

# NEAMGLL 2024 Regional Meeting Program

[Registration](#) is FREE but required for in-person or virtual attendance.

To register [click here](#).

A Zoom link will be sent to all registrants.

## Important Business Meeting

***Registration for the business meeting on Oct 3 at 4 pm Eastern Time is NOT required and all delegates and alternates are invited to log onto the Zoom link provided below.***

*Travel details are below.*

## Schedule

### **Oct 2, Wednesday - Travel Day**

Evening -- For those who arrive in time, meal and casual networking time at a Muskegon restaurant TBD (individual cost).

### **Oct 3, Thursday – Meeting Day; All times are Eastern Time**

**8:00 AM - Light Breakfast** (coffee, tea, bagels, muffins) with **Welcomes by** –

Bob Sterner, NEAMGLL President

Tentative: Terry Donaldson, NAML President.

Dr. Janet Vigna, Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Science

**8:30 AM - Around the Table** - in person and virtual introductions and updates. Intros, updates, and identify one issue you want help with from people in the room.

**9:30 PM - Dreissenids in Freshwater Ecosystems – Dr. Ashley Elgin, NOAA GLERL** Since dreissenid mussels arrived in the Upper Great Lakes, they have altered the structure and function of these systems. Dr. Elgin will present a summary of her studies on dreissenids in Lake Michigan and a study on the metabolomics of mussels in the Muskegon Lake/Lake Michigan Channel.

**10:00 AM - Break**

**10:15 AM – University of Delaware College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment: Past, Present and Potential – Dr. Edward Hale.** A presentation covering an abridged history of the campus, current infrastructure and research, as well as interests in future growth with a closing discussion of resiliency issues and concerns.

**10:45 AM - Great Lakes and Marine Labs – infrastructure vulnerability -- Dr. Mike De Luca, Rutgers University.** As storms intensify and flooding increases, what can we do now to ensure that the scientists, students, and educators twenty years from now have the infrastructure they need? Questions like these have led NAML to form a workgroup that has been tasked to survey the vulnerabilities of these facilities, determine the scope and cost of resilience strategies, and prepare a plan to seek future funding. Please be prepared to discuss specific infrastructure challenges associated with a rapidly changing environment, especially a few case examples and associated ballpark costs.

**11:15 AM – short break**

**11:20 AM – The role of marine operations staff at NAML labs – connecting the people that keep things afloat** – After an overview to all attendees, this session will be an opportunity for marine operations staff from member labs to hear from one another on topics such as general safety, record keeping, and engaging students. The session will highlight the value of their role in delivering the vocational sides of coastal science, with special attention given to hearing about what labs do in terms of student training. Direct vessel operation, deployment procedures, hydraulics, safety drills, seamanship, certifications – what are we doing and what could we do to better prepare our students for sea-going and research careers? Please invite your marine operations staff and ask them to be prepared to share a selected best or unique practice from your lab (registration for marine operators will not be required).

**12:00 PM - Lunch as a group on site at AWRI**

**1:00 PM – IJC’s Great Lakes Science Plan -- by TBA** - The International Joint Commission is building off of its [Great Lakes Science Strategy for the Next Decade](#) and along with many other stakeholders is organizing a series of workshops in order to draft a comprehensive plan for Great Lakes science. A representative of the IJC will brief NEAMGLL about the reasons for the plan, the process being followed. and progress to date.

**1:30 PM - Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program (CWMP) -- Dr. Matt Copper, Grand Valley State University** - Great Lakes coastal wetlands are a critical landscape feature. However, coastal wetlands have been threatened by contamination, nearshore development, and changing land use patterns. Consequently, a long-term monitoring program was established to track threats and changes occurring in coastal wetlands. Dr. Matt Copper will provide an overview of the CWMP and summarize some of the key findings.

**2:00 PM – Muskegon Lake Long-term Monitoring: What Two Decades of Data Can Tell Us – Dr. Bopi Biddanda, Grand Valley State University** - Drowned river mouth lakes are dynamic systems that are influenced by both riverine inputs at one end and Lake Michigan at the other. Dr. Biddanda established a long-term monitoring program to better understand temporal changes throughout the water column and will summarize his findings, including carbon cycling.

**2:30 PM – Break**

**2:45 PM - Student Presentations:** The NEAMGLL Student Support Program provided funding for eleven conference attendees and two research support projects in 2024. Come hear from our member lab awardees about their research and conference experiences. Five-minute lightning talks by student award recipients with Q/A time. Please chime in and encourage our students!

**4:00 PM - NEAMGLL Business Meeting – please attend, registration NOT required. Log in information is below.**

**4:30 PM - NEAMGLL Board Meeting**

**5:00 PM – Tour of the R.B. Annis Water Resources Institute**

**5:30 - NEAMGLL Reception/Dinner – AWRI.** Join us for a networking evening with food provided by NEAMGLL. Enjoy some social time and a cash bar Muskegon Lake. Relax after a long day of meetings and presentations and enjoy the (often) spectacular sunset over the lake.

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**Oct 4, Friday – 9:00 am – 11:00 Optional Fieldtrip.** The 2-hour cruise aboard the *W.G. Jackson* will take participants through Muskegon Lake and out to Lake Michigan, weather permitting. The *W.G. Jackson* serves both as a platform to support research and as a floating classroom. Since 1996, the *W.G. Jackson* has provided a hands-on science experience for over 93,000 individuals. Registration is part of your meeting registration.

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**Zoom Link for Business Meeting**

- Join Zoom Meeting
- <https://gvsu-edu.zoom.us/j/99827975917?pwd=9MIZ9rL8lpb08hUhFxlhblG5qQPUf.1>
- Meeting ID: 998 2797 5917
- Passcode: 152205

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**NEAMGLL Regional Meeting Travel Details**

October 2-4, 2024 @ [Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute \(AWRI\)](#), Grand Valley State University, Michigan

**Transportation**

- Gerald R. Ford International Airport is located about 55 miles from Muskegon.
- Muskegon Regional Airport is located 8 miles from AWRI with 4 flights in and out/day connecting to Chicago.
- AWRI is 3.5 hours north of Chicago and 3 hours west of Detroit

**Accommodations**

There are several hotel options available. Two are downtown within walking distance of AWRI:

- **The Shoreline Inn** (see below)
- Delta Hotel

There are three hotels just outside of town:

- Baymont Inn - \$88/night (approx.)
- Fairfield Inn - \$135/night
- Hampton Inn - \$154/night

***SHORELINE INN* - AWRI Conference Block Rate Option**

**Group Rate:** \$119 before tax per night (standard room types only, non-commissionable)

**Cut Off Date:** September 8 - reservations **MUST** be made on or before this date to guarantee a room at the block rate. Reservations will not be accepted in this block after the cut off date.

**How to Make Reservations:**

- By Phone: Guests should call the hotel at **231.720.4200** and **use prompt '5' to speak to the front desk**. Guests should be sure to mention that they are reserving a room with the AWRI Conference block, 10/2 to 10/5.
- Online: Guests should use the link below: <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/PU02N9>