

City Council**Notice of Motion**

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| MM12.1 | ACTION | | | Ward:All |
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Maintaining High Standards for Removing Water from the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin - by Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie, recommends that:

1. City Council endorse the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative draft Board of Directors Resolution 2016-1B opposing the Waukesha water diversion application.
2. City Council encourage the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council, (the Compact Council) to consider the future implications of this diversion and decline the Waukesha application.
3. City Council request that the Regional Body clarify the public consultation requirements involved in the lead-up to a decision on a diversion application with respect to the kind of information that is provided, where and how it is provided and minimum consultation timeframes.
4. City Council request the City Clerk to forward a copy of this Motion to the Government of Ontario, (the Premier and the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change) the Government of Québec, (the Premier and the Minister of Sustainable Development, the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change) the Mayors of Montréal, Québec City, Chicago and Detroit and the Governors represented on the Regional Body and Compact Council.

Summary

The Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River represent the largest body of surface fresh water in the world and are a vibrant, diverse ecosystem that is critically important to the economic wellbeing and quality of life of the Canadian and U.S. populations in the region. The Great Lakes provide drinking water to over 40 million, are home to over 350 species of fish, and contain 84 percent of North America's freshwater supply.

Governments on both sides of the boarder, across eight states and two provinces, have resisted large scale water transfers out of the Great Lakes to ensure the long term prosperity of those communities that depend on the Great Lakes.

On December 13, 2005, the Governors of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec signed the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and the Governors endorsed the companion Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact banning new water diversions from the Basin except in counties straddling the water division line between the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin and other basins.

Waukesha is in a county that straddles the water division line and there are concerns about whether the application meets other requirements of the Compact and the necessity of diversion to meet the water supply needs of the City of Waukesha proper. The proposed return of water to Lake Michigan through the Root River will cause significant changes to the ecosystem and the River's urban shores and there are concerns about the adequacy of the one meeting in Waukesha review process to address the regional and international impacts of this precedent setting application.

After reviewing the City of Waukesha's application to use water from the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin as a source of its drinking water, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has recommended approving the application and forwarded its recommendation to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact, (Compact Council) for their consideration. All Great Lakes states forming the Regional Body must vote in favor of the application for it to go forward to the Compact Council, which will make the final decision later in 2016.

This Motion attempts to ensure that the highest standards are maintained for removing water from the Basin by supporting the draft resolution of the Board of Directors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative that opposes the application and encouraging provincial, state and local governments to lend their concerned voices to the discussion that will take place in the lead-up to the decision.

The regional body representing municipal governments including the City of Toronto, the Great Lakes and St Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI), has proposed a resolution for their board to object to the request to divert water outside the Great Lakes basin. The basis for the GLSLCI objection is that the City of Waukesha can meet its water needs without a water diversion from the Great Lakes, and that such a diversion would set a precedent for others to divert more water out of the Great lakes basin.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM12.1