

PRESENTED BY



# THE FUTURE OF **FRESH WATER** | L'AVENIR DE **DE L'EAU DOUCE**

MAY 14 - 16, 2025 MILWAUKEE, WI



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE**  
CITIES INITIATIVE  
**L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES**  
DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT



Mayor Ryan Sorenson  
Co-Chair (U.S.)  
**Sheboygan, WI**



Mayor Mat Siscoe  
Co-Chair (Canada)  
**St. Catharines, ON**

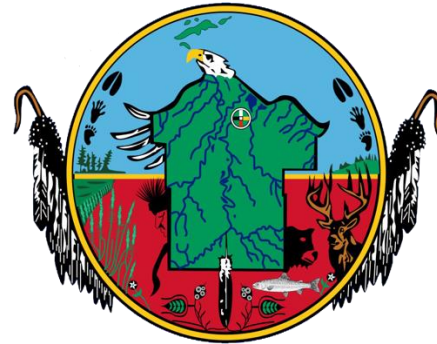
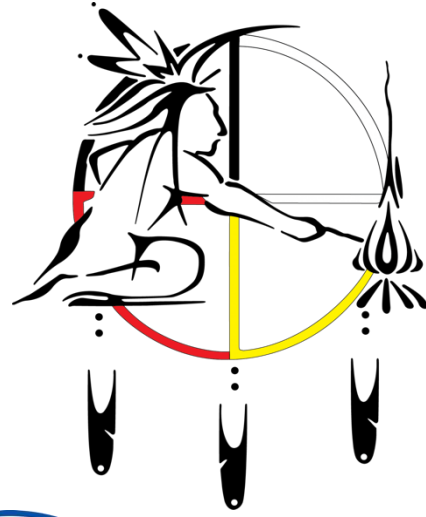
# WELCOME FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE**  
CITIES INITIATIVE  
**L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES**  
DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT











Vice Chairman Ken  
George Jr.

**Forest County  
Potawatomi**



Vice Chairman  
Michael Fish Jr.

**Menominee Nation**

# WELCOME FROM WI TRIBAL LEADERS



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE**  
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# Mayor Cavalier Johnson Milwaukee, WI







- **Balancing Supply and Demand:** Preserving Our Region's Abundant Freshwater Resources
- **Advancing Clean Water Communities:** Addressing Legacy Pollution, Emerging **Contaminants** and
- **Beyond Weathering the Storm:** Promoting Water Resilience in an Era of Extreme Flooding and Erosion

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE**  
CITIES INITIATIVE  
**L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES**  
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## FULL PROGRAM



