



## **2009 GLSLCI Resolutions**

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**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 1 – 2009M**

**BEACHES OF THE GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE REGION**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system is an integral natural resource that supports the environmental health of the region as well as the vitality of the region's communities, industry, economy, and recreational activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the beaches of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region are primary access points for people to connect with the waters of the Lakes and River and as a result, the need to ensure the health and safety of beaches is paramount; and

**WHEREAS**, currently approved recreational water quality test methods are slow to provide results, often resulting in beaches being posted or closed the day after high bacteria levels, and a great deal of research has been conducted to better understand what the appropriate indicator organism should be for human health; and

**WHEREAS**, a federal district court found U.S. EPA in violation of the BEACH Act 2000 and required them to complete reporting to assess pathogens in recreational water and to adopt new or revised recreational water quality criteria; and U.S. EPA has committed to adopting revised criteria by 2012; and the Canadian federal government water safety guidelines are in the process of revision without a set release date; and

**WHEREAS**, in the U.S. coastal states receive federal funding through the BEACH Act that is distributed to beaches for monitoring and public notification programs but this has never been appropriated at the fully authorized funding level and some states lack the necessary funding to properly monitor bathing beaches; and

**WHEREAS**, in Canada there is a lack of coordination and leadership on the issue of beach management as multiple provincial ministries have authority over certain elements of beach management, and there is no dedicated funding for beach monitoring or public notification programs; and

**WHEREAS**, in the U.S. the BEACH Act of 2000 must be reauthorized and a reauthorization bill was introduced to Congress in 2008 and passed the House but never made it out of the Environment and Public Works Committee in the Senate; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities recognize the need for accurate and rapid test methods to test water quality at beaches so that there is timely notification of swim advisories or beach closings; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. EPA and other federal, state, tribal and non-governmental organization beach partners developed a standardized sanitary survey form in 2007 for beach managers to use to identify possible sources of contamination at beaches, thereby completing a key recommendation in the *Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy* Coastal Health chapter; and



**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has spearheaded the Clean Beaches Initiative through the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration with federal, state, and tribal partners to encourage the broad use of the standardized sanitary survey throughout the region and to disseminate best beach management practices to beach managers.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the use of a standardized beach sanitary survey around the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on beach managers to address, where possible, sources of contamination identified at their beaches through proven remediation measures; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the U.S. Congress to reauthorize the BEACH Act in a manner that allows for the use of rapid test methods and the expanded use of allocated funds for implementing sanitary surveys, source tracking, modeling and remediation measures, and to fund the Act at its fully authorized funding level; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec to develop a more cohesive and integrated approach to beach management, including creating a beach management hub within a ministry that has the authority to coordinate with all orders of government on beach management, and supporting beach monitoring and public notification programs, both through funding and governance, to ensure uniformity and consistency within Canada; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the U.S. and Canadian federal and provincial governments to revise recreational water quality standards to reflect the latest science with respect to appropriate indicator organisms, rapid test methods, and risk based management concepts, and to harmonize as much as possible the beach standards and notification measures since these are shared waters.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

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George Heartwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 2 – 2009M**

**A NEW APPROACH TO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, to significantly reduce the amount of contaminated stormwater being released into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, a new approach is required recognizing stormwater as a resource requiring careful management, with priority placed on reduction and reuse;

**WHEREAS**, urban development increases impervious areas like roads and buildings which decrease the infiltration or seepage of rainfall and snowmelt into the soil, leading to increased stormwater runoff in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin;

**WHEREAS**, stormwater runoff from urban environments can increase the volume and rate of sediments and pollutants delivered to streams and lakes, causing erosion and otherwise degrading the quality of water in the Basin;

**WHEREAS**, changes in climate are expected to influence the frequency and intensity of storms, requiring considerable adaptation measures particularly in urban environments;

**WHEREAS**, large scale engineering and infrastructure improvements will always be required to manage the magnitude of stormwater in developing and built up urban environments;

**WHEREAS**, innovative best practices and techniques for stormwater management are being researched, developed and piloted in other jurisdictions, to work alongside and complement large scale engineering and infrastructure improvements, often yielding the greatest environmental benefits and resulting in more cost-effective stormwater management;

**WHEREAS**, integrated stormwater planning and management can help ensure preventative approaches, such as innovative retrofits, new development designs, and protection of wetlands and natural areas, work in combination with big infrastructure to reduce stormwater runoff;

**WHEREAS**, a treatment train approach including a mix of “at source” lot level infiltration and storage, conveyance and end-of-pipe treatment practices and technologies can significantly reduce the amount of contaminants entering the water system, particularly by prioritizing the reduction and reuse of stormwater;

**WHEREAS**, comprehensive municipal stormwater master plans need to be developed and/or updated to incorporate a treatment train approach and green infrastructure measures;

**WHEREAS**, existing guidance from the provincial government of Ontario on stormwater quality and quantity advocates for a treatment train approach, there is a need to assess the effectiveness of different stormwater measures, and update guidance on incorporating innovative techniques, particularly in light climate change;



**WHEREAS**, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations and state programs require long term control plans for cities and sanitary districts to manage stormwater and wastewater in an integrated fashion, and have separate stormwater management requirements:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that GLSLCI members call on the Canadian federal and provincial governments to assist and encourage municipalities, through policy guidance and technical and financial support, to develop and update their integrated stormwater master plans to adopt a new approach to stormwater management that prioritises reduction and reuse of stormwater over treatment and retention.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that GLSLCI members call on the United States and State governments to support the full implementation of long term control plans and stormwater management programs by municipalities and sanitary districts in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that GLSLCI members call on the Canadian provincial and federal government to adopt aggressive water conservation measures including: banning the sale of water guzzling 13 litre toilets and other inefficient appliances; developing a standardized / “model” water efficiency plan; supporting the development and implementation of municipal water efficiency plans; developing a public campaign on water conservation; and implementing other measures in cooperation with municipalities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that GLSLCI members call on the Canadian federal and provincial governments and the United States and state governments to support research, analysis, implementation and post implementation monitoring on new and more innovative methods of stormwater control, which could result in new design standards, and the development of regulatory instruments to help advance the implementation of ‘at source’ measures, as well as support for pilot and demonstration projects that apply the new approach.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

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George Heartwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 3 – 2009M**

**TRIPARTITE TABLE ON GREAT LAKES COLLABORATION AND THE RENEWAL OF**  
**THE CANADA-ONTARIO AGREEMENT RESPECTING THE GREAT LAKES BASIN**  
**ECOSYSTEM**

**WHEREAS**, Great Lakes municipalities have direct responsibilities to protect and promote the Great Lakes, in terms of their role in providing drinking water, promoting economic development and tourism, managing sewage and stormwater outflows, protecting wetlands and natural areas, overseeing waterfront development, and operating beaches and marinas, among other responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities are collectively the largest financial contributors to the protection of Great Lakes, with local governments in Canada and the United States investing over \$15 billion every year to protect and restore the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system, of which \$4.3 billion is spent in Ontario and Quebec alone; and

**WHEREAS**, the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem (COA) is the primary agreement between Canada and Ontario to protect Great Lakes water quality on the Canadian side of the lakes, defining common goals, responsibilities and actions at the federal and provincial levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the COA is also the mechanism used by Canada to meet its obligations under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA), which defines common goals and results to be achieved on a bi-national level; and

**WHEREAS**, the COA is currently up for renewal in 2010, and there is potential for the GLWQA to be reopened for renegotiation as well; and

**WHEREAS**, meeting existing COA targets could have significant implications for municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, Great Lakes Mayors are calling for new targets to be introduced under COA that address issues that affect local communities and people who live and play at the Lakes' shorelines, such as better beaches management, algae control, support to adopt innovative techniques to reduce stormwater run-off and sewage entering the lakes; and



**WHEREAS**, there has been no senior forum where federal, provincial and municipal governments come together to coordinate their Great Lakes protection activities and plan for the future; and

**WHEREAS**, a COA Memorandum of Cooperation (COA MOC) was signed in July 2008 to establish a new collaborative process between Ontario municipalities and the provincial Government, and has since facilitated municipal-provincial dialogue on Great Lakes issues of mutual interest, and created a forum for Ontario Great Lakes Mayors and Chairs to provide strategic advice to the Province for the upcoming negotiations of the COA; and

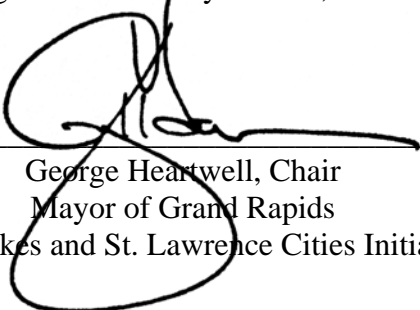
**WHEREAS**, during a COA MOC Summit meeting in May of 2009, the Great Lakes Mayors shared and discussed a collaborative action plan to improve Great Lakes protection with Ontario Ministers of the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, which included five action areas and a series of key recommendations; and

**WHEREAS**, Great Lakes Mayors wish to explore with the Federal Government their interest in joining the dialogue with the municipal and provincial governments and in engaging in collaborative approaches to protect the Great Lakes; and

**WHEREAS**, the time has come for federal, provincial and municipal governments to work together to reinvigorate and reorient Great Lakes protection for the benefit of the people who live and play at the shoreline, particularly as the COA, and possibly the GLWQA, are opened for negotiation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that GLSLCI members call on the federal and Ontario governments to join the GLSLCI in creating a senior municipal-provincial-federal Great Lakes Table, with Mayors and Ministers meeting at least once a year, to drive tripartite collaboration on Great Lakes protection, report on progress, and share information and ideas on COA negotiation and implementation.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

  
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George Heartwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 4 – 2009M**

**GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes are the largest source of surface fresh water in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States and Canada, their cities, states, provinces, tribes, and first nations, have shared the waters peacefully for almost 200 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 has guided the relations between the two countries relative to the shared waters for 100 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement was established between the two countries in 1972, and has been amended twice since then; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement has provided direction to both countries in their efforts to protect and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, much progress has been made in the protection and restoration efforts in both countries; and

**WHEREAS**, with growing populations and new industrial, agricultural, and urban stresses on the resource, along with the challenges of climate change and more invasive species, the number, complexity, and severity of the challenges faced on the Great Lakes continues to grow; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes Water Quality agreement has not been amended since 1987 and in many respects is seriously outdated and not designed to deal with many of the current problems; and

**WHEREAS**, the ecological relationship between the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence is better understood and more appreciated than before; and

**WHEREAS**, the International Joint Commission, the Water Quality Agreement Review Committee, and other groups have engaged in extensive outreach on the Agreement and provided extensive analysis on what changes would be appropriate.



