

RDMC Mission Statement / Press Release

The Lake Ontario Regional Dredging and Maintenance Council ("RDMC") was officially formed in 2019 under a Memorandum of Understanding between the six contiguous counties of Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, Wayne, Cayuga, and Oswego. Orleans County is Lead Agency for the RDMC with Johnson as the council's chairman and Niagara County Legislator David Godfrey as its Vice Chairman.

The RDMC is a regional project initiated by the Niagara-Orleans Regional Alliance (NORA) based on a report prepared for the New York State Department of State with funds provided under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.

Orleans County Chairman Lynne Johnson states the goal of the RDMC "Is to ensure all of our member's nineteen (19) recreational harbors along the south shore of Lake Ontario are "open for business" for our residents and visitors to enjoy the world-renowned sport fishing and exceptional recreational boating which are significant contributors to our economic stability and growth."

"Our small harbors serving recreational boating and fishing generate approximately \$94 million annually in economic activity, support over 1,350 jobs, and provide sales tax revenues of approximately \$7.6 million annually for the local counties and New York State" says Godfrey. "These same small harbors also provide safe harbors-of-refuge for vessels on Lake Ontario and can only provide these important benefits if adequate water depths are maintained in their access channels by regular, periodic dredging of accumulated sediments" Godfrey added.

Chairman Johnson continues to explain, "The dredging needs for our Lake Ontario harbor access channels, even those under the responsibility of the US Army Corps of Engineers, are not being met due to federal budget constraints, lack of responsibility by other levels of government, and the limitations of sporadic privately funded dredging. Our only choice is to do it ourselves."

Johnson and Godfrey also believe the dredging needs are anticipated to be exacerbated under a new lake water level regulation plan (Plan 2014) recently adopted and implemented by the International Joint Commission.