

# New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLAA)



*Achieving Restoration, Conservation and Sustainable  
Development Goals in NY's Great Lakes Basin*

Stakeholder Presentation  
Dec 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014



# Complex Great Lakes Challenges



**Harmful Algal Blooms**



**Coastal Erosion**



**Ag & Nutrient Mngt**



**Coal Tar**

**Pharmaceuticals**

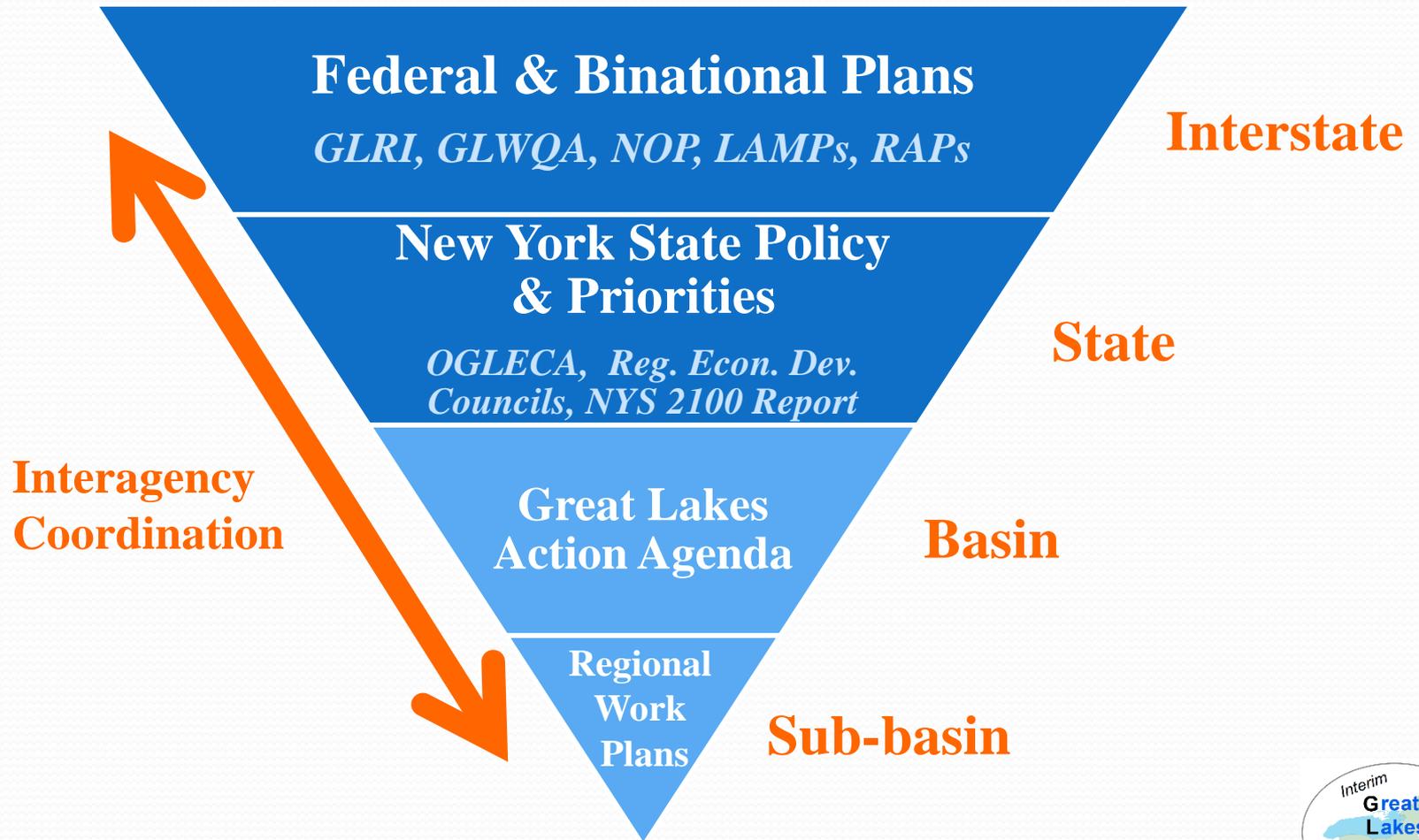


**Microplastics**



**Asian Carp**

# Aligning Program Guidance to Address Great Lakes Issues

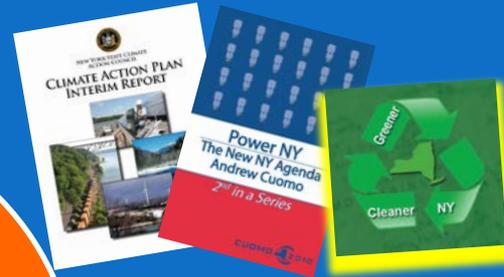


# The GLAA is an Integrated Action Plan

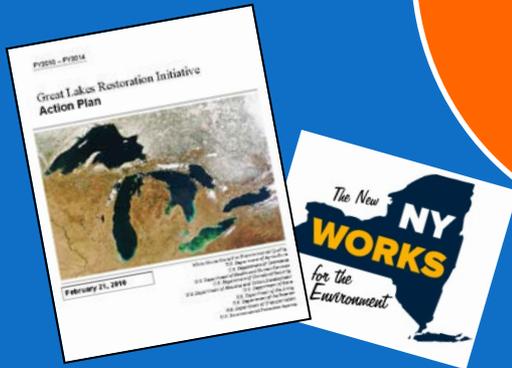
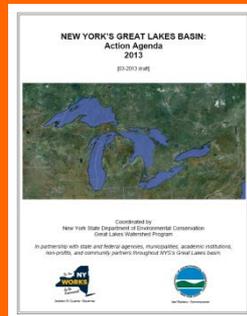
## Existing Plans



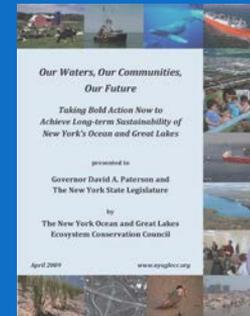
## New York State Initiatives



## Great Lakes Action Agenda



## Funding



## Ecosystem-based Management



# What does the GLAA do?

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Promotes Ecosystem Based Management and decision-making



