

**A compellation of Annual Policy Resolutions 1983 to 1998 of Great Lakes
United's Sustainable Waters, Navigation and Levels and Flows Taskforces**

INTRODUCTION

In May of 1982, representatives of conservation, environmental, union and community organizations from the eight Great Lakes states and two Canadian provinces bordering the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, met on Mackinac Island, Michigan. At that meeting, a Great Lakes Resolution was drawn and adopted by the participants who resolved to form a new international organization, now known as Great Lakes United. These goals and objectives read as follows:

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are the greatest fresh water system on earth; and

WHEREAS, 50 million people live within and influence the Great Lakes ecosystem and millions more receive economic, recreational and spiritual benefits from them; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for economic strategies compatible with maintenance of the natural system; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for cooperation and coordinated citizen action on behalf of the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, we have agreed on the need for such action on the critical issues of: Water Quality; Hazardous and Toxic Substances; Atmospheric Deposition; Regulation of Levels and Flows including Diversions; Fish and Wildlife Management and Habitat Protection; Energy Development and Distribution; Land Quality and Land Use Practices; Navigation Issues such as Winter Navigation, Additional Locks, Channel Modifications, etc; and Public Support for Great Lakes Ecosystem Research, Education, and Management;

THEREFORE, we resolve to establish a Great Lakes organization to provide an information exchange and a forum for working together on these issues.

Since 1982, Great Lakes United has grown into a coalition of over 170 environmental, sportsmen, union, governmental and small business organizations throughout the basin. The international headquarters was located in Buffalo, NY in January 1985. Great Lakes United has been instrumental in key policy issues such as Winter Navigation, 1978 Water Quality Agreement, Water Diversions and public participation programs for the citizens of the basin.

Great Lakes United is dedicated to the protection, conservation and proper management of the Great Lakes Basin. Policy Resolutions are developed, discussed and adopted during our annual meetings to

further enhance our common goals.

Annual Meetings of the Great Lakes United's organizational delegates were held in Detroit, MI (1983), Toronto, Ontario (1984), Chicago, IL (1985) and Mackinaw City, MI (1986). This document is a complete record of 1983-1986 Great Lakes United Policy Resolutions adopted by our member organizations.

Great Lakes United has always viewed the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System as an inter-related ecosystem. Our resolutions are a documentation that citizens, community leaders and officials share this perspective and promote environmentally sound public policy directed at the protection of the world's greatest natural resource.

For further information about Great Lakes United, contact

David Miller, Executive Director
Great Lakes United
24 Agassiz Circle
Buffalo, NY 14214
(716) 886-0142



RESOLUTION

LEVELS, FLOWS AND DIVERSIONS

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United in Detroit, Michigan on May 7, 1983, the following resolution was adopted:

DIVERSIONS:

WHEREAS, there is increasing concern over the possibility of diversion of Great Lakes Basin and Continent; and

WHEREAS, the diversion of water from the Great Lakes Basin to other basins could result in reduction in the water levels in the Great Lakes, which would result in devastating environmental and economic losses to industries including navigation, and hydro-electric power; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for further clarification of the engineering, economic, environmental and legal aspects of such diversion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Great Lakes United opposes any new diversion of Great Lakes waters out of or into the Great Lakes Basin.

CONSUMPTIVE USES:

WHEREAS, the International Great Lakes Diversions and Consumptive Uses Study Board of the International Joint Commission has projected that consumptive use of Great Lakes water will increase from the 1975 rate of 4,900 cfs (139 M3/S) to an amount which would range from approximately 16,000 cfs (453 M3/S) to 37,000 cfs (1048 M3/S) by the year 2035; and

WHEREAS, the consumptive use of Great Lakes water reduces the net water supply to the lakes, thereby lowering lake levels in the unregulated lakes of Michigan, Huron and Erie anywhere from 0.4 feet (12 cm) to as much as 1.13 feet (34 cm); and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive study of the long term impacts of consumptive uses is essential to the proper management of the Great Lakes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Great Lakes United requests that the Governments of the United States and Canada send a reference to the International Joint Commission requesting them to monitor consumptive use of Great Lakes water and study possible control measures (along with

their impacts) for managing consumptive uses of Great Lakes water; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, such a study include no commitment to future diversion of Great Lakes waters out of the Great Lakes Basin.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 7, 1983.

Carol Y. Swinehart

Carol Y. Swinehart, Secretary



RESOLUTION

DIVERSIONS

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United in Detroit, Michigan on May 13, 1984 the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, future diversions of water for use outside the Great Lakes states and provinces will adversely affect navigation, power production, recreation, water supplies and other uses beneficial to the Great Lakes area; and

WHEREAS, Great Lakes water is shared by eight states and two provinces and therefore is an international body of water; and

WHEREAS, there already has been discussion and initial planning for a diversion of water from the Great Lakes for use by Western states.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Great Lakes United urges the revision of the existing Great Lakes Basin Compact of 1955, with emphasis on powers to regulate diversion issues or endorses the establishment of a new compact with these powers;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Great Lakes United encourage the International Joint Commission to exercise its authority over Lake Michigan as part of the international Great Lakes system by applying the provisions of the Boundary Waters Treaty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a Great Lakes Management plan be developed which demonstrates that existing water resources must remain within the basin states to address current and projected economic and environmental needs.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 13, 1984.



Carol Y. Swinehart, Secretary



GREAT LAKES UNITED

RESOLUTION

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GREAT LAKES CHARTER

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United in Chicago, Illinois on May 19, 1985, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Charter has been adopted as a first step in preventing inter-basin diversions of Great Lakes waters; and

WHEREAS, major diversion schemes continue to be seriously proposed in Canada and the United States with little public review in the Great Lakes Basin and no consideration of the principles embodied in the Great Lakes Charter.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United re-affirms its opposition to any new diversions out of or into the Great Lakes Basin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United calls on provincial and state governments to demonstrate a commitment to implementing the Great Lakes Charter through

- funding and staff assignments
- data collection on levels, flows, and consumptive uses of Great Lakes water,
- incorporation of the Charter's principles into all provincial and state laws and government consideration of diversions into or out of the Great Lakes Basin, and
- adoption of any new state and provincial laws needed to implement the Charter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United calls on its members to bring their elected public officials to account for any proposal they support which could increase chances for inter-basin diversion of Great Lakes waters, and request their public officials to define their commitment to implementing the Great Lakes Charter.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 19, 1985.


