



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

RESOLUTION 2 – 2009M

A NEW APPROACH TO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Signed this 18th day of June, 2009

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