

# St. Clair-Detroit River System Initiative Partnership Agreement

February 7, 2013

Presented by Rose Ellison,  
on behalf of the Partnership Agreement Team



# Partnership Agreement Sub-committee

- Follow-up action from 2012 online survey
- 4 conference calls (1/month – Sept. thru Dec.)
- Team composition:

MI DNR

EPA

ODNR

USFWS

OMNR

USGS

MI DEQ

GLFC

MOE

GLC

MI Sea Grant

# Purpose of the Initiative

- To **promote cooperation** among US, Canada, Tribes, First nations, and other stakeholders
- To **advance science** that addresses the top priorities of fisheries and aquatic resource managers



# Geographical Extent of the Corridor



- International waters
- Includes:
  - Southern Lake Huron
  - St. Clair River
  - Lake St. Clair
  - Detroit River
  - Western Lake Erie
- Waters in:
  - Michigan
  - Ohio
  - Ontario

# History of the Initiative

- 2004: Huron-Erie Corridor Initiative proposed
- 2005: Prospectus developed
- 2012: **Partnership Agreement drafted**  
**Use of “St. Clair-Detroit River System” adopted**
- Since it's inception, Initiative Partners have agreed to:
  1. Restore/improve ecological function and resilience
  2. Maintain healthy, diverse, and productive aquatic ecosystems  
(that will in turn provide societal, economic, and environmental benefits)



# Purpose of the Partnership Agreement

- To develop common goals and objectives
- To identify collective:
  - Resource management needs/challenges
  - Research strategies
- Provide for recognized membership/governance
- Provide a strategic vision for the next 10 years

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# Objectives of the Partnership Agreement

1. Provide a basis for collaboration/communication through an established partnership
2. In coordination with fisheries and aquatic resource managers, identify resource management challenges / research strategies to address them
3. Identify critical and emerging research challenges through ongoing censuses / adaptive processes



# Management Priorities

- The sub-committee identified 4 broad categories of management priorities:
  - **Fish/Biological**
  - **Environmental/Water Quality/Habitat**
  - **Societal**
  - **Areas of Concern**
- Preliminary list of priorities included in draft agreement
- Presentations by managers later today



# Research Strategies

- This afternoon: Break-out sessions to brain storm research strategies
- Ideas will be summarized and included in draft agreement



# Governance/Membership

- The sub-committee identified 4 options
- Will seek consensus on preferred option today  
(Russ will facilitate a discussion next)



# Governance/Membership

## Option A

### Informal/loose structure (status quo)

- Governance structure:
  - **Facilitator** – USGS
  - **Steering committee** – Entire partnership
- Membership Process:
  - Open membership
  - No limit to number of members allowed/organization



# Governance/Membership

## Option A

### Informal/loose structure (status quo)

- Pros:
  - Model has worked fine so far
- Cons:
  - Decision making open to a diverse group of members
    - may not be in position to make decision on behalf of their organizations
  - Lacks formal recognition of possibility for ad hoc teams to emerge



# Governance/Membership

## Option B

Informal/loose structure (status quo) + ad hoc teams

- Governance structure:
  - Facilitator – USGS
  - Steering committee – Entire partnership
  - Ad hoc teams – Issue-based, as need arises
- Membership Process:
  - Steering Committee:
    - Open membership
    - No limit to number of members allowed/organization
  - Ad hoc Teams:
    - Appointment based on issue/jurisdiction over it



# Governance/Membership

## Option B

Informal/loose structure (status quo) + ad hoc teams

- Pros:
  - Adds recognition of possibility for ad hoc teams to emerge
- Cons:
  - Decision making open to a diverse group of members
    - may not be in position to make decision on behalf of their organizations
  - Reaching consensus may be difficult when decision making involves members who may not be bound or affected by decisions made



# Option A

USGS  
Facilitator

Steering  
Committee

# Option B

USGS  
Facilitator

Steering  
Committee

Ad Hoc  
Teams

# Governance/Membership

## Option C

### Small steering committee (managers only)

- Governance structure:
  - **Chair/vice-chair** – Nominated by steering committee; 2 year terms
  - **Steering committee** – 1 rep. per management/fiduciary agency:

ERCA	USFWS
MI DNR	USACE
ODNR	Walpole Island
OMNR	EPA
DEQ	MI Sea Grant
MOE	
  - **Members-at-Large** – Those who lead the science; other stakeholders
  - **Ad Hoc Teams** – Issue-based, as need arises





