

# Great Lakes Islands Alliance: Charter

*Enacted October 1, 2018*

## Preamble

The Great Lakes boast approximately 32,000 islands, the largest, most diverse collection of freshwater islands in the world. Though the far majority are uninhabited, some islands are home to year-round and seasonal communities, typically a diverse mix of permanent residents, summer cottagers, and transient visitors. These are culturally, socially, and ecologically rich communities with deep connections to place. Literally defined by water and intrinsically linked to the natural world, they are the quintessential Great Lakes coastal communities.

While island communities are distinct from one another in character, geography, and degree of isolation, they have in common many challenges to “island living.” There is value in island communities working with one another to share existing solutions and develop new ones.

The Great Lakes Islands Alliance (GLIA) was formed to bring together island leaders, residents, and advocates from across the international Great Lakes region and beyond who share the unique experience of living and working in these geographically isolated places. The GLIA will be driven “for islands, by islands.”

## Vision

Our vision is to support our individual islands for current and future generations, honoring their distinct cultures and character, while growing the collective impact of the inter-island network.

## Mission Statement

The mission of the GLIA is to encourage relationship building, foster information exchange, and leverage resources to address shared challenges and embrace opportunities to benefit islands.

Goals	Outputs <sup>1</sup>	Outcomes
1. Connect remote, distant communities.	In-person meetings and virtual discussions (relationships developed)	A new “sense of community” develops among Great Lakes islands.
2. Facilitate information access and sharing, particularly through tools that offer best practices and solutions to island challenges.	Information exchanges and tools specific to island communities	As island communities face pressures and undergo change, decisions remain informed, balanced and sustainable. Island communities have the information and tools they need to adapt and thrive.
3. Advance opportunities for multi-island collaboration, where appropriate.	Key initiatives and projects	Specific challenges are mitigated and untapped opportunities are advanced.
4. Amplify island voices to mainland audiences.	Website, media, other outreach materials	Awareness and appreciation of island living is improved among government leaders, the general public, and others.

<sup>1</sup> For further details, see below.

## What is GLIA?

The GLIA is a voluntary, collaborative network consisting of individuals and organizations who have agreed to orient around a common geography, islands. The network is decentralized (no one single organization is in control) and dynamic (evolves over time). A key strength lies in the wide diversity of perspectives and ability to tap the extended networks and expertise contained within island communities and elsewhere. Taken cumulatively, the network has the potential to accomplish far more than members could achieve individually.

The GLIA may pursue discussions in a wide variety of subjects important to island communities, including (but not limited to) the following:

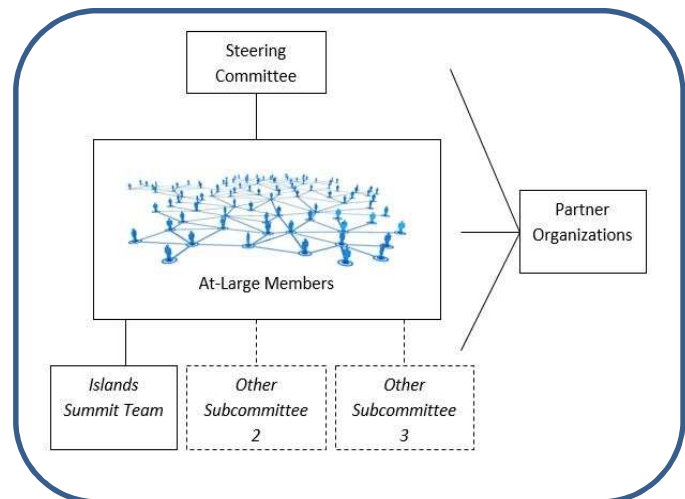
- Arts, culture, heritage
- Broadband/cell
- Economic develop. (incl. tourism)
- Education
- EMS/health care
- Energy
- Environment/natural resources
- Governance, leadership & training
- Historical preservation
- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Media
- Transportation
- Other

## Governance Structure

The major structural components are defined generically below. For a current list of member names and their specific roles, see *Appendices A and B*, respectively. The Appendices will change over time.