## WIFI

NETWORK:  
**Saint Kate  
Conference**

PASSWORD:  
**Saint Kate**

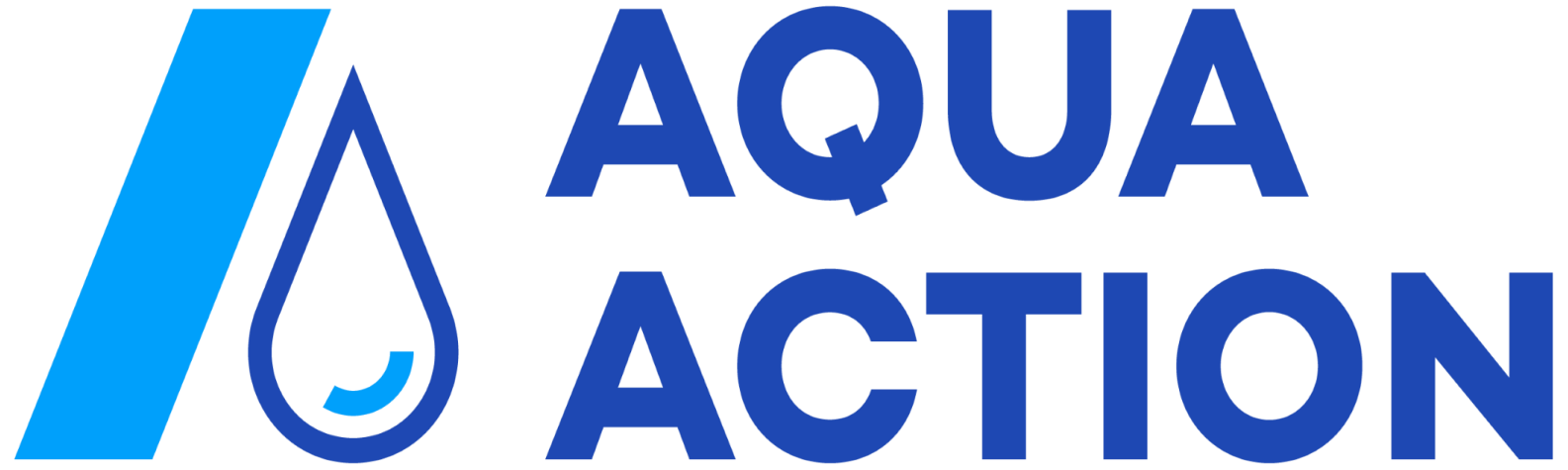
## SOCIAL MEDIA



**#FutureofFreshWater**  
**#GLSLStrong**  
**@GLSLcities**



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE**  
CITIES INITIATIVE  
**L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES**  
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**THANK YOU TO OUR  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
PRESENTING PARTNER**







**THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE PARTNERS**





**The St. Lawrence  
Seaway Management  
Corporation**

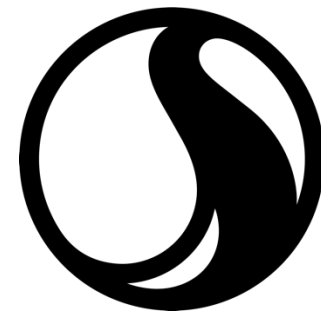
**Corporation de Gestion  
de la Voie Maritime  
du Saint-Laurent**

**THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE PARTNERS**



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE  
CITIES INITIATIVE**  
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**AMERICA IS  
ALL IN**



**Stantec**

**THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL  
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**Fund for  
Lake Michigan**

**THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL  
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**SMITHGROUP**



**THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL  
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FOREST COUNTY  
**POTAWATOMI**  
*Keeper of the Fire*

Québec 



**THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE PARTNERS**



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**BLACK & VEATCH**



**Jacobs**



Water & Wastewater System Specialists

**THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL  
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**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE  
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BRICO FUND



**THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE PARTNERS**

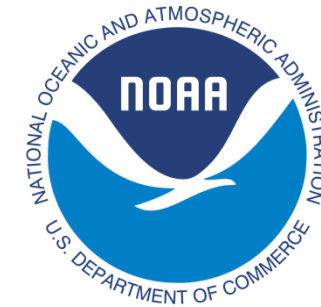




Fred A. and Barbara M.  
Erb Family Foundation



NFWF



THANK YOU TO OUR  
ORGANIZATION PARTNERS





Corporation de Gestion  
de la Voie Maritime  
du Saint-Laurent

The St. Lawrence  
Seaway Management  
Corporation



VIA Rail Canada

Geosyntec  
consultants

engineers | scientists | innovators



THANK YOU TO OUR  
FUNDING PARTNERS



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE  
CITIES INITIATIVE  
L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES  
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Leading the way on water equity

# HELP GIVE A VOICE TO ALL COMMUNITIES AS WE WORK TO TRANSFORM OUR REGION



The Mayor Richard M. Daley

**Water Equity  
Community Award**



**TURTLE ISLAND  
SCHOLARSHIP**



Scan to **LEARN MORE** and **DONATE!**



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE**  
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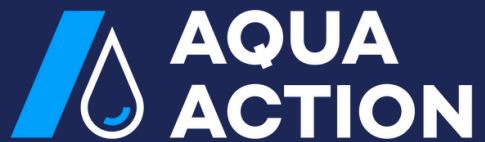




**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE**  
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# Soula Chronopoulos President of AquaAction





# Empowering the next generation of innovators to build a water secure future.

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Established by



Powered by



Accelerated by















The pressure on freshwater is an

# economic crisis



## Agriculture

- Impact on GDP
- Food prices & crops
- Farmer income



**Food security**

## Industrial Operations

- Operational costs
- Production capacity
- Business continuity



**Business &  
Job security**

## Energy Production

- Hydroelectric power
- Cooling for power plants
- Energy costs



**Energy security**

## Residential & Infrastructure

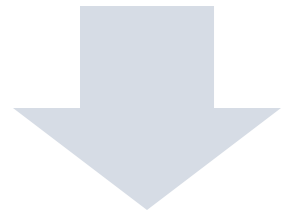
- Increased demand for urbanizations
- Public health and quality of life
- Higher cost of living



**Housing & Public  
Health security**

## Environment

- Ecosystem services: Degradation affects fisheries, tourism, and local economies.
- Cost of mitigation



**Environmental  
security**



**~1% of the world's water is potable**

**~20% is in our Great Lakes**

**The economic value of our  
freshwater is equivalent to \$58  
Trillion USD or 60% of current global  
GDP**







Infectious bacteria detection for AI cloud farms.