John Hickey, Secretary



GREAT LAKES UNITED

RESOLUTION

THE OHIO RIVER CANAL STUDY PROPOSAL IN CONGRESS

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United in Chicago, Illinois on May 19, 1985, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, Congressman Traficant of Ohio has introduced H.R. 1519 to reopen a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' study on the feasibility of building a 120 mile barge canal from Lake Erie to the Ohio River near Youngstown and north of Pittsburgh, Pa.; and

WHEREAS, former Congressman Michael Kirwin, proposed the lake-to-river canal in the mid-1960's, but the project was found to be environmentally and economically unsound; and

WHEREAS, Congress de-authorized further study of the project on the recommendation of the Army Corps of Engineers in 1981; and

WHEREAS, the potential environmental impacts of a ten-lock canal with a huge reservoir perched on the divide between the Great Lakes and the Ohio River Basins, would constitute habitat losses, wetlands degradation, and water effects, in addition to the potential impact of diverting waters from Lake Erie; and

WHEREAS, the study is inconsistent with the goals and objectives of the Great Lakes Charter signed earlier in 1985 by Great Lakes' Governors and Premiers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United opposes H.R. 1519 or any such legislation to fund the study of a Lake Erie-Ohio River Canal Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is inappropriate to fund studies on far-reaching projects inconsistent with the Great Lakes Charter when other federal qualitative and quantitative research programs for the Great Lakes Basin are being crippled in the Halls of Congress.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 19, 1985.


John Hickey, Secretary



RESOLUTION

THE CANADIAN GRAND CANAL PROPOSAL

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United in Chicago, Illinois on May 19, 1985, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, some Canadian private interest groups are seriously proposing the Grand Canal project, which would involve constructing a dike across James Bay and diverting water to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence water basin through a system of canals, dams, underground water tunnels, and pumping stations for sale and re-distribution to arid regions of the United States; and

WHEREAS, there has been no consideration given to the impacts of this diversion from James Bay on the ecosystem in that area and on the native population whose livelihood depends on this water resource; and

WHEREAS, government studies of this scheme are contradictory to the goals and objectives of the Great Lakes Charter signed earlier in 1985 by the Great Lakes governors and premiers:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United expresses its outrage that the Grand Canal project could even be seriously considered by Canadian private interest groups and public officials and opposes any study or further considerations of the proposal.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 19, 1985.


John Hickey, Secretary



RESOLUTION

WATER CONSERVATION

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United in Chicago, Illinois on May 19, 1985, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, signs of abuse of water resources include pervasive pollution, depletion of ground water supplies, falling water tables, and damage to ecological systems, and failure to heed these signs of stress, and to place water use on a sustainable basis, threatens the viability of both the resource base itself and the economic systems that depend on it; and

WHEREAS, water quality and water quantity are inter-related and each liter of polluted water discharged without adequate treatment contaminates many additional liters of fresh water in the receiving waters; and

WHEREAS, the disposal of synthetic chemicals and heavy metals, which pose dangers in extremely low concentrations, is an especially grave threat to the quality of water supplies; and

WHEREAS, the large capital investments required for water and wastewater utilities make these especially sensitive to scarce capital and high interest rates, and in view of reduced federal funding for such facilities, reducing municipal water use can ease these financial burdens by allowing water and wastewater utilities to scale down the capacity of new plants, water mains and sewer pipes, and to cut the energy and chemical costs associated with pumping and treating the water; and

WHEREAS, use of water-saving fixtures, equipment and practices by individuals, government, industry and agriculture can save maintenance and operating costs, including the energy required to heat hot water; and

WHEREAS, conservation, re-cycling, re-use, and better management can free a large volume of water, and capital, for competing uses; and

WHEREAS, water conservation measures already in place, can alleviate droughts and other immediate crises when they occur at reduced cost and disruption; and

WHEREAS, lake levels fluctuate naturally between high and low periods

of precipitation, while human intervention in the form of diversion and consumptive uses is not self-correcting; and

WHEREAS, the International Great Lakes Diversions and Consumptive Uses Study Board estimated (Sept. 1981) that economic development within the region would double consumptive uses of water by the end of the century, and would increase such uses by a factor of five within the next 50 years, and concluded that the gradually increasing consumptive uses of water contribute to a gradual decrease in the net water supplies to the Great Lakes Basin which, in turn, lowers the levels of the lakes and reduces their outflows, a consequence of which is cumulatively greater downward through the chain of the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court's test of constitutionality for state efforts to protect and conserve natural resources (*Hughes vs. Oklahoma*), including water resources, includes the question: Is the state statute non-discriminatory? That is, does it apply with equal force to interstate and intrastate commerce?; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Charter calls for a cooperative water resources management program for the Great Lakes Basin, that includes the development of cooperative policies and practices to minimize the consumptive use of the Basin's water resources:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Great Lakes United supports water conservation planning, programs, and measures in the Great Lakes region and in more arid regions in the U.S. and Canada, not only for present needs but also for use by future generations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United opposes the conversion of additional arid lands to agricultural lands through irrigation.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 19, 1985.


