

File: A-2114

February 20, 2013

David Ullrich, Executive Director
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Sent via email: david.ullrich@glslcities.org

Re: Request for the City of Oshawa Pass a Resolution on Stopping Asian Carp

This is in response to your correspondence dated January 18, 2013 concerning the above matter.

City Council considered the matter at a meeting held on February 19, 2013 and adopted the following recommendation of the Development Services Committee:

“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 nature 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 invasive carp are threatening to enter the Great Lakes at a number of points across the basin, but not 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 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 the City of Oshawa is a member of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative; 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; and,

Whereas the 'Restoring the Natural Divide' report established the feasibility of physical separation of the two basins in the Chicago Area Waterway System that would also maintain or enhance water quality, flood control and transportation in the System; and,

Whereas 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;

Therefore, the City of Oshawa requests that:

- a) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 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,
- b) 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,
- c) That additional work 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,
- d) That once a preferred option is identified, all parties move forward to implement the solution in an expedited fashion with the greatest sense of urgency; and further,

That the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative be advised of Council's action in this matter."

If you require further information, please contact Suzanne Elston, Senior Environmental Co-ordinator at the address below or by telephone at 905-436-3311.



Sandra Kranc
City Clerk

c. Development Services Department