

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent

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

RESOLUTION 4 – 2007M

GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE BEACHES

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin recognize that lakes and rivers are a key part of the economic well-being and the quality of life for our communities;

WHEREAS, improving and protecting the quality of water is fundamental to maintaining healthy lakes, rivers, beaches and waterfronts;

WHEREAS, municipal officials are responsible for providing recreational opportunities and for protecting the public health of residents and visitors;

WHEREAS, *E. coli* bacteria levels are used across the Basin to indicate acceptable water quality conditions to protect the health of beach users;

WHEREAS, current standard laboratory procedures typically provide results 24 hours after sample collection and therefore are unable to provide “day of sampling” results;

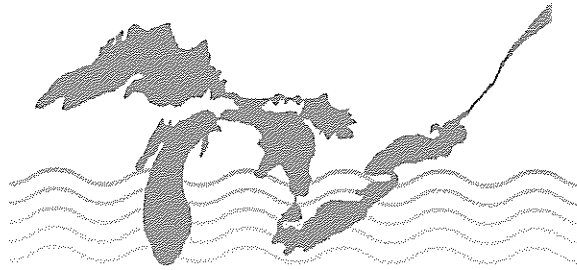
WHEREAS, water quality sampling protocols are not standardized across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin;

WHEREAS, the lack of a reliable water quality pathogen indicator and the untimely testing process may lead to unnecessary beach closures or beaches remaining open when they should be closed;

WHEREAS, recreational water quality criteria for the Great Lakes are in need of revision in both the United States and Canada;

WHEREAS, the BEACH Act 2000 required the United States EPA to complete studies within three years of enactment to assess pathogens in recreational water and publish new or revised water quality criteria five years after enactment; EPA did not do this and a federal district court has found EPA in violation of the BEACH Act and has required them to complete reporting and adopt revised criteria;

WHEREAS, the United States EPA has not established a time line for completing revised water quality criteria for pathogen indicators required by the BEACH



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Act; the Canadian federal government water safety guidelines are in the process of revision without a set timeframe for release;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration has developed and is piloting a sanitary survey tool that allows cities and municipalities to understand and address the sources of beach contamination;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the federal, state, provincial and local governments across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin as well as research and academic institutions and public health agencies in the United States and Canada to work together to:

1. Establish and implement a common and safe *E. coli* standard or other indicator for application at all Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin beaches;
2. Standardize water quality sampling protocols and beach posting protocols;
3. Develop and standardize accurate and timely rapid bio-detection methods to assess beach water quality conditions on the day of sampling; and
4. Identify effective beach management programs that will improve recreational water quality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will investigate the use of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Sanitary Survey tool by member cities so that they may become knowledgeable about the sources of contamination at their beaches and explore remediation efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the implementation of the above program will occur alongside efforts to encourage the United States EPA, Canadian government, provincial and state governments to adopt appropriate recreational water quality criteria and standards.

Signed this 12th day of July, 2007



Gary Becker, Chair

Mayor of Racine

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative