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 I 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 I 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 I, 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 26th day of May, 2005, in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.

Chairman
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Vice Chairman
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative