

Preferred Alternative for Separating the Mississippi River System and the Great Lakes Basin

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River System and the Great Lakes Basin are artificially connected by a system of canals and waterways in the Chicago area, including the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal; and

WHEREAS, the connection between the Great Lakes Basin and the Mississippi River System has opened a pathway for aquatic invasive species from one ecosystem to invade the other; and

WHEREAS, there has been the spread of many aquatic invasive species into the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River Basins has been extremely disruptive, both ecologically and economically; and

- Zebra Mussel • Big Head Carp •Silver Carp •Threespine Stickleback •Tubenose Goby

WHEREAS, the systems of rivers and canals in the Chicago area currently provide a pathway for the migration of aquatic invasive species both ways between the Mississippi River Basin and the Great Lakes Basin; and

WHEREAS, the current system of electric barriers, while critically important to address the migration of invasive species while allowing barge passage, is not a 100% effective alone. With screened sluice gates, physical barriers and pumping stations full separation could be achieved

WHEREAS, in 2010 the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation called for the Federal Government to take whatever actions are necessary to expedite the hydrological separation of the Mississippi River System and the Great Lakes Basin; and

WHEREAS, at the direction of the U.S. Congress, the Corps of Engineers completed a detailed study called The Great lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin study (GLIMRIS) which evaluated eight alternatives to separating the two basins.

WHEREAS, the WWF has evaluated the 8 alternative plans to prevent the migration of invasive species between the two basins.

WHEREAS, in its review the federation has used the following criteria to evaluate the alternatives: financial feasibility, cost effectiveness, effectiveness of prevention and migration of current and future invasive species, redundant capacity, and time frame for completion

WHEREAS, we find Alternative Four of the GLIMRIS report to most fully meet the above criteria

NOW. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its annual meeting April 11-12 formally ask the U.S. Congress to aggressively seek the separation between the two basins as described in alternative 4 of the GLIMRIS report with such separation to be completed in a 10-15 year time period, in a manner that is cost effective, aesthetically pleasing, minimize commercial and recreational impact, and is fully effective at preventing further invasive species impacts.

Conservation Leadership Corps

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