John Hickey, Secretary



RESOLUTION

LEVELS AND FLOWS I

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United in Mackinaw City, Michigan on May 18, 1986, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, high water levels have resulted in shoreline erosion and property loss in the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, these levels have resulted in a variety of requests to further regulate levels through existing diversions in, and a variety of management options for increased flows out; and

WHEREAS, there are additional initiatives to utilize land use management, shoreline protection and zoning to abate the impacts of high water; and

WHEREAS, there is not sufficient information on the potential impacts of the structural options on water quality, wetlands, wildlife and aquatic habitat and on the livelihood of the basin.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Great Lakes United undertake a comprehensive collation of data and information on the proposed structural and land use options and review the risks of each so that we may better evaluate our future actions. Where there is a lack of information we will seek to petition the appropriate agencies to undertake further studies.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 18, 1986.


John Hickey, Secretary



RESOLUTION

LEVELS AND FLOWS II

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United in Mackinaw City, Michigan on May 18, 1986, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, there appears to be an increasing trend to use permitting systems to provide for intra-basin diversion as well as diversion of Great Lakes water outside the basin; and

WHEREAS, additional effort to defend against expansion of diversion proposals is needed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Great Lakes United reaffirm support for detailed assessment of current water use so as to better approach defense of Great Lakes United opposition to diversions and further to affirm Great Lakes United's goal of developing a legal defense against diversion;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Great Lakes United seek the means to fund the necessary legal research and intervention.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 18, 1986.



John Hickey, Secretary



RESOLUTION

A YEAR AFTER THE GREAT LAKES CHARTER

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United in Mackinaw City, Michigan on May 18, 1986, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, Great Lakes United published commentary on assessment of one year's activity under the Great Lakes Charter published February 10, 1986 has proven as a valuable reference document.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 1986 Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United formally endorses the document and the following seven-point program recommendations:

1. Each state and province should formally incorporate a water registration system for all users of Great Lakes waters. This mandatory registration system should include amounts of water returned to the Great Lakes system and in what quality. In addition, this system should not be used to legitimize existing diversion. We should not accept this registration system as a basis for "grand-fathering" all existing diversions and consumptive uses.
2. Establish present consumptive use needs in the basin based on the registration data and develop projected future consumptive use needs under a variety of economic growth scenarios. This must be coordinated with the establishment of a data base that understand the quantity and quality of water available to the Great Lakes Basin.
3. Detailed analysis of the environmental, social and economic impacts of water diversion, and incorporate those findings into a Public Health and Welfare case. Economic impacts could only be incorporated as they relate to the health and welfare of the citizenry, to avoid economic protectionism as in the El Paso case.
4. Advocate water conservation/improvement programs within and outside the Great Lakes Basin.
5. Develop state and provincial prohibitive diversion legislation based on the Public Health and Welfare case.
6. Great Lakes jurisdictions would defend the legislative ban on diversion of Great Lakes water out of the basin in courts based on the Public Health and Welfare case. If the legal case was lost, Great Lakes jurisdictions could then incorporate a permitting system for

water withdrawals.

7. Great Lakes jurisdictions would work with national and international leaders to develop and implement anti-diversion legislation and agreements.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 18, 1986.



John Hickey, Secretary

NAVIGATION RESOLUTIONS

**GREAT LAKES UNITED
1983-1986**



RESOLUTION

NAVIGATION

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United in Toronto, Ontario on May 13, 1984, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, legislation to extend the navigation season was approved by Congressional Committee in August of 1983; and

WHEREAS, this proposed winter navigation legislation (Sec. 1123 of H.R. 3678) is in direct conflict with the purposes and objectives of Great Lakes United; and

WHEREAS, Great Lakes United, its member organizations and allies have worked intensively to defeat this legislation; and

WHEREAS, presently 225 Congressmen have indicated their intention to oppose the proposal by signing a letter sent to the House Rules Committee; and

WHEREAS, despite this opposition, no vote has yet been taken and it is uncertain when such action will occur.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the members of Great Lakes United are hereby advised to be prepared to communicate to Members of Congress, their concerns relative to winter navigation just prior to the vote; and to remind those Congressmen that signed the letter of opposition of their commitment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Great Lakes United wishes to extend its appreciation for the outstanding contributions of several public officials who have played key roles in organizing the opposition to this legislation, including Canadian Minister of the Environment Charles Caccia, Canadian-U.S. Ambassador Allan Gotlieb, Michigan Governor James Blanchard, Michigan Congressmen David Bonior, Robert Davis, Dennis Hertel, Harold Sawyer, New York Congressmen Henry Nowak and David O.B. Martin, and Minnesota Congressman James Oberstar.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 13, 1984.



Carol J. Swinehart, Secretary



RESOLUTION

NAVIGATION

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United in Toronto, Ontario on May 13, 1984, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, proposals to improve or expand commercial navigation use of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway may directly conflict with the conservation of objectives of Great Lakes United; and

WHEREAS, unwise proposals such as winter navigation would have major detrimental impacts on the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, Great Lakes United recognizes that commercial navigation is an important use of the Great Lakes that provides significant benefits to the economies of the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, some studies, such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Additional Locks Study, are proceeding toward completion by 1986, with a recommendation to be made to Congress at that time, and environmental studies necessary for Congress to make an informed decision have been proposed by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation but rejected by the Corps.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Great Lakes United reaffirms its Navigation Resolution of 1983; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Navigation Task Force undertake the preparation of a position paper representing the Great Lakes United view of commercial navigation use of the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence. In the preparation of this position paper, the task force will consider the need to place the issue of navigation on the Great Lakes within the wider context of social, economic and environmental factors--the ecosystem approach. Specifically, the task force shall address navigation issues, including:

- user fees;
- additional locks and channel widening;
- harbor and port development and improvement;
- coordination of research between the United States and Canada;
- winter navigation and season extension; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, with these considerations in mind the task force shall develop a Great Lakes United action strategy for

effective protection of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the task force shall submit its position paper and recommendations to the Great Lakes United Annual Meeting in 1985, with recommendations for immediate action forwarding to the Board of Directors in the interim.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 13, 1984.



