



# Great Lakes One Water Partnership

## Action Agenda Summary - Community Action for a Resilient Future: Resilient Future Project (RFP)

### Situation

Severe weather events are threatening communities in the Lake Superior/UP Region:

- Excessive stormwater exacerbates runoff from non-point sources and point sources such as wastewater treatment facilities, agriculture, mines, etc.
- Municipal infrastructure, including water infrastructure, is overwhelmed and often destroyed
- Water resources are polluted impacting animal and human populations
- Health and wellbeing, including financial welfare, of residents are put at risk
- Private property, including commercial interests, is compromised or damaged
- Natural resources and natural systems are overwhelmed and damaged - eroding coastlines, damaging landmarks, and compromising community assets



Severe weather events, including increase frequency and intensity of precipitation, are projected to increase. Targeted communities are not prepared for severe weather events or have been devastated by a severe weather event and are trying to prepare for the next event.

### Partners

Community Foundations - Community Foundation of Marquette County, Community Foundation of the Upper Peninsula and Delta County, Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, Keweenaw Community Foundation, and M&M Area Community Foundation

Cohort 1 Communities – Duluth, MN; Houghton, MI; Marquette, MI; Menominee, MI and Marinette, WI; Les Cheneaux area, MI

Technical Team - University of Minnesota Sea Grant Program, Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Sea Grant, and Superior Watershed Partnership and Land Trust

## Theory of Change

Through the Resilient Future Project, communities in the Lake Superior/UP region are more resilient in the face of extreme weather and are better prepared to protect the health and wellbeing of people and the natural and built assets than ever before. Communities are witnessing the value of resiliency investments with less damage and disruption resulting from extreme weather and maintained levels of public health and overall wellbeing. This long-term outcome is achieved through:

- Deploying a team of administrative and technical experts to coach and advise the participating communities through a systematic process that begins with the exploration of storm-related threats and leads to implementation of action plans that address the most critical vulnerabilities and risks using vetted and prioritized strategies. The technical team will:
  - Organize a team of multidisciplinary, community-based leaders around the emerging issue of storm and flood resilience.
  - Conduct a common process to establish a baseline of each community's:
    - Current state of vulnerability to extreme weather.
    - Understanding of resiliency related to extreme weather.
  - Deliver education to increase understanding of community teams, leaders, and other community members about the reality of extreme weather and the impact on water quality, public and private property and infrastructure, and human health, safety and welfare, and the importance and opportunities to prepare for such events.
  - Facilitate a public engagement and planning process to:
    - Explore hazards
    - Assess vulnerability and risks in the community
    - Investigate options to improve resiliency
    - Prioritize and plan for implementation
    - Take action and begin implementation of select strategies



## Intended Outcomes

Individuals in the community report increased knowledge of resiliency and awareness of opportunities for improving community resilience.

Local master plans, capital improvement programs, and/or development regulations are amended to incentivize and/or require resiliency measures as part of new private development and municipal infrastructure improvements.

Resiliency improvements are implemented and/or adopted by private and public entities.

Community members and youth are more engaged in planning and development processes and decisions led by local government.