



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

Resolution 2 - 2012M

Sediment Management

Submitted by: Municipality of Chatham-Kent

WHEREAS, sediment management, including shoreline dredging and drainage on agricultural and other lands, is of major importance to shoreline and agricultural communities along the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence; and

WHEREAS, municipalities recognize the importance of protecting endangered species and aquatic habitat, particularly for spawning and juvenile stage aquatic species development; and

WHEREAS, in both Canada and the United States, multiple agencies, pieces of legislation and approvals are involved in the protection of endangered species, including, in Canada, the Canadian *Species At Risk Act*, the Canadian *Fisheries Act*, the Ontario *Endangered Species Act*, the Quebec *Loi sur les espèces menacées ou vulnérables*; and in the United States the federal *Endangered Species Act*, for which each State may identify further needs for Endangered Species Protection through specific State legislation; and

WHEREAS, the application of multiple pieces of legislation, required approvals and in some cases special studies on local sediment management and drainage projects complicates local Municipalities' ability to conduct business and adds considerable cost and delay; and

WHEREAS, front line staff in these oversight authorities are often under-resourced, and are not able to keep pace with reviewing and approving projects, resulting in significant backlogs in processing applications, long delays and poor communication with local municipal staff; and

WHEREAS, these delays can have the effect of missing the timing window for works that must be undertaken in the spring and summer months, for example important drainage works before agricultural crops are planted and protective measures to protect shorelines during the summer; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of federal and provincial and state authorities to properly resource their frontline staff who are responsible for processing applications for dredging and drainage works in order to both protect aquatic habitat and endangered species and best serve their rural municipal and agricultural clients; and



WHEREAS, the Cities Initiative is aware that the Canadian Federal Government has recently made changes to the Canadian Fisheries Act which are intended to address federal-provincial duplication as it relates to approvals under the Act, to streamline requirements under the Act for small local projects such as agricultural drainage works;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Cities Initiative call on the Federal, Provincial, State and other relevant regional conservation authorities in Canada and the US to conduct a review of the efficacy of their sediment management and drainage review and approvals process, including determining the appropriate level of resourcing required for front line staff to best serve their client base; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the members of the Cities Initiative request that where overlapping pieces of legislation and approvals exist, that these overlapping authorities jointly conduct a review with a view to improving coordination and streamlining their requirements of their municipal and agricultural clients, for example through a one-window approach to sediment management approvals.

Signed this 27th day of June, 2012

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