



Legislative Services
Lisa Lyons
905-726-4771
townclerk@aurora.ca

Town of Aurora
100 John West Way, Box 1000
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

September 23, 2016

DELIVERED BY E-MAIL TO:

kwynne.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier:

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of September 13, 2016
Report No. CS16-020 – Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) Reform Update**

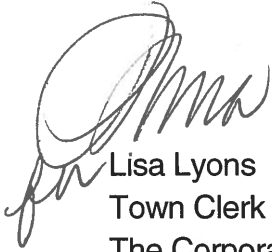
Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its Council meeting held on September 13, 2016, and in this regard Council adopted the following resolution:

1. **That Report No. CS16-020, and the attached Municipal Summit OMB Reform: Process & Powers Recommendations, be received; and**
2. **That Council endorse the recommendation contained in Attachment 1 to Report No. CS16-020, being:**
 - a) **That the jurisdiction of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) be limited to questions of law or process and, specifically, when considering appeals, that the OMB be required to uphold any planning decision(s) of municipal councils unless said decision(s) is contrary to the processes and rules set out in legislation; and**
3. **That a copy of the recommendation be sent to the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Mr. Patrick Brown, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, Ms. Andrea Horwath, Leader of the New Democratic Party, and all Members of Provincial Parliament in the Province of Ontario; and**
4. **That a copy of the recommendation be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), all Ontario municipalities, and the York Regional Chair for consideration.**

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of September 13, 2016
September 23, 2016
Page 2 of 2

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Lyons', is positioned to the left of the printed name and title.

Lisa Lyons
Town Clerk
The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

LL/lb

Attachment (Municipal Summit OMB Reform: Process & Powers Recommendations)

Copy: The Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Mr. Patrick Brown, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party
Ms. Andrea Horwath, Leader of the New Democratic Party
All Members of Provincial Parliament in Ontario
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities
Mr. Wayne Emmerson, York Region Chairman and CEO

MUNICIPAL SUMMIT

OMB REFORM: PROCESS & POWERS



RECOMMENDATIONS

MUNICIPAL SUMMIT ON OMB REFORM: PROCESS AND POWERS

While each community is indeed unique, when it comes to planning matters, many of our communities encounter the same issues. When considering development proposals within the context of approved Official Plans – there is on-going pressure to alter their Official Plans to approve project-specific amendment requests. Repeated appeals to the OMB of Municipal councils' planning decisions to uphold their Official Plans and deny project-specific amendment requests, results in multiple communities fighting the same fight - wasting untold taxpayer dollars in the process. It is a lengthy, costly, and frustrating process and one that is clearly not working.

Discussions around the need for OMB reform are not new. As an issue it has jumped from the back burner to the front burner and back again many times over the past two decades. However, despite the many years of discussion, there has been little material change to the scope of powers, procedures or predictability of decision making of the OMB. This had led to frustration for the key stakeholders in the process – Municipal leaders, the development community and - most important - the residents and communities affected by planning decisions and OMB rulings regarding same.

OMB processes and scope of power have not kept pace with the changes in municipal planning necessitated by the explosion of growth in our communities. Effective planning requires certainty and predictability in the processes that govern it. What is needed, therefore, is clarity of the role and scope of power of all those with the authority for decision making.

In light of the pending Provincial review of the OMB, this is an opportune time for elected representatives – those decision-makers on the front lines of municipal planning - to work together and advocate for appropriate and effective reform(s) of the OMB.

Elected officials from across the Province have been asking for change for a long time and now, as a result of the **Summit on OMB Reform – Process and Powers** have come together to identify common goals and common solutions and to advocate for those changes in planning legislation. With reform, it is hoped that Municipalities will have more authority and predictability in local planning decisions.

Background

The impetus for the Municipal Summit on OMB Reform came from a motion brought forward by Councillor Tom Mrakas to Aurora Town Council in January of 2016 that spoke to the need to address the scope and powers of the OMB. Subsequent to that, and within the context of the need for OMB reform, an additional motion was put forward jointly by Councillor Michael Thompson and Councillor Tom Mrakas that spoke to the specific planning issue of development of open space/parkland and the need for criteria against which both municipalities and the OMB can consider when reviewing said development requests.

It was in the context of these two unanimously supported motions that the idea for a Municipal Summit on OMB reform was born. Following quickly on the heels of the passing of both motions, a Municipal Summit Planning Working Group was created to begin the work of creating the Summit. The event, held in the Markham Civic Centre on May 14th, was the result of months of hard work by this dedicated group of 17 elected officials from 12 municipalities across the GTA.

The Municipal Summit was a unique event; a grass roots gathering of elected officials from every corner of our Province, working together towards the common goal of affecting real change in the decision-making processes that affect how our communities are planned.

The daylong event featured a number of important speakers including Ms. Helen Cooper, Former Mayor of Kingston, Chair of the Ontario Municipal Board, AMO President; Mr. John Chipman, Author “Law Unto Itself”, former editor of the Ontario Municipal Board Reports; Ms. Valerie Shuttleworth Chief Planner for York Region; Mr. Leo Longo, Senior Partner Aird & Berlis LLP and Mr. Joe Vaccaro, CEO of the Ontario Home Builders Association. The panelists engaged attendees and solicited their input directly through breakout groups. Our guest Moderator, Mr. Bill Hogg, brought together the outcome of both the broader discussions as well as the break out groups so as to identify common themes that would inform the proposed recommendation(s)

Recommendations

At the outset, the purpose of the Summit was to identify common themes and common principles of reform that would modernize the process and procedures of the OMB. The purpose of which is to ensure that decisions of the Board reflect and respect the uniqueness of every community. In reviewing the comments of the attendees and the panelists as well as the municipal leaders that have weighed in through emails and other communication, and taking into consideration the over 100 municipalities that have endorsed the motion(s) advocating reform, the consensus view spoke to a clear need to review the scope of powers of the OMB.

Thus, the recommendations of the Summit can be boiled down to one overarching recommendation:

Limit the jurisdiction of the OMB to questions of law or process. Specifically, when considering appeals, require the OMB to uphold any planning decision(s) of Municipal Councils unless said decision(s) is contrary to the processes and rules set out in legislation.

A decision by a Municipal Council to uphold their Official Plan – a Plan that conforms to provincial legislation and is approved by the Province through the delegated authority of the relevant Regional government - should not be subject to appeal unless that decision is contrary to the processes and rules set out in legislation. Further, OMB decision-making processes/procedures should be predicated on the principle that planning

decisions of a local Municipal Council as they relate to their Official Plan will be upheld unless they are contrary to the processes and rules set out in legislation.

The recent changes to the Planning Act (Bill 73) as they speak to limits on appeals – namely that Official Plans cannot be appealed within the first two years of adoption - are a good first step, but they don't go far enough. The consensus of attendees was that appeals should be strictly limited. Some felt that amendment requests should not be allowed to be put forward at all unless proponents can demonstrate that the proposed changes to the Official Plan or zoning by-law fulfill a changing community need or in some way better the community. The onus should be on the applicant to demonstrate to the local Municipal Council that the changes to the Official Plan necessitated by a proposed project or development benefit the community and/or enhance it. If a Council sees that there is a clear benefit to the community then it is within the Council's authority to grant the amendments. However, if a Council feels that the application does not somehow better the community, then Council has full authority to deny the application without it being subject to appeal.

There should be consistency in the scope of authority of Municipal Councils. Any other decision by a Municipal Council is only subject to appeal through a judicial review the scope of which is errors in process or law. The question then is - why are planning decisions different? The answer is they should not.

As it stands now, Municipalities are required to review application after application, requesting amendment after amendment; considering each in isolation as opposed to the integrated whole. Piecemeal planning negates the utility and functionality of Official Plans. Multiple changes to a Municipal Plan required by multiple project-specific amendment requests compromises the integrity of the Official Plan and indeed the planning process as a whole.

Municipal planning is a complex process. But the current legislation does not recognize or reflect that complexity. The legislation does not adequately address what can be appealed, who can put forward an appeal, and the relative weight that Municipal Council decisions will be given in the adjudication of appeals. Similarly, vague terminology – such as “...due consideration” – significantly impacts the predictability of decision making processes of the Board. Even timelines for decision-making are unworkable. Despite the fact that even mildly contentious development proposals require considerable amount of time to compile the information necessary for informed Council decisions, a decision must be rendered within 180 days or face appeal. This is not good planning. This is ineffective and inefficient public planning.

Clearly there does still need to be a degree of flexibility in the decision making processes. It is not the expectation that Official Plans are carved in stone. However, the drivers of community change should be the community itself. Planning legislation – including the OMB Act - should outline in very specific and very limited terms the basis upon which a Municipal Council decision to refuse an amendment to its Official Plan or zoning bylaw can be appealed. Concomitantly, decisions by the OMB when considering appeals of local Council planning decisions should reflect and respect the vision of the communities as defined in their Official Plans.

In closing, we recognize that our communities are dynamic. They continue to grow and evolve over time. But with that evolution comes a very real pressure to manage that growth in a way that is respectful of the unique character of the affected communities.

Through necessary legislative reform and the clarification of the scope of power and authority of all decision making bodies – both elected and appointed - predictable, appropriate decision-making processes can be achieved.

We thank the panelists, our moderator, our sponsors and most of all everyone who participated in this process, for the incredible input and hard work that has been undertaken.