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) strongly urges the federal governments of the United States and Canada to move forward quickly with negotiation of a new agreement; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the federal governments of the United States and Canada should consult closely with their state, provincial, local, tribal, and first nations governmental partners throughout the negotiation process; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the federal governments of the United States and Canada should reach out to the environmental, industrial, and agricultural communities and other stakeholder groups throughout the negotiation process; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, any final agreement recognize the critical role that local governments play in the protection and restoration of the resource; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, any final agreement recognize the linkage between the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence in such areas as invasive species, water quality, and water levels; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, any final agreement address the fundamental need for a clear vision for the resource, much better accountability for results, stronger management structures and systems, an ecosystem approach to problem solving; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, a new agreement be in place no later than June 25, 2010.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

George Heartwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 5 – 2009M**

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

**WHEREAS**, cites, towns, counties, regional municipalities, and other units of local governments in and around the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence were founded as long ago as four hundred years, and many date back from one hundred to three hundred years; and

**WHEREAS**, these local governments have invested in the roads, bridges, transportation systems, schools, hospitals, wastewater and drinking water facilities, and many other forms of infrastructure over the years, there has been tremendous stress on these systems and local funding alone has not been sufficient to meet the needs for upgraded and replacement infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence local governments recently have been investing over \$15 billion annually in protection and restoration of the resource on such things as water infrastructure, operation and maintenance of the infrastructure, green space, and many others; and

**WHEREAS**, investments by the federal, state, and provincial governments in infrastructure to protect and restore the Great Lakes has not kept pace with local investments and the increasing need for improvements to the infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, economic conditions in both Canada and the United States are such that it is very difficult for local units of government to finance major infrastructure investments, but such investments are viewed as exceedingly important and beneficial for the economic recovery in both countries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Canadian government has developed an Economic Action Plan consisting of over \$18 billion in available investment funds for provinces, territories, and municipalities for infrastructure projects over the next two years; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States government passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which includes \$787 billion in investments, including about \$111 billion for infrastructure and science; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic recovery funding in the United States includes \$4 billion for wastewater infrastructure and \$2 billion for drinking water infrastructure.



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative commends the federal governments of the United States and Canada for recognizing the tremendous need for infrastructure investments and the significant value for job creation and economic recovery from such investments; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the federal governments of Canada and the United States to expedite the distribution of funding to local governments and improve the efficiency of the distribution process, recognizing the need for accountability for the investments, so that work can be started as soon as possible in 2009; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the federal governments of Canada and the United States to recognize the unique value of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence to the quality of life and economic well being of the people of both countries in making investment decisions.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

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George Heartwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 6 – 2009M**

**ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, despite their vast size make up a vulnerable and fragile ecological system that is the foundation for the region’s economy, industry and the livelihood of 104 million residents within the region; and

**WHEREAS**, there is scientific consensus, as established by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, that the continued build-up of greenhouse gas pollution, from sources like cars , municipal operations, and industrial processes, in the atmosphere threatens the stability of the global climate; and

**WHEREAS**, there is agreement that climate change will dramatically affect the natural world in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region, as evidenced already by fluctuations in lake levels, diminished ice coverage, more frequent and intense wet weather events, and crop destruction, and will also affect the economic viability of the region and municipal and industrial operations; and

**WHEREAS**, cities recognize the municipal contribution to pollution from greenhouse gas emissions and many are working to find ways to mitigate and reduce their carbon footprint and develop ways to adapt operations to lessen the impact on the environment and to manage climatic changes; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change will affect communities of all sizes and while larger communities may have more resources available to focus on and plan for climate change, obstacles exist for smaller communities with respect to climate change planning, for example climate change mapping models don’t necessary downscale far enough to be useful to smaller communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will work to incorporate and promote climate change mitigation and adaptation best practices, including climate change action plans developed by members, in its efforts to share and disseminate best practices; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages its members to develop climate change action plans to help prepare their communities for the change we are and will experience as a result of climate change and to find ways to reduce the impact of municipal operations on the environment; and



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the U.S. and Canadian federal governments and the scientific community to continue to make climate change mitigation and adaptation and pollution reduction a priority and that they partner with municipalities to ensure that local government can adequately plan and prepare for the effects of climate change and find solutions to reduce the municipal carbon footprint and associated pollution.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Heartwell", is written over a horizontal line.

George Heartwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 7 – 2009M**

**BUSINESS CASE FOR INVESTMENT IN PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE RIVER**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin supports a wide range of water and land uses including urban and rural development, agriculture, industry, power generation, recreation, as well as other economic activities, and these activities are directly impacted by the environmental health and integrity of the region; and

**WHEREAS**, managing algal blooms, controlling aquatic invasive species, closing beaches, and dealing with other Great Lakes water quality issues can be costly, requiring considerable clean-up efforts in reacting to problems after the fact, rather than preventing them from occurring; and

**WHEREAS**, quantifying and communicating these costs would provide concrete support and rationale for reconsidering current water management frameworks, revising existing policies, and renewing the need for collaboration to protect, conserve and restore the Great Lakes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River provide a range of essential ecosystem services such as nutrient cycling, flood control, climate regulation, maintenance of biodiversity, and wildlife habitat, among many others, all of which are connected to our economic, social and environmental wellbeing, but currently not always adequately reflected in economic indicators and policy decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, research, mapping and analysis of these and other ecosystem goods and services helps to understand the benefits of protection, conservation, and restoration, and assists in bridging the gap between science and policy; and

**WHEREAS**, valuing the market and non-market values of wetlands and other natural areas can help set priorities and allocate spending on protection, conservation and restoration; and also help to encourage public participation and support for such programs; and

**WHEREAS**, quantifying the benefits of Great Lakes protection and restoration can be useful for managers requesting funding from municipal, provincial and federal government departments that rely heavily on numerical values when making decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities would like to work with other levels of government to measure the value of ecological services terms that decision-makers can fully incorporate into their management and policy frameworks; and



**WHEREAS**, a recent study by the Brookings Institution estimated that \$26 billion in Great Lakes protection and restoration investments, would generate over \$50 billion in economic activity, yielding an investment return of 2:1; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region is in need of significant infrastructure investments relating to drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, wetland restoration, conservation, transportation, and other areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the current infrastructure deficit can be managed, in part, by investing in green infrastructure, when and where appropriate, to avert having to invest in large capital expenditures, reduce and conserve resource use, and build on existing infrastructure with an emphasis on new and innovative techniques and retrofit designs; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to measure how effectively investment in green infrastructure alternatives – such as water and energy conservation and efficiency techniques, new design standards that help adapt to climate change, and “up the pipe” solutions to stormwater management issues – can help save money in the long term, create employment, reduce infrastructure capacity challenges, and better protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence environment; and

