

City of Milwaukee

Office of the City Clerk

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Certified Copy of Resolution

FILE NO: 121031

..Number

121031

..Version

SUBSTITUTE 1

..Reference

..Sponsor

ALD. KOVAC, WITKOWSKI AND PUENTE

..Title

Substitute resolution expressing urgency and support for efforts relating to protecting the Great Lakes from invasive species.

..Analysis

This resolution urges protection and separation of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem from waters with invasive species, specifically Asian carp. Since invasive carp in the Mississippi River system pose one of the greatest threats to the integrity and well-being of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem, this resolution supports physical separation of Lake Michigan from the Mississippi River through the Chicago Area Waterway System. In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and all cooperating U.S. and Canadian agencies are encouraged to continue operation of the electric barrier, intensive commercial fishing, and other methods to keep invasive carp out of the Great Lakes until a long-term solution is found and implemented.

..Body

Whereas, The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence represent the largest body of surface fresh water in the world and are a vibrant, diverse ecosystem that is critically important to the economic well-being and quality of life of the Canadian and U.S. populations in the basin; and

Whereas, Over 180 invasive species have entered the ecosystem over the years and caused widespread damage and disruption to the natural balance of the system, as well as significant economic damage; and

Whereas, One of the most serious threats ever presented by invasive species currently comes from Asian carp, including silver, bighead and black varieties; and

Whereas, These varieties of carp were introduced to the southern United States for use in fish farms for algae control in the 1970's and escaped into the Mississippi River system as a result of floods and other means over the years; and

Whereas, Invasive carp have migrated northward through the Mississippi River system over

the years to a point where they are as far north as Wisconsin and Minnesota, and into Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, as well; and

Whereas, Invasive carp have established dominant populations in many places in the river systems, reducing significantly or eliminating populations of the more desirable species of fish because of their voracious food consumption and prolific reproduction; and

Whereas, Invasive carp are threatening to enter the Great Lakes at a number of points across the basin, but none appear to present as great a threat as the Illinois River and Chicago Area Waterway System; and

Whereas, Many federal, state, provincial and local government agencies in the United States and Canada have worked diligently and expended tens of millions of dollars over the past 10 years on a variety of projects to stop the migration of invasive carp and keep them out of the Great Lakes; and

Whereas, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed and currently operates an electric barrier near Romeoville, Illinois, on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal that has helped slow or stop the movement of the invasive carp toward Lake Michigan; and

Whereas, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a multiyear, comprehensive study across the U.S. side of the Great Lakes basin called the “Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study” (GLMRIS) that examines 19 separate locations where invasive carp could cross from the Mississippi River Basin to the Great Lakes Basin, and considers a large number of potential ways to stop the further migration; and

Whereas, Including invasive carp, there are 39 invasive species in the 2 basins that present a threat to cross over into the other basin in the near future; and

Whereas, Once an invasive species establishes itself in an ecosystem, it is exceedingly difficult to eradicate it, and it often inflicts serious damage on the ecosystem and imposes major costs in the form of efforts to control it; and

Whereas, Invasive species have already inflicted hundreds of millions of dollars in damage across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, and invasive carp pose a serious threat to the \$7-billion sport and commercial fishery that support the economy and help define the culture of the entire region; and

Whereas, Canadian and U.S. citizens across the basin have expressed serious concern about invasive carp and other invasive species, and are demanding prompt action; and

Whereas, The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has taken the position by resolution that physical separation of the Mississippi River and Great Lakes basins in the Chicago Area Waterway System provides the most effective means of keeping invasive carp from reaching Lake Michigan; and

Whereas, The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and Great Lakes Commission

completed a report entitled “Restoring the Natural Divide” on January 31, 2012, which is attached to this file; and

Whereas, The “Restoring the Natural Divide” report established the feasibility of physical separation of the 2 basins in the Chicago Area Waterway System that would also maintain or enhance water quality, flood control and transportation in the System; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that invasive carp in the Mississippi River system pose one of the greatest threats to the integrity and well-being of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem, including the 40 million Canadians and Americans who live near the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence; and, be it

Further Resolved, That preventing invasive carp from entering the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem needs to be approached with the greatest sense of urgency by all those responsible for dealing with this matter; and, be it

Further Resolved, That physical separation is the most effective way to keep invasive carp from entering Lake Michigan through the Chicago Area Waterway System, and such barriers would also prevent the movement of many other invasive species from one basin to the other; and, be it

Further Resolved, That physical separation is feasible and can be done in a way that maintains or enhances water quality, flood control and transportation in the system; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should take all necessary steps to accelerate its process to complete work on the Chicago Area Waterway System portion of the study no later than December 2013, and give fair and thorough consideration to the physical separation option; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and all cooperating U.S. and Canadian agencies continue operation of the electric barrier, intensive commercial fishing, and other methods to keep invasive carp out of the Great Lakes until a long- term solution is found and implemented; and, be it

Further Resolved, That additional work should be undertaken immediately to develop more details of the “Restoring the Natural Divide,” report, with a special emphasis on ways to finance the necessary infrastructure investments; and, be it

Further Resolved, Once a preferred option is identified, all parties should move forward to implement the solution in an expedited fashion with the greatest sense of urgency.

..Drafter
LRB144247-2
Amy E. Hefter
11/15/2012



I, James R. Owczarski, City Clerk -, City Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a(n) Resolution Passed by the COMMON COUNCIL of the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin on December 18, 2012.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Owczarski", written over a horizontal line.

James R. Owczarski, City Clerk -

January 09, 2013

Date Certified