Carol Y. Swinehart, Secretary



RESOLUTION

NAVIGATION ON THE GREAT LAKES-ST. LAWRENCE RIVER WATERWAY SYSTEM

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United in Chicago, Illinois on May 19, 1985, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Basin represents an intergrated and united ecosystem which is used for, among other purposes, commercial navigation; and

WHEREAS, there now exists a variety of agencies responsible for regulations covering the transportation of cargo on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System; and

WHEREAS, the full protection of the Great Lakes Basin requires a "basin-wide" approach to transportation safety regulations; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that the navigation task force established at the 1984 meeting has prepared a position paper for Great Lakes United covering several areas of concern regarding commercial navigation on the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, many issues of concern arising from commercial navigation will continue to prevail, it is felt that Great Lakes United will have a continuing role in being a navigation "watchdog"; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Great Lakes United navigation task force should be broadened and continue its work for the purpose of:

- (1) investigating the critical issues which have been advanced in the position paper and any others which may arise; and
- (2) work along with Great Lakes United members in the development and refining of an action strategy for implementation of Great Lakes United resolutions on commercial navigation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United Navigation's Task Force promote the following recommendations:

The establishment of uniform and coordinated regulatory standards and rules governing commercial navigation on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System which takes the unique environmental, social, climatic, economic conditions of the Basin into account. Elements to be considered in these uniform regulatory initiatives are:

1. limitation of hazardous goods transported on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System to ice free and good weather conditions;
2. and in some instances, completely banning the transportation of some kinds of hazardous material, such as radiotoxic material;
3. the enactment of provisions which would impart absolute liability for carriers and shippers of hazardous materials;
4. the application of stringent safety requirements (which would equal those most stringent standards now existing in the basin);
5. the mandatory development of proven containment and clean-up provisions and mechanisms;
6. the creation of coordinated mechanisms to ensure the proper monitoring and enforcement of the uniform regulations between Canada and the U.S.
7. further research on the ecological and human health effects of various substances and materials and the working toward a more specific and uniform definition of "hazardous" and "dangerous" material.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 19, 1985.



John Hickey, Secretary



RESOLUTION

PROPOSED SAULT STE. MARIE LOCK

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United in Chicago, Illinois on May 19, 1985, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, Great Lakes United has consistently opposed expansion of navigation facilities on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin until they can be shown to be economically and environmentally feasible; and

WHEREAS, the justification for the proposed new 1300 ft. lock at Sault Ste. Marie on growing economic demand or the ecological impacts from increased number of larger ships has not been adequately evaluated; and

WHEREAS, the Detroit District's final Interim Feasibility study argues that this lock is needed for a non-existent national defense argument; and

WHEREAS, U.S. federal budget deficits are over \$200 billion annually, creating cuts in already existing environmental programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United believes that no justification exists to spend \$226.6 million at this time for a new 1300 ft. lock at Sault Ste. Marie. However, if construction of this lock is to proceed despite these objections it should include the following elements not included in the Detroit District's final interim feasibility study. They are:

- (1) Dredged materials be used to enhance the local environment.
- (2) An improved traffic monitoring system on the St. Mary's River.
- (3) Provisions of public access to the St. Mary's River Rapids.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 19, 1985.


John Hickey, Secretary



RESOLUTION

A YEAR AFTER THE GREAT LAKES CHARTER

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United in Mackinaw City, Michigan on May 18, 1986, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, Great Lakes United published commentary on assessment of one year's activity under the Great Lakes Charter published February 10, 1986 has proven as a valuable reference document.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 1986 Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United formally endorses the document and the following seven-point program recommendations:

1. Each state and province should formally incorporate a water registration system for all users of Great Lakes waters. This mandatory registration system should include amounts of water returned to the Great Lakes system and in what quality. In addition, this system should not be used to legitimize existing diversion. We should not accept this registration system as a basis for "grand-fathering" all existing diversions and consumptive uses.
2. Establish present consumptive use needs in the basin based on the registration data and develop projected future consumptive use needs under a variety of economic growth scenarios. This must be coordinated with the establishment of a data base that understand the quantity and quality of water available to the Great Lakes Basin.
3. Detailed analysis of the environmental, social and economic impacts of water diversion, and incorporate those findings into a Public Health and Welfare case. Economic impacts could only be incorporated as they relate to the health and welfare of the citizenry, to avoid economic protectionism as in the El Paso case.
4. Advocate water conservation/improvement programs within and outside the Great Lakes Basin.
5. Develop state and provincial prohibitive diversion legislation based on the Public Health and Welfare case.
6. Great Lakes jurisdictions would defend the legislative ban on diversion of Great Lakes water out of the basin in courts based on the Public Health and Welfare case. If the legal case was lost, Great Lakes jurisdictions could then incorporate a permitting system for

GREAT LAKES WATER
LEVELS, FLOWS AND DIVERSIONS I

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United in Niagara Falls, Ontario on May 3, 1987, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, high water levels have continued to result in shoreline erosion and property loss in the Great Lakes Basin; and

WHEREAS, proposals have been made before state, provincial and federal governments to alleviate lake level problems through major restructuring of the Great Lakes system and increasing diversions of Great Lakes waters out of the basin; and

WHEREAS, these proposals have long-term implications to regional compacts such as the Great Lakes Charter, but will do little to solve our lake level problems.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United support legislative and administrative proposals which recognize the natural fluctuation of lake levels and, address long-term solutions to lake level problems including improved coastal zone management practices, establishment of flood sensitive zones, restrictions on building on barrier island and flood sensitive zones, utilization of environmentally sound shoreline protection devices and a better understanding of the flow-thru rates from one lake to another.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United support one-time federal emergency assistance to Great Lakes shoreline property owners for the necessary financial resources to relocate families, set-back structures and/or buy out existing properties for public use.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United continues to oppose any increased diversions into or out of the Great Lakes Basin and promotes a regional water management and data collection system that implements the intent of the Great Lakes Charter.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 3, 1987.


John Hickey, Secretary

RESOLUTION ON WINTER NAVIGATION

WHEREAS, Great Lakes United has historically been opposed to Winter Navigation on the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Ecosystem.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United reaffirms its long-standing opposition to Winter Navigation; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our opposition be one of Great Lakes United's highest priorities.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 8, 1988.