Accomplishes interagency priority projects through regional coordination



Fosters collaboration among a diverse group of partners

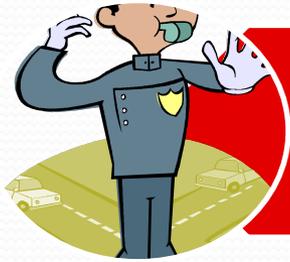


Leverages capacity and financial resources



Establishes and tracks milestones to measure progress over time

# What does the GLAA NOT do?



**Establish new policies and regulations**

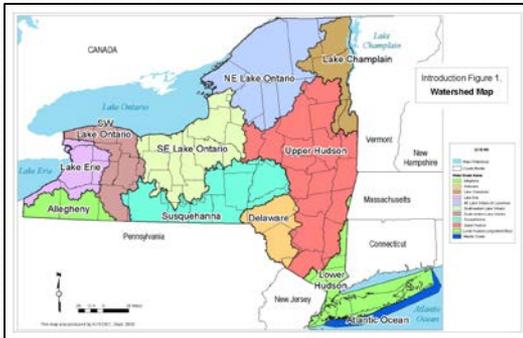


**Seek to create new governance or bureaucracy**



**Promote special interests and/or agendas**

# Ecosystem Based Management Principles

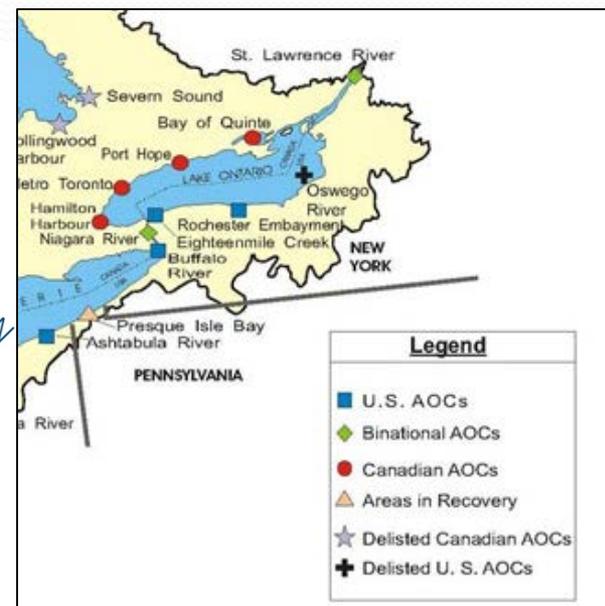


- **Place-based focus**
- **Protection of ecosystem structure, function and key processes**
- **Interconnectedness within and among systems**
- **Integration of ecological, social, economic and institutional perspectives**
- **Sustainable human use of the ecosystem**
- **Stakeholder involvement**
- **Collaboration**
- **Scientific foundation for decision-making**
- **Adaptive Management**



