



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

RESOLUTION 9 – 2016M

CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS (CAFOs) IN THE
GREAT LAKES BASIN

Submitted by: City of Washburn, WI

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes contains 6 quadrillion gallons of fresh water; one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water; 95 percent of the U.S. supply; 84 percent of the surface water supply in North America; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes provides 56 billion gallons of water per day for municipal, agricultural, and industrial use; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes provides drinking water for 40 million people; and

WHEREAS, the International Joint Commission's (IJC) 2013 report, An Inventory of Nutrient Management Efforts in the Great Lakes, stated, "The regulatory regime for nonpoint sources is generally more complex...Consequently, there is a much larger emphasis on providing funding and technical assistance for voluntary stewardship actions. This approach can be effective but due to the complexity of the issue, it is difficult for these programs to be appropriately comprehensive in scope"; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (WQA) between the United States and Canada acknowledges the vital importance of the Great Lakes to the social and economic well-being of both countries, as well as the need to address the risks to human health posed by environmental degradation; and

WHEREAS, the IJC recommended governments in Canada and the United States collaborate to develop, maintain and share an inventory of effective management actions that are used to better retain nutrients and sediments on the land, especially in watersheds yielding high phosphorus loadings; and

WHEREAS, the Nutrient Management Act in Ontario can act as a model for action in other jurisdictions to manage materials that contain nutrients in a way that protects the environment and supports a sustainable future for agricultural operations and rural development; and



WHEREAS, the 2015 report, A Summary of the Next Twenty-Five Years: Final Report on an Enquiry for the Great Lakes Protection Fund, identified nutrients, harmful algal blooms (HABs), and agricultural nonpoint source pollution as emerging top priorities; and

WHEREAS, the number of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)/Intensive Livestock Operations (ILOs) has increased substantially in the Great Lakes - St Lawrence River basin in the past decade; and

WHEREAS, more unpredictable and heavier precipitation events due to climate change will increase the risk of manure runoff from CAFOs/ILOs; and

WHEREAS, agricultural (nonpoint) runoff from CAFOs/ILOs contains nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen, which contribute to harmful algal blooms (HABs); and

WHEREAS, in 2015, there were 11,607,507 CAFO animals (all species) in Western Lake Erie Watersheds (MI, OH, IN) alone that produced 690,803,414 gallons (liquid and solids); and

WHEREAS, a harmful algal bloom (HAB) in the western basin of Lake Erie caused the Toledo drinking water utility to advise over 400,000 citizens not to drink the water for two days in August 2014; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, seven people died and more than 2,300 became severely ill in Walkerton, Ontario when their drinking water was contaminated with E. coli 0157:H7. The source of this highly dangerous bacteria strain was cattle manure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all jurisdictions in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin need to expand their efforts to reduce nutrient loss to surface and groundwater from CAFOs because of the significant contributions of loadings that can come from them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to the extent that federal, state, provincial, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances can be strengthened to provide the necessary protections for surface and groundwater while allowing for responsible operations, such steps should be taken; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that monitoring the performance of CAFO water pollution control systems and practices needs to be comprehensive enough to provide assurance that the control systems are operating effectively; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate outreach to the agricultural community to provide information about proper construction and operation of CAFO



water pollution control systems needs to be conducted wherever needed and about access to financial aid to implement such control systems; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that recognition of exemplary operations of CAFO water pollution control systems should be provided to highlight the work of leaders in the agricultural community.

Signed this 15th day of June, 2016

Mitch Twolan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss