

Sustaining the Lake Superior Collaborative: Challenges & Opportunities for a Northern Wisconsin Watershed Partnership

The Lake Superior Collaborative (LSC) is a voluntary partnership of conservation organizations working on watershed restoration and climate resilience projects in Wisconsin's Lake Superior basin (LakeSuperiorCollaborative.org). Extension's Lake Superior Outreach Specialist coordinates the LSC by facilitating networking and information sharing and convening partners around shared, multi-year watershed goals. The presenter will share examples of landscape restoration projects made possible through collaborative efforts, including Wisconsin's first natural flood management demonstration project in Ashland County and the ripple effects of a focused commitment to hydrologic restoration and a "slow the flow" approach to reducing sediment loading into the Lake Superior nearshore. This talk will also emphasize the challenges and opportunities of sustaining a multi-county, cross-jurisdictional partnership over the past two years, including securing funding for a permanent coordinator, generating a shared Action Plan, and evaluating partnership impact. Looking ahead, the presenter will also share LSC partners' goals and priorities for the future.



Erin Burkett

Erin Burkett, PhD (she/her/hers or they/them/theirs) is an environmental social scientist specializing in community-engaged research and outreach. As the Lake Superior Outreach Specialist, Erin coordinates a watershed partnership called the Lake Superior Collaborative and supports the Coastal Training Program at the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve. Erin earned a PhD in Environmental Policy from Michigan Technological University in 2019 where they studied the gendered nature of Great Lakes fisheries management, fishing participation, and management of women's outdoor recreation programs. Erin also holds an MS in Natural Resources and Environment from the University of Michigan and a BS in Zoology from Michigan State University. This will be Erin's second ANREP conference!