



RESOLUTION
Adopted October 10, 2019

Great Lakes Commission Commitment to Implement *Blue Accounting* Principles

Whereas, the Great Lakes Basin Compact established the Great Lakes Commission, an interstate compact agency, to “promote the orderly, integrated, and comprehensive development, use and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin”; and

Whereas, the Great Lakes Basin Compact further calls on the Great Lakes Commission to “collect, correlate, interpret and report on data relating to the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin” (Article VI, Section A); and

Whereas, the GLC was the founder of and manager of the Great Lakes Information Network that began in the early 1990s and served for more than two decades as a Great Lakes regional information hub; and

Whereas, the collectively recognized need for a coordinated system of data, information and knowledge to support Great Lakes Basin water resource management decisions was the catalyst for Blue Accounting as first articulated in the 2014 report: “Great Lakes Blue Accounting: Empowering Decisions to Realize Regional Water Values”; and

Whereas, in 2014 the Great Lakes Commission initiated Blue Accounting through its 2014 resolution “Establishing Blue Accounting: A collaborative re-engineering of Great Lakes information strategy and delivery” which called on “regional collaborators and funders to help by openly sharing data in order to lead to smarter information systems and knowledge to support decisions by individuals, governments and corporations to correct mistakes, prevent future problems, and maximize the environmental, economic and social benefits that our water resources provide”; and

Whereas, since May 1, 2015 the GLC and The Nature Conservancy have been working jointly to develop Blue Accounting to provide cutting-edge information services about the Great Lakes Basin previously unavailable in one place; and

Whereas, Blue Accounting via blueaccounting.org was publicly launched October 2017 at the Leadership Summit of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers as a resource to support Great Lakes Basin communities and help Great Lakes Basin leaders collaboratively, effectively and holistically steward the world’s largest freshwater ecosystem; and

Whereas, Blue Accounting has engaged regional groups to set consensus-based goals and measure progress on five key Great Lakes Basin issues: aquatic invasive species; coastal wetlands; maritime transportation; phosphorus reductions; and source water protection; and

Whereas, The Great Lakes Commission and The Nature Conservancy have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to guide transition of management and governance of Blue Accounting to the Great Lakes Commission by the end of 2019; and

*Adopted at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission, October 9-11, Québec City, Québec.
The resolution was adopted unanimously.*

Whereas, the principles of Blue Accounting as stated in the 2019-2023 Blue Accounting Business Plan are:

- Outcome-based and goal-driven
- Issue-based
- Metric and data-informed
- Decision-enabling
- Collaborative
- Adaptive; and

Whereas, the Great Lakes Commission is empowered by the Great Lakes Basin Compact and is uniquely suited to manage and govern the Blue Accounting initiative and establish the initiative as an essential asset of the Great Lakes Basin community that delivers timely relevant and reliable information that can enable strategic investments to achieve priority Great Lakes Basin water resource outcomes; and

Therefore, Be It Resolved, the Great Lakes Commission will serve as the governing and managing agency responsible for hosting and implementing Blue Accounting;

Be it Further Resolved, the Great Lakes Commission will collaborate with partners to continue to implement Blue Accounting, guided by the Business Plan;

Be It Further Resolved, the Great Lakes Commission calls again on regional partners and funders to help by collaborating to openly share data and information to enhance the Great Lakes Basin's collective ability and accountability to measure progress toward achieving shared goals; and

Be It Finally Resolved, the Great Lakes Commission's Board of Directors agrees to serve as, or to appoint a committee of Commissioners on or before December 31, 2019 to serve as the recognized decision making body and to work with the Blue Accounting Advisory Committee to implement Blue Accounting and its Principles as an integral component of collaborative decision making across the Great Lakes Basin and within the Great Lakes Commission in its implementation of the Great Lakes Basin Compact.