

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 11 (2012/13)

Re: **Supporting Participation in the Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition**

WHEREAS, there are approximately 112 federally authorized small Great Lakes harbors, and

WHEREAS, small harbors perform valuable functions such as ports of refuge during inclement weather, ports for U.S. Coast Guard rescue stations, ports for law enforcement, ports for commercial fleets, ports for Great Lakes research vessels, and ferry terminals, and

WHEREAS, many of the 112 federally authorized small harbors in the Great Lakes require regular maintenance because of natural sedimentation, low water levels, storm events, and littoral drift, among other factors, and

WHEREAS, the federal government is responsible for maintaining boater access to these harbors through adequate dredging and maintenance of navigation infrastructure (hereinafter referred to as maintenance), and

WHEREAS, longstanding federal policy prevents the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from allocating funds for the maintenance of small harbors in its operation and maintenance budget for the Great Lakes, thus forcing these harbors to seek Congressional assistance or "earmarks" to secure funds for maintenance, and

WHEREAS, this inefficient, inequitable system has resulted in maintenance backlogs that have hindered or, in some cases, totally blocked access to Great Lakes small harbors, causing significant economic loss and increased risk to human health and safety, and

WHEREAS, small harbors in the Great Lakes have not, to date, had an organization through which to unite and speak with one voice to address concerns about maintenance and other shared interests to federal and state agencies, and

WHEREAS, in 2008, a "Great Lakes Small Harbor Coalition" was formed comprised of local units of government and other supporting entities which endeavors to advocate for small Great Lakes harbors, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Sheboygan County supports and commits to being a member of the Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition under the auspices of the Planning and Conservation Department, and subject to such financing as may otherwise be approved as part of the Planning & Conservation Department Budget.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Sheboygan County urges the Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition to advocate for a more equitable, sustainable, needs-based system to allocate funds for adequate maintenance of small Great Lakes harbors.

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of August, 2012.

**PLANNING, RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE,
AND EXTENSION COMMITTEE***

Michael S. Ogea

Michael S. Ogea, Chairperson

Keith Abler

Keith Abler, Vice-Chairperson

Al Bosman

Al Bosman, Secretary

James Baumgart

James Baumgart

Fran Damp

Fran Damp

ADOPTED 09.18.2012