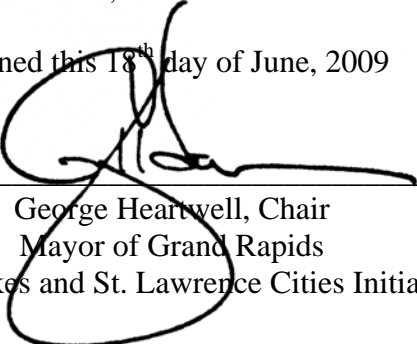
**WHEREAS**, during the Canada-Ontario Agreement Memorandum of Cooperation process, Great Lakes Mayors and Chairs met with Ontario Ministers at a Summit meeting in May 2009 and agreed to work together, in partnership with the federal government, universities, and other parties, on economic studies directed at measuring the value of Great Lakes shoreline activities, both to develop the business case to drive investments in the Great Lakes and to measure the results of the investments made; and

**WHEREAS**, investments related to protection, conservation and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River will ensure the quality of life and economic and social wellbeing of the people of the region, in addition to preserving or enhancing the long-term environmental health of the basin.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the U.S. and Canadian federal, state/provincial, First Nations & Tribes, and municipal governments to work collaboratively with other parties to further develop the business case for investment in Great Lakes and St. Lawrence protection, conservation, and restoration, including investment in the science to measure, value and monitor ecological goods and services; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, wherever possible, will communicate the business case for investment that is developed, in order to further promote investment in Great Lakes protection, conservation, and restoration.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

  
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George Heartwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 8 A – 2009M**

**PHARMACEUTICAL AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCT COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system is a valuable natural resource that supports the ecological health of the region and sustains communities within the basin; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system provides drinking water for some forty million U.S. and Canadian citizens and supports a commercial and sport fishery worth more than \$4 billion annually; and

**WHEREAS**, concern is being raised about the affects of the improper disposal of pharmaceutical and personal care products (which include medications, cosmetics, cleaning agents, veterinary drugs, and more) on the water quality and ecological health of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River; and

**WHEREAS**, the improper disposal of PPCPs may pose environmental and safety hazards including potentially harmful effects on wildlife due to accumulation of PPCPs in waterways, accidental ingestion of expired or unused PPCPs by children or the elderly, and illegal use or theft of unwanted pharmaceuticals; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1997, the Province of British Columbia passed a regulation which requires all pharmaceutical brand owners in British Columbia to provide consumers with a proper disposal method for expired or unused medications (including natural health products and nonprescription drugs); and

**WHEREAS**, the concept of *extended producer responsibility*, in which manufacturers are deemed responsible for a product over the entire life cycle of the product, has been embraced in a number of countries, including in the European Union and Australia, specifically around PPCP collection and disposal; and

**WHEREAS**, in the U.S. there is no national legislation or program with respect to the collection and disposal of PPCPs which has resulted in a piecemeal and inefficient approach, often administered at the local or state level, making it difficult to properly manage the problem; and

**WHEREAS**, in Canada, where this issue is managed at the provincial level, generally consumers can return unused medicines to pharmacies but public education needs improvement and often municipalities and community pharmacies are responsible for the cost of these collection and



disposal efforts; and a regulation is expected in the summer of 2009 in Ontario that upholds producer responsibility for collection and disposal of PPCPs; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities, including towns, villages, cities and regional municipalities, by and large have stepped into a leadership role on PPCP collection and disposal by holding discrete or ongoing collection events or accepting pharmaceuticals at household hazardous waste depots, in order to address the issue where federal, state, provincial and industry action has been inadequate; and

**WHEREAS**, in the U.S. especially, dialogue with industry on *extended producer responsibility* has been difficult and there are efforts in the U.S. and Canada to continue the dialogue and engage industry, such as through the Product Stewardship Institute, and the Post Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative support the launch of a GLSLCI program on PPCP collection and disposal, aimed at encouraging action, including advocating for national policies on PPCP collection and disposal that are based on the concept of extended producer responsibility and where necessary helping communities develop and hold PPCP collection events, and bolstering public education, in the absence of action by industry and other orders of government; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the U.S. and Canadian federal and provincial governments to develop and implement national and provincial programs on PPCP collection and disposal so that there are uniform policies for consumers and industry to follow; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls for further partnership between industry and all orders of government on the issue of PPCP collection and disposal so that a feasible and effective solution to PPCP collection and disposal is developed and implemented.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

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George Heartwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 8 B – 2009M**

**RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ON PHARMACEUTICALS AND PERSONAL CARE**  
**PRODUCTS ON HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**WHEREAS**, in the U.S., the number of prescriptions purchased increased 72% (from 2.2 billion to 3.8 billion) from 1997 to 2007, and the average number of retail prescriptions per capita increased from 8.9 in 1997 to 12.6 in 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, in Canada it has been estimated that Pharmacists in the ten Canadian provinces filled 453 million prescriptions in 2008, up 7.1% over the previous year and for 33.2 million Canadians, that's an average of nearly 14 prescriptions per citizen; and

**WHEREAS**, a major source of trace amounts of pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) in waterways is the contribution from human, veterinary and agricultural use of PPCPs and excretion of the chemicals in wastewater; and

**WHEREAS**, wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove or treat substances like PPCPs and as a result, some trace amounts of PPCPs pass through the system; and

**WHEREAS**, the impact of PPCP traces in waterways is generally recognized but largely not quantified and not understood in terms of the changes that may occur to the PPCP traces when mixed with water or when put through the wastewater treatment process.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the U.S. and Canadian federal governments to prioritize research on the impact of PPCPs on our waterways, particularly a focus on chemical changes of PPCP traces that may occur in water and the wastewater treatment process; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the U.S. and Canadian federal government to take a leadership role in the education of the general public on the impact of PPCPs on our environment and human health as well as proper collection, disposal and use; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the U.S. and Canadian federal governments to explore the possibility of requiring drug manufacturers to conduct and provide an impact assessment with respect to how traces of the drug will affect our waterways and human health, including any chemical changes that may occur when the



drugs are used, excreted, treated in a wastewater treatment process, and released into water bodies, as a requirement towards drug approval by the U.S. FDA and Health Canada. This assessment should also explore what technologies in wastewater treatment methods could further ameliorate the impacts of these drugs.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

George Heartwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 9 – 2009M**

**INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence have served as a vital transportation corridor for North America since the earliest days of the native populations and the explorers from Europe; and

**WHEREAS**, the transportation of goods and people along the corridor has been of great importance to the economic success of the entire region are key elements of the heritage and culture, as well; and

**WHEREAS**, linkages of the maritime transportation on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence to the tributaries and the land based systems are also central to the effectiveness and efficiency of the entire network; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence maritime transportation system currently is underutilized to the point where it has the capacity to handle twice the amount of shipping than currently uses the system; and

**WHEREAS**, increased congestion on highways and rail lines has increased and resulted in delays in transport and greater fuel consumption; and

**WHEREAS**, security concerns have lead to long lines at border crossings along the border, resulting in delays and increased fuel consumption; and

**WHEREAS**, maritime transportation has always been important, but is becoming increasingly so because of the potential for energy and environmental benefits from expanded use; and

**WHEREAS**, in order for the advantages of maritime transport to be fully realized, the linkages with land based rail and truck routes must be enhanced and the port facilities to make the transfers must be improved; and

**WHEREAS**, substantial infrastructure investments will be necessary to ensure that the entire transportation network functions properly; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and its mayors seek to work with all orders of government, the transportation industry, the university community, and others to advance the transportation network for the region in a way that provides a competitive advantage and



reduces the energy consumption and environmental impact so that the resource can be sustained long into the future.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the United States Department of Transportation and Transport Canada, along with the provincial and state agencies, to do a comprehensive evaluation of the transportation systems in and around the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence to determine what could be done to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the systems; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the evaluation process include participation by local governments, port authorities, the St. Lawrence Seaway authorities, the transportation sector, non government organizations, and other interested stakeholders; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that such comprehensive evaluation specifically ask industry how short sea shipping and intermodal links could be improved to make the expanded use of maritime transport more attractive; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the evaluation identify the infrastructure investments that would be necessary to establish an enhanced, integrated, transportation system in and around the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the evaluation be initiated as soon as possible and be completed in an expedited fashion, but in no event later than December of 2010.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

George Heartwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 10 – 2009M**

**BALLAST WATER STANDARDS**

**Submitted by Superior, Thunder Bay, and Duluth**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway System is bordered by eight states and two Canadian provinces; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recognize the importance of controlling the introduction and spread of aquatic nuisance species by requiring all ships entering United States and Canadian ports to treat ballast water; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative support a strong federal approach on the part of both governments to control the introduction of aquatic nuisance species as opposed to the patchwork of state regulation that is emerging in the United States; and

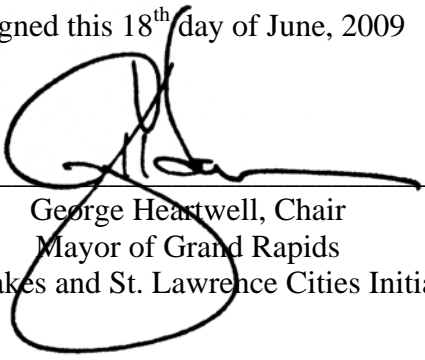
**WHEREAS**, the conflicting state ballast water statutes in the United States are creating a chaotic regulatory environment that will soon cripple the shipping industry, yet fail to solve the problem.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative call on the federal governments of Canada and the United States to establish a federal ballast water standard that is uniform for all states and provinces; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that both governments:

- 1) create a uniform, federal regulatory program requiring the treatment of ships' ballast water; and
- 2) establish a ballast water treatment (BWT) standard; and
- 3) set deadlines for no later than 2016 by which time vessel owners have to install treatment systems and meet discharge standards; and
- 4) authorize and fund federal research programs focused on BWT technology; and
- 5) establish an orderly technology verification and approval system.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

  
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George Heartwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 11 – 2009M**

**GREAT SHIPS INITIATIVE**

**Submitted by Superior, Duluth, and Thunder Bay**

**WHEREAS**, mayors of the Great Lakes understand that the introduction of aquatic invasive species into the Great Lakes has negatively impacted the resource; and

**WHEREAS**, they further understand that the need for a solution to the problem of aquatic invasive species is essential; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Ships Initiative was established in 2006 as an innovative collaboration between industry, academia, federal agencies and non-governmental organizations whose objective is to end the problem of ship-mediated invasive species in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System; and

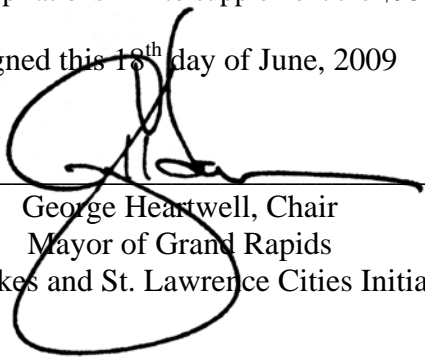
**WHEREAS** this effort includes independent research and demonstration of environmental technology, financial incentives and consistent basin-wide harbor monitoring and

**WHEREAS**, the near-term objective of the Great Ships Initiative is to significantly accelerate research, development and implementation of effective ballast treatment systems for ships that visit the Great Lakes from overseas. To that end, the Great Ships Initiative has established research capabilities at three scales—bench, land-based, and shipboard. Each scale is dedicated to addressing specific evaluation objectives, with protocols as consistent with IMO and federal requirements as practicable; and