# Governance/Membership

## Option C

### Small steering committee (managers only)

- Membership Process:
  - **Steering Committee:**
    - Each management/fiduciary agency identifies one rep.
  - **Members-at-Large:**
    - Open membership
    - No limit to number of members allowed/organization
  - **Ad hoc teams:**
    - Appointment based on issue/jurisdiction over it



# Governance/Membership

## Option C

### Small steering committee (managers only)

- Pros:
  - Decision making by organizations with authority and resources to act on decisions made
- Cons:
  - Management agency reps. cannot effectively set priorities for science organizations without balanced input
  - Management decisions could suffer without science advisory role



# Governance/Membership

Partnership Agreement Team  
Recommended Option

## Option D

Small steering committee (managers *AND* scientists)

- Governance structure:
  - **Chair/vice-chair** – Nominated by steering committee; 2 year terms
  - **Steering committee** – 1 rep. per management/fiduciary science agency:

<b>DFO</b>	<b>NOAA</b>
ERCA	USFWS
MI DNR	USACE
ODNR	<b>USGS</b>
OMNR	Walpole Island
DEQ	EPA
MOE	MI Sea Grant

- **Members-at-Large** – Those who lead the science; other stakeholders
- **Ad Hoc Teams** – Issue-based, as need arises



# Governance/Membership

Partnership Agreement Team  
Recommended Option

## Option D

Small steering committee (managers *AND* scientists)

- Membership Process:
  - **Steering Committee:**
    - Each management/fiduciary and science agency identifies one rep.
  - **Members-at-Large:**
    - Open membership
    - No limit to number of members allowed/organization
  - **Ad hoc Teams:**
    - Appointment based on issue/jurisdiction over it
- Roles and Responsibilities:
  - Steering committee membership does not confer management decision-making authority to science organizations (or vice versa)

# Governance/Membership

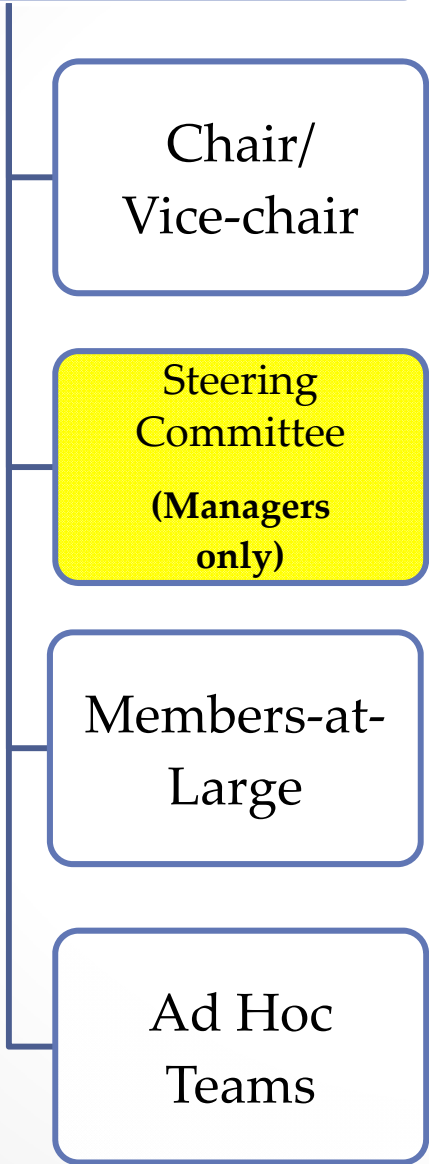
Partnership Agreement Team  
Recommended Option

## Option D

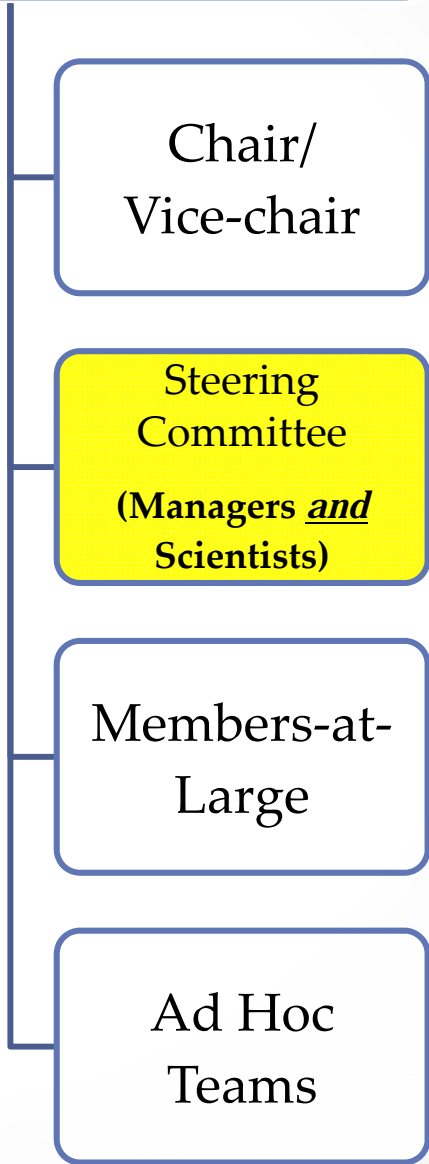
Small steering committee (managers *AND* scientists)