*AquaEntrepreneur 2024*

Montréal 



Supplier to the  
United States  
Department of Defense



Converting algal blooms into biofuels and fertilizers.



*AquaEntrepreneur 2024*



MRC DE LA  
**VALLÉE-DU-RICHELIEU**

*Mode rural, terroir de vie!*



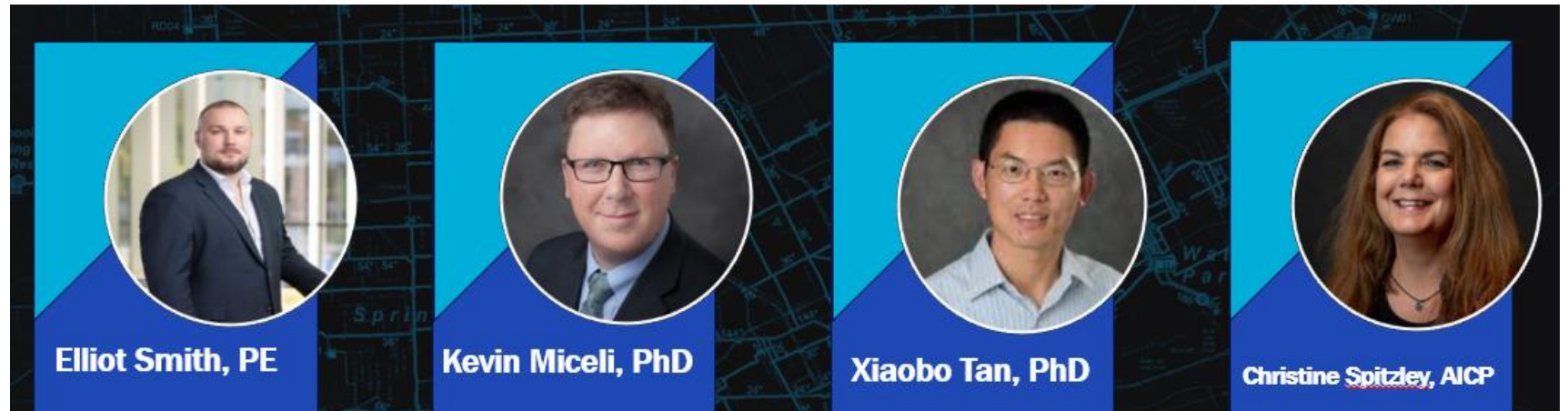


**Affordable underwater inspections and data** using proprietary AURs and sensors.

→ **Saves time** for engineers, utility managers, and public works teams.



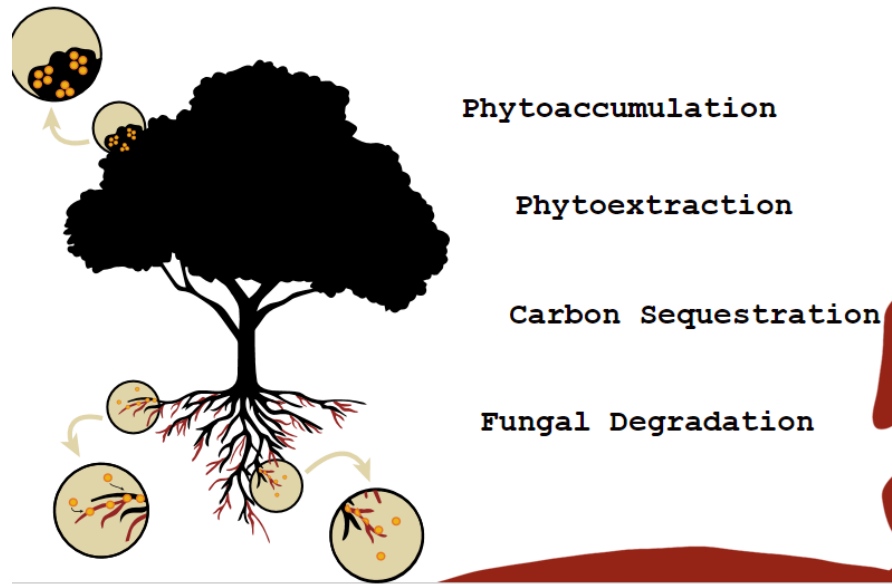
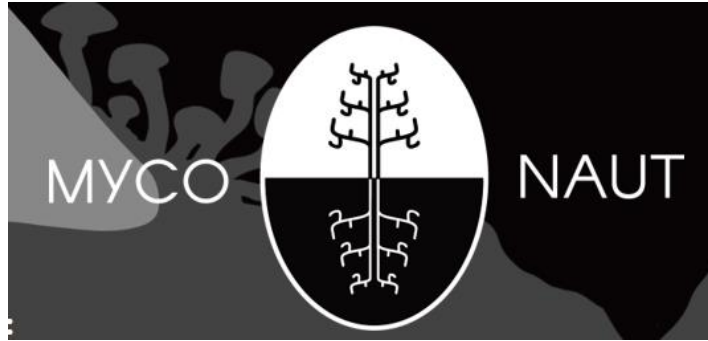
*Great Lakes AquaHacking Challenge 2023*



