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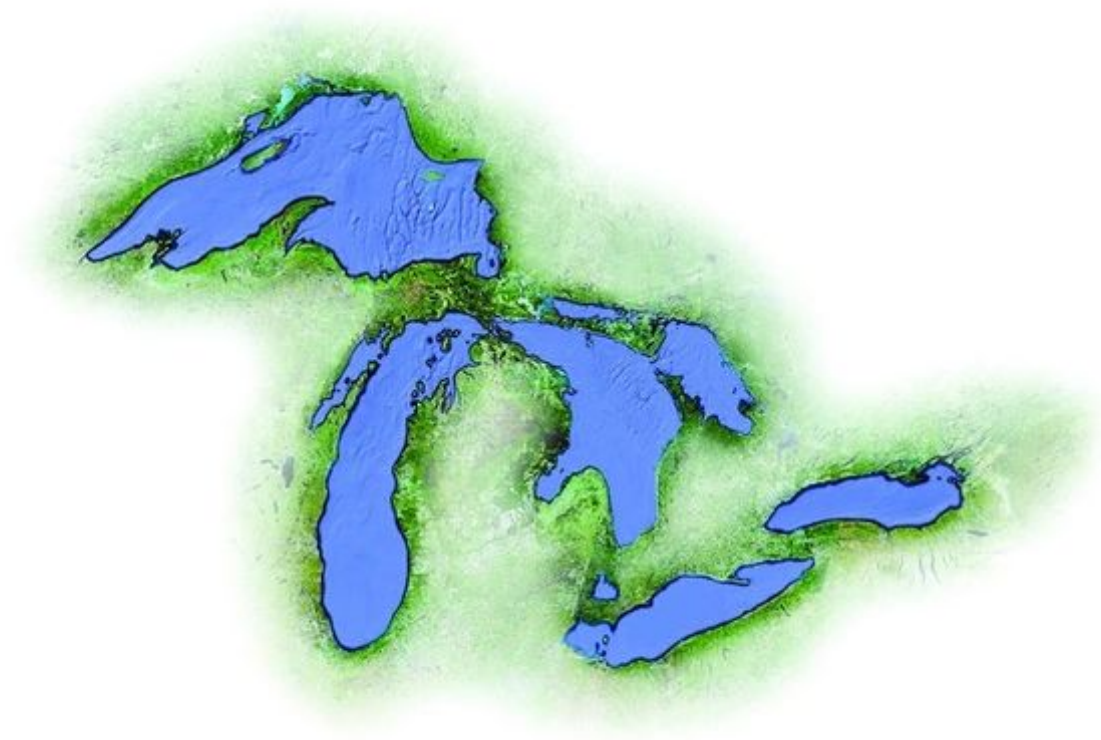
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NEWS LOCAL

Joint Council passes motion to protect Great Lakes

By Elaine Della-Mattia, Sault Star

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Great Lakes

Municipal governments from the Twin Saults gave their unanimous support Tuesday to a resolution geared to protecting the Great Lakes.

The motion was moved by Ward 3 Coun. Matthew Shoemaker and Michigan Sault commissioner Jay Gage and seconded by Ward 2 Cour Susan Myers and commissioner Kathy Twardy.

It calls on all levels of government – on both sides of the boards – to continue financial programs to protect, maintain and restore the Great Lakes.

The municipal governments from the Twin Sault's met Tuesday night in a joint council session – the fourth of its kind since 2003 – to discuss issues of common interest.

The Great Lakes resolution preamble notes that in 1909 the Boundary Waters Treaty was signed by the United States and Canada government which started the formal process of creating the International Joint Commission, a body charged with dealing with issues facing shared waterways.

The two governments then signed a second agreement in 1972, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, which focused on joint issues dealing with the Great Lakes.



Shoemaker said it is in the Twin Sault's interest to ensure that the Great Lakes are clean, maintained and well looked after and both jurisdictional governments have a responsibility to do that.

Shoemaker said there have been indications that funding for such programs may be reduced as a result of policy initiatives and he believes the resolution is important to let all levels of government know that the Great Lakes are important for so many reasons and the improvements in recent years have been positive.


Mayor Christian Provenzano called the resolution an important one for the protection of the waterways.



A copy of the resolution will be forwarded to the Honourable Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, Terry Sheehan, Member of Parliament for Sault Ste Marie, Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, Ross Romano, Member of Provincial Parliament for Sault Ste Marie, United States President Donald J. Trump, United States Senator Debbie Stabenow, United States Senator Gary Peters, United States Congressman Jack Bergman, Governor of Michigan Rick Snyder, State Senator Wayne Schmidt and State Representative Lee Chatfield.

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