Sincerely,

The Members of the OMB Reform Summit Working Group:

Councillor Tom Mrakas, Chair (Aurora)
Councillor Michael Thompson (Aurora).
Councillor Marianne Meed Ward (Burlington)
Councillor Nicholas Ermeta (Cambridge)
Councillor Frank Sebo (Georgina)
Councillor Cathy Downer (Guelph)
Councillor Yvonne Fernandes (Kitchener)
Councillor Karen Rea (Markham)
Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong (Markham)
Councillor Don Hamilton (Markham)
Councillor Christina Bisanz (Newmarket)
Councillor Karen Cilevitz (Richmond Hill)
Councillor David West (Richmond Hill)
Councillor & Deputy Mayor Pat Molloy (Uxbridge)
Councillor Marilyn Iafrate (Vaughan)
Councillor Alan Shefman (Vaughan)
Councillor Mary Ann Grimaldi (Welland)
Councillor Steve Yamada (Whitby)

Administration

Office of the Regional Clerk

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www.niagararegion.ca

September 23, 2016

CL 14-2016, September 22, 2016

PDC 11-2016, September 7, 2016

Report PDS 6-2016

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOCAL AREA MUNICIPALITIES**

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

2015 Reserve Water and Wastewater Treatment Capacities
PDS 6-2016

Regional Council, at its Special meeting of September 22, 2016, approved the following recommendation of its Planning and Development Committee:

That Report PDS 6-2016, dated September 7, 2016, respecting 2015 Reserve Water and Wastewater Treatment Capacities, **BE RECEIVED** for information and **BE CIRCULATED** to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and Niagara area municipalities for their information and future reference.

A copy of Report PDS 6-2016 is enclosed for your information.

Yours truly,



Ralph Walton
Regional Clerk
:amn

cc: D. Shen, Water & Wastewater Planning Engineer
P. Lambert, Associate Director, Infrastructure Planning and Development Engineering
N. Oakes, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Planning & Development Services

REPORT TO: Planning and Development Committee

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, September 07, 2016

SUBJECT: 2015 Reserve Water and Wastewater Treatment Capacities

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That this report **BE RECEIVED** and **CIRCULATED** to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and Niagara area municipalities for their information and future reference.

KEY FACTS

- The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the reserve treatment capacities at Niagara's Water and Wastewater Treatment facilities. This reporting is required by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC)
- The data contained in this report assists in commenting on new development proposals and related servicing as well as planning for future treatment capacity
- All of Niagara Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) are positioned to accept growth beyond the minimum 10-year horizon
- 10 of 11 of existing Niagara Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) are positioned to accept growth beyond the minimum 10-year horizon
- The New Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL) WWTP, which is anticipated to be completed at the end of 2016 with commissioning in 2017, will provide additional growth capacity and thereby ensure all WWTPs will have capacity to accept growth beyond the 10-year horizon

CONSIDERATIONS

Financial

This report provides Council with historical and projected treatment capacity and flow data. There are no direct financial implications in receiving this report. The data presented in this report is incorporated into the Water and Wastewater Master Servicing Plan and will therefore impact future capital projects needs and timing. The reserve treatment capacities at the water and wastewater facilities are considered in commenting on new development proposals and related servicing and, as a result, could result in a financial impact related to specific future applications.

Corporate

This report is prepared annually in collaboration with Public Works Water and Wastewater Service Department and it fulfills the reporting requirements to MOECC.

Governmental Partners

This report provides MOECC and local municipal partners operational summary and reserve capacity projections for Region's Water and Wastewater Treatment facilities.

Public and/or Service Users

This report provides general public and private sectors high-level information on development trends and servicing feasibilities for Region's Water and Wastewater Treatment facilities.

ANALYSIS

The Infrastructure Planning and Development Engineering section of Planning and Development Services Commission annually reports on an assessment of the average daily water and wastewater flows based on the previous five years, as recorded at our various facilities compared to MOECC rated capacities for the facilities. Included in the analysis are the 10-year growth projections in accordance with the approved Growth Management Strategy (Niagara 2031).

A key objective of this report is to highlight potential capacity constraints and allow sufficient lead time to plan for future capacity increases through the water and wastewater capital programs so that development may continue unencumbered. This is a 'desktop' exercise, which compares five-year (annual) average flows to the respective MOECC Environmental Compliance Approval(s), formerly known as Certificate of Approval(s) for each facility, then incorporates 10-year growth forecasts into the calculation. Ongoing phasing and staging strategy works with our local municipal partners will further refine this assessment for understanding development capacity. This assessment does not reflect specific compliance, quality, sustainability, risk, or operational deficiencies at the treatment plants or trunk conveyance/transmission systems, which may affect the Region's ability to approve new development or permit servicing extensions.

For municipal wastewater treatment, weather is the key factor that results in peak wet weather flows, which impacts the collection and trunk sewers in both local and regional systems through Rainfall Derived Inflow and Infiltration (RDI&I). In wet weather years, the annual average daily flows to the wastewater treatment plants are higher due to the additional flows entering the systems.

Wet weather flows can have substantial impact on available wastewater treatment plant capacities and a direct impact on the limitations of available servicing capacity for future growth. For example, five year average daily flows for the old NOTL WWTP indicates that 82% of the plant capacity is utilized; however, in a wet weather year, the utilized plant capacity increased to 93% solely based on 2011 average daily flows, and not the five year average.

Appendix 2 and 3 provide the annual average daily flows and five year average from 2011 to 2015 for the water and wastewater treatment plants, respectively. Appendices 4 and 5 provide a summary of Niagara's six water treatment facilities and eleven wastewater treatment facilities presenting their respective reserve capacities.

All of Niagara's water treatment facilities are positioned to accept growth beyond the minimum 10-year period (Appendix 4). However, with respect to the reserve wastewater treatment capacities, ten of the eleven treatment facilities will be able to accommodate growth beyond the critical 10-year horizon (Appendix 5) with the exception being the old existing NOTL WWTP/Lagoons.

NOTL WWTP UPDATE

The new NOTL WWTP with an increased capacity from 5,710 m³/day to 8,000 m³/day, is scheduled to have construction completed by the end of 2016 with commissioning in 2017. Once this new WWTP is operational, there will be additional capacity for growth beyond the 10-year horizon.

A coordinated Federal/Provincial Environmental Assessment study is being undertaken for decommissioning the old existing NOTL WWTP and lagoons located at 1738 Lakeshore Road.

An updated servicing plan for the NOTL WWTP is attached in Appendix 1. Additional details regarding this project are provided on the Niagara Region's website: <http://www.niagararegion.ca/projects/notl-wwtp/default.aspx>.

The Town has continued with their Inflow/Infiltration Program funding from Region's CSO Program in an attempt to mitigate the wet weather flows entering the local sanitary sewer system.

The Town and the Region are continuing to work collaboratively to facilitate ongoing development in Niagara-on-the-Lake and provide the requisite servicing and capacity allocation in a responsible way to service the community.

2016 WATER & WASTEWATER (W&WW) MASTER SERVICING PLAN (MSP)

Under the umbrella of Niagara 2041, the Region is conducting a number of strategic planning studies, including Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR), Transportation Master Plan (TMP) and W&WW MSP. The Niagara 2041 population/employment growth projections and allocation will be analyzed in the W&WW MSP to identify the servicing capacity opportunities and constraints as well as produce the W&WW infrastructure capital projects to accommodate growth to 2041 and beyond. It is anticipated that the 2016 W&WW MSP will be completed in early 2017.

ALTERNATIVES REVIEWED

No alternatives were studied.

ORIGIN OF REPORT

Annual reporting requirement to MOECC and other stakeholders.

OTHER PERTINENT REPORTS

PDS25-2015 2014 Reserve Water and Wastewater Treatment Capacities & Servicing Strategy Update for Niagara-on-the-Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant - June 3, 2015.

SUBMITTED & SIGNED BY:

Rino Mostacci, Commissioner
Planning and Development

APPROVED & SIGNED BY:

Mo Lewis
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared by David Shen, P. Eng., Water & Wastewater Planning Engineer, and reviewed by Phill Lambert, P. Eng., Associate Director, Planning and Development Services and Mike Janas, C.E.T., Acting Director, Water & Wastewater Services Division, Public Works.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – NOTL Wastewater Treatment Plan Upgrade – Servicing Strategy Plan
Appendix 2 - Annual Average Daily Flow 2011 to 2015 Water Treatment Plants
Appendix 3 - Annual Average Daily Flow 2011 to 2015 Wastewater Treatment Plants
Appendix 4 – Water Reserve Capacity Calculations for 2015
Appendix 5 – Wastewater Reserve Capacity Calculations for 2015

Appendix 1

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE (PROJECT ZSW0010)

SERVICING STRATEGY PLAN

ITEM	MILESTONE DATE
1. Northeast Area Wastewater Servicing Study - Authorize consultant to proceed with sewer servicing study for St. Catharines, Thorold, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls	2006 (Completed)
2. Complete the Northeast Area Wastewater Servicing Study	2008 (Completed)
3. Authorize consultant to proceed with conceptual design and Schedule 'C' Class Environmental Assessment (EA) to upgrade or replace NOTL WWTP	2008 (Completed)
4. Complete conceptual design and Schedule 'C' Class EA	2012 (Completed)
5. Authorize consultant to proceed with design for new NOTL WWTP	2013 (Completed)
6. Complete design of plant upgrade/replacement	2014 (Completed)
7. MOECC approval	2014 (Completed)
8. Construction of upgrades	2016 (Ongoing)
9. Final commissioning of upgrades	2017
10. Study of decommissioning existing NOTL WWTP and lagoons	2016 (Ongoing)

APPENDIX 2

**ANNUAL AVERAGE DAILY FLOW 2011 TO 2015
WATER TREATMENT PLANTS**

Water Treatment Facility Location	Rated Capacity (m ³ /day)	Average Daily Flow (m ³)	Average Daily Flow (m ³)	Average Daily Flow (m ³)	Average Daily Flow (m ³)	Average Daily Flow (m ³)	5 Year Average Daily Flow (m ³)
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011 to 2015
Decew Falls WTP	227,300	53,818	52,603	54,505	52,358	52,723	53,201
Grimsby WTP	44,000	14,120	14,390	14,116	15,079	16,652	14,871
Niagara Falls WTP	145,584	52,217	53,033	46,734	43,741	45,186	48,182
Port Colborne WTP	36,000	8,184	7,926	7,945	8,570	8,908	8,307
Rosehill WTP	50,026	12,769	12,813	11,893	12,831	13,182	12,698
Welland WTP	102,300	22,158	24,346	20,692	20,714	20,164	21,615

