

## **Deputation to Tiny Township Council - September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

### **Ms. Mary Muter and Mr. Paul Cowley, Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation re: Great Lakes Water Levels Research Support**

Ms. Muter and Mr. Cowley of the Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation addressed the Committee regarding the Great Lakes Water Levels research support. The presentation included a review of the Baird Report II regarding the Lake Level Prediction for Michigan-Huron and Erie. It was noted that the probability of low water is only 5% with high water probability at 85%. There is nothing to stop the enlarged St. Clair River to continue to lower Lakes Michigan/Huron in the face of climate change. There is concern as no government agency to date has been able to add increased Committee of the Whole Report 4 No. 09-25-2017 outflow from Lake Huron into the St. Clair River to the calculations of lake levels. The Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation retained internationally respected coastal consulting engineering firm W.F. Baird & Associates to do so. It was noted that the International Joint Commission's advice to governments is to undertake further investigation of structural options to restore water levels in Lake Michigan-Huron by 13 to 25 cm.. The Commission encourages governments to focus on options that would not result in permanent restoration change that could exacerbate future high water levels, but rather one that could primarily provide relief during low water periods. Further, Ms. Muter advised that invasive carp is now established in Lake Erie and in ten years will be in Georgian Bay unless measures are taken. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced a study recommending an electric barrier at Chicago where marine railway and separation is urgently needed. The Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation is working on this but needs financial assistance to attend U.S. meetings in this regard. Ms. Muter and Mr. Cowley were thanked for their deputation and advised that the matter would be placed on October 11, 2017 Committee of the Whole agenda for further discussion.

Discussion/Deputation from Ms. Mary Muter & Mr. Paul Cowley, Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation re: Great Lakes Water Levels Research Support.

The Committee considered the deputation of September 25, 2017, from Ms. Mary Muter and Mr. Paul Cowley, Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation, regarding financial support for Great Lakes water levels research. Committee of the Whole Report 7 No. 10-11-2017 As there are numerous organizations that are working towards the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes, it was suggested that more information/advice on the matter is required. It was further noted that the details of the financial request from the Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation is required. Deputy Mayor Walma offered to take the matter to the Severn Sound Environmental Association Board Meeting to determine the level of interest in pursuing support in this regard. In the meantime, it was suggested that the matter be referred to the 2018 Budget deliberations. Following a discussion, the Committee recommended: Moved by Wishart, Seconded by Hinton WHEREAS the Committee of the Whole considered the deputation of September 25, 2017, from Ms. Mary Muter and Mr. Paul Cowley, Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation, regarding Great Lakes Water Levels Research and a request for financial support; NOW THEREFORE the Committee of the Whole recommends that the matter be forwarded to the 2018 Budget for consideration.