Sister Margeen Hoffmann, O.S.F.

Sister Margeen Hoffmann, O.S.F., Secretary

1989

POLICY RESOLUTIONS



GREAT LAKES UNITED

**7th ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 5-7, 1989**

OWEN SOUND, ONTARIO

RESOLUTION ON GLOBAL WARMING

WHEREAS, the production of carbon dioxide contributes to global warming and widespread climatic disruption; AND

WHEREAS, the burning of fossil fuels for the production of energy increases the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United supports the passage of energy efficiency legislation to reduce carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere and reduce global warming. Such legislation should include automobiles, appliances, and residential and industrial energy efficiency measures.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 7, 1989.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenda L. Daniel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

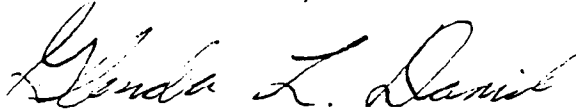
Glenda Daniel, Secretary

**RESOLUTION ON GREAT LAKES UNITED'S
PARTICIPATION DURING THE LAKE LEVEL REFERENCE
DISCUSSION AT THE OCTOBER 14, 1989
MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
BINATIONAL MEETING**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, at the October 14, 1989 International Joint Commission Binational meeting during their deliberations regarding the Lake Level Reference, Great Lakes United request to make a presentation at that session and that the organization and member organizations be involved in other possible avenues of participation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that through that participation, Great Lakes United advocate an ecosystem approach to lake level management issues and emphasize its historic resolutions on lake levels, specifically policies opposing any new or increased diversions out of or into the Great Lakes Basin, and GLU 1987 Policy Resolution made in Niagara Falls, Ontario recognizing natural lake level fluctuations and ecologically sound approaches to their impacts.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 7, 1989.



Glenda Daniel, Secretary

1990

POLICY RESOLUTIONS



GREAT LAKES UNITED

8th Annual Meeting

May 4-6, 1990

GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN

LEVELS, FLOWS AND DIVERSION RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION ON WATER LEVELS

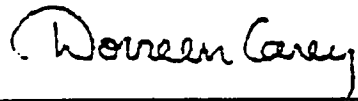
WHEREAS, Great Lakes United has advocated an ecosystem approach to lake level concerns; AND

WHEREAS, Great Lakes United opposes additional diversions of water out of the Great Lakes ecosystem and has stated opposition to alterations to the system that reduce natural fluctuations of water levels in the Great Lakes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United affirm its opposition to construction of new water level control structures in the Great Lakes; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the plan of study for Phase 2 of the IJC water level study emphasize identifying responses to water level fluctuations that do not require structural controls. These include approaches such as coastal zone hazard planning and other land use management approaches.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 6, 1990.



Dorreen Carey, Secretary

1991

POLICY RESOLUTIONS



GREAT LAKES UNITED

9th Annual Meeting

May 3-5, 1991

PALAIS des CONGRESS
HULL, QUEBEC

RESOLUTION ON PROPOSED PERMANENT DIVERSION OF WATER OUT OF
GREAT LAKES BASIN AT LOWELL, INDIANA

WHEREAS, the State of Indiana proposes to permit a diversion of up to 3.8 million gallons/day of Lake Michigan water to the Town of Lowell, Indiana to replace its present fluoride-contaminated well water source; AND

WHEREAS, Lowell, Indiana lies outside the Great Lakes Basin and will send this water after treatment into the Mississippi River Basin; AND

WHEREAS, U.S. Public Law 99-662, Section 1109 requires the proposed diversion to be approved by all eight Great Lakes governors; AND

WHEREAS, Indiana is a co-signer to the Great Lakes Charter, which recognizes the threat of uncontrolled, permanent diversions to the Great Lakes; AND

WHEREAS, the proposed diversion would increase Indiana's consumption of Great Lakes water; AND

WHEREAS, Indiana is not a signer of the Great Lakes Protection Fund which bases its funding allotments to each state based on the quantity of their Great Lakes water consumption; AND

WHEREAS, the Council of Great Lakes Governors has decided to use the Prior Notice and Consultation process of the Great Lakes Charter of 1986 to satisfy Section 1109, which applies to diversions under 5 million gallons/day; AND

WHEREAS, the drinking water quality for Lowell and its residents is a serious issue and must be addressed, and that the environmental health of the Great Lakes ecosystem must also not be compromised when addressing the drinking water issue; AND

WHEREAS, permanent diversions of water outside of the Great Lakes watershed will cumulatively lead ultimately to permanent Degradation of the Great Lakes system and its hydrological integrity through permanent lowering of water levels, leading to loss of coastal wetlands, fish spawning areas, beachfront, and need for deeper dredging of navigation channels that will cause disturbance of contaminated sediments and distribution of more toxics into water, wildlife and human drinking water; AND

WHEREAS, the proposed diversion is not intended just to find a replacement for Lowell's contaminated water, but also to provide for "future growth" of Lowell, "as well as the needs of inhabitants of the territory located between Gary-Hobart's existing facilities and Lowell" (which have not been described by the State of Indiana's documentation as having contaminated water); AND

WHEREAS, the approval of a permanent diversion at Lowell, Indiana will set a dangerous precedent because it would be the first such sizable diversion since the Great Lakes Charter was signed in 1986, and raises the spectre of endless growth and demands for even greater diversions of Great Lakes water; AND

WHEREAS, a previous 3.2 million gal./day diversion of Great Lakes water at Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, resulted in an agreement by Wisconsin to build a new pipeline from Pleasant Prairie's water treatment plant so that diverted water can be returned back to Lake Michigan; AND

WHEREAS, Great Lakes United is not satisfied with the range of alternatives discussed and the level of detail provided for the alternatives.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Great Lakes United urges the Great Lakes governors to withhold approval of Lowell's water diversion proposal; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, alternatives should be publicly examined in more detail, including the alternative for the state to commit to supporting construction of a pipeline to re-divert the water back into Lake Michigan (as was agreed to in the Wisconsin case) and also water conservation methods that will be used with timetables for implementation of these measures.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 5, 1991.

