



AGENDA 6b  
DATE 8-3-2020

## RESOLUTION

### Support for Federal Economic Stimulus Investments in Water Restoration Priorities for Great Lakes Coastal Communities

**WHEREAS**, the Covid-19 pandemic has challenged the economy with additional expenses and ongoing diminished revenues to state and municipal governments likely to further constrain public services, prolong economic damage, and slow full recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, economists, business leaders and elected officials recognize the need for continued economic stimulus efforts to create jobs, generate long-term economic activity and accelerate the pace of recovery, particularly in hard-hit cities; and

**WHEREAS**, with nearly one-third of U.S. and Canadian economic activity centered in the Great Lakes region, its economic recovery can fuel the larger, national economic recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, investing in water infrastructure is a way to stimulate economic activity, with every job added in the water and wastewater industry projected to create an additional 3.68 jobs in the national economy, and \$1 million dollars in State Revolving Fund spending generating \$2.95 million in economic activity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes states have identified more than \$12 billion in priority water infrastructure projects that are awaiting funding and are ready for implementation in 2020, including at least 39 projects in U.S. coastal communities that require \$465 million; and

**WHEREAS**, coastal communities across the Great Lakes region are heavily impacted by erosion, flooding and other effects from high lake levels and extreme weather events; and

**WHEREAS**, Great Lakes water levels are at all-time highs and are predicted to persist until the region experiences dry conditions for up to several years; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change is projected to bring more frequent severe storm events that will compound impacts from high water levels, with 100-year storm events already happening every 20 years, on average; and

**WHEREAS**, coastal communities in the U.S. and Canada have experienced more than \$500 million in damages over the past year and the U.S. members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative have identified 14 projects requiring approximately \$62 million to repair damage from, and build resilience to, coastal erosion, flooding and other impacts from high lake levels and climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, investments in resilience, mitigation and ecosystem restoration are estimated to return more than \$6.00 for every \$1.00 spent and create 39 jobs per \$1 million spent, and historically, every dollar spent on flood risk management by the Army Corps of Engineers has prevented nearly \$10 in damages; and

**WHEREAS**, the investments outlined above respond to well-documented needs, enjoy broad support and can be administered quickly through existing programs and swiftly generate job growth and new economic activity in our city and others across the eight-state Great Lakes region.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the City of Norton Shores joins with more than 100 mayors and other municipal leaders convened by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative to call for continued action to protect 20 percent of the world's fresh surface water and the drinking water source for 40 million people; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City urges its U.S. Senators and Congressional representatives to support additional economic stimulus efforts focused on water resource priorities, including

- \$20 billion over the next two years for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and other water infrastructure programs; and
- \$500 million for federal programs that enable states and local communities to safeguard coastal resources and mitigate future damage from erosion, flooding and severe storm events, including the Army Corps of Engineers Ecosystem Restoration authority; FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities and Flood Hazard Mitigation programs; and the National Coastal Resilience Fund and Resiliency and Habitat Grant Program.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, the citizens of Norton Shores appreciate the federal support provided so far to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and urge further action to ensure a timely and complete economic recovery while addressing urgent needs to rebuild our water infrastructure and protect our coastal areas.

At a rescheduled meeting of the City Council of the City of Norton Shores, held remotely, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August 2020 the foregoing resolution was moved for adoption by Council Member \_\_\_\_\_.

The motion was supported by Council Member \_\_\_\_\_.

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

Resolution declared adopted/denied.

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Shelly Stibitz, City Clerk