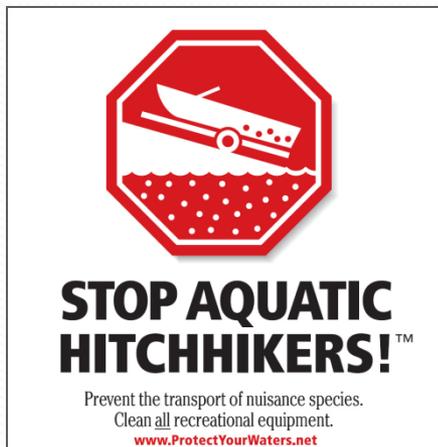
# #1: Clean up Pollution Sources and Restore Beneficial Uses

1. Virtually Eliminate Discharges of Persistent Toxic Substances
2. Control Sediment, Nutrient and Pathogen Loadings
3. Accelerate the Delisting of New York's Areas of Concern



## #2: Conserve Natural Resources

4. Combat Invasive Species
5. Conserve and Restore Native Fish and Wildlife Biodiversity and Habitats
6. Conserve Great Lakes Water Supplies



# #3: Promote Resilient Communities & Sustainable Development

7. Enhance Community Resiliency and Ecosystem Integrity
8. Promote Smart Growth, Redevelopment and Adaptive Reuse
9. Enhance Recreation and Tourism Opportunities
10. Plan for Energy Development



# Cross-Cutting Priorities

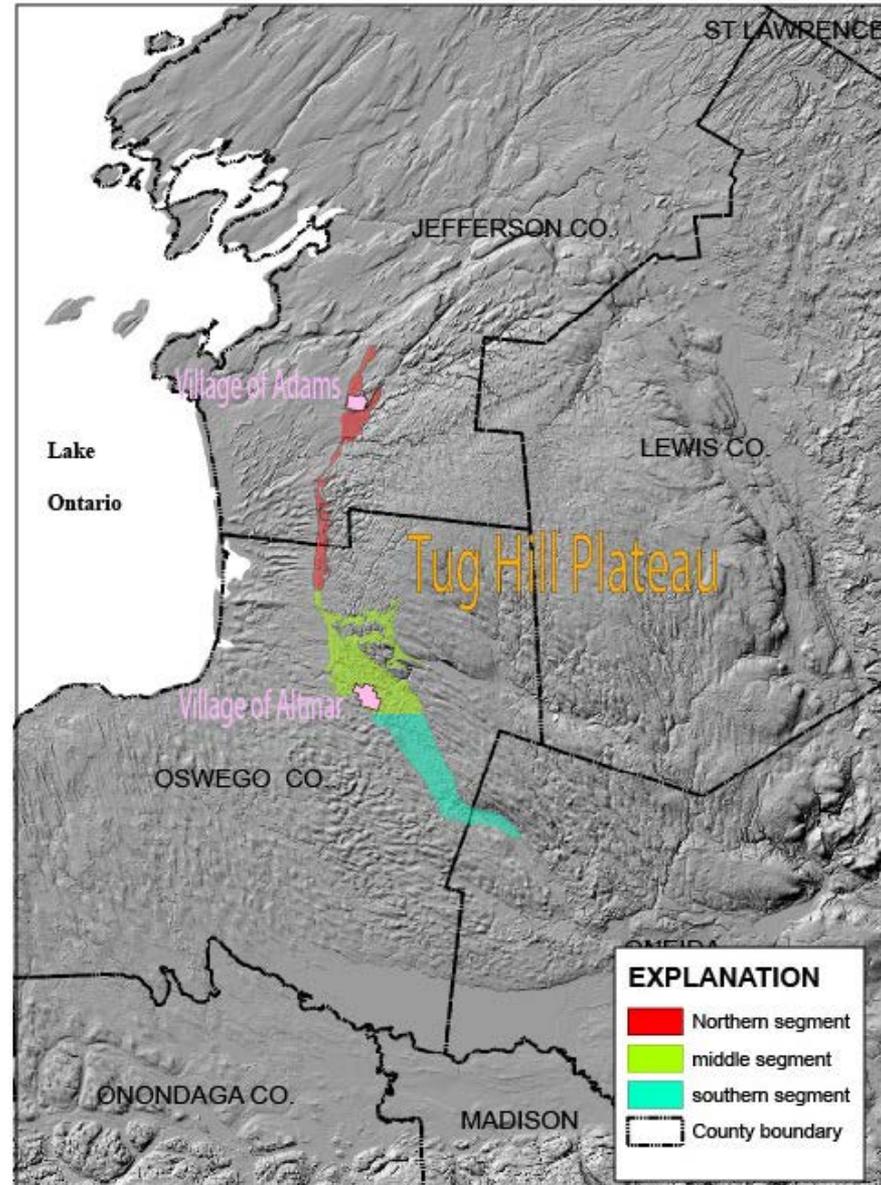
- Promote Partnerships and Coordinated Action
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
- Enhance Coordinated Science, Monitoring and Information Management
- Support Environmental Education and Outreach Initiatives