Dorreen Carey

Dorreen Carey, Secretary

RESOLUTION ON LAKE SUPERIOR

WHEREAS, Lake Superior is the largest freshwater lake in the world and while it is a relatively pristine lake, it still has some serious contamination problems as evidenced by the seven Areas of Concern located along its shores; AND

WHEREAS, as part of their Fifth Biennial Report, the International Joint Commission recommended that Lake Superior be designated as a demonstration zone for zero discharge of persistent toxic substances; AND

WHEREAS, since that recommendation, the governments have taken no concrete action to implement the recommendation; AND

WHEREAS, Lake Superior represents the ultimate pollution prevention challenge in that it is an opportunity to put protective measures in place while it is still relatively unpolluted; AND

WHEREAS, the pulp and paper industry represents the largest source of point pollution to Lake Superior emitting thousands of tons of organochlorine compounds into the Lake each year.

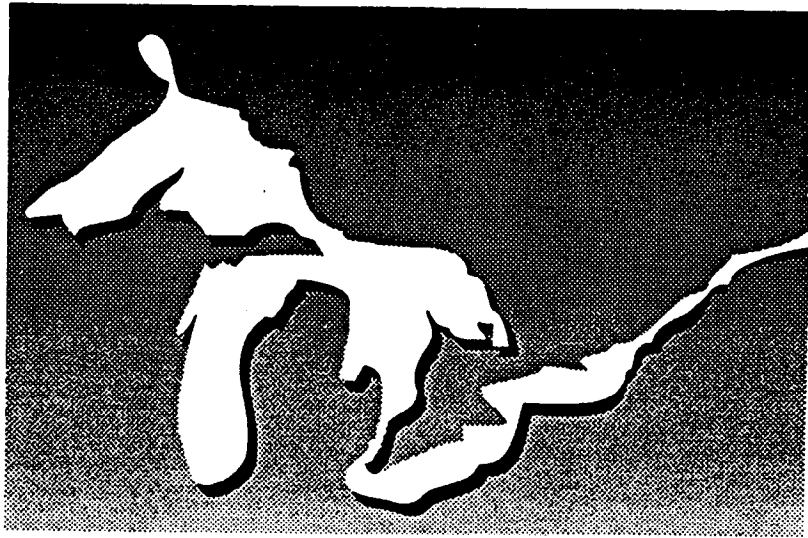
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United calls upon the governments of the United States, Canada, Ontario, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota to immediately implement a moratorium for new or increased discharges of persistent toxic pollutants to Lake Superior until the International Joint Commission recommendation has been implemented; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the governments use their statutory authority to designate Lake Superior as an Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW) for persistent toxic pollutants, the highest protective status given to water bodies under the U.S. Clean Water Act, and that the Lake be given a similar protective status under Canadian law; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the governments immediately schedule phase out of the use of chlorine in the pulp and paper industry to eliminate the major point source of persistent toxic pollutants to Lake Superior; AND

1992

POLICY RESOLUTIONS



GREAT LAKES UNITED

10th Annual Meeting

May 1-3, 1992

**SHERATON INN, FASHION SQUARE
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN**

GREAT LAKES DIVERSIONS

WHEREAS, Great Lakes United has previously taken a strong position opposed to out of basin diversions of Great Lakes water because of their serious implications to Great Lakes ecology, habitat and economy, **AND**

WHEREAS, more than ten diversion projects have surfaced during the last ten years,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United reaffirms its opposition to any out-of-basin diversion, **AND**

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United specifically opposes the Lowell, IN diversion.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE TENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 3, 1992.

Doreen Carey 1992
Doreen Carey, Secretary

KENOSHA DIVERSION

WHEREAS, the City of Kenosha, WI built a drinking water supply pipe in 1991, from Lake Michigan to the western outskirts of the city, north of Highway 50 and just east of I-94,
AND

WHEREAS, this pipe currently supplies three businesses and is intended to supply 1800 new housing units, two new schools, a conference center, a new church and other businesses,
AND

WHEREAS, the area supplied is outside the Great Lakes Basin and the Great Lakes water is being discharged into the Pleasant Prairie Treatment Plant, which empties its water into a tributary of the Mississippi River, **AND**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Water Resources Development Act of 1986 requires approval of each of the Great Lakes governors in order for an out-of-basin diversion to be authorized by law, **AND**

WHEREAS, the Kenosha diversion was not reviewed by, nor approved by any governor, and therefore is in violation of this federal law, **AND**

WHEREAS, the Kenosha diversion is not covered by the process that allowed the neighboring Pleasant Prairie temporary diversion to take place because that procedure applied only to Pleasant Prairie's emergency use of water for its own residents and was not intended to apply to any other community, **AND**

WHEREAS, multiple out-of-basin diversions of Great Lakes water will have serious impacts on the Great Lakes and their environment and economy, **AND**

WHEREAS, the Kenosha diversion is very disturbing because the State of Wisconsin knowingly allowed it to go ahead without a state permit or approval by any Governor,
AND

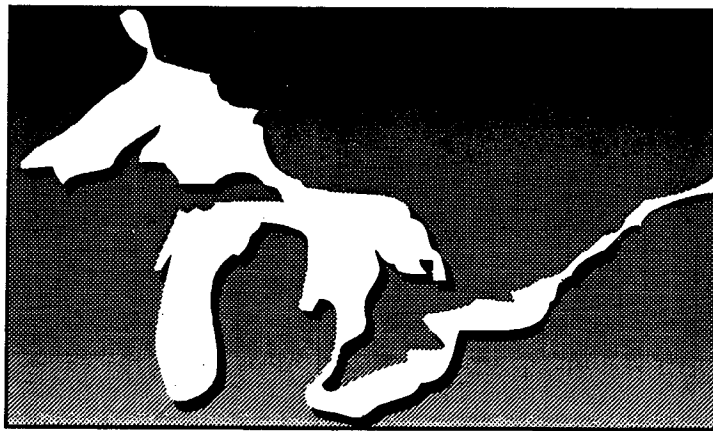
WHEREAS, this disregard for the law could send a message to other communities that the law is not being enforced and this could put the control and approval of diversions in doubt,

THEREFORE, Great Lakes United demands a formal investigation of the Kenosha diversion by the Wisconsin Justice Department, Wisconsin State Legislature, the Council of Great Lakes Governors and the Michigan Attorney General, to determine how it could occur, what state laws were also broken, how to enforce the cessation of the diversion, and any penalties that may be appropriate.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE TENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 3, 1992.