**WHEREAS**, the project's lab space and testing center is located in the Duluth-Superior harbor and is jointly managed by the University of Wisconsin-Superior and the Northeast-Midwest Institute of Washington, D.C. with substantial technical expertise from the University of Minnesota.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges Congress to provide \$1 million to the Great Ships Initiative in the Fiscal Year 2010 Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill to supplement the \$950,000 provided as part of the 2009 federal budget.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George Heartwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 12 – 2009M**

**HARBOR MAINTENANCE TAX**

**Submitted by Superior, Duluth, and Thunder Bay**

**WHEREAS**, Great Lakes mayors must collectively address common issues related to regional development that promote waterborne commerce and contribute to the economic vitality of our communities, states/provinces and nations; and

**WHEREAS**, the increased use of maritime transportation will reduce environmental pressures and improve the quality of air and water, while at the same time reducing the social and economic pressures caused by landside traffic and congestion; and

**WHEREAS**, Short Sea Shipping is a form of maritime transportation that does not transit an ocean and utilizes inland and coastal waterways to move commercial freight; and

**WHEREAS**, Short Sea Shipping services provide an environmentally-friendly mode of transportation for goods moving port-to-port along the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway – ensuring a greatly reduced carbon footprint; and

**WHEREAS**, Great Lakes mayors see Short Sea Shipping as both a viable and desirable mode of transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) is a U.S. federal tax imposed on shippers based on the value of the goods being shipped to or from U.S. ports and the tax is placed in a trust fund to be used for maintenance dredging of federal navigational channels; and

**WHEREAS**, the constitutionality of the HMT has been questioned with respect to exports and the tax is an additional burden for waterborne commerce in the Great Lakes region; and

**WHEREAS**, elimination of the HMT would clear the way for development, decrease landside transportation costs; improve safety for the motoring public; reduce emissions and improve air quality; and

**WHEREAS**, providing a narrow exemption for non-bulk commercial cargo would encourage the movement of freight from congested highway systems to marine alternatives – offering shippers a complimentary route to rail and truck traffic – a way to bypass congested roadways, borders and bottlenecks; and



**WHEREAS**, cargo currently moving by truck and rail is not taxed; conversely, the existing HMT acts as a deterrent to the development of Short Sea Shipping services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the United States Congress to eliminate the Harbor Maintenance Tax on Great Lakes non-bulk shipping to encourage Short Sea Shipping Services; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges Congress to enact H.R. 528, legislation exempting the movement of non-bulk commercial cargo by water in the Great Lakes region.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Heattwell", written over a horizontal line.

George Heattwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 13 – 2009M**

**IMPROVEMENTS TO NAVIGATION ON THE GREAT LAKES**

**Submitted by Superior, Duluth, and Thunder Bay**

**WHEREAS**, Great Lakes mayors recognize that ports are gateways to world trade and critical components in North America's economic recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, citizens of the United States, Canada and the world rely on ports in this region to move cargo efficiently in and out of North America; and

**WHEREAS**, 40% of the industrial capacity of the United States and 60% of the Canadian capacity is centered in the Great Lakes region; and

**WHEREAS**, shippers using the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway System save \$3.6 billion annually in transportation costs, and

**WHEREAS**, investing in navigational improvements along the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway will both create jobs and pay dividends well into the future; and

**WHEREAS**, there are two critical improvements to navigation on the Great Lakes that require the immediate attention of the United States government;

**WHEREAS**, the first improvement is another Poe-sized lock because the existing, aging locks, which connect Lake Superior to the lower four Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway, handle more than 80 million tons of iron ore, coal, grain and other cargos each year and are vulnerable to failure; and

**WHEREAS**, the second improvement is more dredging because harbors choked with sand or silt are unusable.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to proceed with construction of a new, large lock on the St. Mary's River at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan as directed by the Water Resources Development Act of 2007; and



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the United States Congress to provide adequate funding to enable the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to address a backlog of dredging work in shipping lanes of deep-draft ports, lakes, channels and rivers of the Great Lakes Basin – projects that now exceed \$200 million.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Heartwell", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

George Heartwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 14 – 2009M**

**ACTION ON WATER CONSERVATION**  
**Submitted by Town of the Blue Mountains**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system is the largest source of surface freshwater on earth, comprising close to twenty percent of the world's surface freshwater; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately forty million U.S. and Canadian citizens rely on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system for their drinking water;

**WHEREAS**, water scarcity is becoming more of a reality for communities around the region given changing climactic conditions, growing populations, and increasing demands on a water supply that is not being fully recharged, particularly with respect to groundwater aquifers that are being used by industries that require large volumes of freshwater for their processes and production; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities provide clean, safe, reliable and regulated drinking water and many are implementing water conservation efforts to ensure a sustainable resource for generations to come; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative launched the Water Conservation Framework in 2007 to encourage leadership on water conservation within the region and the Framework's thirty-three participants have committed to working towards a fifteen percent reduction in water use within their jurisdictions by 2015, below year 2000 water withdrawal levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the eight Great Lakes States and the two Canadian Provinces signed the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resource Compact and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement in 2005, and the Compact has received federal consent in the United States, and the Agreement has been accepted and implemented by the Province of Ontario and a bill to implement the Agreement in Quebec is currently under consideration by the National Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, the eight Great Lakes States and two Canadian Provinces are committed under the Compact and Agreement to develop and implement water conservation and efficiency programs that are either voluntary or mandatory, based on objectives and guidelines agreed to by the States and Provinces.



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the United States and Canadian federal, state, and provincial governments to join municipalities to ensure the region becomes a leader with respect to water conservation by working to ensure systems are developed that reflect the true value of water; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the use of conservation practices by all water users which best suit each local jurisdiction, including valuing water appropriately, while ensuring that municipalities generate the necessary revenue for the operation and maintenance of their water supply and distribution systems; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin and the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec to develop and implement water conservation and efficiency programs that contain real targets with respect to reductions in water use and meaningful timeframes within which to achieve the targets.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Heartwell', is written over a horizontal line.

George Heartwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 15 – 2009M**

**PROMOTION OF A GREAT LAKES BASIN-WIDE APPROACH TO PHOSPHORUS**  
**MANAGEMENT**

**Submitted by the Regional Municipality of Halton**

**WHEREAS**, many municipalities on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are experiencing the accumulation of rotting algae along the shoreline; and

**WHEREAS**, this phenomenon is negatively affecting basic enjoyment and use of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence waterfront, resulting in economic impacts for municipalities, local businesses and industries related to foul odours, beaches that are unsuitable for swimming and clogged water intake pipes; and

**WHEREAS**, algae growth is understood to be limited by phosphorus availability, but further study is required to quantify the various point and non-point sources of phosphorus to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence and to understand the impact of Dreissenid (zebra) mussels on the distribution of phosphorus in the near-shore environment; and

**WHEREAS**, agriculture is a significant source of phosphorus to the Lakes and the River and governments and other groups are working to reduce nutrient loadings from such sources; and

**WHEREAS**, there is general agreement that source control is the most cost-effective and efficient means of reducing phosphorus discharges.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that all levels of government including the federal, state/provincial and municipal governments work in partnership in a coordinated manner to develop and promote a science-based, fiscally responsible, Great Lakes basin wide phosphorus management strategy and regulatory approach; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that federal and state/provincial governments provide funding for a coordinated research and monitoring program aimed at providing the scientific and economic data required to inform sound policy development and action-oriented decision making related to phosphorus management, including fish aquaculture; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that federal and state/provincial governments take further action to ban phosphates in residential and commercial products that are contributing to phosphorus



discharges to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, and local governments work with federal, provincial, state governments and other stakeholders to maximize reductions in phosphorus from agricultural sources; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a bi-national public awareness campaign be initiated to promote the use of phosphorus-free cleaning products and encourage the use of phosphorus-free lawn fertilizers unless phosphorus addition is absolutely required for a soil deficiency or a newly seeded lawn.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Heartwell", written over a horizontal line.

George Heartwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 17– 2009M**

**SUPPORT OF MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION**

**Submitted by City of Grand Rapids**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River support a vibrant and economically important region for the United States, Canada, and the world for transportation, fishing, recreation, agriculture and manufacturing, all requiring energy in various forms; and

**WHEREAS**, individual communities and governments outside the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative are sometimes competitive and self-motivated during financially stressing times, which potentially cause poor decisions that can jeopardize the precious natural resources, habitats, and lands found within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence watersheds and the living conditions of millions; and

**WHEREAS**, good partnerships, cooperation, and community collaboration between Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative member cities have demonstrated that powerful and vocal positions can be created that can aid federal, state, and provincial agencies, government officials and other community stakeholders in accomplishing more and greater work in the protection and preservation of resources, capital, and livelihoods around the basin more than singular communities and governments can; and

**WHEREAS**, the bi-national partnership between the United States and Canada is a crucial component of efforts to protect the health of the resource, continue trade and economic development, and maintain the quality of life for residents of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence River Basin; and

**WHEREAS**, the long-term value of these partnerships could not be more critical considering the worth of these priceless natural resources and their ability to daily generate \$1.5 billion dollars of revenue from trade and tourism between communities within the two nations, dependent on fast and efficient movement of goods and services that will provide continued economic growth of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence regional economies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative intends to continue being recognized in Washington and Ottawa as well as the state and provincial capitals as the voice of millions of people living in local communities in Great Lakes and St. Lawrence watersheds, armed with accurate, sensible, scientific, and unbiased information to help decision-makers develop informed choices vital to the world's future.



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members support continued collaboration and partnerships within the organization; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative member cities will continue to encourage neighboring communities to join in conversations with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative as a means of promoting membership and collaboration with an even larger voice; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourage the federal governments of the United States and Canada to continue the bi-national collaboration efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on those governments to extend that spirit of cooperation to develop, in cooperation with local government, responsible border policies to allow for the safe, sensible, and efficient passage of goods and people.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

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George Heartwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 18– 2009M**

**SUPPORT OF GREAT LAKES RENEWABLE ENERGY EXPLORATION**  
**Submitted by City of Grand Rapids**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River support vibrant and economically important regions for the United States, Canada, and the world for transportation, fishing, recreation, agriculture and manufacturing, all requiring energy in various forms; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin ecology is impacted daily from the use of water, air, and land for the provision of energy from multiple electrical generating stations situated around the basin in close proximity to necessary water; and

**WHEREAS**, nuclear fuels and other fossil-fuel waste products are emitted, transported and stored throughout the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin from certain energy generating stations utilizing nuclear and fossil-fuel technologies; and

**WHEREAS**, renewable energy production in Great Lakes and St. Lawrence watersheds can replace existing fossil-fuel and nuclear based technologies that currently contribute some of the ecological impact and risk to future generations and should be encouraged and supported by governments within the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is already active on behalf of its member municipalities in the area of renewable energy advocacy such as with the Great Lakes Wind Collaborative, a group established to build consensus on identifying and addressing issues affecting the planning, development, and operation of wind power facilities within the region, to ensure local issues and concerns as well as support for wind development are voiced and addressed.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members support continued evaluation of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region for potential renewable sources of energy supplied by wind, waves, sun, and temperature that are expected to provide cleaner sources of energy, lower green house gas emissions, future employment opportunities, and continued economic vitality for the U.S., Canada, and other citizens; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative member cities will educate, collaborate, and encourage future development of these resources in their communities to help establish improved energy technologies for future generations; and



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the further involvement of local government in renewable energy discussions to ensure renewable energy solutions that affect local communities are appropriate, beneficial and generally supported by the community.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Heartwell", is written over a horizontal line.

George Heartwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 19– 2009M**

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND WATER SUPPLY IN THE GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE**

**Submitted by Town of Ajax**

**WHEREAS**, the freshwater resources of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River are the largest source of fresh water in the world and the primary source of drinking water for about 40 million people currently living within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin; and

**WHEREAS**, these resources are also essential for boating, fishing, swimming, and other activities important to the quality of life and economic well being of the people; and

**WHEREAS**, industry and agriculture in the region rely on the resource for their success, and are essential for a strong economy in the area; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic, commercial, agricultural, and industrial uses in Great Lakes and St. Lawrence communities, which will grow in the decades ahead, will continue to depend upon the quality and quantity of these finite resources to be sustained in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, there are many point sources of contaminants (industrial outfalls, sewage treatment plants) within and beyond the Basin creating threats to water quality that are conceptually easier to monitor and control than non-point sources (shipping, agriculture, large-scale urban runoff, historically contaminated sediments); and

**WHEREAS**, the shipping industry, agricultural practices, flows from creeks and storm sewers and, in some cases, untreated sanitary sewer overflows and areas of concern identified decades ago continue to contribute contaminants to our Lake waters; and

**WHEREAS**, small, medium, and large sewage treatment plants across the basin represent significant point sources of contaminants which can adversely affect the quality of the water if not constructed or operated properly, or if located in an area especially vulnerable to the discharges; and

**WHEREAS**, some sewage treatment plant outfalls are located near drinking water intakes and beaches, and in certain areas, lake circulation patterns can trap discharged effluent in nearshore waters and contaminate sediments that can act as persistent risks, also presenting a threat to municipal water supplies and to swimmers; and



**WHEREAS**, many growing communities have constructed very large treatment plants, with encouragement from provincial and federal governments, which have not provided the level of support necessary to operate and maintain the facilities properly; and

**WHEREAS**, the ecological community of the Great Lakes is changing in response to these increasing levels of environmental stress, resulting in widespread algal growth on lakebeds, carried to shorelines by wind and wave action, where it decomposes, providing visual evidence of declining nearshore water quality from an overabundance of nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, and changing ecological conditions exacerbated by sewage treatment plants, non-point runoff, and invasive species, such as mussels; and

**WHEREAS**, as population growth continues and wastewater treatment service areas expand or communities intensify, the volume of discharged treated effluent will continue to increase, introducing more nutrients and contaminants daily into nearshore waters; and

**WHEREAS**, wastewater composition is becoming more and more complex due to inputs of an increasing array of chemicals from industrial and commercial processes and pharmaceuticals and personal care products; and

**WHEREAS**, with new sampling and analytical tools, water models and recent advances in wastewater treatment technologies, it is now possible to identify unseen waterborne contaminants in small amounts and better determine the origin of pathogens; and

**WHEREAS**, water supply plant intakes are often interspersed among sewage treatment plant outfalls on the shorelines of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin; and

**WHEREAS**, nuclear plants are also located on these shorelines, sometimes close to water supply plants, as they also depend on the Great Lakes to provide cooling waters for reactors and to receive warmed water outputs; and

**WHEREAS**, chemical emissions into Lake and River waters from treatment processes in water supply plants need to be managed properly to protect our aquatic resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the nearshore waters of the Great Lakes have been recently recognized as a distinct zone with limited and slow mixing with the much more voluminous offshore waters, which have been assumed in the past to be available for rapid dilution and assimilation of contaminants; and

**WHEREAS**, better protection and improvement of the quality of freshwater resources in the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River Basin are necessary to sustain the millions of people living within the Basin today and in the future.



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages federal, provincial and state governments in the United States and Canada to increase their funding for expedited scientific research and development on drinking water and wastewater treatment technology, source water protection strategies, and water quality monitoring and assessment; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative strongly urges the Canadian and United States federal, state, and provincial governments to concurrently invest in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence communities of today and the future by allocating long-term, sustained funding to acquire the most current drinking water and wastewater infrastructure technology, and to conduct the necessary water quality monitoring, analyses, and assessment within their watersheds and along their shorelines for the purpose of identifying and curbing local point and non-point sources of contaminants entering Great Lakes and St. Lawrence waters and for public education; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative strongly urges the federal governments of Canada and United States to advance source water protection strategies, establish protective environmental standards and require the best available treatment technologies be used for water supply plants - to protect Great Lakes and St. Lawrence communities' drinking water – and for wastewater facilities to protect water quality; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities initiative strongly urges the federal, state, and provincial governments of Canada and the United States to allocate the necessary resources to re-evaluate and, where appropriate, improve, monitor using the most meaningful technologies, and enforce the drinking water and wastewater standard to ensure the highest possible compliance rates; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative strongly urges the federal, state, and provincial governments of the United States and Canada to focus their priorities, resources and actions to efficiently and effectively honor longstanding commitments in treaties and agreements to protect, enhance and restore Great Lakes and St. Lawrence water quality and quantity; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative strongly urges the federal, state and provincial governments of Canada and the U.S. to consider the nearshore waters and shorelines of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence as areas of environmental significance, and establish water quality-related effluent limitations, with appropriate consideration of the need for economic growth and jobs, for localized areas where the condition of the receiving water body, and the size and nature of discharging facilities such as sewage treatment plants, industrial plants, and nuclear plants, are such that generally applicable requirements do not provide adequate protection to water quality, in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, accompanied by strong water policies to



highlight their shared commitment to Great Lakes water quality, and to promote effective joint actions with Great Lakes communities to address controllable sources of contaminants, using new and emerging testing methodologies and water treatment technologies.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Heartwell", is written over a horizontal line.

George Heartwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative