Use risk-based approach to assess vulnerabilities*
 - *Evaluate measures to improve resilience*
 - *Generate programmatic coastal resiliency plan*
- Great Lakes Commission letter of support submitted November 2017
- No funding in Administration's FY2020 proposed budget

Great Lakes Commission Regional Coastal Resiliency Assessment

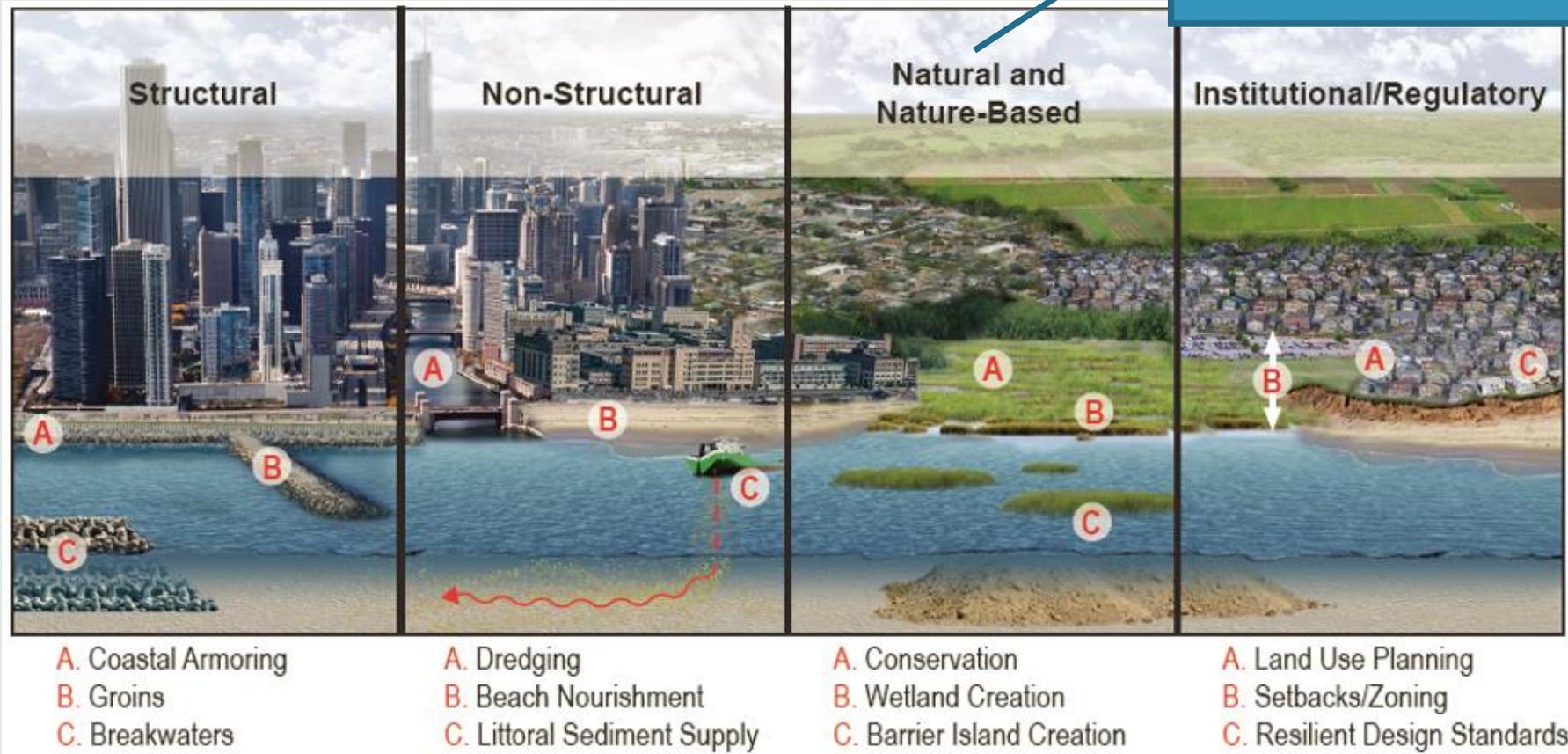


Flooding in Sodus Point, New York
(Credit: Veronica Volk, Great Lakes Today)

- Concept in development
- Overview assessment, create baseline
 - *Understand what is at risk and what is being done to address those risks*
- Could inform Corps resiliency study

Green Infrastructure: a tool in the coastal resiliency toolbox

Green Infrastructure



Green Infrastructure Policy Analysis (GLC 2018)

- Targeted federal, state, and provincial policies that hinder or enable GI
- U.S. Federal Recommendations:
 - *Fully fund CWSRF*
 - Incentivize GI projects with interest rate reductions, prioritization, and eligibility extension
 - *Establish performance-based requirements for stormwater management*
 - *Promote and coordinate integration across federal agencies; advance research*



GREAT LAKES REGIONAL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY ANALYSIS:

ADDRESSING BARRIERS
TO IMPLEMENTATION

SEPTEMBER 2018

Great Lakes Commission
Credit Valley Conservation



QUESTIONS?

Victoria Pebbles, vpebbles@glc.org

