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Coastal Partnerships and Outreach in the Upper Great Lakes

Coastal bluff erosion in the Great Lakes is episodic and related to fluctuating lake levels and changes in sand supply. After coming off of a decade-long low water stand, the recent rise in lake levels has once again facilitated erosion of bluffs that have been stable for nearly 15 years. In response, the Corps' Great Lakes Hydraulics and Hydrology Office in Detroit, with support from the National RSM program, initiated an outreach plan to educate the public about the causes and influences of erosion. The primary outreach mechanism has been a series of, "Beach Walks with a Scientist," in which interested parties will meet at a public beach and go for a walk, discussing a variety of beach-related topics. These informal discussions have been very favorably received and not only educate but also foster positive relationships with the public. We have also created a coastal roundtable, consisting of agency and NGO staff who have an interest in coastal issues. These quarterly meetings are building relationships and trust within the coastal scientific community.

Bio: Dr. Selegean received his Ph.D. from Wayne State University in environmental engineering. He has worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Detroit for 25 years where he has performed modeling of waves and sediment transport in pursuit of an understanding of the littoral system and how it responds to natural and anthropogenic changes. He has done extensive field work in the measurement of waves, currents and sediment transport. He believes that the interpretation of modeling and measurements is improved when put into the geologic context of the region and is further enhanced with oral histories from long-time residence