**40+ pilots in progress:**

Battle Creek, Michigan | Detroit, Michigan | Jackson, Mississippi | Salma, Kansas | Phoenix, Arizona | Atlanta, Georgia | Lakewood, WA | Fort Worth, Texas | Las Vegas, Nevada.....etc.





PFAS detection and removal through  
mycoremediation.



*Great Lakes AquaHacking Challenge 2023*



**Joe Lane**  
Co-founder  
Field Biologist  
Fungi Product Production



**Ryan Iacovacci**  
Co-founder  
Chief Executive Officer  
Sales, Product, & Business Lead



**Tyler Watson**  
Research Lead  
Analytical Chemist  
AI/ML/LLM Data



**Agata Terebienieć**  
PhD Candidate Molecular Bio  
Environmental Specialist  
Project management



**Molly Stanek**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Experienced Agtech Exec  
Scaling and Technology Development



**Paul Vecchiarelli**  
Ph.D Environmental  
Engineer  
Water Treatment Systems





Our mission is to

**build a  
secure  
water  
future**



# Our impact



**100+**

Active companies in portfolio



**170+**

Pilots and Contracts secured in 2024



**200M+**

Annual revenue generated



**38,500+**

Olympic-sized pools of water saved



**400+**

New jobs in the blue economy



**85,000+**

Trees in carbon offsets





**The future of  
water depends  
on solutions  
developed  
today.**



**Annual Binational  
Competition**

**Coming in Q1 2026**















# Thank you!



Established by



Fondation  
de Gaspé Beaubien  
Foundation

Powered by



Tech for  
Nature

Accelerated by

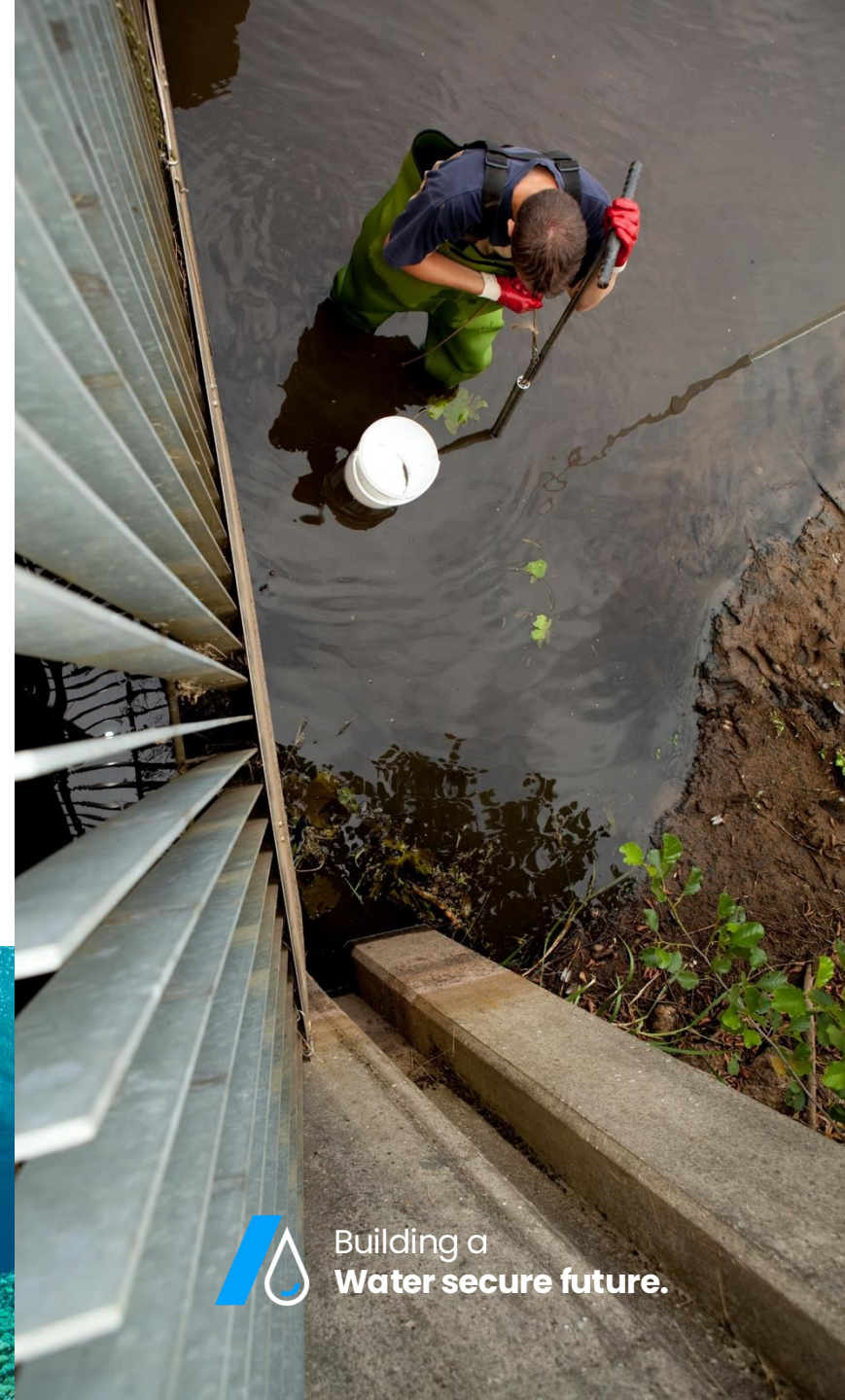


Bringing water to life

## Come see us at the Aqua Innovation exhibitor space!

**Soula Chronopoulos**  
President

[soula@aquaaaction.org](mailto:soula@aquaaaction.org)



Building a  
**Water secure future.**



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE**  
CITIES INITIATIVE  
**L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES**  
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# **PRESERVING THE U.S.- CANADA RELATIONSHIP**

**TO PROTECT OUR PROSPEROUS REGIONAL ECONOMY  
AND PRECIOUS FRESHWATER RESOURCES**



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE**  
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# Mayor Cavalier Johnson Milwaukee, WI







