



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

**RESOLUTION 02 – 2014M**

**ASIAN CARP**

**WHEREAS**, aquatic invasive species have caused serious damage and continue to pose a major threat to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence; and

**WHEREAS**, over 180 aquatic invasive species have been introduced into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence over the years and have caused damage and imposed costs well over \$100 million annually; and

**WHEREAS**, many of those aquatic invasive species have migrated through the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) to the Mississippi River Watershed and some have reached all the way to the west coast of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the greatest threats ever from aquatic invasive species to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence in the form of Asian carp, including silver (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), bighead (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*), black (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), and grass (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*), have been migrating up the Mississippi, Illinois, Ohio, Wabash, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and other rivers over the past 40 years; and

**WHEREAS**, silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) have been found as close as 60 miles from Lake Michigan in the Illinois River, and grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) have been found in the Grand River in Ontario; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have been operating an electric barrier for almost ten years, and have upgraded the barrier, which appears to have kept the Asian Carp from getting closer to Lake Michigan, but which has certain weaknesses that create a vulnerability for carp to pass through the area; and

**WHEREAS**, a variety of federal, state, local, private, non-profit, Canadian, and other groups have been operating as part of the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee to implement many additional actions to stop the advance of Asian carp in the Illinois River; and

**WHEREAS**, the barrier provides little or no protection for the movement of virtually all invasive species in a downstream direction; and



**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative completed a report in January 2012 demonstrating the feasibility of physical separation and restoring the natural divide between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed the Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) in January 2014 outlining eight alternative approaches to reducing the risk of invasive species moving between the two watersheds, and confirming that physical separation is the most effective alternative for reducing risk; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative have managed an advisory committee process for considering physical separation alternatives and related actions to deal with transportation, flood control, and water quality issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative have secured \$200,000 in funding to retain a facilitator/mediator to manage the continued discussion with the desire to reach a regional consensus on the best alternative to stop the passage of aquatic invasive species between the two watersheds; and

**WHEREAS**, even when a regional consensus is reached, the time to implement a long term solution is such that additional interim actions will be necessary to reduce the risk of Asian carp reaching the Great Lakes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative fully endorses the Advisory Committee process with facilitation and mediation to reach a regional consensus on a long term solution for stopping the passage of aquatic invasive species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins through the CAWS; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative fully endorses the concept of physical separation as the most effective way to stop the passage of aquatic invasive species in both directions through the CAWS; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative fully endorses the implementation of short and mid-term interim actions to reduce the risk of Asian carp reaching Lake Michigan through the CAWS, while a long term solution is being sought, with special emphasis on steps at the Brandon Road lock and dam; and



**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative asserts that time is of the essence to reach a regional consensus and that December 15, 2015 should be the outside date for accomplishing that goal; furthermore, it is expected that the necessary short and mid-term actions to reduce the risk of Asian carp reaching Lake Michigan through the CAWS will be implemented much sooner.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Keith P. Hobbs'.

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Keith Hobbs, Chair  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Mayor of Thunder Bay