Cities on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence – Action and Results

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Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent
The Organization

• Started in 2003 – 20 Cities
• Grown to 123 Cities – 17 million people
• Cover entire Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

Grand Rapids, MI
Purpose and Goals

• Seats at decision making tables
• Best practices
• More support from Washington and Ottawa
• Water quality, Water Quantity, and Waterfront Vitality
• Sustainability – economic, social, environmental
Strategies

• Lead by example

• Tackle big issues

• Make more and better things happen faster
Defining Documents

- 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty
- 1955 Great Lakes Basin Compact
- 1955 Canadian/US Convention on GL Fisheries
- 2005/2008 Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Sustainable Water Resources Compact
Collaboration

• Regional Collaboration Strategy
• Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
• Water Quality Agreement
• Great Lakes Action Plan

Marquette, MI
Progress

- U.S. Coast Guard live fire exercises
- Petroleum refinery expansion
- Water conservation framework
- Microbeads
- Nutrients
Nutrients

- Ontario – Work with OFA
- Michigan – SE Michigan Focus
- Ohio – Maumee River Basin
Climate Change

• 50% + of population, 70% + GHG emissions
• Gobal Covenant of Mayors
• Commitment, inventory, targets, strategy, reductions
Waukesha

- Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Compact and Agreement
- Prohibits diversions outside the basin
- Limited exceptions
- Does Waukesha, Wisconsin meet the standards
Future