➤ **Steering Committee:** a subset of islanders from the ranks of the At-Large Membership who can provide additional leadership for the regional network. Roles:

- Provides overall guidance/direction and synthesizes ideas and activities across GLIA.
- Develops meeting agendas, annual work plans, and progress reports.
- Solicits new At-Large Members (particularly new or underrepresented islands) and new Partner Organizations to address unfulfilled roles.
- Assists with seeking of outside funding, where necessary to advance GLIA priorities; this includes working closely with Partner Organizations and others who can serve as grant fiduciaries or managers on behalf of the full network.
- Resolves conflicts and makes decisions on behalf of the full network, particularly when consensus among At-Large Members cannot be reached.
- Serves as the primary voice of the GLIA to the media and others.



### Expectations

- Steering Committee members are volunteers and serve without compensation.
- Support for the above Roles may be provided by Partner Organizations.
- Size and Composition: to the extent possible, the makeup should reflect the current number of At-Large Members and range of participating island communities.
- Officers: the steering committee will self-designate officers (e.g., Chair or Co-Chairs) or a smaller executive committee, as desired.
- Terms: two-year, staggered terms, with start and end dates coinciding with the annual Islands Summit. Confirmation will be by voice vote of the At-Large Members present; should a clear consensus not be reached, each participating island community will be given one vote.

- *At-Large Members*: individuals from the various island communities. Roles:
  1. Liaisons to their communities (“intra-island”)
    - responsible for timely sharing of information, both to and from their community, particularly where solutions may potentially transfer between islands
    - ensure key island leaders, both elected and otherwise, remain informed
    - guide and champion the implementation of any ideas, projects, etc., learned through this network in their own community, at their discretion and pace.
  2. Participants in the broader, inter-island network (“inter-island”) and beyond (“extra-island”)
    - contribute to the functioning and strengthening of the GLIA.

Expectations:

- Participation is voluntary, but members are expected to be regular and active participants.
- Members are *not* expected to be formally appointed by their community, and as such are not expected to speak or vote on behalf of their entire island. However, they should be active within their community and maintain a high degree of awareness of contemporary island needs.
- Individual islands may have multiple members (diversity is encouraged).

- *Subcommittees*: smaller teams created by the Steering Committee to perform a specific function/task or otherwise focus attention on a particular need. Subcommittees may be permanent or ad hoc/temporary. In addition to At-Large Members and Partner Organizations, individuals external to GLIA may participate in subcommittees (e.g., subject-matter experts). An Islands Summit subcommittee, consisting of upcoming and past hosts of the annual GLIA meeting (see below), will be a standing subcommittee.

- *Partner Organizations*: off-island organizations or agencies that provide “backbone support” (staffing, expertise, etc.), fulfil various administrative roles for the network and/or serve as technical advisors.

Roles may include:

1. Overall network coordination and facilitation
2. Secretariat (meeting organization, agendas, minutes, facility arrangements)
3. Work planning and progress tracking
4. Communications (both intra- and extra-network)
5. Finances (seeking, obtaining, managing grants & contracts)
6. Advisory assistance in specific programmatic areas
7. Cultivation of relationships with other regional partnerships, organizations, and agencies
8. Assistance to individual islands in implementing ideas arising through the network.

Expectations

- Partners also participate voluntarily, in areas or roles that align with their existing organizational missions, authorities, and capacities.
- Partners will direct their efforts in close collaboration with the interests of the GLIA islander members.
- Partners may seek outside funding to support their involvement.

## GLIA Activities

- ❖ *Island to Island Support*: First, the GLIA provides the structure and resources for members to engage in island-to-island discussions, pursue projects or otherwise advance ideas in their own community in any of the above subjects, at any time, at their own discretion.
- ❖ *Full Network*: Second, the GLIA may undertake certain network-wide activities to accomplish its Vision, Mission and Goals. These shall be of wide geographic scope (relevant to all or many islands), strategic (address pressing needs, feasible, and conducive to action), and generally require some level of support from the umbrella network.

## Communications

- Meetings/Discussions
  - Physical Meetings – an in-person, all-member meeting (“Great Lakes Islands Summit”) will be held annually each fall. To the extent possible, the Summit will rotate to different islands. The host island will lead the planning and implementation of the event.
  - Virtual Meetings – given the enormous geography separating members, the bulk of the discussions are expected to occur through electronic means (conference calls, virtual meeting tools, e-mail). The frequency, duration, and content of meetings will be at the discretion of the participating members.
  - Other events may be convened under the auspices of the GLIA.
- Tools: specific tools will be developed and maintained to facilitate islander-to-islander contact, share information, etc.
- Other: the GLIA may undertake additional communications efforts by engaging traditional media (print, radio), using social media platforms and digital media, and other methods, depending on the target audience, available member expertise and capacity, and the task at hand.

## Programs

- “Key Initiatives” – the GLIA may support longer-term initiatives that deliver key foundational services, often which span multiple/all islands and cross several subjects.
- “Projects” – projects have specific start/end dates, a targeted purpose or activity, and may utilize outside funding or contractual assistance. These may include on-the-ground activities, case studies, white papers, or reports to better characterize or highlight a particular challenge or opportunity.

## Key Operating Principles

*Decision-making*: the network will seek to operate on a consensus basis; when consensus cannot be reached, the Steering Committee shall make the decision (with chair being the final decision-maker).

- Definition of *consensus*: after a period of open discussion and/or negotiation, all participants agree with the decision, or at a minimum, state they “will live with” the decision. This does not mean a person has no reservations, but rather they are willing to live with it to move forward.
- Documents, recommendations or decisions advanced by the GLIA do not necessarily reflect the opinions or positions of the agencies, organizations, or businesses that employ the individuals who participate in the network, nor do they obligate those entities to act.

*Work Planning*: the GLIA will operate on a “Summit Cycle” (the time between annual Island Summits), rather than calendar or fiscal year, recognizing that Summits will occur on slightly different dates each fall.

- *Annual Progress Report*: a summary of the past year’s activities and accomplishments. The target audience is GLIA members, their island communities, Partner Organizations, and other constituencies.
- *Annual Work Plan*: drafted at each Islands Summit, this plan will guide activities over the next year.

For additional information, please visit <http://www.greatlakesislandsalliance.org>

## Appendix A – Current GLIA Member Roster

Last Revision Date: October 1, 2018

Island	Jurisdiction	Great Lake/ Channel	Name	Title(s)/Role(s)	Email
Beaver Island	Michigan	Lake Michigan	Bob Anderson	Beaver Island Association (outgoing President)	<a href="mailto:reanders49@gmail.com">reanders49@gmail.com</a>
			Kevin Boyle	Retired Partner, Latham & Watkins; Volunteer Manager at WVBI-FM (island radio station); Volunteer Robotics Teacher & FIRST FRC Coach at Beaver Island Community School; Beaver Island Association- Board Member; Preservation Association of Beaver Island, NMU Foundation, Northern Initiatives CDFI	<a href="mailto:kevin@boyle.bz">kevin@boyle.bz</a>
			Pam Grassmick	Beaver Island Association - Board Member, interests include human services, recreation, and natural resource protection.	<a href="mailto:pgrassmick@gmail.com">pgrassmick@gmail.com</a>
			Patrick McGinnity	Library Director; Beaver Island Association - Board Member; Business owner	<a href="mailto:island.library@gmail.com">island.library@gmail.com</a>
Bois Blanc Island	Michigan	Lake Huron	Diane Akright	Clerk, Bois Blanc Island	<a href="mailto:bbclerk@tds.net">bbclerk@tds.net</a>
			Tom Bach		<a href="mailto:tombach@sbcglobal.net">tombach@sbcglobal.net</a>
			Dan Reynolds	Assistant Fire Chief/Public Information Officer	<a href="mailto:buzzreynolds@gmail.com">buzzreynolds@gmail.com</a>
			Tom Stevenson	Harbor Commission	<a href="mailto:canine1wcc@comcast.net">canine1wcc@comcast.net</a>
Drummond Island	Michigan	Lake Huron	Kristy Beyer	Communications Director, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council; Member, MDNR Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council; Member, M-134 North Huron Scenic Byway Advisory Committee; Member/webmaster, North Huron Birding Trail.	<a href="mailto:kristybeyer@me.com">kristybeyer@me.com</a>
			Lynne Coulter	Full-time resident, artist, retired architect. Pres/Friends of the Library, Pres/Drummond Island Cross Country Club/DIXCC (hiking, XC, & snowshoe trails), M134 Byways Committee, North Huron Scenic Pathway (Bike Path)	<a href="mailto:lacoulter906@gmail.com">lacoulter906@gmail.com</a>
			Pam Johnson	Office Manager, Drummond Island Tourism Association; Business Owner	<a href="mailto:drummondislandtourism@alphacom.net">drummondislandtourism@alphacom.net</a>
Harsens Island	Michigan	Lake St. Clair	Harold Stieber	Treasurer, Harsens Island St Clair Flats Association, CPA	<a href="mailto:stiebha@gmail.com">stiebha@gmail.com</a>
Kellys Island	Ohio	Lake Erie	Jordan Killam	Manager, Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce; member, Kelleys Island Audubon Club; volunteer, Kelleys Island Historical Association.	<a href="mailto:info@kelleysislandchamber.com">info@kelleysislandchamber.com</a>
Les Cheneaux Islands	Michigan	Lake Huron	Mark Clymer	Supervisor - Clark Township; Board member - Friends of Les Cheneaux Community Library; Board Member - Les Cheneaux Watershed Council; Chair - Lucas Izzard Foundation for Teens	<a href="mailto:supervisor@clarktpw.org">supervisor@clarktpw.org</a>
Mackinac Island	Michigan	Lake Huron	Dennis Bradley	Council Member, retired Fire Chief, retired DNR	<a href="mailto:dabradley68@gmail.com">dabradley68@gmail.com</a>
			Rick Linn	Treasurer, City of Mackinac Island; EMS/Medical Center	<a href="mailto:treasurer@cityofmi.org">treasurer@cityofmi.org</a>

Island	Jurisdiction	Great Lake/ Channel	Name	Title(s)/Role(s)	Email
			Michael Olson (chair, island committee)	Director of Public Works, Coxswain for the Mackinac Marine Rescue, Administrator for the Affordable Housing Group, Lions Club member	<a href="mailto:midpw@cityofmi.org">midpw@cityofmi.org</a>
			Anne St. Onge	Librarian, Mackinac Island Public Library	<a href="mailto:imatmipl@yahoo.com">imatmipl@yahoo.com</a>
Madeline Island	Wisconsin	Lake Superior	Glenn Carlson	Board Member - Madeline Island Chamber of Commerce; Vice President - MI Community Garden; Vice-Chair - Town of La Pointe Energy Committee; Co-owner - Madeline Island Candles LLC; Member - Bayfield School Board; Madeline Sanitary District Commissioner; Meber - Madeline Island Public Library Board	<a href="mailto:glenncarlson453@gmail.com">glenncarlson453@gmail.com</a>
			Michael Childers	Town Board Supervisor, La Pointe, WI; Chief Financial Officer, Tammy Baldwin for Senate; Board members, Woods Hall Gallery & Studios; Co- owner, Madeline Island Candles.	<a href="mailto:michaelfraychilders@yahoo.com">michaelfraychilders@yahoo.com</a>
			Michael Collins (co- chair, island committee)	Northland College trustee; President - Madeline Island Chamber of Commerce; Vice President - Woods Hall Gallery and Studios; retired from career in advertising, destination marketing and public policy consulting.	<a href="mailto:michaelrcollins@gmail.com">michaelrcollins@gmail.com</a>
			Marina Lachecki	Former Pastor, St. John's United Church of Christ	<a href="mailto:lighthouse@cheqnet.net">lighthouse@cheqnet.net</a>
			Ron Madich	Business owner	<a href="mailto:info@madelineislandvacations.com">info@madelineislandvacations.com</a>
			Max Paap		<a href="mailto:mpaap15@gmail.com">mpaap15@gmail.com</a>
			James Patterson	Town Chairman, Town of La Pointe	<a href="mailto:jmpjip@yahoo.com">jmpjip@yahoo.com</a>
			James Peters	Retired	<a href="mailto:madeline1186605@yahoo.com">madeline1186605@yahoo.com</a>
			Lisa Potswald (co- chair, island committee)	Town Administrator, Town of La Pointe	<a href="mailto:administrator@townoflapointewi.gov">administrator@townoflapointewi.gov</a>
			Mike Rasmus	Madeline Island Chamber - Board Member and Treasurer; Madeline Island Business Owner - Dockside Gifts & Madeline Island Vacations	<a href="mailto:mike@docksidegifts.com">mike@docksidegifts.com</a>
			Lee Ann Schaub	Public Relations & Visitor Services, Madeline Island Ferry Line; Secretary, Madeline Island Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors	<a href="mailto:leeann@madferry.com">leeann@madferry.com</a>
Manitoulin Island	Ontario	Lake Huron	Roy Eaton	Host of Cruiser's Net VHF radio broadcast	<a href="mailto:roy.eaton@sympatico.ca">roy.eaton@sympatico.ca</a>
			Josh Eshkawkogan		<a href="mailto:JoshEshkawkogan@ktei.net">JoshEshkawkogan@ktei.net</a>
			Lynn Foster	VP/CFO for Manitoulin hospital corporation	<a href="mailto:lfoster@mhc.on.ca">lfoster@mhc.on.ca</a>
			Alicia McCutcheon	Editor and publisher, The Manitoulin Expositor	<a href="mailto:editor@manitoulin.ca">editor@manitoulin.ca</a>
			Jim Nies	Writer, sailor, photographer, retired educator	<a href="mailto:oceaxe@sbcglobal.net">oceaxe@sbcglobal.net</a>

