



Alliance Efforts for 2020

Dear Members,

January and February have been extremely busy for the Alliance team and we have moved forward with some crucial efforts bound to affect the ultimate outcome of our battle with the IJC over management of the Lake and River level.

2020 Action Plan

- The Alliance is currently working closely with Save our Sodus and putting together a fundraising team with plans to raise \$500,000 for lobbying and legal action. We have some very experienced team members and will be looking for local coordinators to work with regional team leaders. Please let us know if you would like to become a regional or local champion in your area of the lake or river to help us defeat the IJC.
- We have completed our engagement with the West Law Firm in Albany, NY and gotten two legal opinions related to actions against the IJC. While both legal options are viable, they will be expensive to pursue and we need to raise considerable funds to go further. We may re-engage with the West Firm at some point in the future as they have done a great job for us so far.
- We have hired a large, experienced Washington DC based law firm to help with lobbying and legal action at the federal level. Steptoe is a very large, well connected, and experienced law firm with considerable experience and expertise in complex legal and legislative issues. We needed a firm that has a track record of lobbying at the federal level and that has a large team of lawyers that can litigate against the US government. <https://www.steptoe.com>
- In the past couple of weeks, we have again met with our federal elected officials to effect changes to Plan 2014 and receive compensation for damages. Our 5 point requests included:
 1. Creating a hard upper limit on Lake Ontario like that provided to Montreal
 2. Great Lakes diversion relief – stop the inflow of Canadian rivers diversion into Lake Superior
 3. Delay the shipping season this Spring until the lake level is lowered to 244”
 4. Levy a toll/tax on shipping to pay for damages to residents and municipalities along the lake and river
 5. Form a coalition with other Great Lakes States whose residents are experiencing flooding as a result of poor water management policies. Lake Michigan and Lake Erie are also flooding.
- We continue to keep abreast of the NYS Attorney General’s lawsuit against the IJC. We will continue to encourage the AG to be aggressive and we will learn from their legal strategies and efforts as we prepare our legal case.

- We continue to urge the federal government and NYS to provide funding for flood damage victims property **and** break walls (primary and secondary homeowners).

We are just starting to investigate forming a coalition with other groups and elected officials from other Great Lakes States to fight flooding compounded by poor water management plans. Check out this story by the weather channel – look familiar ?

<https://weather.com/news/trending/video/lake-michigans-high-water-levels-cause-extreme-erosion?isSubsequent=true>

Flood Preparation for 2020

Despite our best efforts and a NYS lawsuit, the IJC continued to allow fall lake levels to remain high for the benefit of allowing the shipping season to continue into the end of December. This has resulted in record high January and February lake levels of 246” and above. These levels are likely to result in another year of flooding for 2020 if the IJC does not take strong measures to reduce the lake levels this Spring. The Alliance, Save our Sodus, and United Shoreline Ontario have put together a document that is posted on our webpage and Facebook page with suggestions for flood preparedness.

United Shoreline Ontario developed a flood survey to assess social vulnerability and economic losses so that we can take the results to elected officials and lobby for more support for our flooded communities. We are looking for at least 1000 responses before we make the results public.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/lakeontarioflooding>

What We Are Up Against

This is a problem of power politics and greed; NOT climate change or weather conditions. Plan 1958DD kept the various waterway interests in balance for over 50 years. Plan 2014 has left shoreline property owners severely damaged, while the shipping and power industries are more profitable than ever. The shipping industry along with important business and political interests in the mid-west favor Plan 2014. They are wealthy, organized, and represented by powerful lobbying associations and legal firms. This next phase of the Alliance effort will require many more members and considerably more funding to continue our fight.

If you want to fight back, please join and become a member. Ask your neighbors and friends along the lake and river to join. There is power in numbers and the more members we have the more influential we become.

To fight and stand up for your rights, please join the Alliance and/or donate at: www.LOSLRA.ORG