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# Deputy Mayor Catherine Vallières-Roland Québec City, QC





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# Mayor Eddie Melton Gary, IN





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# Mayor Rob Burton Oakville, ON



# President Shannon Holsey Stockbridge- Munsee Band of Mohican Indians





**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE**  
CITIES INITIATIVE  
**L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES**  
DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

# Please remain seated during the Declaration Signing Ceremony

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION**



PRESENTED BY



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# Consul-General Madeleine Féquière Consulate General of Canada in Chicago





**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE**  
CITIES INITIATIVE  
**L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES**  
DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

# Dave Ross Veolia North America





Alaina Harkness  
**Current**



Deputy Mayor Catherine  
Vallières-Roland  
**Québec City, QC**



David Naftzger  
**Great Lakes  
St. Lawrence  
Governors & Premiers**



Dave Ross  
**Veolia North America**

# SPEAKERS



# BALANCING SUPPLY AND DEMAND:

**PRESERVING OUR REGION'S ABUNDANT  
FRESHWATER RESOURCES**

Sponsored by:





# NETWORKING BREAK

# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Simone Ballroom

## Coming Together: Scaling Up Waterfront Planning

Presented by **SMITHGROUP**

ARC Theatre

## Pioneering New Approaches to Water Management

Presented by





# EVENING EVENTS

## BIINAAGAMI FLOOR MAP VIEWING

Père Marquette Park  
900 N. Plankinton Ave.

**6:30 PM**

## OPENING RECEPTION

Presented by



Milwaukee County Historical Society  
910 N. MLK Jr. Dr.

**7:00 PM**



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE**  
CITIES INITIATIVE  
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# TAKE ACTION

**Preserving the U.S.-Canada Relationship for a Strong Regional  
Economy and Healthy Environment**

## **Record a video statement**

Available in Method Room for Members

PROMPT:

When you think about the future of fresh water,  
what do you envision?



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