Island	Jurisdiction	Great Lake/ Channel	Name	Title(s)/Role(s)	Email
			Joe Shorthouse	Retired professor of entomology and environmental biology at Laurentian University (Sudbury, Ontario); freelance writer; lecturer and photographer	<a href="mailto:roses@cyberbeach.net">roses@cyberbeach.net</a>
			Algis Tribinevicius	Board member of Manitoulin Streams, farmer, retired elementary school teacher	<a href="mailto:algitrib@gmail.com">algitrib@gmail.com</a>
Middle Bass Island	Ohio	Lake Erie	Jean Gora	Lake Erie Islands International Consortium; co-historian, co-FB page admin	<a href="mailto:jean@middlebass.org">jean@middlebass.org</a>
			Michael Gora	Middle Bass Island historian; Middle Bass Island webmaster and Facebook page main admin; Lake Erie Islands International Consortium	<a href="mailto:mike@middlebass.org">mike@middlebass.org</a>
Neebish Island	Michigan	St. Marys River	Lori Miller	Retired State of Michigan social worker; Member - School Board; volunteer for multiple groups, including Domestic Violence, Hospice, Search and Rescue.	<a href="mailto:millerlori8@gmail.com">millerlori8@gmail.com</a>
			Phylis Reed	Retired teacher; VP - Neebish Island Improvement Association; Neebish Island Historical Project	<a href="mailto:reedpd@att.net">reedpd@att.net</a>
Pelee Island	Ontario	Lake Erie	Dave DeLellis	Deputy Mayor; Chair of: economic development advisory committee; environmental advisory committee; transportation committee; drainage committee. I grow hydroponic peppers in a greenhouse in Kingsville, ON and cash crop farm on Pelee island	<a href="mailto:dave@delso.ca">dave@delso.ca</a>
			Anne Marie Fortner	Runs Explore Pelee (eco-tourism business) and Trolley Public Transportation Service; Member, Pelee Island Tourism Committee; Board member, Southwestern Ontario Tourism Corporation; Substitute School Teacher; host events and women's retreats	<a href="mailto:annemariefortner@gmail.com">annemariefortner@gmail.com</a>
South Bass Island ("Put-in-Bay")	Ohio	Lake Erie	Lisa Brohl	Chair-Lake Erie Islands Conservancy; Board member, Put-in-Bay Township Park District; Board member & Road Scholar leader, Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center; Instructor, the Ohio State University Stone Lab; past member, Put-in-Bay Township Zoning Board; Substitute teacher; Environmental consultant	<a href="mailto:lakbrohl@gmail.com">lakbrohl@gmail.com</a>
			Peter Huston	Director, Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce	<a href="mailto:pibccambassador@gmail.com">pibccambassador@gmail.com</a>
			Mary Staley	Reverend, St. Paul's Episcopal Church	<a href="mailto:clergy.stpaulspib@frontier.com">clergy.stpaulspib@frontier.com</a>
Washington Island	Wisconsin	Lake Michigan	Joel Gunnlaugsson	Door County Board Supervisor; past Town Chairman & Supervisor	<a href="mailto:joelgunnlaugsson@gmail.com">joelgunnlaugsson@gmail.com</a>
			Gordon Jaeger	Town Chairman	<a href="mailto:gordonjaeger@gmail.com">gordonjaeger@gmail.com</a>