- Pros:
  - Decision making authority granted to management agency representatives *and* scientists
    - more balanced representation in the decision making process
- Cons:
  - Large size of steering committee could reduce efficiency

# Option C



# Option D



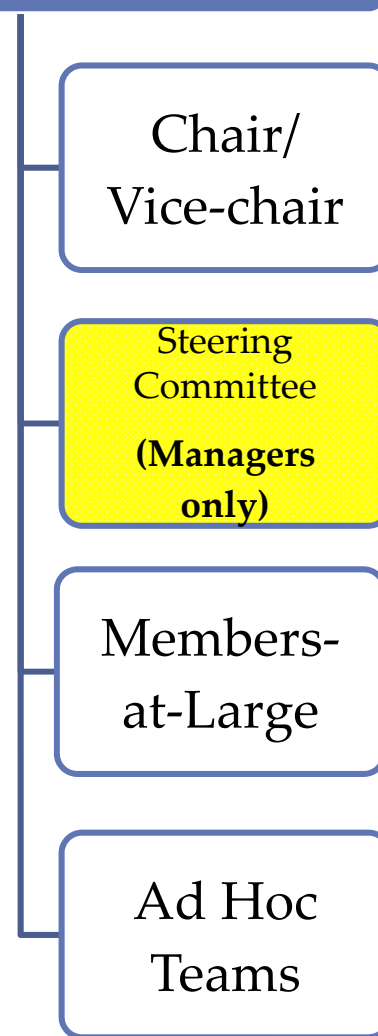
## Option A



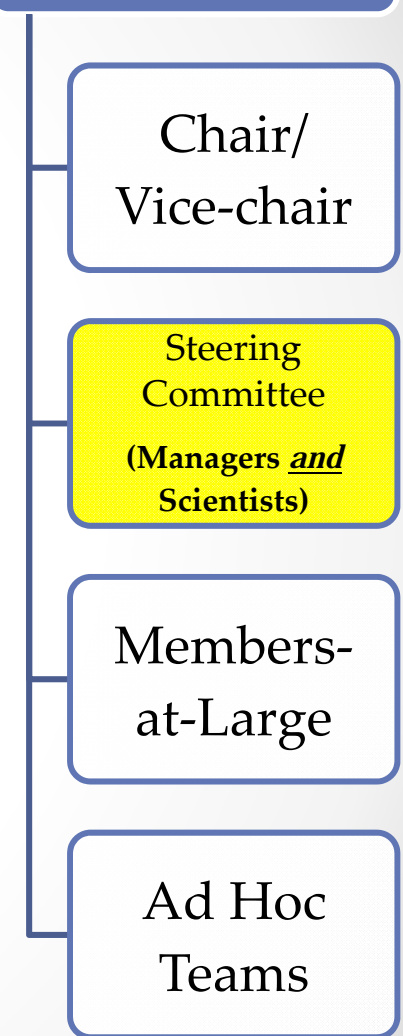
## Option B



## Option C



## Option D



# Decision Process

- Decision shall be made by **consensus** among the steering committee.
- When consensus cannot be achieved, **majority opinion** will be used.
- Decisions will be made using the **best available science and information**, in the context of social, economic, and ecological needs.





# Meeting Schedule

- Membership at large:
  - Frequency: 1x/year
  - Duration: 1 day
  - Typically in February or March
- Steering Committee:
  - May meet more frequently on an ad hoc basis




# Partner Sign-on Page

- A pledge to contribute:
  - Technical support
  - Financial assistance
  - In-kind services
- As available and on a voluntary basis



# Next Steps

- Hear from the managers (today)
- Brainstorm research strategies (today)
- Sub-committee team to finalize agreement
- Obtain partner signatures



Within 60 days