APPENDIX 3

**ANNUAL AVERAGE DAILY FLOW 2011 TO 2015
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS**

Wastewater Treatment Facility Location	Rated Capacity (m ³ /day)	Average Daily Flow (m ³)	Average Daily Flow (m ³)	Average Daily Flow (m ³)	Average Daily Flow (m ³)	Average Daily Flow (m ³)	5 year Average Daily Flow (m ³)
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011 to 2015
Anger Avenue WWTP	24,500	14,565	10,998	12,511	14,306	12,755	13,027
Baker Road WWTP	31,280	23,890	18,824	21,271	20,482	17,549	20,403
Crystal Beach WWTP	9,100	6,313	4,663	5,772	5,755	5,005	5,502
Niagara Falls WWTP	68,300	45,447	39,569	43,897	36,657	40,782	41,270
NOTL Lagoon	5,710	5,293	4,265	4,880	5,046	3,911	4,679
Port Dalhousie WWTP	61,350	38,438	31,985	37,706	34,785	30,091	34,601
Port Weller WWTP	56,180	43,303	33,882	37,315	35,148	30,856	36,101
Queenston WWTP	500	306	253	284	230	234	261
Seaway WWTP	19,600	13,607	10,592	12,719	12,000	11,064	11,996
Stevensville/Douglastown Lagoon	2,289	1,535	1,123	1,284	1,234	1,192	1,274
Welland WWTP	54,550	41,701	35,537	40,598	35,886	32,164	37,177

APPENDIX 4

Regional Water Treatment Facilities Reserve Capacity Calculation for 2015

Treatment Facility	Permit To Take Water (1) (ML/D)	Rated Treatment Capacity (ML/D)	Peaking Factor (2)	Theoretical Average Day Capacity (ML/D)	90% of Average Day Capacity (3) (ML/D)	5-Year Average Day Flow (ML/D)	% of Total Capacity Used	Reserve Treatment Capacity (Based on 90%) (ML/D)	Average Consumption Rate (300 l/c/d)	Reserve Serviceable Population (Equivalents)	10-Year Forecast For Population (Residential & Employment)	Surplus Population Over 10-Year Projection
DeCew Falls WTP	227.0	227.3	1.443	157.5	141.8	53.2	34%	88.6	300	295,333	15,704	279,629
Grimsby WTP	44.0	44.0	1.562	28.2	25.4	14.9	53%	10.5	300	35,000	9,414	25,586
Niagara Falls WTP	145.5	145.6	1.511	96.3	86.7	48.2	50%	38.5	300	128,333	14,404	113,929
Port Colborne WTP	45.5	36.0	1.607	22.4	20.2	8.3	37%	11.9	300	39,667	3,065	36,602
Rosehill WTP	78.0	50.0	1.405	35.6	32.0	12.7	36%	19.3	300	64,333	5,876	58,457
Welland WTP	110.0	102.3	1.470	69.6	62.6	21.6	31%	41.0	300	136,667	13,134	123,533

(1) MOE approved quantity of raw water permitted (Permit To Take Water).

(2) The peaking factors used this year are based on an average of actual flow rates of maximum day versus average day flows over the past three years at each facility.

(3) Region's W&WW MSP (AECOM, 2011) requires planning process for expansion when plant capacity exceeds 80%, and expansion should be completed when capacity exceeds 90%.

APPENDIX 5

Regional Wastewater Treatment Facilities Reserve Capacity Calculation for 2015

Treatment Facility	Rated Treatment Capacity (m³/day)	90 % of Plant Capacity (1) (m³/day)	5-Year Average Daily Flow (m³/day)	% of Total Capacity Used	Reserve Treatment Capacity (Based on 90%) (m³/day)	Average Flow Rate (340 L/c/d)	Reserve Serviceable Population (Equivalents)	10-Year Forecast For Population (Residential & Employment)	Surplus Population Over 10-Year Projection
Anger Avenue (Fort Erie) WWTP	24,500	22,050	13,027	53%	9,023	340	26,538	3,500	23,038
Baker Road (Grimsby) WWTP	31,280	28,152	20,403	65%	7,749	340	22,791	10,700	12,091
Crystal Beach (Fort Erie) WWTP	9,100	8,190	5,502	60%	2,688	340	7,906	991	6,915
Niagara Falls WWTP (2)	68,300	61,470	41,270	60%	20,200	340	59,412	13,724	45,688
NOTL Lagoon (3)	5,710	5,139	4,679	82%	460	340	1,353	1,373	-20
Port Dalhousie (St. Catharines) WWTP	61,350	55,215	34,601	56%	20,614	340	60,629	4,661	55,968
Port Weller (St. Catharines) WWTP	56,180	50,562	36,101	64%	14,461	340	42,532	9,065	33,467
Queenston (NOTL) WWTP (4)	500	450	261	52%	189	340	556	9	547
Seaway (Port Colborne) WWTP	19,600	17,640	11,996	61%	5,644	340	16,600	2,876	13,724
Stevensville/Douglastown Lagoon	2,289	2,060	1,274	56%	786	340	2,312	1,385	927
Welland WWTP	54,550	49,095	37,177	68%	11,918	340	35,053	13,134	21,919

(1) Region's W&WW MSP (AECOM, 2011) requires planning process for expansion when plant capacity exceeds 80%, and expansion should be completed when capacity exceeds 90%.

(2) The Niagara Falls WWTP assessment includes the sewage flows from the St. David's area of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

(3) The Niagara-on-the-Lake Lagoon does not currently have sufficient reserve capacity for the next ten years. Planning for expansion is ongoing.

(4) The Queenston WWTP in Niagara-on-the-Lake has a unique capacity commitment of 226 m³/d for the following properties: Niagara Parks Commission (75 m³/d), Niagara Falls Bridge Commission (63 m³/d), Shalamar Campground (38 m³/d) and Ontario Power Generation (50 m³/d). Due to these commitments and limited UAB, limited residential growth is expected within the next 10 year period within the tributary area.

Administration

Office of the Regional Clerk

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042, Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

Telephone: 905-685-4225 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215 Fax: 905-687-4977

www.niagararegion.ca

September 23, 2016

CL 14-2016, September 22, 2016**PDC 11-2016, September 7, 2016****Report PDS 26-2016****LOCAL AREA MUNICIPALITIES****NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY****SENT ELECTRONICALLY**

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative:

2016 Annual Meeting Summary**PDS 26-2016**

Regional Council, at its Special meeting of September 22, 2016, approved the following recommendation of its Planning and Development Committee:

That Report PDS 26-2016, dated September 7, 2016, respecting Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative: 2016 Annual Meeting Summary, **BE RECEIVED** for information and **BE CIRCULATED** to the local area municipalities and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

A copy of Report PDS 26-2016 is enclosed for your information.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R Walton".

Ralph Walton
Regional Clerk
:amn

cc: K. Costantini, Planning Analyst
N. Oakes, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Planning & Development Services

REPORT TO: Planning and Development Committee

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, September 07, 2016

SUBJECT: Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative: 2016 Annual Meeting Summary

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That this report **BE RECEIVED** for information.
2. That a copy of this report **BE CIRCULATED** to the local area municipalities and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

KEY FACTS

- Purpose: This report provides a brief summary of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) resolutions from the 2016 Annual Meeting. This report provides information on how the resolutions align with current Regional initiatives, projects, and the Niagara Water Strategy goals and objectives as detailed in Appendix I
- The GLSLCI is a coalition of U.S. and Canadian mayors and other local officials of more than 120 municipalities, representing approximately 14 million people in the Great Lakes basin. Niagara Region is a member of the GLSLCI
- The coalition works actively with federal, state, and provincial governments to improve infrastructure, programs and services and increase investments that protect and restore the Great Lakes

CONSIDERATIONS

Financial

There are no direct financial implications related with this report.

Corporate

An interdepartmental approach consists of efforts from Community and Long Range Planning, and Water and Waste Water Services to ensure that Niagara Region is up to date on the current issues that will impact the region.

Governmental Partners

The GLSLCI is a bi-national coalition of U.S. and Canadian mayors and local officials working together with other orders of government and stakeholders to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

Public and/or Service Users

The resolutions endorsed by the GLSLCI are intended to guide future advocacy to ensure that the Great Lakes continue to act as a valuable, safe, and reliable resource to all who depend on it.

ANALYSIS

The annual GLSLCI meeting and conference was held June 15-17, 2016, in Niagara Falls, New York. The annual forum is intended to share solutions to pressing economic, social, and environmental problems affecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and to push for changes supportive of protection and restoration at local, state/provincial, and federal levels.

At the 2016 meeting, members were asked to vote on resolutions that outline positions on issues of importance to the protection of the integrity of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. Appendix II is a report published by the GLSLCI that outlines each resolution passed at the meeting, including facts about each topic and the requested actions to be taken to remediate/improve the situation.

