

<b>To:</b>	Warden Halliday and Members of Grey County Council
<b>Committee Date:</b>	May 24, 2018
<b>Subject / Report No:</b>	CCR-CW-07-18
<b>Title:</b>	Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Annual Conference Information
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Heather Morrison
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Kim Wingrove
<b>Lower Tier(s) Affected:</b>	N/A
<b>Status:</b>	Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented as per Resolution CW133-18 on May 24, 2018; Endorsed by County Council on June 14, 2018 per Resolution CC57-18.

## Recommendation

1. That Report CCR-CW-07-18 about the upcoming Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Annual Conference 2018 be received for information.

## Executive Summary

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative provides an active voice in the protection, restoration and enhancement of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, improving the quality of life for the region. Grey County became a member of in 2017. The annual conference is being held in Ajax June 13-15, 2018 and the Warden will attend as the representative for Grey County.

## Background and Discussion

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin is the largest source of surface freshwater in the world and contains over 21% of the world's surface freshwater. The five Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River are bordered by eight US states and two Canadian provinces.

Grey County became a member of this organization in 2017 with the Warden being the County representative. Grey County and its member municipalities have several kilometres of shoreline and membership in this organization allows the County be to part of a larger group of 131 municipalities who advocate on behalf of the membership for the preservation and restoration of fresh water resources.

GLSCI publishes a monthly newsletter Making Waves [May 2018 Newsletter](#) .

They also host the annual Wege Award to encourage sustainable and meaningful projects that balance economic, social, and environmental aspects within the community that could be used as a best practice inspiration to other cities. The award provides \$5,000 to one Cities Initiative member city; with a population smaller than 100,000, to facilitate the protection of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and to further improve the quality of the water resource for future generations.

The organization's annual conference is being held in Ajax June 13-15, 2018 and there are several resolutions on the agenda for the membership's consideration. A link at the end of this report will provide members with the full draft resolutions for their information.

As a highlight, the resolutions speak to the following issues:

- The need for all municipalities to build resilient Great Lakes and St. Lawrence cities and towns
- Taking action to halt Asian Carp and other aquatic invasive species.
- Call on the Canadian and US governments to engage in a collaborative approach to addressing nutrient pollution.
- Submitted by City of Thunder Bay: North Harbour Mercury Contamination in Thunder Bay. (Resolution brought forward by City of Thunder Bay and requires a 2/3 vote at the annual meeting for it to be considered as it is locally-specific in nature)

Other highlights of the upcoming conference include:

- Keynote speaker Dr. Dianne Saxe, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario
- Panel session related to technology solutions for climate change, resilience solutions for flooding and extreme weather, municipal liability related to extreme weather resiliency planning and green infrastructure and coastal resilience for shoreline municipalities.

## Legal and Legislated Requirements

This report is provided for information only.

## Financial and Resource Implications

The costs related to the Warden's attendance at this conference are covered within the annual operating budget and in accordance with the Council Conference and Seminar Policy.

## Relevant Consultation

- Internal CAO
- External (list)

## Appendices and Attachments

[Annual Meeting 2018](#)

[Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiatives 2018 Draft Resolutions](#)