



Making Waves

Membership Edition

March 3rd, 2016

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Cities Initiative Testifies at Waukesha Diversion Application Hearing

On February 18, 2016, Mayor Tom Barrett of Milwaukee and Mayor John Dickert of Racine testified at the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Regional Body public hearings on the Waukesha water diversion application on behalf of their respective cities. Simon Belisle also presented the organization's position on the application. The Cities Initiative invites all of its members to submit written comments to the Regional Body by March 14 at <http://www.waukeshadiversion.org/comments/>. We will submit a written version of our comments along with resolutions passed by

our member cities. We also encourage all of our cities to use the template letter to your premier or governor we sent over the last days to inform your state or provincial government of our position on the application. Our position remains that the Waukesha application does not respect the terms of the Compact and Agreement on the definition of a community within a straddling county, the presence of a reasonable alternative and the potential impacts to the Root River. The state of Minnesota will hold its own public session regarding the application in Duluth on March 3rd. More information at:

<http://www.mepartnership.org/event/you-are-invited-to-protect-lake-superior/>. Follow our Twitter account @GLSLCities for the latest updates.

[Click here to read the full resolution.](#)

Cities Initiative to sit on new Great Lakes Guardian Council

The Cities Initiative will represent municipal interests on a newly created provincial Great Lakes Guardian Council. Mayor Mitch Twolan, chair of the Cities Initiative has been appointed to the Council, which will hold its first meeting on March 22. The Great Lakes Guardians' Council is a forum to improve collaboration and coordination among Ontario's Great Lakes partners. The Council's role is to help identify priorities for actions, potential funding measures and partnerships, and share ideas. The Council will bring together First Nations, Métis, industry, development, tourism, environmental organizations, agriculture, conservation authorities and municipalities, as well as Ontario's Great Lakes Ministers.

Cities Initiative and Ontario Federation of Agriculture sign Memorandum of Cooperation to reduce phosphorus entering Thames River, Lake Erie

The Cities Initiative and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture have entered into a partnership, as outlined in a recently signed Memorandum of Cooperation, to reduce phosphorus loss from farmland in the Thames River basin. The Cities Initiative and OFA will develop a farmland water management and drainage

strategy for phosphorus loss reduction into the Thames River with key agricultural, government, First Nations and drainage stakeholders. It is anticipated that the strategy will be developed by the end of this June, and implementation will begin in September 2016. The objective of the strategy is to contribute to the binational targets to reduce phosphorus entering the Thames River and Lake Erie. For more information, please go to www.glslcities.org/initiatives/nutrients.

Microbeads in Canada: Cities Initiative supports proposed regulations

The Canadian Ministry of Environment and Climate Change is currently accepting written comments on its proposed regulations regarding the sale and distribution of plastic microbeads. The Cities Initiative has submitted comments that support Canada's regulations, which are harmonized with the standards set forward in the U.S. Microbead-Free Waters Act. [Click here](#) for more information on the comment period and the proposed rule

Reminder: Submit Resolutions by March 16th

Each year, the Cities Initiative membership passes resolutions on key issues in the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence region. These resolutions carry significant weight with other orders of government and with the public, and they guide the Cities Initiative's decisions throughout the year. [Click here to access the resolutions template, view guidelines about the process, and see examples of past resolutions](#). Please submit resolutions to Simon Belisle (simon.belisle@glslcities.org) by March 16, 2016.

Cities Initiative Represented at Canada Days in Missouri

As part of the Canadian Consulate in Chicago's Canada Days at the University of Missouri, Simon Belisle represented the Cities Initiative to raise students' awareness of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and the international collaboration in their management. The events took place between February 29 and March 3 at the main campus of the university, in Columbia, MO. Consul General Roy Norton also addressed the students to discuss

US-Canada collaboration. Thanks to the Canadian Studies Center at the University of Missouri and the Consulate General of Canada in Chicago for organizing the event.

National Academy of Sciences Evaluates Dilbit Spill Risk

In response to oil companies treating diluted bitumen (dilbit) as regular crude oil in their transportation plans, the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) asked the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to study the effect of a dilbit spill. In its report, the NAS states clearly that dilbit presents particular challenges during a spill, especially its capacity to sink to the bottom of a water body rapidly. The NAS recommends modifications to spill response plans. Related to this report, TransCanada has treated dilbit like regular oil in its evaluation of spill impacts regarding the Energy East project, using ideal weather conditions for its spill evaluation. For more information on the report, [click here](#) (PDF version is free).