The 13 resolutions endorsed by the GLSLCI are listed below:

1. Nutrients in Lake Erie
Call for governmental commitments for a reduction in phosphorus entering the western basin of Lake Erie.
2. Safe Drinking Water
Encourages local governments to ensure the water supply for citizens is safe, clean and affordable, with an emphasis on resources to support identifying the presence of lead in drinking water.
3. Climate Change
A commitment of GLSLCI cities to be actively engaged in becoming more resilient, more adapted, and more committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

4. Asian Carp
The GLSLCI Advisory Committee will facilitate a regional consensus on a long-term solution for preventing the passage of aquatic invasive species through the Chicago Area Waterway System.
5. Radioactive Waste
Call for Ontario Power Generation to comprehensively address concerns in regards to a proposal to build a permanent deep geological repository (DGR) for radioactive waste less than one mile from Lake Huron in Kincardine, Ontario.
6. Microbeads and Marine Debris
Call on the government of Canada to implement legislation banning the production and distribution of products containing microbeads.
7. Standardized Pipeline Safety Indicators
The GLSLCI will support the creation of standardized pipeline safety indicators as being compiled by the Pipeline Safety Trust.
8. Action on Phragmites in the Great lakes and St. Lawrence
The GLSLCI continue to support best management, public education, research, and calls for funding for the control of phragmites.
9. Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in the Great Lakes Basin
Call for efforts to reduce nutrient loss to surface and groundwater from CAFOs and a strengthening of laws, regulations, and ordinances to provide protection for surface and groundwater while allowing for responsible operations.
10. Integrated Management of the St. Lawrence River
The acknowledgement of the creation of the *Regional Roundtables*, which act as a facilitator for exchange of information and collaboration, in regards to the management of the St. Lawrence River.
11. Sewers Overflow and Bypass Management
The GLSLCI will encourage its member cities to review their entire wastewater and drinking water infrastructure systems to aid in circumstances surrounding the release of untreated water into waterbodies.
12. Opposing the Waukesha Water Diversion Application
Call for the Governors of the 8 states bordering Lake Michigan to reject the City of Waukesha's application to use water from Lake Michigan as its source of drinking water.

13. North Harbour Mercury Contamination in Thunder Bay

Call to the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada to respond to inquiries made through a remedial action plan on the status and plan for a mercury contamination site in the North Harbour of Thunder Bay.

Information on the alignment of the resolutions with Regional Initiatives is provided in Appendix I of this report.

ALTERNATIVES REVIEWED

This report fulfills an annual summary report for the 2016 GLSLCI annual meeting. There were no alternatives reviewed related to this report.

ORIGIN OF REPORT

This report is being brought forward by staff.

OTHER PERTINENT REPORTS

- PDS 35-2015, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative 2015: Annual Meeting Summary, September 2, 2015
- PDS 40-2014, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative 2014 Annual Meeting Summary, September 24, 2014
- PDS 24-2014, Niagara Water Strategy 2014 Review and Update Report, June 25, 2014

SUBMITTED BY:

Rino Mostacci, MCIP, RPP
Commissioner
Planning and Development Services

APPROVED BY:

Maurice (Mo) Lewis
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared by Karen Costantini, Planning Analyst, and reviewed by Katelyn Vaughan, Senior Planner, in consultation with Danielle DeFields, Manager Customer Service and Long Range Planning and Doug Giles, Director Community and Long Range Planning.

APPENDICES

Appendix I	Summary Table of GLSLCI 2016 Resolutions and their Relationship to Niagara Region's Projects/Initiatives and the Niagara Water Strategy Program Goals	Page 5
Appendix II	GLSLCI 2016 Resolutions	Page 12

Appendix I: Summary Table of GLSLCI 2016 Resolutions and their Relationships to Niagara Region's Projects/Initiatives and The Niagara Water Strategy Program Goals

Resolutions	Brief Summary	Niagara Region Projects and/or Initiatives/Support	Niagara Water Strategy Goal Alignment
Nutrients in Lake Erie	Harmful algal blooms (HABs) resulting from excessive nutrient loadings have a direct adverse impact on the Great Lakes aquatic ecosystem, drinking water, water quality, quality of life and economy including recreation, tourism, and property values. HABs are exacerbated by nutrient pollution from human activity, climate change and invasive species. The GLSLCI calls on the Federal Governments of the United States and Canada to commit to a 40% reduction in phosphorus entering the Western Basin of Lake Erie by 2025, and the technical and financial support to develop, review, and approve domestic action plans.	Council directed staff to continue to engage with provincial and federal levels of government on near shore water quality issues (PDS 24-2014).	Water Pollution Prevention Education and Awareness Building
Safe Drinking Water	Recently, two major incidents have caused concern with the provision of clean, safe and affordable drinking water; the massive algal bloom in the Western Lake Erie Basin in August of 2014, and elevated lead levels in the drinking water supply of Flint Michigan during summer and fall of 2015. The GLSLCI is committed to supporting its member cities to help identify if they have a lead problem in their drinking water, and calls for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to update and improve its lead and copper rule for drinking water on an expedited basis; and requests all levels of government take immediate steps to improve implementation and enforcement of the laws designed to assure safe drinking water.	The NWS was developed largely in response to the need to streamline and better use resources in light of the Walkerton tragedy. The NWS served as a framework of integrated and strategic actions established to protect, rehabilitate and manage the Niagara watershed.	Water Pollution Prevention
Climate Change	The increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere of the earth in 2015 was the greatest ever recorded or estimated since the last ice age. The over 17 million people in the cities of the GLSLCI are aware of the problems presented by climate change, and have experienced many of them directly in their own cities. The resolution calls for members to commit their cities to be actively engaged through leadership in mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation to changes, resilience of infrastructure and encouragement to other cities to adopt a similar agenda to reduce the impacts of climate change.	Through the recently released draft provincial plan updates and the Ontario Climate Change Action Plan, Niagara Region will implement Provincial directives to update regional climate change related plans and policy.	Water Resiliency

Resolutions	Brief Summary	Niagara Region Projects and/or Initiatives/Support	Niagara Water Strategy Goal Alignment
Asian Carp	<p>Aquatic invasive species have and continue to cause serious damage to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system. Many species are found throughout the Chicago Area Waterways System (CAWS). The Asian Carp is one of the greatest threats. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has upgraded an electric barrier and added multiple barriers, to keep Asian carp from getting closer to Lake Michigan, but the barriers have weaknesses and operating problems that create vulnerabilities. The Great Lakes Commission and the GLSLCI have managed an Advisory Committee process for considering physical separation alternatives and related actions to deal with transportation, flood control, and water quality issues. The resolution fully endorses the Advisory Committee with facilitation and mediation to reach a regional consensus on a long term solution for preventing the passage of aquatic invasive species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins through the CAWS, as well as the implementation of all necessary and appropriate short and mid-term interim actions to reduce the risk of Asian carp reaching Lake Michigan.</p>	<p>A resolution has been passed by Council, supporting the prevention of Asian Carp from entering the Great Lakes (ICP 16-2013).</p>	<p>Shoreline and Watershed Management</p> <p>Water Resiliency</p>
Radioactive Waste	<p>Ontario Power Generation (OPG) proposed over ten years ago to build a permanent deep geological repository (DGR) for low and intermediate radioactive waste less than one mile from Lake Huron in Kincardine, Ontario. The Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change requested that OPG provide the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency with a schedule to address providing additional information on three aspects of the environmental assessment: alternate locations for the project, cumulative environmental effects of the project, and an updated list of mitigation commitments for each identified adverse effect under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act by April 18, 2016. The GLSLCI calls for OPG to address the three aspects of the environmental assessment in a thorough and comprehensive manner and give great weight to the proximity of a potential DGR to any of the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River, or their tributaries in their deliberations, recognizing the value of staying as far away as possible from these water sources.</p>		<p>Water Pollution Prevention</p>

Resolutions	Brief Summary	Niagara Region Projects and/or Initiatives/Support	Niagara Water Strategy Goal Alignment
Microbeads and Marine Debris	Many personal care products contain small plastic beads less than 5mm which do not decompose and are often so small they pass through wastewater treatment plants and are discharged to the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence, and other receiving waters. The microbeads are a hazard to fish and wildlife. Once ingested, they can cause health problems for fish and wildlife, and people who might in turn, ingest them. The resolution calls for the government of Canada to implement legislation banning the production and distribution of products containing microbeads, and to accelerate the Canadian Environmental Protection Act microbeads regulatory process which would add microbeads to the list of toxic substances, to conclude by Fall 2016.	The Water and Wastewater department of the Niagara Region is aware of issues and difficulties surrounding microbead debris and would be in support of a ban of microbeads in consumer products.	Water Pollution Prevention Education and Awareness Building
Standardized Pipeline Safety Indicators	Public interest in information regarding energy pipelines has recently intensified. This is attributed to pipeline failures, proposals to build new pipelines, and associated issues such as climate change and hydraulic fracturing. The industry and regulators have slowly come to recognize the need for greater transparency of accurate information. The resolution supports the creation of standardized pipeline safety indicators as being compiled by the Pipeline Safety Trust; accurate pipeline location mapping coupled with information on who owns the pipelines; and data from the standardized indicators to be made available to the public.	Niagara Region supports open data initiatives and recognizes the importance of transparency of information, and communication between local governments and industry actors.	Water Pollution Prevention Water Resiliency
Action on Phragmites in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence	Phragmites are an invasive perennial grass which spreads rapidly and secretes toxins from its roots impeding growth of neighbouring plants and causing severe damage to coastal wetlands and beaches around the Great Lakes. The GLSLCI supports the continued need to implement best management practices, and to continue public education to promote early detection of invasive Phragmites. The resolution also calls for the United States Congress to continue to support full funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act and its associated invasive Phragmites projects; Ontario Provincial Parliament to list invasive Phragmites as part of the Ontario Invasive Species Act and designate it as a noxious weed; and the Canadian Government to expedite and approve the use of herbicides in aquatic environments by the 2016 growing season.	The NWS has identified invasive species as a threat to the water quality in Niagara. The Region supports work completed by local municipalities to control the spread of phragmites on public drains and ditches.	Shoreline and Watershed Management Education and Awareness Building

