



BACKGROUND

Mayors Oppose Waukesha Water Diversion

Heads of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities also commit to collective greenhouse gas reductions

Waukesha Water Diversion Application

Mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative confirmed their opposition to the City of Waukesha's application to divert water out of the Great Lakes Basin, as they gathered in Niagara Falls, NY for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative's annual meeting and conference, June 15-17, 2016.

The Cities Initiative has opposed the application for water diversion based on four key elements:

1. The water service area in the application goes beyond the Waukesha city limits, into the Town of Waukesha. The Town of Waukesha is not part of the application.
2. There are reasonable alternatives for Waukesha to provide safe drinking water to its residents – accessing Lake Michigan water should be the last resort. A viable alternative is to treat the radium in the groundwater supply.
3. There are significant questions about the impact of the return flow to the Root River that runs through downtown Racine.
4. We have concerns over the Regional Body and Compact Council's Application review process, namely creating conditions in an anticipated approval to correct deficiencies in the application, without any opportunity for public comment and with significant questions about the enforceability of the conditions.

The Cities Initiative has been an active voice in this progression, upholding the Compact and Agreement framework and process and recognizing the precedent-setting nature of this first diversion application. Since the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) sent the Application to the Regional Body and Compact Council for region-wide review in January 2016, the Cities Initiative testified at hearings in Waukesha on August 17, 2015 and February 18, 2016, passed a Board resolution on February 11, 2016, and issued numerous press releases reiterating our concerns with the Application. The Cities Initiative was disappointed the WI DNR moved the Application forward to begin with and has encouraged the governors to reject the application based on the issues listed above.

20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 2700, Chicago, Illinois 60606 ~ (312) 201-4516 phone ~ (312) 407-0038 fax
www.glslcities.org / @GLSLCities

Denis Coderre, Mayor of Montréal, Chair

Paul Dyster, Mayor of Niagara Falls, New York, Vice-Chair

Sandra Cooper, Mayor of Collingwood, Secretary-Treasurer



Great Lakes Compact and Agreement Background

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Sustainable Water Resources Compact (Compact and Agreement) provide guidance on how the states and provinces will manage and protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. The Agreement was signed in 2005 by the governors of the eight Great Lakes states and the premiers of Ontario and Quebec. The Compact was ratified by the eight governors and became state and federal law in 2008, and is the means by which the United States implements the Agreement.

The Compact and Agreement represent an international, multi-stakeholder, multi-orders of government effort to protect and sustainably manage the waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. To learn more about it and read the Compact and Agreement, please visit <http://www.cglslgp.org/projects/water-management/great-lakes-agreement-and-compact/>.

Waukesha Diversion

The City of Waukesha, Wisconsin has requested a diversion of water from the Great Lakes to the City. The City of Waukesha is located entirely outside the Great Lakes basin, but lies within a county that straddles the boundary of the Great Lakes basin, which allows the City to make the request. After review by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the application would require consensus approval by the Governors of the eight Great Lakes states. All eight governors must approve the application unanimously for it to go forward.

After a multi-year review process by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the City of Waukesha's request for a diversion of water from Lake Michigan as a source of drinking water was forwarded to the Regional Body and Compact Council for region-wide review in January 2016. This request started a review process that is governed by the Compact and Agreement. It is anticipated the Council will meet on June 21, 2016 to make a final decision about the application. To learn more specific to the Waukesha Water Diversion Application, please visit <http://www.waukeshadiversion.org/>.

Resources

To read the Cities Initiative testimony from hearings, position statements, press releases, resolution and more on the Waukesha Water Diversion Application, please visit <http://glslicities.org/initiatives/basin-management/compact-and-agreement/>.

20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 2700, Chicago, Illinois 60606 ~ (312) 201-4516 phone ~ (312) 407-0038 fax
www.glslicities.org / @GLSLCities

Denis Coderre, Mayor of Montréal, Chair

Paul Dyster, Mayor of Niagara Falls, New York, Vice-Chair

Sandra Cooper, Mayor of Collingwood, Secretary-Treasurer



United Nations' Compact of Mayors

The Cities Initiative has partnered with the [Compact of Mayors](#), an organization launched by the United Nations and working to standardize greenhouse gas monitoring and reduction efforts at the municipal level around the world. Through this partnership, Cities Initiative Mayors will be leading efforts to assist Great Lakes and St. Lawrence communities in mitigating climate change and reducing greenhouse gases at the local level. The Cities Initiative membership is also committed to collectively reducing 30 million tons of equivalent CO₂ by 2020, the equivalent of taking 6 million cars off the road for a year.

As of June 2016, 20 Cities Initiative member cities, representing almost 10 million people in the region, have committed to the Compact of Mayors. These cities are:

- Ontario: Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor, Thunder Bay, Chatham-Kent, Durham Region, St. Catharines
- Quebec: Montreal, Sorel-Tracy, Salaberry-de-Valleyfield
- Wisconsin: Ashland, Milwaukee, Racine
- Illinois: Evanston, Chicago
- Michigan: Grand Rapids, South Haven, Muskegon
- New York: Rochester, Niagara Falls

Over the next few months, the Cities Initiative will be launching efforts to help cities meet the requirements and milestones set forth by the Compact.

Details of Compact of Mayors

The Compact of Mayors is a global coalition of mayors and city officials committing to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions, enhance resilience to climate change and track their progress publicly. Participating cities must meet a set of requirements within three years of committing to the Compact. These requirements include: 1. establishing a GHG inventory for their municipality; 2. setting reduction targets and establishing a system of measurement; and 3. creating an action plan.

To date, 507 cities globally, representing 432,062,851 people, have committed to the Compact. To learn more about the Compact of Mayors, please visit <http://www.compactofmayors.org/>.

20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 2700, Chicago, Illinois 60606 ~ (312) 201-4516 phone ~ (312) 407-0038 fax
www.glslcities.org / @GLSLCities

Denis Coderre, Mayor of Montréal, Chair

Paul Dyster, Mayor of Niagara Falls, New York, Vice-Chair

Sandra Cooper, Mayor of Collingwood, Secretary-Treasurer



Nutrients

Also at the conference, the Cities Initiative board of directors approved a collaborative strategy to reduce phosphorus entering the Thames River through improvements to farmland water management and drainage. The Thames River has been identified as a primary source of phosphorus entering Lake Erie from the Canadian side. The Canadian and US Governments have agreed to reduce phosphorus entering Lake Erie by 40 %. Through a partnership with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the input from over forty agricultural, conservation, NGO, First Nation, drainage and municipal representatives, the water management and drainage collaborative strategy has been developed to reduce the transportation of phosphorus off farmland, particularly during sudden snow melts and severe storms. The strategy will be considered by the board of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture on June 21st.

About the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a binational coalition of 123 mayors and other local officials that works actively with federal, state, provincial, tribal, and first nation governments and other stakeholders to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

To see our membership, please visit <http://glslcities.org/about-the-great-lakes-and-st-lawrence-cities-initiative/member-cities/>.

To see our initiatives and areas of work, please visit <http://glslcities.org/initiatives/>.

To see proceedings from the 2016 Annual Meeting, including approved resolutions, please visit <http://glslcities.org/events/annual-meeting/>.

For more information, please visit <http://glslcities.org/>.

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/GLSLcities>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GLSLcities>

Press Contacts:

David Ullrich, Executive Director

O: (312) 201-4516

C: (312) 480-6501

david.ullrich@glslcities.org

Nicola Crawhall

Deputy Director

C: (416) 407-5880

Nicola.crawhall@rogers.com

Scott McKay

Program Manager (Québec)

C: (514) 618-0297

scott.mckay@glslcities.org

20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 2700, Chicago, Illinois 60606 ~ (312) 201-4516 phone ~ (312) 407-0038 fax
www.glslcities.org / @GLSLCities

Denis Coderre, Mayor of Montréal, Chair

Paul Dyster, Mayor of Niagara Falls, New York, Vice-Chair

Sandra Cooper, Mayor of Collingwood, Secretary-Treasurer