



The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative 2019 Annual Conference

June 5 - 7 | Sheboygan, WI

Join us in the City of Sheboygan, the Spirit on the Lake, for the 2019 Annual Conference.

This year's theme is **LIVING BLUE: TRANSFORMING WATERFRONTS**.

Last updated June 2, 2019

*** indicates member only event*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, BLUE HARBOR CONVENTION CENTER

BREAKFAST

7:00 am – 8:00 am

REGISTRATION

7:00 am – 3:00 pm

OPENING CEREMONIES

8:00 am – 9:00 am

PANEL 1: CREATING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES THROUGH WATERFRONT ACCESS

9:15 am – 10:00 am

Waterfronts provide much needed space to refresh and renew. This panel will highlight new ways to bring people to the waterfront by providing trails, swimming piers, clean beaches, entertainment and engaging spaces that help contribute to healthier lifestyles. Having waterfronts that are clean, green and connected, attract people and employers to your community. What are the best ways to bring people to the water? How can we learn new methods to manage growth and conflict among waterfront users? Come hear from Mayors and municipal leaders the latest ideas on healthy waterfronts to put to use in your community.

Panelists:

- 1. Mayor Paul Dyster**, Niagara Falls, New York
- 2. Liz Silver**, Associate Principal of Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates
- 3. Tim Dekker**, President of LimnoTech
- 4. Marlaine Koehler**, Executive Director of the Great Lakes Waterfront Regeneration
- 5. Mayor Shaun Collier**, Ajax, Ontario

PANEL 2: UNTAPPED POTENTIAL: WATERFRONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

10:15 am - 11:00 am

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Communities understand best the potential of waterfronts. After all, the region grew on the backbone of working waterfronts and industries that relied on an abundance of freshwater and access to shipping. How can communities today harness their waterfronts to continue economic growth and development while balancing the need for sustainability, accessibility, and resiliency. Join us for this panel to learn from communities, agencies and experts working on waterfront economic development in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region.

Panelists:

1. **Mayor Mike Vandersteen**, Sheboygan, Wisconsin
2. **Kurt Thiede**, Chief of Staff for EPA Region 5
3. **Bruce Burrows**, President of the Chamber of Marine Commerce
4. **Mairesse Maud Allaire**, Contrecoeur, Québec

SHEBOYGAN RIVER CLEAN UP PROJECT INTRODUCTION

11:00 – 11:15 am

Chad Pelishek, Director of Planning & Development Sustainability Coordinator, will introduce the Sheboygan River Clean-Up Project in preparation for the 12:30 River Clean Up Tour.

BRAT FRY (ALL ATTENDEES WELCOME)

11:15 am – 12:15 pm

Sheboygan is the Bratwurst Capital of the World, and they take it seriously! After battling Bucyrus, Ohio in 1970 for the title, Sheboygan has been sharing their rich tradition with the rest of the Midwest and the rest of the world. Therefore, what better way to celebrate Sheboygan than to have a traditional brat fry! Enjoy a Old Wisconsin Brats bratwurst the Sheboygan way during the brat fry – fried on a grill, placed in a round bun and topped with mustard and onions. YUM! Interested in the history of brat fries and what it means to be the Bratwurst Capital of the World? Read more [HERE](#).

For the non-meat eaters, fret not, vegetarian food options will be available.

SHEBOYGAN RIVER CLEAN UP TOUR

12:30 pm – 2:15 pm



MEMBER MEETING (MEMBER AND MEMBER STAFF ONLY)**

2:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Members will receive a detailed agenda for the member meeting closer to the date.

LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION (ELECTED OFFICIALS ONLY)

5:35 pm – 6:35 pm

MEMBER RECEPTION AND AWARDS DINNER (MEMBER AND MEMBER STAFF ONLY)**

Reception with hors d'oeuvres 6:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Awards Ceremony 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Dinner 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, BLUE HARBOR CONVENTION CENTER

BREAKFAST

7:00 am – 8:00 am

REGISTRATION

7:00 am – 12 pm

WELCOME TO DAY 2

8:15 am - 8:40 AM

IN CONVERSATION W/ DON WUEBBLES: ASSESSING THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE BASIN AND HOW TO MOVE FORWARD

8:45 am – 9:45 am

Donald J. Wuebbles is the Harry E. Preble Professor of Atmospheric Science at the University of Illinois and is an expert in atmospheric physics and chemistry. As an award winning, world renowned climate scientist with over 500 scientific publications and research on the Great Lakes, he brings a unique and important perspective to waterfront communities especially surrounding the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

SPEAKER PRESENTATION (OPEN TO ALL ATTENDEES AND PRESS)

10:00 am – 10:45 am

1. **Lt. Governor Barnes**, Wisconsin
2. **Jean-François Hould**, Quebec Consul General of Chicago
2. **Mayor Tom Barrett**, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

PRESS CONFERENCE

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

LUNCHEON (ALL ATTENDEES WELCOME)

12:15 am – 1:15 pm

PANEL 3: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: KEEPING WATERFRONTS RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

1:15 pm – 2:00 pm

The challenges presented by climate change create the need for transformational leadership. This panel will present communities that have seized this opportunity to demonstrate that leadership through action on their waterfronts. Presentations will address resilience to the unavoidable impacts of climate change, by enhancing ecological services from wetlands and other green infrastructure, along with outreach and engagement opportunities presented by waterfronts.

Panelists:

1. **Deputy Mayor Michelle Morin-Doyle**, Québec City, Québec
2. **Zachary Bengtsson**, BostonCenter Lead of the NASA DEVELOP National Program
3. **Kevin Shafer**, Executive Director of Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MSSD)
4. **André Labonté**, Team E-nundation

NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm

ROUND TABLE SESSIONS

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Attend our Round Table sessions and engage in discussions and debates with fellow delegates regarding 3 topics, which will be announced soon. The moderator of each Round Table session will facilitate conversation between experts and the delegates. Come ready with questions and stories relating to the 3 topics. Not only is this a chance learn from experts in their field, but it is also an opportunity to share best practices. The discussion sections will be open and delegates will be able to choose which section(s) they wish to attend.

CONFERENCE AND ROUND TABLE WRAP-UP

4:00 pm – 4:30 pm

GALA DINNER, KHOLER AMERICAN CLUB (ALL ATTENDEES WELCOME)

Dress code: business formal

Cocktail Hour

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Experience the beauty of the American Club during the cocktail hour and drink local beer and try local cheeses.

Dinner and Entertainment

7:00 - 9:00 pm

We celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Sheboygan Symphony with a dazzling performance during dinner.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7 "SHOWING OFF SHEBOYGAN"

EXCITING FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES

Stay in Sheboygan after the conference and enjoy some exciting, fun activities for you and the whole family.

Powerboat Cruise

Take a powerboat cruise up the Sheboygan River and along the lakefront to learn about new developments including the proposed Innovation District. The duration of the cruise is 1 hour, each cruise accommodates up to 15 passengers. This event is offered for no fee to attendees of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Annual Conference. Register on our website.

Go Sailing

Take in a 1-hour sailing experience on Lake Michigan. The sailboat accommodates up to 6 passengers. This event is offered for no fee to attendees of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Annual Conference. Register on our website.

END OF CONFERENCE