Resolutions	Brief Summary	Niagara Region Projects and/or Initiatives/Support	Niagara Water Strategy Goal Alignment
Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in the Great Lakes Basin	The number of CAFOs/Intensive Livestock Operations (ILOs) has increased substantially in the Great Lakes and St Lawrence River basin in the past decade. Agricultural (nonpoint) runoff from CAFOs/ILOs contains nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen, which contribute to harmful algal blooms which in turn can endanger drinking water quality. The resolution calls for all jurisdictions to expand efforts to reduce nutrient loss to surface and groundwater from CAFOs and for laws, regulations, and ordinances to be strengthened around protection for groundwater while allowing for responsible operations. Further, the resolution requests comprehensive monitoring of the performance of CAFO water pollution control systems and practices, and appropriate outreach to the agricultural community to provide information about proper construction and operation of CAFO water pollution control systems.	Council directed staff to continue to engage with provincial and federal levels of government on near shore water quality issues (PDS 24-2014). The agricultural sector in Niagara is highly regulated under different pieces of legislation and standards. Best management practices for farming are exercised throughout the region.	Shoreline and Watershed Management Water for Sustainable Growth and Development
Integrated Management of the St. Lawrence River	Included in the St. Lawrence Action Plan, is a participatory governance system in the form of the <i>Regional Roundtables</i> . The 6 Regional Roundtables foster exchanges and collaboration between municipalities, industry, community services, First Nations and integrated water management organizations. Through the resolution the GLSLCI acknowledges the creation of the Regional Roundtables and recognizes its complementary relationship and the importance of a constructive partnership between these entities. The GLSLCI will communicate to its members the consensus positions emanating from the work of the Roundtables.		Water Pollution Prevention Shoreline and Watershed Management Water for Sustainable Growth and Development Water Resiliency

Resolutions	Brief Summary	Niagara Region Projects and/or Initiatives/Support	Niagara Water Strategy Goal Alignment
Sewers Overflow and Bypass Management	The majority of cities experience sewer overflow and bypass events. Climate change has increased the frequency and intensity of rainfall events, causing an increase in overflows. The GLSLCI will encourage cities to review their entire wastewater and drinking water infrastructure systems in order to provide an updated picture, identify technical solutions to reduce the quantity of untreated water released, and establish an action plan integrating predicted changes in rainfall patterns caused by climate change and with priority targets for improvement.	The Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Program has been in place since 2007 and is intended to facilitate shared funding with the area municipalities to help mitigate the impacts of wet weather events on municipal sanitary systems and the environment. The Region benefits from this program by removing flow from the wastewater systems which takes up existing capacity. As part of the program, municipalities are encouraged to revise their Pollution Prevention Control Plans every 5 years. In 2016, the Region has committed to cost sharing on thirty-two (32) projects in 10 of the 12 local municipalities.	Water Pollution Prevention Water Efficiency and Conservation

Resolutions	Brief Summary	Niagara Region Projects and/or Initiatives/Support	Niagara Water Strategy Goal Alignment
Opposing the Waukesha Water Diversion Application	<p>In 2005, the Governors of the states bordering the Great Lakes, along with the Premiers of Ontario and Quebec, signed the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact which banned new water diversions from the Basin except in communities located in counties straddling the water division line between the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin and other basins. The City of Waukesha has applied under the exception for a "Community within a Straddling County" to use water from Lake Michigan as its source of drinking water, to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. There are concerns with the Waukesha Application. The service area recommended contains parts of multiple communities which are not part of the City of Waukesha and which have not demonstrated a need for the water, amounting to a clear violation of the Compact. The impacts of the proposed return flow of water to Lake Michigan through the Root River will cause significant changes to the ecosystem and to the urban shores of the mouth of the River. Furthermore, the Regional Body review process is inadequate as it provided for only one public meeting, and that the hundreds of public comments against the Application were largely ignored during the Regional Body process and that the conditions for approval debated by the Regional Body and Compact Council will not be open to public comment. Therefore, the resolution calls for the Governors of the bordering states to reject the Waukesha Application.</p>	Policy 7.A.2.10 of the Regional Official Plan states that the Region shall oppose the transfer of water outside the Great Lakes Basin.	Shoreline and Watershed Management Water Resiliency
North Harbour Mercury Contamination in Thunder Bay	<p>A mercury contaminated site of approximately 350,000 cubic meters of organic sediment deposited over 90 years of mill operations persists in the North Harbour of Thunder Bay. In order to remediate these areas of concern a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was implemented which sought public input on the contamination and remediation efforts through their public advisory committee. RAP sent a letter in March 2016 to federal and provincial MPPs, with a response that this issue is still being discussed with no further indication of action. The GLSLCI calls for the Province and Federal Government to respond to inquiries in a timely matter and provide funding to mitigate the mercury contamination.</p>	The Niagara Region has been a key stakeholder in the Niagara River RAP process since its inception. The Region has participated in all stages of planning and implementation and has undertaken significant actions to address water quality concerns through the NWS.	Water Pollution Prevention



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

RESOLUTION 1 – 2016M

NUTRIENTS IN LAKE ERIE

WHEREAS, harmful algal blooms (HABs) resulting from excessive nutrient loadings to Lake Erie have a direct adverse impact on the Great Lakes aquatic ecosystem, drinking water, water quality, quality of life and economy including recreation, tourism, and property values; and

WHEREAS, if broad and swift action is not taken, HABs, exacerbated by nutrient pollution from human activity, climate change and invasive species, will continue to occur and threaten the health and vitality of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River system; and

WHEREAS, a HAB in the western basin of Lake Erie caused the Toledo drinking water utility to advise over 400,000 citizens not to drink the water for two days in August 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Toledo drinking water crisis brought to light the numerous challenges faced by cities with respect to HABs and water quality; and

WHEREAS, Canada and the United States have adopted targets for phosphorus reductions that would require a 40% reduction in targets based on 2008 levels; and

WHEREAS, at the same time, under the Western Lake Erie Collaborative, the states of Ohio and Michigan and the Province of Ontario have committed to 40% phosphorus reduction by 2025 with an aspirational target of 20% by 2020; and

WHEREAS, these jurisdictions are working together under the auspices of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Annex 4 subcommittee to help develop a binational strategy to meet these targets. This strategy will be further refined by each country in domestic action plans, due to be completed by 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) has partnered with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture to develop a farmland drainage strategy to reduce phosphorus loss in the Thames River basin, which will contribute to achieving the 40% target for Lake Erie; and



WHEREAS, the Cities Initiative is also working with the Michigan Agri-Business Association and the Michigan League of Conservation Voters in Michigan and Ohio EPA and the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership to forge a partnership to reduce phosphorus entering Lake Erie from those two states.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative calls on Canada and the United States (federal parties to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement) to commit to a 40% reduction in phosphorus entering the Western Basin of Lake Erie by 2025, the same deadline as the Western Lake Erie Collaborative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative calls on the federal parties, and the state and provincial jurisdictions, to develop, review, and approve domestic action plans and strategies for nutrient reductions as soon as possible, but no later than February 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governments of Canada and the United States, and the states of Michigan and Ohio, as well as the Province of Ontario, should provide technical and financial support for the Cities Initiative phosphorus reduction projects in Ontario, Michigan, and Ohio; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative calls on the federal parties to implement the measures included in the domestic action plans and strategies so that the necessary nutrient reductions will be achieved in a timely manner, so that fewer, smaller, and shorter HABs will be experienced in the future.

Signed this 15th day of June, 2016

Mitch Twolan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss



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

RESOLUTION 2 – 2016M

SAFE DRINKING WATER

WHEREAS, one of the most fundamental responsibilities of a local government is to provide clean, safe, affordable drinking water to its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system provides one of the most abundant and cleanest sources of surface and groundwater on earth for drinking water supply; and

WHEREAS, local governments have invested billions of dollars in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure over the years to ensure that the surface waters are protected and that drinking water is delivered to homes safely; and

WHEREAS, it has not been possible for all cities to keep up with infrastructure needs and one result has been less certainty around the integrity of the drinking water delivery system; and

WHEREAS, two major incidents recently in the Great Lakes region caused a great deal of concern and public disruption because of threats to the drinking water in communities, namely:

- In August of 2014, a massive algal bloom in the Western Lake Erie Basin led to the formation of the toxic microcystin, resulting in the City of Toledo advising over 450,000 of its customers not to drink or bath in the public water for close to a 72 hour period, requiring the Governor to call out the National Guard to help deliver water to residents; and
- Over the course of the summer and fall of 2015 in Flint, Michigan, there were elevated lead levels in the drinking water for many months after the State-appointed emergency manager directed that the water supply be changed from Lake Huron to the Flint River, without making the necessary changes for corrosion control; and

WHEREAS, a fundamental problem for most older cities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin is the number of lead service lines still in place between municipal water mains and homes; and

WHEREAS, responses to the compromised drinking water at the State and Federal level were not sufficient to deal with the magnitude of the crises presented; and



WHEREAS, one of the underlying problems that contributed to the crisis was the inadequacy of the lead and copper drinking water rule currently in force.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that providing safe, clean, affordable drinking water to residents is one of the most fundamental of responsibilities of local governments, and residents have a fundamental right to it; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that local governments have an obligation to determine whether or not there are problems with the quality of the water delivered to residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is committed to supporting its member cities to help identify whether they have a lead in drinking water problem, and if so, what measures could be taken to solve the problem; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to update and improve its lead and copper rule for drinking water on an expedited basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on state, provincial, and federal drinking water authorities to take immediate steps to improve implementation and enforcement of the laws designed to assure safe drinking water to all citizens; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will seek funding and other support from partners to help ensure that member cities receive the best possible assistance to deal with and solve this critically important problem.

Signed this 15th day of June, 2016

Mitch Twolan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss



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

RESOLUTION 3 – 2016M

CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, climate change presents one of the most significant challenges faced by the world at this time, and with cities containing over 50% of the population of the planet and being responsible for over 70% of the net greenhouse gas emissions, urban areas are experiencing some of the most serious consequences of climate change and bear a major responsibility for helping solve the problem; and

WHEREAS, the increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere of the earth in 2015 was the greatest ever recorded or estimated since the last ice age, 2015 was the hottest year ever recorded replacing 2014, and January and February of 2016 were the hottest ever recorded for those two months; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are one of the largest surface freshwater resources in the world, containing about 20% of the supply, providing drinking water for over 40 million people, and serving as an economic resource and a defining part of the culture for millions of Canadians and Americans who live in the basin; and

WHEREAS, the over 17 million people in the cities of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) are aware of the problems presented by climate change, and have experienced many of them directly in their own cities already; and

WHEREAS, the Cities Initiative has moved forward with efforts to adapt to challenges presented by extreme heat and cold, intense precipitation events and periods of drought, fluctuating lake levels, and much more; and

WHEREAS, the strains on infrastructure for drinking water, waste water, transportation, and other elements that are vital to the daily operations of a city have grown even more serious because of the impact of climate change; and

WHEREAS, a critically important part of dealing with climate change is to address the fundamental cause, which is the continuing increase of greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere; and



WHEREAS, many members of the Cities Initiative have moved forward with implementation of sustainability plans to adapt to climate change, make their infrastructure more resilient, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, an effective, global response to climate change presents great economic challenges and opportunities for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence industrial, transportation, and innovation core, the engines of the Canada/US-economy; and

WHEREAS, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence cities together possess a critical mass of knowledge, expertise and entrepreneurship to meet the challenge of the transition to a sustainable economy; and

WHEREAS, the Maritime Transportation System of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence is the longest deep-draft inland navigation system in the world, representing a unique sustainability asset to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region possesses tremendous wind, water, and solar resources to serve as a foundation for much more renewable energy generation; and

WHEREAS, the Compact of Mayors is a group of almost 500 cities from across the world, including 20 Cities Initiative members, who have committed to adaptation and mitigation measures, establishing inventories of greenhouse gas emissions, setting targets and timelines for reductions, and planning for and achieving adaptation measures and emission reductions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Cities Initiative commit their cities to be actively engaged on many fronts to become more resilient, more adapted, and more committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, all designed to become more sustainable cities and to contribute to a more livable planet for current and future generations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative as an organization and its individual members will be leaders in mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation to changes, and resilience of infrastructure and encourage and help other cities to adopt a similar agenda to reduce the impacts of climate change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative and its members will be leaders in seeking a variety of ways to finance climate change oriented investments through local, state, provincial, and federal sources, public/private partnerships, and other means of funding; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Cities Initiative members will encourage investments in their own communities and regions to help the development of innovative technology to advance adaptation, resilience, and reductions of greenhouse gas emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative will expand its best practices network through webinars, conferences, websites, social media, and other means to expand the knowledge of how to be more sustainable communities to help ensure a better future for all; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative will work toward having 50% of its members committed to the Compact of Mayors by the end of 2017, 75% by the end of 2018, and 100 % by the end of 2019.

Signed this 15th day of June, 2016

Mitch Twolan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss



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

RESOLUTION 4 – 2016M

ASIAN CARP

WHEREAS, aquatic invasive species have caused serious damage and continue to pose a major threat to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system; and

WHEREAS, over 180 aquatic invasive species have been introduced into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system over the years and have caused damage and imposed costs well over \$100 million annually; and

WHEREAS, many of those aquatic invasive species have migrated through the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) to the Mississippi River Watershed and some have reached all the way to the west coast of the United States; and

WHEREAS, one of the greatest threats ever from aquatic invasive species to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence is in the form of Asian carp, including silver (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), bighead (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*), black (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), and grass (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*), and have been migrating up the Mississippi, Illinois, Ohio, Wabash, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and other rivers over the past 40 years; and

WHEREAS, silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) have been found as close as 60 miles from Lake Michigan in the Illinois River, one bighead carp in Lake Calumet in Chicago, grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) in the Grand River in Ontario, and evidence of the presence of silver and bighead carp in the form of environmental DNA has been found in parts of the Great Lakes themselves, including near Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin and Sandusky, Ohio, as well as various parts of the Chicago Area Waterway System; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been operating an electric barrier for almost ten years, and has upgraded the barrier and added multiple barriers, which appears to have kept the Asian carp from getting closer to Lake Michigan, but which has certain weaknesses and operating problems that create a vulnerability for carp to pass through the area; and

WHEREAS, a variety of federal, state, local, private, non-profit, Canadian, and other groups have been operating as part of the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ACRCC) to implement many additional actions to stop the advance of Asian carp in the Illinois River; and



WHEREAS, the barrier provides little or no protection for the movement of virtually all invasive species in a downstream direction; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative completed a report in January 2012 demonstrating the feasibility of physical separation and restoring the natural divide between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed the Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) in January 2014 outlining eight alternative approaches to reducing the risk of invasive species moving between the two watersheds, and confirming that physical separation is the most effective alternative for reducing risk; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative have managed an Advisory Committee process for considering physical separation alternatives and related actions to deal with transportation, flood control, and water quality issues; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative secured \$200,000 in funding and two facilitators/mediators to manage the Advisory Committee process with the desire to reach a regional consensus by December 2015 on the best alternative to prevent the passage of aquatic invasive species between the two watersheds; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee reached consensus on August 31, 2015 on a letter to President Obama urging that funding be provided to the Army Corps of Engineers in their 2017 budget to complete the Brandon Road Feasibility Study to provide one way invasive species protection of the Great Lakes from the Mississippi River;

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee reached consensus on December 17, 2015 as reflected in a January 26, 2016 letter to President Obama urging funding for further study of controls at points on the CAWS to provide long term protection against the passage of invasive species in both directions between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River;

WHEREAS, even when a regional consensus is reached, the time to implement a long term solution is such that additional interim actions will be necessary to reduce the risk of Asian carp reaching the Great Lakes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative fully endorses the Advisory Committee process with facilitation and mediation to reach a regional consensus on a long term solution for preventing the



passage of aquatic invasive species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins through the CAWS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative fully endorses the concept of physical separation as the most effective way to stop the passage of aquatic invasive species in both directions through the CAWS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative supports solutions that maintain or improve water quality, flood control, and transportation in the CAWS and the area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative fully endorses the implementation of all necessary and appropriate short and mid-term interim actions to reduce the risk of Asian carp reaching Lake Michigan through the CAWS, while a long term solution is being sought and implemented, with special emphasis on steps at the Brandon Road lock and dam; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the ACRCC to complete and implement the Contingency Plan designed to deal with emergency situations where it appears there is a greater than usual threat of Asian Carp reaching the Great Lakes; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative asserts that time is of the essence to reach a regional consensus on a long term solution and that all possible efforts should be put forth to reach that goal as soon as possible, recognizing the urgency of the situation; furthermore, it is essential that the necessary short and mid-term actions to reduce the risk of Asian carp reaching Lake Michigan through the CAWS proceed on an expedited basis.

Signed this 15th day of June, 2016

Mitch Twolan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss



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

RESOLUTION 5 – 2016M

RADIOACTIVE WASTE

WHEREAS, the water resources of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin are precious public natural resources, shared by the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, the United States and Canada have, since 1909, worked to maintain and improve the water quality of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River through the Boundary Waters Treaty and water quality agreements; and

WHEREAS, over 40 million people in both Canada and the United States depend on the fresh water from the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence for drinking water; and

WHEREAS, Canada and the United States both rely heavily on electricity generated at nuclear power plants in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin; and

WHEREAS, these power plants have generated significant amounts of low, intermediate, and high level radioactive waste during their years of operations; and

WHEREAS, radioactive waste is highly toxic and can take tens of thousands of years to decompose to safe levels; and

WHEREAS, a release of radioactive waste into the Great Lakes could have lasting and severely adverse environmental, health, and economic impacts on the Great Lakes and the people who depend on them for their livelihood; and

WHEREAS, the only operating deep geologic repository for the permanent burial of nuclear waste in North America, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) located in Carlsbad, New Mexico, was shuttered in February 2014 (15 years into its operational phase) when a barrel containing radioactive waste exploded and nuclear waste containing plutonium blew through the WIPP ventilation system, traveling 2,150 feet to the surface contaminating 22 workers, and spreading small amounts of radioactive material into the environment; and



WHEREAS, Ontario Power Generation’s safety case presented WIPP as a deep geologic repository with a similar design and depth and with a sterling record of safety and as an example of the use of deep rock vaults for the safe disposal of low and intermediate level nuclear waste; and

WHEREAS, Ontario Power Generation proposed over ten years ago to build a permanent deep geological repository (DGR) for low and intermediate radioactive waste less than one mile from Lake Huron in Kincardine, Ontario, Canada; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative engaged in extensive dialogue over the merits and concerns about the DGR in 2013 and a delegation from the Board of Directors toured the site, as well; and

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2016, after considering the Joint Review Panel Environmental Assessment Report, the Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change requested that Ontario Power Generation provide to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency by April 18, 2016 a schedule for providing additional information on three aspects of the environmental assessment: alternate locations for the project, cumulative environmental effects of the project, and an updated list of mitigation commitments for each identified adverse effect under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (CEAA 2012).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) calls on Ontario Power Generation to address the three aspects of the environmental assessment addressed by Minister McKenna’s decision in a thorough and comprehensive manner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative calls on Ontario Power Generation to give great weight to the proximity of a potential DGR to any of the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River, or their tributaries in their deliberations, recognizing the value of staying as far away as possible from these water sources and the reduced risk of locating a deep geologic repository outside of the Great Lakes Basin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative encourages Ontario Power Generation to factor in the risks associated with transportation of existing and future stored, operational and decommissioning radioactive waste to any potential DGR location; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative calls on the governments of Canada and the United States to designate radionuclides as a chemical of mutual concern under Annex 3 of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, and take the steps contemplated under the Agreement once designated; and



BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative calls on Canada and the United States to cooperate in the process of evaluating the social acceptability of any proposed DGR location.