# Tug Hill Aquifer Characterization

## Results will inform:

- ✓ Water conservation & withdrawals
- ✓ Water quality management
- ✓ Fishery management
- ✓ Smart growth planning
- ✓ Infrastructure & economic development





NEW YORK STATE  
Department of  
Environmental Conservation

# Be Green in the Great Lakes



Land Care  
and Pest  
Management  
Practices

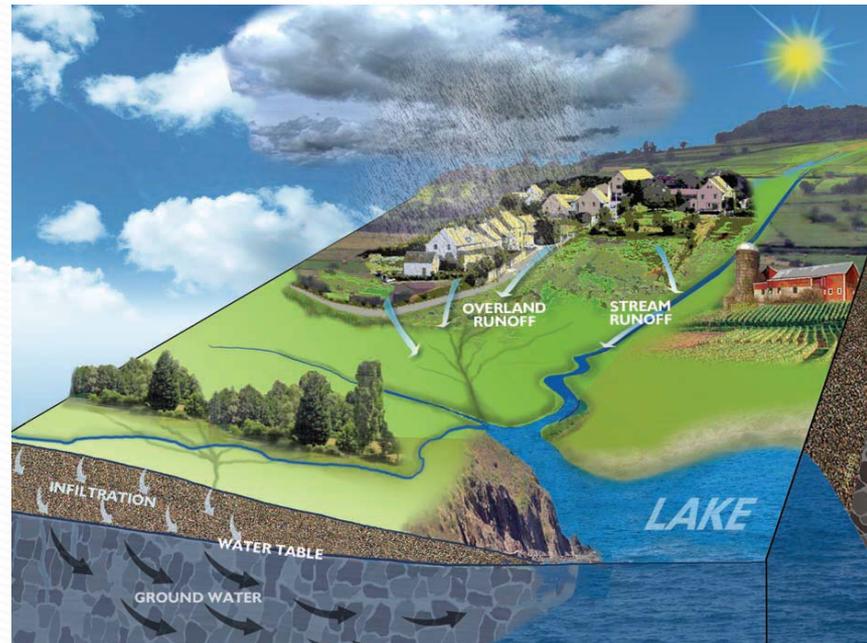


Great Lakes  
RESTORATION



Funded by the Environmental Protection Agency

## *A Public Education Project to Promote Alternative Lawn Care Practices*



Better land care practices benefit water quality, fish and wildlife resources, and air quality.