(Doreen Carey)
Doreen Carey, Secretary } 1992

1993 Policy Resolutions



Great Lakes United

**Eleventh Annual Meeting
May 7-9, 1993**

**Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario**

Georgian Bay Pipeline Proposal

Whereas a proposal from TransCanada Pipeline Ltd. to construct a drinking water pipeline from Georgian Bay is being made at a time that the control and management of Ontario water and sewage treatment and delivery is in the process of being transferred to the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA), a crown corporation, and

Whereas the full scope of operation and the mandate of the OCWA have yet to be developed with the necessary public consultation, and

Whereas many aspects of the fragile ecosystem and the uses of Georgian Bay could be impacted by a withdrawal of this scale (50 million to 60 million gallons per day), and

Whereas the cumulative impacts of Great Lakes diversions are unknown, particularly in light of the projected impacts of global warming, and

Whereas the pipeline could result in the migration of harmful species between watersheds, and

Whereas the need for such a pipeline has not been established in the York Region (Phase I) or in the Kitchener-Waterloo/Cambridge Region (Phase II), and

Whereas the Waterloo Region already is implementing a strong water conservation program and is undertaking a study of alternatives in its "Reassessment of the Long-Term Water Supply Strategy," and

Whereas good watershed planning must consider water supply planning with sewage disposal and indications are that local water bodies may not have the capacity to assimilate discharge of additional pipeline volumes, and

Whereas a private project of this scale will be precedent-setting and should be subject to a full environmental assessment, and

Whereas the Ontario government has opposed other Basin diversions intended to provide for future growth, and

Whereas Ontario has not yet implemented its recent Water Efficiency Strategy for Ontario, and

Whereas the proposal circumvents the natural connecting channel discharge and would create additional flows to Lake Erie and Lake Ontario,

Therefore be it resolved that the government of Ontario and affected municipal and regional governments reject the private TransCanada Pipeline Ltd. proposal to divert drinking water from Georgian Bay in pipelines to the York Region and to the Kitchener-Waterloo area, and

Be it further resolved that Great Lakes United urges the Province of Ontario to implement its Water Efficiency Strategy for Ontario and ensure that a conservation policy is implemented as the mandate of the Ontario Clean Water Agency,

and that it be consulted on the role of the OCWA, and that the public be given the opportunity to voice concerns about this privatization of the province's water responsibilities.

Michigan Mud Creek Irrigation Proposal

Whereas the Mud Creek Irrigation Proposal will consume water volumes from Saginaw Bay at a rate that exceeds the five-million-gallon-a-day rate in the Great Lakes Charter that requires prior notice and consultation with other states and provinces, and

Whereas many concerns were raised by those states and provinces at an April 28, 1993, meeting of the Great Lakes jurisdictions in Detroit, and

Whereas this irrigation proposal is promoting inappropriate, unsustainable agricultural practices—similar to those practised in the U.S. Southwest—of growing highly water-dependent crops, and

Whereas the U.S. federal government is subsidizing this proposal with a \$770,000 grant for capital costs that could encourage farmers in other states and provinces to seek similar subsidies, and

Whereas the intent of the project is to increase crop yields by a further 20 to 30 percent, and

Whereas approval of this project would set a precedent for other similar proposals in Michigan and elsewhere in the Basin, and

Whereas Saginaw Bay is an Area of Concern and discharge from this irrigation proposal would bring pesticides and other contaminants back into the bay, and

Whereas Michigan does not have a water resources conservation plan and has failed to submit yearly data on water use and consumption as required by the Great Lakes Charter, and

Whereas the cumulative impacts of Great Lakes consumption and diversions are not known, as they have not been correlated with climate change projections,

Therefore be it resolved that Great Lakes United urges the governor of Michigan, the Michigan Natural Resources Commission, and the Great Lakes Basin Water Resources Management Committee to reject this precedent-setting proposal and to implement a water resources conservation plan that documents all withdrawal and consumption of Great Lakes water and groundwater resources.

Great Lakes Water Conservation Plan

Whereas indications are that Basin diversion proposals and consumptive uses of Great Lakes water is increasing, and

Whereas stricter U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards for groundwater could result in municipalities now depending on groundwater for their drinking water supply turning to the Great Lakes for an alternative supply, and

Whereas groundwater aquifers in the Basin no longer suitable for drinking water could be used for disposal of contaminants, and

Whereas little is known about the interaction between and interdependence of Basin groundwater and the Great Lakes, and

Whereas North Americans use more water per capita than any other global population, and

Whereas many tributaries of the Great Lakes have reached their capacity to assimilate more discharge, and

Whereas scientists project climate change will result in significantly lower levels in the Great Lakes, and

Whereas growth and development capacity for some Great Lakes regions has reached its "natural limits" of local water supply and sewage discharge capacities, and

Whereas unsustainable practices of high water use and consumption are being encouraged by Basin governments through subsidies for industry, utilities, mining and agricultural water use practices, and

Whereas the data collection mandated by the Great Lakes Charter is inadequate to project trends in demands, consump-

tion, and uses, or the level of current use of the water resource, and

Whereas some Great Lakes jurisdictions have not submitted yearly water use data as required by the Great Lakes Charter,

Therefore be it resolved that the Great Lakes Basin Water Resources Management Committee established by the Great Lakes Charter draft a Great Lakes water conservation plan within the next year, and

Be it further resolved that this plan require the states and provinces to review and map all drinking water supplies for their quality and long-term sustainability, and

Be it further resolved that user pay principles be the foundation of this water conservation plan and uniform efficiency standards be developed for all sectors of society that use lake and/or groundwater supplies within the Basin watershed, and

Be it further resolved that Great Lakes United seek funding to hold a workshop for members to explore ways to advocate for local water conservation programs and to explore the need of such programs for the sustainability of the Great Lakes.