Signed this 15th day of June, 2016

Mitch Twolan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss



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

RESOLUTION 6 – 2016M

MICROBEADS AND MARINE DEBRIS

WHEREAS, microbeads and marine debris pose a threat to the short and long-term health of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region and the species within it; and

WHEREAS, many personal care products contain small plastic beads less than 5mm in size that separate during use and wind up going down the drain and leaving homes in the wastewater; and

WHEREAS, these microbeads do not decompose and most are so small they pass through wastewater treatment plants and are discharged to the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence, and other receiving waters; and

WHEREAS, the microbeads are a hazard to fish and wildlife in that they attract and have toxic chemicals adhere to them and appear as food; and

WHEREAS, once ingested, the toxic microbeads can cause health problems for the fish and wildlife, and for people who might ingest them; and

WHEREAS, there are natural substitutes for the microbeads available at this time, and many personal care products are already using them; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative commends the United States government for passing the “Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015,” which bans the production and distribution of products containing microbeads due to concerns about threats to the environment and water quality; and

WHEREAS, the Canadian federal government is pursuing the addition of microbeads to the list of toxic substances under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA); and

WHEREAS, non-biodegradable marine debris in sizes larger than 5mm is also present in large quantities in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River system; and



WHEREAS, the majority of such marine debris, including nurdles, found in the Great Lakes comes from human activity on the shores and beaches of each of the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, marine debris includes large items, such as industrial materials, fishing gear, and food containers, as well as smaller items, such as plastic wrappers and cigarette butts; and

WHEREAS, volunteers with non-governmental organizations collected over 20,000 kilograms of marine debris along only 1,500 of the 17,000 kilometers of Great Lakes shoreline in 2012; and

WHEREAS, marine debris threatens aquatic life, can be hazardous to shipping traffic, can reduce tourism revenues, and is a significant threat to the health and vitality of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the government of Canada to implement legislation banning the production and distribution of products containing microbeads as soon as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the government of Canada accelerate the CEPA microbeads regulatory process to conclude by Fall 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cities Initiative recognizes that in order to eliminate traces of microbeads in our water systems it will be necessary to address leave-on products, like creams and sunscreen, which can contain microbeads that are smaller than 0.05 mm; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the states, provinces, and federal governments of the United States and Canada develop coordinated marine debris reduction efforts to reduce and prevent the amount of marine debris in the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River system.

Signed this 15th day of June, 2016

Mitch Twolan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss



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

RESOLUTION 7 – 2016M

STANDARDIZED PIPELINE SAFETY INDICATORS

WHEREAS, cities and their citizens require greater transparency of information regarding energy pipelines and that information needs to be provided in ways that are helpful to citizens that want to better understand pipelines and increase pipeline safety; and

WHEREAS, differing jurisdictions (United States and Canadian federal, state, and provincial) often require different safety metrics and occasionally have different definitions for similar terms – all of which makes it very difficult for cities and the public to evaluate industry’s performance; and

WHEREAS, indicators are most meaningful to cities and citizens in order to align industry’s practices and reporting so the public has the information required to hold the industry to account; and

WHEREAS, because of heightened public interest in existing pipelines due to recent failures, proposals to build new pipelines, and associated issues such as climate change and hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”), the industry and regulators are struggling to understand their loss of social license, and have slowly come to recognize the need for greater transparency of accurate information.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) support the creation of standardized pipeline safety indicators as being compiled by the Pipeline Safety Trust, a non-profit organization in North American that focuses on improving pipeline safety from a public interest point of view; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative calls for accurate pipeline location mapping coupled with information on who owns the pipelines, in both countries, particularly for emergency situations; and



BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative calls for all regulators and pipeline operators to adopt a set of standardized indicators, along with working to produce all the data necessary to compile the indicators and make them easily available to the public.

Signed this 15th day of June, 2016

Mitch Twolan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss



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

RESOLUTION 8 – 2016M

ACTION ON PHRAGMITES IN THE GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE

Submitted by: Town of Collingwood, Ontario

WHEREAS, *Phragmites australis* (Phragmites) is an invasive perennial grass that continues to cause severe damage to coastal wetlands and beaches in areas around the Great Lakes ; and

WHEREAS, *Phragmites australis* grows and spreads rapidly, allowing the plant to invade new areas and grow into large monoculture stands in a short amount of time, and is an allelopathic plant that secretes toxins from its roots into the soil which impede the growth of neighboring plant species; and

WHEREAS, *Phragmites australis* results in loss of biodiversity and species richness, loss of habitat, changes in hydrology due to its high metabolic rate, changes in nutrient cycling as it is slow to decompose, an increased fire hazard due to the combustibility of its dead stalks, and can have an adverse impact on agriculture, particularly in drainage ditches; and

WHEREAS, invasive Phragmites has been identified as Canada’s worst invasive plant species by Agriculture and AgriFood Canada; and

WHEREAS, Phragmites occupy over 4,800 hectares of land around Lake St. Clair alone, while 212 hectares of Phragmites occupy land along the St. Lawrence River. The Georgian Bay Area is particularly affected by *Phragmites australis*, with hundreds of stands along the shorelines that threaten valuable wetland areas; and

WHEREAS, controlling invasive Phragmites before it becomes well established reduces environmental impacts, time, and costs; and

WHEREAS, the United States lacks coordinated Phragmites control standards among states and municipalities similar to those provided by Ontario’s Best Management Practices and Phragmites Working Group; and

WHEREAS, primary action on Phragmites in Quebec includes:

- Research on climate change and Phragmites conducted by the Phragmites Working Group at the University of Laval and the University of Montreal;



- Ordinances issued by the Ministry of Transportation that dictate Phragmites management practices in order to prevent seed dispersal via roadways; and

WHEREAS, according to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, best management practices for *Phragmites australis* include early detection, herbicide application, mowing, compressing or rolling, prescribed burning, and controlled flooding; and

WHEREAS, these best management practices are most effective when used in tandem as opposed to when used as stand-alone control measures; and

WHEREAS, herbicides containing surfactants are prohibited for use in aquatic environments in Canada, meaning that Canadians are not able to fully implement best management practices; and

WHEREAS, Phragmites spreads easily because of its large seedhead and is often found in drainage ditches or along highways as well as in wetland environments; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) has provided funding for fifty-four invasive Phragmites management projects on over 900,000 acres of land in the United States and is a vital resource for Phragmites management in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Cities Initiative commends the Ontario government for passing Bill 37: The Ontario Invasive Species Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) recognizes the need to implement best management practices; to continue public education to promote early detection of invasive Phragmites; and to continue to research best management practices for Phragmites, with the greatest emphasis on implementing best management practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative and its members call on the United States Congress to continue to support full funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act and its associated invasive Phragmites projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative and its members call on the Ontario Provincial Parliament to list invasive Phragmites as part of the Ontario Invasive Species Act and designate it as a noxious weed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian federal government take the appropriate regulatory measures to expedite and approve the use of herbicides in aquatic environments by the 2016 growing season as well as the use of aerial control measures; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ministries of Transportation work in coordination with local governments to ensure that roadside Phragmites management practices are consistent within communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cities Initiative and its members call on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and other relevant ministries to continue to support the Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative as well as provide funding to support: implementation of best management practices, further research, public education, and a harmonized provincial management strategy, with the greatest emphasis on funding for implementation of best management practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative and its members call on the Government of Quebec to act in the following ways:

- Utilize a preventative approach to Phragmites management
- Continue to pursue academic research in University settings on Phragmites dispersal and to make these findings available to Ontario and the United States;
- Facilitate the implementation of Best Management Practices through funding or other avenues, and use existing resources from Ontario and the United States when implementing Best Practices; and



BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative and its members call on the Ontario Ministry of Environment and the relevant agencies of Quebec, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York to clarify and further outline their best management practices into protocols that establish ‘due process’ in controlling invasive Phragmites, which would include but not be limited to:

- Increasing the promotion of existing public education materials, such as EDDsMapS, the Ontario Phragmites Best Management Practices Guide, the work of the Phragmites working groups in Ontario and at the University of Laval, and the Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative to promote early detection and identification of invasive Phragmites;
- Establishing clear criteria that would guide decisions on whether action is required to control Phragmites, for example, based on the ecological or health implications of not taking action;
- Assisting municipal and other local authorities with the implementation of best practices to control Phragmites.

Signed this 15th day of June, 2016

Mitch Twolan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss



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

RESOLUTION 9 – 2016M

CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS (CAFOs) IN THE
GREAT LAKES BASIN

Submitted by: City of Washburn, WI

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes contains 6 quadrillion gallons of fresh water; one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water; 95 percent of the U.S. supply; 84 percent of the surface water supply in North America; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes provides 56 billion gallons of water per day for municipal, agricultural, and industrial use; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes provides drinking water for 40 million people; and

WHEREAS, the International Joint Commission's (IJC) 2013 report, An Inventory of Nutrient Management Efforts in the Great Lakes, stated, "The regulatory regime for nonpoint sources is generally more complex...Consequently, there is a much larger emphasis on providing funding and technical assistance for voluntary stewardship actions. This approach can be effective but due to the complexity of the issue, it is difficult for these programs to be appropriately comprehensive in scope"; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (WQA) between the United States and Canada acknowledges the vital importance of the Great Lakes to the social and economic well-being of both countries, as well as the need to address the risks to human health posed by environmental degradation; and

WHEREAS, the IJC recommended governments in Canada and the United States collaborate to develop, maintain and share an inventory of effective management actions that are used to better retain nutrients and sediments on the land, especially in watersheds yielding high phosphorus loadings; and

WHEREAS, the Nutrient Management Act in Ontario can act as a model for action in other jurisdictions to manage materials that contain nutrients in a way that protects the environment and supports a sustainable future for agricultural operations and rural development; and



WHEREAS, the 2015 report, A Summary of the Next Twenty-Five Years: Final Report on an Enquiry for the Great Lakes Protection Fund, identified nutrients, harmful algal blooms (HABs), and agricultural nonpoint source pollution as emerging top priorities; and

WHEREAS, the number of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)/Intensive Livestock Operations (ILOs) has increased substantially in the Great Lakes - St Lawrence River basin in the past decade; and

WHEREAS, more unpredictable and heavier precipitation events due to climate change will increase the risk of manure runoff from CAFOs/ILOs; and

WHEREAS, agricultural (nonpoint) runoff from CAFOs/ILOs contains nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen, which contribute to harmful algal blooms (HABs); and

WHEREAS, in 2015, there were 11,607,507 CAFO animals (all species) in Western Lake Erie Watersheds (MI, OH, IN) alone that produced 690,803,414 gallons (liquid and solids); and

WHEREAS, a harmful algal bloom (HAB) in the western basin of Lake Erie caused the Toledo drinking water utility to advise over 400,000 citizens not to drink the water for two days in August 2014; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, seven people died and more than 2,300 became severely ill in Walkerton, Ontario when their drinking water was contaminated with E. coli 0157:H7. The source of this highly dangerous bacteria strain was cattle manure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all jurisdictions in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin need to expand their efforts to reduce nutrient loss to surface and groundwater from CAFOs because of the significant contributions of loadings that can come from them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to the extent that federal, state, provincial, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances can be strengthened to provide the necessary protections for surface and groundwater while allowing for responsible operations, such steps should be taken; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that monitoring the performance of CAFO water pollution control systems and practices needs to be comprehensive enough to provide assurance that the control systems are operating effectively; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate outreach to the agricultural community to provide information about proper construction and operation of CAFO



water pollution control systems needs to be conducted wherever needed and about access to financial aid to implement such control systems; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that recognition of exemplary operations of CAFO water pollution control systems should be provided to highlight the work of leaders in the agricultural community.

