

# A PERSPECTIVE ON GREAT LAKES EWN®

CRAIG TAYLOR, PE



Water Scientists Environment Engineers

### OUTLINE

Regulatory Challenges Project Scale EWN Regional Scale EWN Project Site Selection DST



### IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

- Filling in the lake bottom
- Triggers a 404 discussion
- Half of states I've spoke to aren't willing to attempt reef projects due to regulatory challenges
- Is there a mechanism to simplify the process?



## CSO PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

In 2019, CSO, with funding from NOAA, lead a project to engage with state organizations around the great lakes. The goal of this project was to identify priority habitat restoration sites.

Initiated a design process for 7 sites to date.



Tisher Creek Fish Passage Project





Cattail Marsh Potholing – Sodus Bay





Tifft Nature Preserve Habitat Restoration





Spawning Reef near Presque Isle





Niagara River – Grand Island Shoreline Stabilization







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  - There is always more to learn.
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  - How do we squeeze in a little more function into the design?
- Designs must balance environmental restoration with community needs.
  - Funding habitat forces this.

### NETWORK EFFECTS

The industry has developed many the technical skills necessary to implement restoration projects; however, projects don't exist in a vacuum.



<u>Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program</u> (CWMP) (greatlakeswetlands.org)

#### • • • • REGIONAL ECOLOGICAL SUB-AREAS

In a 2011 project, regional ecological sub-areas were delineated in support of the Great Lakes Observing System Architecture.

These regions were identified through a stakeholder engagement/ consensus process.





#### COASTAL WETLANDS

Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Conservation Framework from US FWS



- Objective One: Establish existing baseline extent and condition of Great Lakes coastal wetlands.
- Objective Two: Determine extent and condition of coastal wetland types needed to help achieve healthy Great Lakes and coastal communities.
- Objective Three: Identify where to focus coastal wetland efforts to achieve healthy Great Lakes and coastal communities.



#### **COASTAL WETLANDS DECISION SUPPORT TOOL**



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#### Perspective of EWN's Role in the Great Lakes

- Project Scale
  - Regulatory Support to keep EWN projects out more onerous permitting processes.
  - Conduits to share innovative ideas
  - Rapid assessment tools, such as oblique areal photos
- Regional Scale
  - A framework for considering network effects of EWN projects
  - Decision Support Tools that go beyond the wetland DST

