

Development Process and Engagement Strategy

To develop the Water Strategy, the OGL formed an interagency steering committee that included representatives from the MDEQ, MDARD, DNR and MEDC. The steering committee met throughout the development of the Strategy to brainstorm, evaluate recommendations, and review content and direction. Additionally, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MHSDA) and the MI Place Partnership Initiative helped develop and refine ideas about water and placemaking.

An additional, external advisory committee, called the Water Cabinet, informed the Strategy's broad goals and developed a set of long-term desired environmental, economic, social and cultural outcomes. The cabinet consisted of a diverse array of 25 individuals actively engaged in ensuring the long-term health, function and resiliency of Michigan's water resources and in encouraging and nurturing its economic and cultural values.

In order to reflect diverse public perspectives, the OGL also led an extensive public engagement effort, integrated tribal involvement and engagement, and invited a series of 10 experts to develop white papers providing key insights on solutions for emerging and challenging problems that Michigan faces related to its water resources.

The OGL also hosted "Water Dialogues" with 16 communities across the state, focused on understanding different communities' capacity to create and implement a vision for water resources. These facilitated conversations, supported by a grant from the C.S. Mott Foundation, helped develop implementation tactics for the Strategy, reinforce the themes and refine the focus of the Strategy.

The draft goals and outcomes were tested at 10 regional economic roundtable discussions to understand how current local and regional economic development efforts depend on water. These discussions ultimately contributed to the development of a suite of themes reflected in the Strategy.

Finally, the OGL made a concentrated effort to encourage broad public involvement and awareness of the draft Strategy. Outreach efforts included press releases, website postings, the State of the Great Lakes report, presentations, an informational Webinar, and 30-day public comment opportunities via the Website.