



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

RESOLUTION 4 – 2011M

CHICAGO AREA WATERWAY SYSTEM 21ST CENTURY-
STOPPING ASIAN CARP AND OTHER INVASIVE SPECIES

WHEREAS, Over 180 invasive species are already in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence and are doing extensive damage to the ecosystem and the economy; and

WHEREAS, threats of more introductions are present and will continue in the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, one of the greatest threats is the Asian carp, which has migrated through the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers and is approaching Lake Michigan; and

WHEREAS, one of the most significant pathways for the Asian Carp and other invasive species is the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS); and

WHEREAS, CAWS was created over 100 years ago to reverse the flow of the Chicago River in order to carry treated wastewater away from Lake Michigan, and also to enhance transportation and improve flood control in the region; and

WHEREAS, much has changed in those 100 years, and there is currently an opportunity to develop ways to bring CAWS into the 21st century in a way that can stop the passage of invasive species in both directions, and at the same time improve water quality, transportation, and flood control; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) together with the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) is leading an expedited project to develop options for bringing about such improvements to CAWS.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative gives its full support to this work to develop options for CAWS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative fully supports the efforts of state, provincial, and Federal governments to keep the Asian carp out of the Great Lakes in the short and mid-term while long term solutions are being developed; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative and the GLC will work cooperatively with the full range of stakeholders in this project, especially with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (US ACE) and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD); and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative encourages US ACE and MWRD to cooperate fully with the Cities Initiative and GLC to share information and to make maximum use of the work done by the Cities Initiative and GLC in the CAWS 21 project so that a permanent solution can be found and implemented to prevent the passage of invasive species through this waterway and to bring about the needed improvements in water quality, transportation, and flood control.

Signed this 16th day of June, 2011

Brian McMullan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of St. Catharines