## Partners

Supporting Partner Organization	Location	Primary GLIA Role(s)	Name	Job Title	Email
Island Institute	Rockland, Maine	Advisory	Karen Burns	Chief Talent Officer	<a href="mailto:kburns@islandinstitute.org">kburns@islandinstitute.org</a>
		Advisory	Kate Tagai	Community Development Officer	<a href="mailto:ktagai@islandinstitute.org">ktagai@islandinstitute.org</a>
Michigan Office of the Great Lakes	Lansing, Michigan	Advisory, Outreach	Rachel Coale	Outreach Coordinator	<a href="mailto:CoaleR@michigan.gov">CoaleR@michigan.gov</a>
		Advisory, coastal management	Weston Hillier	Public Access Coordinator	<a href="mailto:HillierW@michigan.gov">HillierW@michigan.gov</a>
		Overall GLIA coordination; Advisory, Great Lakes protection and management	Matt Preisser	GLIA Coordinator; Lake Coordinator (OGL)	<a href="mailto:PreisserM@michigan.gov">PreisserM@michigan.gov</a>
Northland College	Ashland, Wisconsin	Island Fellows	Stacy Craig	Coordinator of Applied Learning	<a href="mailto:scraig@northland.edu">scraig@northland.edu</a>
		Advisory, indicators, website	Brandon Hofstedt	Faculty Director, Center for Rural Communities; Associate Professor of Sustainable Community Development	<a href="mailto:bhofstedt@northland.edu">bhofstedt@northland.edu</a>
Wisconsin Coastal Management Program	Madison, Wisconsin	Advisory, coastal management	Lauren Leckwee	Habitat Restoration and Environmental Compliance Coordinator	<a href="mailto:Lauren.Leckwee@wisconsin.gov">Lauren.Leckwee@wisconsin.gov</a>



## Appendix B – Current GLIA Member Roles & Areas of Expertise

Revision Date: September 4, 2018

X\* = lead

X = participant

Role	Steering Committee	At-Large Members	Subcomm.	Partner Organization					
				Island Institute	MI Office of the Great Lakes	Northland College	WI Coastal Mgt. Program	Other 1 (TBD)	Other 2 (TBD)
Network Governance and Organization									
Overall guidance & direction									
• Carrying out Charter	X*	X	X	X	X	X	X		
• Annual work plan	X*				X				
• Progress report & evaluation	X*				X		X		
• Growing the network (expanding membership within existing islands)	X	X*							
• Growing the network (recruiting new islands, partners)	X*	X	X	X	X	X	X		
• Long-term visioning (501c(3))	X								
Administrative									
• General coordination					X				
• Secretariat (agendas, minutes, member roster, etc.)					X				
• Financial (grants, contracts, etc.)	X			X	X	X	X		
Communications									
• Islands Summit	X	X	X* (host team)	X	X	X	X		
• Within Coalition (between members/ islands)		X (Slack)			X (conf. calls)				
• External	X (media)	X		X (stories, blogs)	X (fact sheets, reports, conferences)	X (website)			

Role	Steering Committee	At-Large Members	Subcomm.	Partner Organization					
				Island Institute	MI Office of the Great Lakes	Northland College	WI Coastal Mgt. Program	Other 1 (TBD)	Other 2 (TBD)
Network Activities									
Liaisons within and between island communities		X							
Tools to Support Decision-Making									
• GLIA member roster		X			X				
• GLs Islands Community Resource Directory		X			X				
• What Works Library				X					
• Webinars					X		X	X?	
Key Initiatives (Island Support Services)									
• Great Lakes Islands Data/ Indicators				X		X*			
• Great Lakes Island Fellows – concept exploration				X		X*			
Areas of Expertise (direct member expertise and/or within our immediate “spheres of influence;” in some cases, these are island- or jurisdiction-specific)									
Advisory/Technical Assistance									
• General/All	X	X	TBD	X	X	X	X		
• Arts, culture, heritage		X	TBD		X				
• Broadband/cell		X	TBD	X					
• Economic dev. (incl. tourism)		X	TBD	X			X		
• Education		X	TBD	X			X		
• EMS/health care		X	TBD						
• Energy		X	TBD	X					
• Environment/nat. resources		X	TBD		X		X		
• Governance, leadership, training		X	TBD	X			X		
• Historical preservation		X	TBD		X		X		
• Housing		X	TBD						
• Infrastructure (water, sewer, waste, roads, marinas)		X	TBD				X		
• Transportation (ferries, air)		X	TBD	X					
• Other		X	TBD						