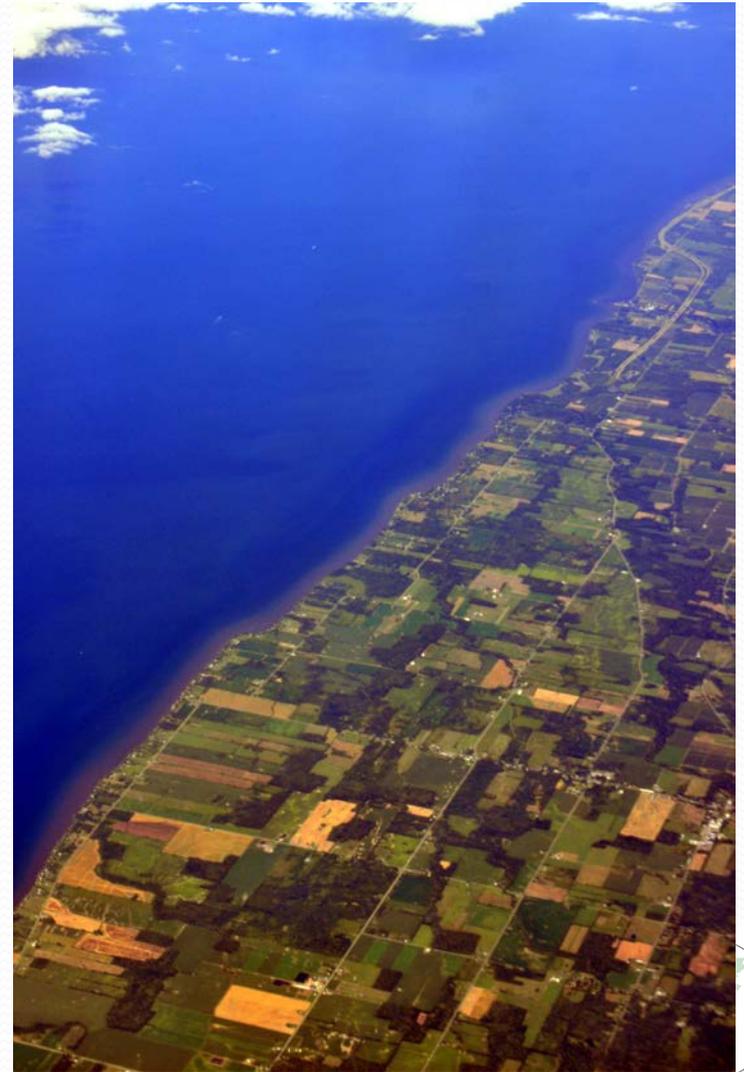


# *Lake Ontario Nearshore Nutrient Study*

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## **A better understanding of nearshore nutrients informs:**

- ✓ More effective non-point source measures
- ✓ Aquatic habitat and fisheries health
- ✓ Harmful Algal Bloom potential
- ✓ Drinking water treatment & management



# Niagara River Shoreline Softening and Habitat Improvement

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## Improving shorelines for people and ecosystems by providing:

- ✓ Shoreline resiliency
- ✓ Aquatic habitat
- ✓ Water quality
- ✓ Recreational enhancement
- ✓ Case study for expansion of ‘soft’ shoreline implementation
- ❖ Planning underway for Great Lakes ‘Living Shorelines’ workshop



Before



After

# Genesee Basin

## Trees for Tribs

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### Supports

- ✓ Fish & wildlife habitat
- ✓ Streambank stabilization & resiliency
- ✓ Climate change adaptation & mitigation
- ✓ Water quality/ NPS management
- ✓ AOC delisting
- ✓ Recreation & tourism
- ✓ Greenway/Blueway development



# Other EBM Projects

- Sandy Creeks EBM Initiative
- Hydrilla Integrated Control Project
- Shoreline resiliency
- WAVE citizen-science sampling program
- Great Lakes Ecosystem Education Exchange
- GLAA Small Grants Program
- Coastal Hazards Assessment Project



*What needs have you identified?*

*Let us know!*

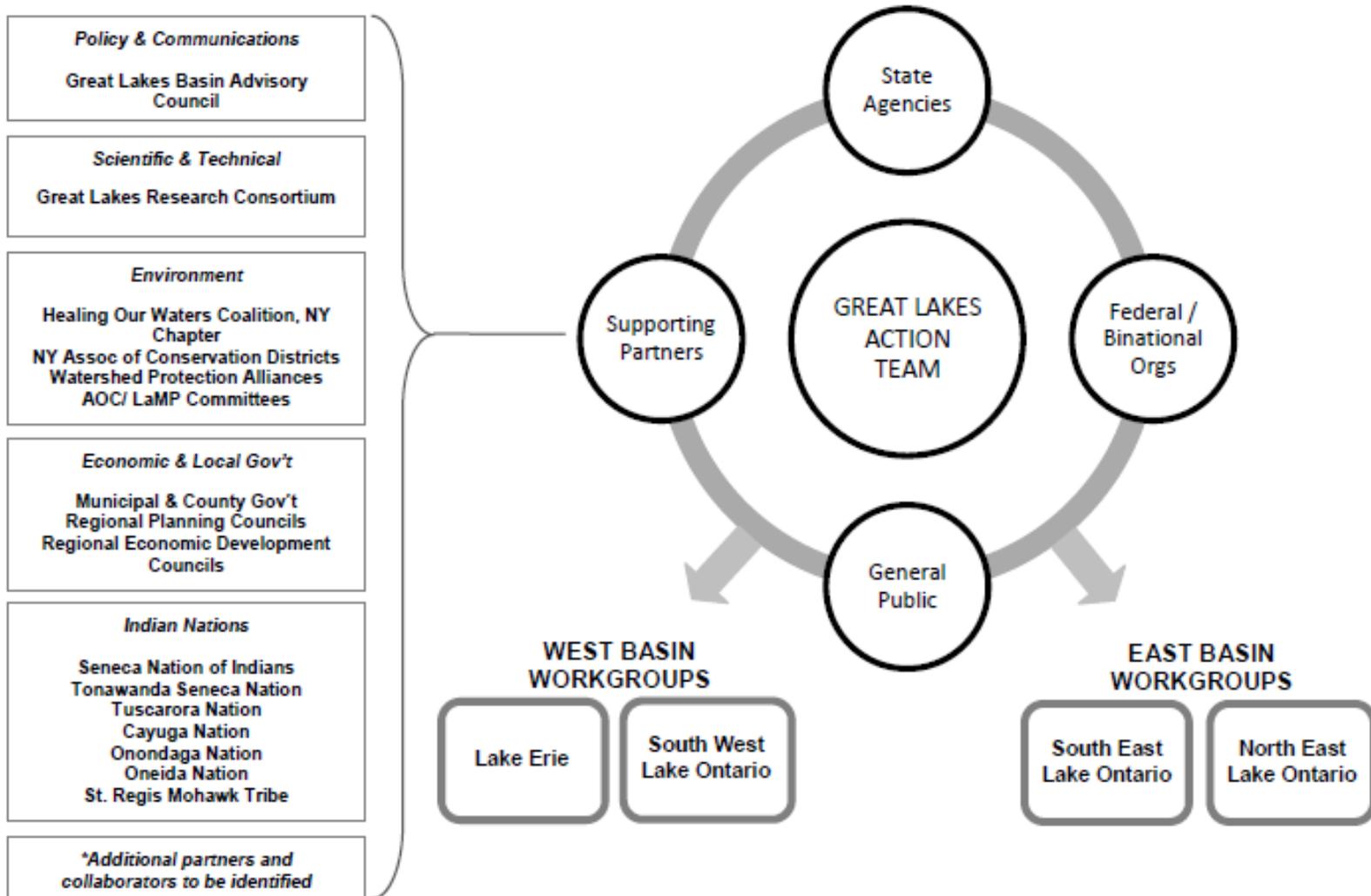
“Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success.”

-Henry Ford



# Coordinated Action Among Partners

Diagram 2. Great Lakes Basin Partnership Organizational Structure



# Role of the Workgroups

**Members:** regional state agency staff, NGOs, universities, and other organizations involved in project implementation

## Responsibilities:

- Develop work plans for each sub-basin
- Organize *ad-hoc* teams to implement high priority projects
- Track and report progress of GLAA implementation (i.e. Goalkeepers)
- *Get it done!*

## Benefits:

- Apply local knowledge
- Learn from others' success
- Optimize resources
- Achieve sustainable outcomes



# Funding Approach

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## FEDERAL

- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- NOAA
- USFWS
- USDA
- EPA

## STATE

- NY Works
- Clean/Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
- Environmental Protection Fund

## OTHER STRATEGIES

- Public Private Partnerships
- Organizational/In-kind Resources
- Educational Institutions



# Next Steps

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- **Convene GLAA Public Workshops**
  - Erie Basin (Buffalo): January 14
  - SW Ontario (Rochester): January 15
  - SE Ontario (Syracuse): January 29
  - NE Ontario/St. Lawrence (Watertown): January 28
- **Hold Regional Workgroup Meetings**
  - Develop regional work plans
- **Continued collaboration and progress...!**



# Think about it...

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- What ‘cross-sector’ Great Lakes project needs have you identified through your work?
- What planning and science needs do you have? (i.e. spatial planning, coastal/community resiliency, natural shorelines, climate adaptation, environmental forecasting, nearshore health, etc.)
- What projects can benefit from better collaboration and more ‘on the ground’ support?



# Questions?

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