



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

RESOLUTION 9 – 2011M

WATER SUMMIT

Submitted by the City of Racine

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are a unique and fragile ecosystem that holds almost 20 % of the surface fresh water in the world; and

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River directly support more than 1.5 million jobs and generate more than \$62 billion in US wages alone as well as provide drinking water for approximately 40 million U.S. and Canadian cities; and

WHEREAS, the resource faces a wide variety of threats, including toxic pollution, invasive species, storm water runoff, combined sewer overflows, habitat destruction, spills, and many others; and

WHEREAS, storm water runoff and combined sewer overflows present especially difficult mitigation challenges due to the financial costs associated with engineered and soft path control measures and the uncertainty in predicting the necessary capacity and success of these control measures due to effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, mayors and their cities are the front line of defense in preventing these pollution sources from adversely impacting the quantity and quality of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River water resources; and

WHEREAS, many science-based engineered and best management approaches have been developed in recent years to address the adverse the impacts of stormwater runoff and combined sewer overflows in cities across the region; and

WHEREAS, much of this expertise resides within the university and professional communities and are available resources to assist municipalities in these efforts; and

WHEREAS, The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread has previously brought together national and international experts to strategize on the most practical and timely solutions to these problems; and



WHEREAS, a Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Summit, hosted by the Mowat Centre and the Brookings Institution will be held this summer (2011) and will aim to identify ways to collaborate across the border and ensure prosperity and sustainability in the region; and the outcomes from this summit can help inform discussions at future Great Lakes-St. Lawrence summits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative work with the City of Racine, The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread, other member cities, and external academic and professional organizations interested in participating to plan and carry out a summit to find meaningful solutions to water issues such as, storm water runoff and combined sewer overflow management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this summit be held at a to be determined date during the fall of 2011 at The Johnson Foundation facilities located at Wingspread near Racine, Wisconsin; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this summit be expressly designed for mayors and their senior technical staff as a problem solving venue where all participants would leave with new and better ideas on the management of combined sewer overflows and stormwater runoff.

Signed this 16th day of June, 2011

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