Use of Ontario Fishing License Revenues

Whereas in 1986 Ontario reinstated the charging of residents for fishing licenses and promised to return this revenue to the enhancement of remediation and fish stocking in Ontario, and

Whereas the revenue has not been returned as originally stated,

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of Ontario keep its original promise to use this revenue, as they had originally stated they would, for enhancement of remediation and fish stocking.

North American Free Trade Agreement

Whereas the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement threatens the Great Lakes Charter, and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, because these agreements establish conservation and pollution control standards that are tougher than NAFTA and could be deemed "non-tariff barriers" to trade, and

Whereas NAFTA is a "bill of rights" for transnational corporations that would allow them to plunder our environment and search for the cheapest labour without the fear of government regulation, and

Whereas NAFTA was negotiated behind closed doors, well out of the public eye, and

Whereas NAFTA would allow any national government, using phrases in the agreement such as "standards to be least restrictive," "technical barriers to trade," and "missed economic opportunity," to challenge another country's consumer, worker safety, and environmental laws, and

Whereas special trade panels, not accountable to the voters of any nation, would rule on such challenges, having effective power to supersede and nullify the legislative and policymaking decisions of local, state, provincial, and federal governments and

Whereas Great Lakes United believes that workers and communities in each country should not be forced to compete against workers and communities in other countries, and

Whereas Great Lakes United believes that North America should be a community where all workers have the right to a decent wage in a safe and healthy workplace, consumers can buy safe and healthy food, and all living things have a right to thrive in a safe and healthy environment, and

Whereas Great Lakes United firmly believes that NAFTA is fundamentally and fatally flawed, and that the threat it poses to the people and the environment of the Great Lakes Basin and North America cannot be eliminated by the negotiation of side agreements.

Therefore be it resolved that Great Lakes United reaffirms its commitment to work to oppose the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Resolution

Retaining Strong Public Control of Water and Wastewater Services and Resources in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River

WHEREAS, Great Lakes United has continued to work to conserve, protect and sustain Great Lakes water resources with strong public policies and laws, and

WHEREAS, many Great Lakes municipalities are being asked to enter into private or public-private contracts for water and wastewater services and facilities with; large multi-national domestic water companies, water companies from France and Britain, multi-national engineering firms, as well as oil and gas pipeline companies, and

WHEREAS, the experience of privatization in Britain has had damaging consequences for the public and the environment including:

- * Discrimination against the poor unable to afford large rate increases by disconnecting them from water and requiring them to pay in advance for water use,
- * Health risks from increases in dysentery and hepatitis,
- * Increases in water wastage and leakage caused by failure to invest revenues in infrastructure maintenance and repair,
- * Increases in water pollution violations,
- * Aggravation of drought conditions and depletion of water reservoirs and aquatic habitat making tankering of water over great distances necessary, and

WHEREAS, private and public-private arrangements diminish public accountability and control and create conflicts between shareholder interests and public interest, and

WHEREAS, it is the practice of water companies to use consumer revenues to diversify into new markets or to finance other ventures like; mergers and takeovers, high executive salaries and shareholder dividends, and

WHEREAS, water and wastewater services are virtual monopolies that need strong regulation to protect consumers and many private contracts are being let without the benefit of oversight, scrutiny by a regulator or public participation, and

WHEREAS, many of the companies seeking control of water and wastewater contracts in the Great Lakes are proponents of large North American water schemes which include diversions from the Great Lakes, and

WHEREAS, promotional literature of the new global water industry

indicates that there billions of dollars of profit to be captured in the next millennium in North American water markets, and

WHEREAS, scientists are forecasting continental water shortages in North America from depletion of major groundwater aquifers and climate change impacts, and

WHEREAS, the further entrenchment of water as a commodity as defined by the Canada - U.S. free Trade Agreement and the North American Free Trade Agreement could be used in attempts to trigger provisions of those agreements which could result in permanent diversions from the Great Lakes, and

WHEREAS, alternatives to privatization and public-private partnership agreements to reduce costs and improve service while maintaining public control such as water conservation and efficiency measures, appropriate land-use planning and sustainable watershed development and full cost pricing are being abandoned by governments, and

WHEREAS, water and wastewater plants in the Great Lakes are in need of strong public investments in improvements to make them state-of-the-art and non-polluting, and

WHEREAS, in Ontario provincial legal requirements for a public referendum on the sale of a public utility has been suppressed by a new law allowing those sales, and

WHEREAS, a private company is seeking to export water by tanker (1 percent of the flows) from the Manicouagan River a tributary of the St. Lawrence River, and

WHEREAS, private water companies are also capturing unregulated bottled water markets causing groundwater depletion and conflict in some areas of the watershed in Ontario and Quebec,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United call upon all Great Lakes governments to propagate strong laws and programs to keep water and wastewater services and facilities in public control.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United continue to collect resource materials on the experience of privatization and disseminate those materials to concerned communities, municipal councils and workers in water and wastewater facilities.

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United continue to work to promote alternatives to privatization contained in their report The Fate of the Great Lakes -- Sustaining or Draining the Sweetwater Seas?, particularly their goal of a 50 percent reduction in water use by 2005.

Submitted by The Canadian Environmental Law Association and la Société pour Vaincre la Pollution