Signed this 15th day of June, 2016

Mitch Twolan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss



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

RESOLUTION 10 – 2016M

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER
Submitted by: City of Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, QC

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Action Plan 2011-2026 (SLAP) is entering its fifth year of existence; and

WHEREAS, included in the SLAP is a participatory governance system, based on the creation of Regional Roundtables (*Tables de concertation régionales*); and

WHEREAS, of now, six (6) Regional Roundtables have been officially constituted; and

WHEREAS, discussions and decisions of these Regional Roundtables foster exchanges and collaboration between municipalities, industry, community services, First Nations and integrated water management organizations (ZIP committees and watershed organizations); and

WHEREAS, many shoreline municipalities, holding roles and responsibilities in their land use planning, participate actively in the work of the Regional Roundtables; and

WHEREAS, the Quebec Maritime Strategy states that the active implication of municipalities as a key success factor for its new and ambitious strategy and that the Quebec government plans to foster dialogue between representatives from the maritime industry, municipalities and the population, by using the Regional Roundtables as a vehicle for this dialogue; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) and the Regional Roundtables have their set roles in the management of the St. Lawrence River.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative acknowledges the creation of the Regional Roundtables and that many Quebec municipalities are getting involved in the Regional Roundtables; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative recognizes its complementary relationship with the Regional Roundtables and the importance of a constructive partnership between these entities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative starts discussion among its member cities and other stakeholders to create a basin-wide discussion and consensus-building framework at the scale of the area covered by the St. Lawrence Action Plan, allowing for integrated management at a global level; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative communicates to its members, when appropriate, the consensus positions emanating from the work of the Regional Roundtables.

Signed this 15th day of June, 2016

Mitch Twolan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss



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

RESOLUTION 11 – 2016M

SEWERS OVERFLOW AND BYPASS MANAGEMENT

Submitted by: City of Montréal, QC

WHEREAS, water quality in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence is influenced by factors, including the performance of municipal wastewater and stormwater infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, not all municipal wastewater and stormwater collection system can contain 100% of sewage water at all times; and

WHEREAS, the majority of cities encounter sewer overflow and bypass events, depending on local characteristics and conditions of the infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, climate change has already increased frequency and intensity of rainfall events and this trend is anticipated to continue in the decades to come; and

WHEREAS, cross-connections between the wastewater and stormwater systems makes the problems of bypasses and overflows even more challenging.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) encourages cities to review their entire wastewater and drinking water infrastructure systems in order to provide an updated picture, identify technical solutions to reduce the quantity of untreated water released to the waterbodies, and establish an action plan integrating predicted changes in rainfall patterns caused by climate change and with priority targets for improvement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative encourage cities to combine their evaluation and action plan in a Sustainable Municipal Water Management Public Evaluation Report under the Cities Initiative's Green CiTTS program; and



BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that cities share their knowledge, notably regarding new technologies and green infrastructure, such as shoreline renaturalization, drainage plans, and surface treatments.

Signed this 15th day of June, 2016

Mitch Twolan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss



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

RESOLUTION 12 – 2016M

OPPOSING THE WAUKESHA WATER DIVERSION APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin represents approximately 20% of the world’s surface freshwater resource and supports the third largest economy in the world;

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2005, the Great Lakes Governors of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec signed the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (the “Agreement”), and the Governors endorsed the companion Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (the “Compact”), which was later approved by the United States Congress and signed by the President, banning new water diversions from the Basin except in communities located in counties straddling the water division line between the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin and other basins; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waukesha, WI, is located in Waukesha County, a county straddling the water division line; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waukesha has applied under the exception for a “Community within a Straddling County” to use water from Lake Michigan as its source of drinking water to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (the “Waukesha Application”); and

WHEREAS, the exception requires the diverted waters be used solely for the “Public Water Supply Purposes” of the specific “Community within a Straddling County” as defined in the Agreement and Compact; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has deemed the Waukesha Application approvable and forwarded it on January 7, 2016 to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body (Regional Body) and Compact Council for its consensus decision; and

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2016, the Regional Body reached agreement on a Declaration of Finding and a set of conditions for the Application to be approvable and that the Regional Body forwarded its recommendation to the Compact Council by a 9-0 vote, with one abstention; and



WHEREAS, all eight Great Lakes states must vote in favor of the Waukesha Application for it to go forward at a special meeting of the Compact Council on June 21, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Waukesha Application does not meet the terms of the Agreement nor the Compact, as there are significant questions about the necessity of the diversion to meet the drinking water quantity and quality needs of the City of Waukesha, among other concerns; and

WHEREAS, the service area recommended by the Regional Body to the Compact Council still contains parts of multiple communities which are not part of the City of Waukesha and which have not demonstrated a need for the water, amounting to a clear violation of the Compact; and

WHEREAS, this broader service area is not a “Community within a Straddling County” as defined and required by the exception in the Agreement and Compact; and

WHEREAS, the precedent-setting nature of the Waukesha Application is of great concern to the Mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of the proposed return flow of water to Lake Michigan through the Root River will cause significant changes to the ecosystem and to the urban shores of the mouth of the River; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Body review process is inadequate as it provided for only one public meeting held in the City of Waukesha, and that the hundreds of public comments against the Application were largely ignored during the Regional Body process and that the conditions for approval debated by the Regional Body and Compact Council will not be open to public comment; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Body is not providing sufficient public information to residents in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Body’s Declaration of Finding, sent on May 18, 2016, allowed for input from the eight US Great Lakes states, Ontario and Quebec, and that despite its non-binding nature, it will be key in the final Compact Council decision.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative reaffirm their commitment to the protection of our water resources by calling on the Governors of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, and their representatives on the Compact Council to reject the Waukesha Application, the Regional Body’s Declaration of Finding and the conditions for approval it contains; and



BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Mayors urge the Governors and Premiers of the Regional Body and Compact Council, consistent with good public policy, to ensure complete transparency and full public engagement through open meetings, webinars, websites and any other appropriate means of communication, for this application and any other in the future.

Signed this 15th day of June, 2016

Mitch Twolan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss



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

RESOLUTION 13 – 2016M

NORTH HARBOUR MERCURY CONTAMINATION IN THUNDER BAY

WHEREAS, a mercury contaminated site of about 350,000 cubic meters of organic sediment deposited over 90 years of mill operations persists in the North Harbour of Thunder Bay; and

WHEREAS, this sediment is subsequently contaminated with mercury in concentrations that range from 2 to 11 ppm at the surface of the sediment to 21 ppm at depth and ranging in thickness from 40 to 380 centimeters and covering an area of about 22 hectares; and

WHEREAS, in order to remediate these areas of concern the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was implemented which sought public input on the contamination and remediation efforts through their public advisory committee (PAC); and

WHEREAS, a study commissioned in 2014 to provide options for mitigating the mercury contamination in the North Harbour was carried and since the study no further progress has been made by provincial or federal governments, and

WHEREAS, the RAP sent a letter in March 2016 to federal and provincial MPPs, Chronicle Journal, and Port Authority with a response from the provincial and federal governments that this issue is still being discussed with no further indication of action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative calls on both Province of Ontario and Governments of Canada to move in a timely matter to respond to inquiries by the RAP; and



BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, seeing that the site is currently located on a federal water lot, that the Cities Initiative calls on both Province of Ontario and Governments of Canada to provide funding to mitigate the mercury contamination in the North Harbour and therefore delist Thunder Bay as an Area of Concern.

Signed this 15th day of June, 2016

Mitch Twolan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss



**{SPAM} Media Advisory - Breastfeeding Challenge 2016**

Niagara Region

to:

undisclosed-recipients;;

2016-09-26 09:36 AM

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Media Advisory

September 26, 2016

Breastfeeding Challenge 2016

NIAGARA REGION, Sept. 26, 2016 - This Canada wide event is a challenge to have the most children breastfeeding at the same time in a set area. Media is invited to attend the 10th annual Breastfeeding Challenge hosted by Breastfeeding Niagara and Niagara Region Public Health.

WHO: Families across Niagara who support breastfeeding

WHAT: The event includes prizes, displays, refreshments, circle time (led by the Ontario Early Years Centre), and the Breastfeeding Challenge latch-on at exactly 11 a.m.

WHERE: Pen Centre (Sears Court), 221 Glendale Ave., St. Catharines

WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016 at 11 a.m.

Registration and program start at 9:30 a.m.

This event celebrates breastfeeding and peer support while normalizing breastfeeding and breastfeeding in public. It is a chance for families to come together with a

common goal, while demonstrating to the community that breastfeeding is normal and should always be supported.

Parents can register online at www.breastfeedingniagara.ca or by calling the Parent Talk Line at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7555.

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