



2024 CSO Spring Member Meeting

CSO's Resilience Work in the Great Lakes

Funding

Great lakes Restoration Initiative via a cooperative agreement through the NOAA Office of Coastal Management.

CSO's role in the Great Lakes

CSO works closely with Great Lakes states to:

- provide engineering and design assistance for habitat restoration
 - facilitation and consensus building for the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study
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Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study

- The Great Lakes states are working with the US Army Corps of Engineers on a basin-wide analysis for coastal resilience in the Great Lakes.
 - This is a 10-million-dollar, multi-year effort led by the US Army Corps of Engineers with non-federal-sponsorship from the Great Lakes states.
 - We are currently at the visioning phase. In April, the Great Lakes coastal states will work with the Corps to convene public meetings to gain input on the direction of the study.
 - You can learn more here: <https://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/Submit-ArticleCS/Programs/Article/3646559/great-lakes-coastal-resiliency-study>
 - CSO's role is helping the Great Lakes states speak in a united voice as they navigate working through this complex, multi-faceted effort.
 - CSO has been communicating states' needs and priorities to USACE Chicago District and making requests for systemic change in project processes on behalf of the states.
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Engineering and Design for Habitat Restoration

CSO provides project management support to the local partners of Great Lakes states to develop 60-80% engineering and design blueprints for habitat restoration projects to position these projects for larger pots of funding like BIL and IRA. We provide assistance that includes:

- Contract management
- Running RFP processes
- Consensus building
- Embedding environmental justice into habitat restoration
- Completing and submitting NEPA paperwork
- Overseeing interdisciplinary engineering and design teams

We are currently wrapping up design plans for:

- Wetland restoration and stream re-meandering in Gary, IN
- Culvert restoration in Superior, WI and Carleton County, MN

We will soon be kicking off the following new projects:

- Streambank restoration in Whistler Woods, IL
 - Bank stabilization in Old Woman's Creek, OH
 - Culvert restoration in Mackinac County, MI
 - Wetland restoration in Weiss-Mequon, WI
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Next Steps

As of March 13th, a lot of our projects in the Great lakes are on pause due to technical issues with NOAA funding. We hope to start back up soon!

Help us decide how CSO can continue to serve you as Great Lakes states in FY 25 & FY 26 by filling out this one-question survey: <https://forms.gle/1Hj5Po5LLFnjX1kN6>

CSO Point of Contact

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