

Resolution in support of ‘no new water’ principle of water use management

Whereas the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement, 2005, requires provinces and states to develop water conservation and efficiency goals; and,

Whereas the current per capita water use in the Great Lakes basin is double that of European countries and double the per capita use achievable with readily available efficiency technologies, such as high efficiency fixtures, wastewater reuse, and rainwater harvesting; and,

Whereas communities around the Great Lakes are proposing intra-basin transfers, and piping large volumes of water to inland communities with unknown ecological consequences despite significant opportunities for conservation capable of meeting the needs of growing communities; and,

Whereas many watersheds in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are stressed from high water use and/or high volumes of wastewater being discharged; and,

Whereas a commitment to ‘no new water’ enables our energy use to remain constant or decrease, thus mitigating the burden of rising energy costs for citizens and municipalities while contributing to the fight against climate change instead of adding to it; and,

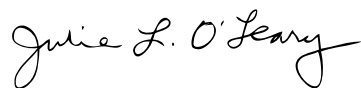
Whereas there are hundreds of proven best conservation practices which all sectors can draw on to decrease their water use.

Therefore be it resolved that Great Lakes United urge each jurisdiction in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin to pursue a goal of No New Water by living within their existing water quantities and sources, including accommodating any community growth within existing water supplies.

Therefore be it further resolved that Great Lakes United push for the goal of no new water in the conservation plans in development as per the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement.

Therefore be it further resolved that Great Lakes United urge each Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River jurisdiction to direct funds towards the conservation and reuse of water in lieu of expansion of existing water sources and development of new water sources.

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of a resolution adopted at the twenty-seventh annual meeting of Great Lakes United on May 20, 2009.



Julie O'Leary, President