



**Committee of Advisors
to the
Great Lakes Fishery Commission**



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For Immediate Release**

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**FISHERY ADVISORS OPPOSE CITY OF WAUKESHA'S REQUEST TO
DIVERT GREAT LAKES WATER**

*Binational advisory committee to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission
urges Great Lakes jurisdictions to deny diversion request*

Ottawa, Ontario —The U.S. and Canadian Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission recently passed a resolution calling for the Great Lakes Compact Council to deny Waukesha's diversion request at its upcoming meeting on June 21, 2016. The resolution also urges the provincial premiers of Ontario and Quebec to communicate their ongoing concerns, and lack of support for the request, to the Council.

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Sustainable Resources Agreement and the corresponding Great Lakes Compact ban the export of water out of the Great Lakes basin except for certain specified exceptions. It was under the "exception" provision the City of Waukesha, Wisconsin, which is not located within the Great Lakes basin but is in a county that straddles the basin boundary, submitted the request to divert 10.1 million gallons water daily from Lake Michigan. This is the first application that has been made under the "exception" provision. The advisors passed the resolution during the Commission's 61st Annual Meeting held in Ottawa, Ontario, June 9-10, 2016. A copy is available online at http://www.glfsc.org/staff/resol2016_1.pdf.

In May 2016, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Regional Body recommended approval of the City of Waukesha's diversion request contingent upon a number of revisions to the request. One of those revisions prohibited the distribution of water beyond the city limits of Waukesha and another reduced the amount of water from 10.1 million gallons to 8.2 million gallons per day. These revisions, and the others, were passed to the Great Lakes Compact Council for their consideration prior to their upcoming meeting later this month where a final ruling on the diversion request is expected.

John Jackson, the vice-chair of the Canadian Committee of Advisors, hailed the decisiveness of the U.S. and Canadian Advisors in their resolve to protect Great Lakes water. "This resolution

The Committee of Advisors consists of both U.S. and Canadian representatives, from First Nation, commercial, recreational, academic, agency, and public fishery interests in the Great Lakes Basin. Advisors provide advice to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission; U.S. advisors are nominated by the State Governors, and appointed by the commission. Canadian advisors are nominated by the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and appointed by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

calls upon states and provinces to recognize that Waukesha's request does not meet the requirements for an exception. The request failed to show that no other alternatives would address the city's water needs, provided inadequate commitments for water conservation, and did not show that cumulative impacts were properly assessed. In short, the requirements for an exception were put there to provide a safeguard from this type of irresponsible request to take water from the Great Lakes."

"The advisors are concerned that if the City of Waukesha's request is approved, a precedent would be set for future requests" said Captain Denny Grinold, chair of the U.S. Committee of Advisors and President of the Michigan Charter Boat Association. "The Great Lakes are the largest source of freshwater in the world and must be managed with caution. We have heard overwhelming public opposition to the diversion request because the citizens of the Great Lakes basin recognize that our water is our greatest resource. If we do not protect our water, the cascading effects to the fishery will be disastrous."