



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF MEMORANDUM

Memo No. 3

**TO:** MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON GREAT LAKES WATER  
RESOURCES COMPACT

**FROM:** John Stolzenberg, Chief of Research Services

**RE:** Maps of Great Lakes Basins

**DATE:** September 7, 2006 (Revised September 26, 2006 and October 4, 2007)

This Memo contains maps of the Great Lakes basins at varying scales that relate to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (hereafter, the “compact”). These enclosed maps include the following:

- Map 1: Great Lakes Basin, depicting the drainage basins for the five Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River Basin.
- Map 2: Great Lakes Drainage Basins in Wisconsin.
- Map 3: Straddling Communities in Wisconsin - Lake Superior Basin.
- Map 4: Wisconsin Communities within Straddling Counties - Lake Superior Basin.
- Map 5: Straddling Communities in Wisconsin - Northern Lake Michigan Basin.
- Map 6: Wisconsin Communities within Straddling Counties - Northern Lake Michigan Basin.
- Map 7: Straddling Communities in Wisconsin - Southern Lake Michigan Basin.
- Map 8: Wisconsin Communities within Straddling Counties - Southern Lake Michigan Basin.

The municipal boundaries in maps 3 to 8 in the October 4, 2007 version of this Memo are based upon the U.S. Census Bureau’s TIGER 2006 second edition data set and are current as of July 1, 2006.

The compact contains a prohibition on all new or increased diversions of water from the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin. (Proposed s. 281.343 (4m) in LRB-0058/P1 and WLC: 0141/P4.) The compact also contains exceptions to this prohibition under specified conditions, including one for proposals to transfer water to an area within a “straddling community” but outside the basin or outside the source Great Lake watershed, and another for proposals to transfer water to a “community within a straddling county.” (Proposed s. 281.343 (4n) (a) and (c) in LRB-0058/P1 and WLC: 0141/P4.) These two exceptions apply only if the water being transferred will be used solely for public water supply purposes in the receiving community.

The compact defines a “straddling community” as follows:

“Straddling community” means any incorporated city, town, or the equivalent thereof, wholly within any county that lies partly or completely within the [Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River] basin, whose corporate boundary exists as of the effective date of this compact is partly within the basin or partly within 2 Great Lakes watersheds. (Proposed s. 281.343 (1e) (t) in LRB-0058/P1 and WLC: 0141/P4.)

Maps 3, 5, and 7 show the straddling communities under this definition in Wisconsin. These maps include straddling towns, based on the interpretation by staff at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that the definition of “straddling community” in the compact is intended to include towns in Wisconsin. According to DNR staff, “straddling communities” are also intended to include special purpose units of government that could use Great Lakes basin water in a public water supply system, such as town sanitary districts and public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts.<sup>1</sup> Maps 3, 5, and 7 do not include relevant special purpose units of government, as the mapping data necessary to include them is not available.

The compact defines a “community within a straddling county” as follows:

“Community within a straddling county” means any incorporated city, town, or the equivalent thereof, that is located outside the [Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River] basin but wholly within a county that lies partly within the basin and that is not a straddling community. (Proposed s. 281.343 (1e) (d) in LRB-0058/P1 and WLC: 0141/P4.)

Maps 4, 6, and 8 show the communities within straddling counties under this definition in Wisconsin. These maps include towns within straddling counties, based on the interpretation by staff at the DNR that the definition of “community within a straddling county” in the compact is intended to include towns in Wisconsin. According to DNR staff, “communities within a straddling county” are also intended to include special purpose units of government, such as those units identified above, that

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<sup>1</sup> The review of compact implementation legislation during the committee’s meetings in August and September 2007 included discussion of various uses of this definition, including specifying who may apply for a diversion approval under the compact, which public water supply systems may receive Great Lakes basin water under a proposed diversion, and whether part or all of a proposed diversion is subject to straddling community diversion requirements or community within a straddling county diversion requirements under the compact.

could use Great Lakes basin water in a public water supply system. Maps 4, 6, and 8 do not include relevant special purpose units of government, as the mapping data necessary to include them is not available.

For purposes of this Memo, the phrase “wholly within a county that lies partly within the basin” in the above definition of “community within a straddling county” is interpreted to require that for a community to meet this definition, the community must be located entirely within a county that lies partly within the basin. Based on this interpretation, a number of municipalities do not meet this definition, as they straddle a county boundary and one of the counties in which the municipality is located is not a straddling county under the compact. As of July 1, 2006, these cities and villages are (listed north to south): Dorchester, Abbotsford, Colby, Unity, Marshfield, Milladore, Wisconsin Dells, Watertown, Lac La Belle, Mukwonago, Burlington, and Genoa City. The October 4, 2007 version of maps 6 and 8 show these municipalities as “communities that straddle county boundaries and are not communities within straddling counties.”

Both Columbus and Waupun, shown in map 8, straddle a county boundary. These cities are interpreted to be communities within straddling counties because both of the counties in which they are located are straddling counties under the compact and the statutory construction under s. 990.001 (1), Stats., that the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular.

Maps 1 through 8 were prepared by the GIS Applications Team at the Legislative Technology Services Bureau (LTSB).

The enclosed table, that follow the maps, lists by Lake Superior and Lake Michigan basin all of the straddling communities and communities within straddling counties depicted in maps 3 to 8. These communities were identified by the GIS Applications Team at LTSB.

The compact contains a third exception to the prohibition on new or increased diversions for intra-basin transfers of water between the watersheds of specific Great Lakes. The potential geographic locations of these types of transfers are not addressed in this Memo.

JES:tlu:wu

Enclosures