

# Mackinac Island, Michigan

June 1, 2013

## RESOLUTION

### WATER MONITORING

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin ecosystems are complex, dynamic and changing systems that require critical understanding to make effective use and management decisions; and,

WHEREAS, governmental as well as nongovernmental entities such as a variety of universities, nonprofits, businesses, and others in the United States and Canada are collecting water quality and water quantity information that is valuable to understanding challenges and solutions to addressing water quality and water quantity issues in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River region; and,

WHEREAS, accurate and comprehensive information about water quality and water quantity in the Great Lakes and their tributaries is critical to understanding the challenges facing these water bodies, including among others algal blooms and other challenges posed by nutrient pollution; and,

WHEREAS, accurate and comprehensive information about water quality and water quantity in the Great Lakes Basin including their tributaries is critical to determining whether past and current strategies and approaches are or have been effective in addressing water quality and water quantity challenges within the Great Lakes Basin; and,

WHEREAS, accurate and comprehensive water quality and water quantity information is critical to determining the need for and focus of any new or additional programs for addressing water quality and water quantity challenges within the Great Lakes Basin to protect and restore water quality and water quantity; and,

WHEREAS, accurate and comprehensive water quality and water quantity information is critical to the development of economic and social policy within the Great Lakes Basin; and,

WHEREAS, the improvement of coordination, management, release, analysis and utilization of water quality and water quantity monitoring data would facilitate the development and implementation of effective Great Lakes Basin policy; and,

WHEREAS, various efforts have sought to address needed improvements such as the International Joint Commission's efforts to refine a short list of key indicators, and the Exchange Network, which provides an efficient and cost-effective framework to facilitate the sharing of information and data between various stakeholders including State, Federal and Tribal agencies by automating, standardizing and improving access to data; and,

WHEREAS, in 2003 the Council of Great Lakes Governors established as a priority the need to standardize and enhance the methods by which information is collected, recorded and shared within the region; and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Governors and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec, pursuant to the *Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement* and the *Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Compact*, with the assistance of the Great Lakes Commission, have already undertaken strong action to collect

and disseminate to the public water use data that is comparable between the Great Lakes States, Ontario and Québec including in 2009 the adoption of water use reporting protocols; and,

WHEREAS, additional actions are also needed by the federal governments in order to collect and disseminate to the public water quality and quantity information in a comparable and comprehensive fashion on the Great Lakes Basin; and,

WHEREAS, the waters of the downstream portion of the St. Lawrence River might be affected by actions undertaken upstream.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Great Lakes Governors and the Premier of Ontario recognize the need for accurate and comprehensive water quality and water quantity monitoring programs in the Great Lakes Basin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Great Lakes Governors support working with the Premier to monitor the Great Lakes Basin so that efforts undertaken in the region will accurately target water quality and water quantity challenges within the appropriate watersheds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Great Lakes Governors and the Premier call on their federal partners in the U.S. and Canada to similarly collect and disseminate to the public their water quantity and water quality information in a comparable and comprehensive fashion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Great Lakes Governors and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec will seek further opportunities to collaborate concerning water quality and quantity information where it is likely to improve decision-making, complement State and Provincial efforts, and be cost effective such as the potential extension of the Exchange Network framework to include Ontario and Québec.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Great Lakes Governors and the Premiers direct the establishment of a workgroup to begin the process of collaboration between the various parties monitoring the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin ecosystems; and,

THAT the Co-Chairs of the Council of Great Lakes Governors sign and send a copy of this resolution to:

- The legislative leaders within each Great Lakes State, Ontario and Québec; and
- The Senior Advisor to the Administrator (Great Lakes) of the US Environmental Protection Agency; and,
- Environment Canada Regional Director.

*Adopted by the Governors of the Great Lakes States and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec on this 1st day of June 2013.*