

RESOLUTION # 10

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

ST CLAIR RIVER CHANNEL EROSION ISSUE AND ITS INFLUENCE  
ON LEVELS OF LAKES HURON AND MICHIGAN

Presented by **Peter Ketchum**, Reeve Township of The Archipelago, Ontario

**WHEREAS** Lakes Superior, Erie, and Ontario have mechanisms in place to control water levels, while Lakes Huron/Michigan/Georgian Bay (the Middle Lakes) have none; and

**WHEREAS** research by an internationally respected group of scientists has recently shown that much more than the historically natural flow of water is leaving Lake Huron through the St. Clair River; and

**WHEREAS** this research has also shown that the major causes of the excessive flow are anthropogenic; namely, dredging in the St. Clair River, shoreline alterations of Lake Huron near the entrance of said river, and the creation of a new channel—thereby eliminating a natural sand and gravel barrier; and

**WHEREAS** the increased speed of this water flow continues to scour the river bed, thereby constantly increasing the rate of flow, and is resulting in a permanent diversion from the Middle Lakes of 845 million gallons per day; and

**WHEREAS** there are already negative economic impacts, and the ultimate result of this water loss and lowering of lake levels will be disastrous for the shipping industry in the Middle Lakes and for the viability of tourist-related operations; and

**WHEREAS** the negative ecological impacts manifested in disappearing wetlands are already seriously reducing the spawning grounds of several game fish; and

**WHEREAS** the International Joint Commission (IJC) and key U.S. politicians have already made important recommendations for actions to mitigate this problem;

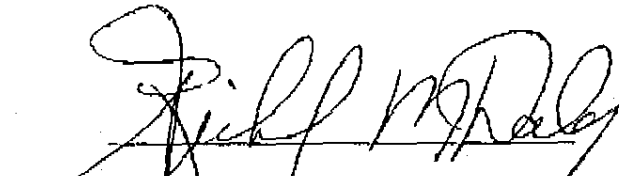
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative endorse the IJC recommendation for a new Phase 1 that will include the St Clair River Study in the Upper Great Lakes Plan of Study. This study will include an examination of the St Clair River Channel erosion issue and its influence on water levels of Lake Huron and Michigan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative support the US Congress Draft 2005 U.S. Water Resources Development Act Amendment that calls for the immediate funding of 2.5 million dollars to be dedicated to carrying out the St Clair River Study in Phase 1 as recommended by the IJC; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will advocate the Government of Canada to commit, immediately, the funds necessary for the inclusion of the St Clair River Study in Phase 1 as recommended by the IJC; and

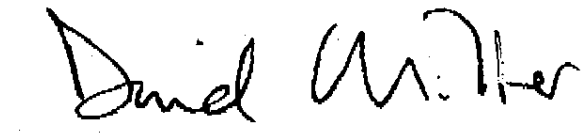
**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urge that both Governments accept the Upper Great Lakes Plan of Study—Phase 1, in the spirit of the Boundary Waters Treaty, and urge further that both Governments understand their obligations to provide the necessary funds to move forward quickly on the Best Mitigation Determination Recommendations.

Signed this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2005, in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.



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Chairman  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities  
Initiative



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Vice Chairman  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities  
Initiative