2016 Annual Meeting: Save the Date!

The 2016 Annual Meeting will take place June 15-17 in Niagara Falls, NY. Registration details will be announced soon. Come and enjoy the natural wonders of the area and hear about best practices and solutions to make our region better. We look forward to seeing many of you in June!

Aquahacking 2016 Summit Looks for New Ideas in Water Preservation

On February 2nd, the De Gaspé Beaubien Foundation announced that Montreal would host the 2016 AquaHacking Summit, in October, under the theme "United for the St. Lawrence". The Summit will be made up of a conference and a hackathon.

The AquaHacking hackathon brings together young digital designers, technology experts, and water experts in order to develop applications (web or mobile) to solve water-related issues. Prizes up to \$50,000 will be awarded, along with year-long mentoring by IBM and ÉTS.

The Cities Initiative is a partner with AquaHacking 2016 through Scott McKay, member of the strategic committee put together by the De Gaspé Beaubien Foundation. The City of Montreal is also a partner and Borough Mayor Chantal Rouleau spoke at the launch of the event. Cities Initiative members and their citizens are invited to send their ideas and St. Lawrence-related issues to be

included in the event at: <http://2016.aquahacking.com/en/>.

Kathryn Spirit Abandoned Ship : Creation of a Workgroup

On February 2nd, Beauharnois Mayor Claude Haineault met with Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre and representatives from Transport Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard, the Montreal Metropolitan Community and other City of Beauharnois officials to create a workgroup to find a solution to remove the abandoned ship, the Kathryn Spirit, from St. Lawrence River waters. Mayor Coderre, as chair of the Montreal Metropolitan Community, discussed the issue with Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Hunter Tootoo and Minister of Transport Marc Garneau later that week. Mayor Haineault was pleased that a workgroup was created, hoping to solve this issue without harming the ecosystem or drinking water intakes downstream. The Cities Initiative supported Mayor Haineault in his work with the federal authorities.

Resource Highlight: City of St. Catharines releases strategic plan

The City of St. Catharines, Ontario has released bold plans to create a sustainable city for all of its residents. Said Mayor Walter Sendzik, "Cities are vital partners to help build modern infrastructure and address climate change. Our plan is built with a lens of sustainability, focusing on the four pillars of sustainable development: economic, social, cultural and environmental." View the St. Catharines strategic plan here <http://www.stcatharines.ca/en/governin/2015-2025-Strategic-Plan.asp>.

Events and Webinars

Crude Move: Webinar Series Oil Transportation in the Great Lakes Region	Thursday, March 3rd. 12pm Central/1pm Eastern. Click here to register.
Phragmites Workshops with Georgian Bay Forever	Toronto: Saturday, April 16th. 9:30 - 2:30 Eastern.

Free in-person workshops on Phragmites management and training community Phragmites managers in Collingwood and Toronto	Collingwood: Thursday, April 21st. 9:30 - 2:30 Eastern. Click here to register
Water Resilient Cities Conference Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University Sharing practices from cities adapting to climate change across all sectors	April 21-22nd Cleveland State University, Ohio Click to learn more and register

Funding Opportunities: U.S. and Canada

Great Lakes Fishery Trust (U.S.): Funding for programs under its Ecosystem Health and Sustainable Fish Populations: Habitat Protection and Restoration grant areas	Submissions under current RFP due March 8, 2016 Visit www.glft.org .
Ontario Community Environment Fund (Canada): Past grants have funded habitat restoration work, Great Lakes invasive species prevention programs, air quality improvements, and municipal climate change programs.	Proposals due March 31, 2016 Visit https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-community-environment-fund for more information.
Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program (U.S.): Grants focusing on reducing phosphorus to the Great Lakes.	Proposals due March 31, 2016 Visit http://keepingitontheland.net/apply-for-funding/ for more information.

Membership

Please join the 121 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members in protecting and restoring the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River by clicking [here](#) for a membership application. If you are already a member, please encourage your neighboring communities to join, and be sure to renew

your membership when you receive your notice.

If your municipality would like to share news with the Cities Initiative, please email information to Melissa Soline at melissa.soline@glslcities.org.

