RESOLUTION # BOC 01-25-16-09

Resolution of Support: “Tribal Climate Change Principles: Responding to Federal Policies and Actions to Address Climate Change and Encouraging their Use by All Levels of the Federal Government.”

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) is an intertribal agency exercising delegated sovereign authority of eleven federally recognized Ojibwe, or Anishinaabeg, Tribes which have retained hunting, fishing, and gathering rights in the territories ceded to the United States in the Treaty of 1836 (7 Stat. 491), the Treaty of 1837 (7 Stat. 536), the Treaty of 1842 (7 Stat. 591), and the Treaty of 1854 (10 Stat. 1109); and

WHEREAS, GLIFWC’s mission includes a duty to assist its member Tribes in the conservation and management of natural resources throughout the Ceded Territories, thereby ensuring access to the traditional pursuits of the Anishinaabeg; and

WHEREAS, the GLIFWC Strategic Plan – Wii Gimawanjii’idimin Gaye Wii Nibawaadaaamin (We Will All Meet Together and We Will Dream) includes goals and strategies to

- promote sustainable and diverse ecosystems by responding to emerging issues such as climate change;
- seek support for Tribes and their rights from other governments by educating and informing them of the nature of the rights;
- engage the federal government to acknowledge and fulfill its Ceded Territory treaty obligations and trust responsibility;
- facilitate recognition and affirmation of Tribes’ rights by continuing to define the nature, extent and scope of the right;
- support Anishinaabe bimaadiziwin (lifeways and culture) by infusing Anishinaabe values, traditions, knowledge, and language into all of its endeavors;
- diversify and leverage funding from other sources; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples in the U.S., 567 federally-recognized Tribes, are facing immediate and significant impacts from climate change; and

WHEREAS, place-based, natural resource-dependent Indigenous people are disproportionately affected by climate change as they rely on their natural resources to meet spiritual, cultural, medicinal, subsistence, and economic needs; and

WHEREAS, the destruction of these natural resources may be seen as a constructive abrogation of treaty rights because it renders them unfit for the purposes for which they were reserved in the treaties; and
WHEREAS, the federal government’s treaty and trust responsibilities to protect Indian lands includes the duty to protect lands from the impacts of climate change, which requires that sufficient federal resources be equitably allocated to address climate change so Indigenous Peoples can engage effectively in adaptation and mitigation strategies that will help ensure the integrity of their cultures, homelands, infrastructures, and services; as well as enforce tribal treaty and reserved rights to both on- and off-reservation resources; and

WHEREAS, to respond to such impacts, Indigenous Peoples must have access to the financial and technical resources that are required to assess the impacts of climate change on their cultures, air, land and water, economies, community health, and ways of life; and

WHEREAS, adequate response to the threat of climate change requires action by Tribes and federal, state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, Federal resources to address climate change must be allocated to Tribes equitably and in sufficient quantity so that Tribes can engage effectively in adaptation and mitigation strategies that will help ensure the integrity of their cultures, homelands, infrastructures, and services; and enforce Tribal treaty and reserved rights to both on- and off-reservation resources; and

WHEREAS, GLIFWC has reviewed the “Tribal Climate Change Principles: Responding to Federal policies and Actions to Address Climate Change” which sets forth eight principles to guide the federal government in the development and implementation of administrative and legislative actions related to Indigenous Peoples and climate change; and

WHEREAS; the eight Tribal Climate Change Principles include the following:

**Strengthen Tribal Sovereignty in the Climate Change Era**

1. Federally-recognized Tribes and other Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous communities must be partners with full and effective participation in assessing and addressing the problems of climate change at the local, regional, national, and international levels and must be accorded at least the status and rights recognized in the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other international standards relevant to Indigenous Peoples.

2. Tribes must have fair and equitable representation on all federal climate committees, working groups, and initiatives in which states, local governments, and other stakeholders are represented.

3. The federal government should establish a high-level interagency Tribal government task force to examine and propose solutions to close gaps across the federal agencies’ relationships and programs with Tribes, and to develop, recommend, and implement Tribal-specific solutions that enable the agencies to support and foster Tribal climate-resilient planning and investment.

**Support Tribes Facing Immediate Threats from Climate Change**

4. Indigenous Peoples must have direct, open access to funding, capacity-building, and other technical assistance, with their free, prior and informed consent, to address the immediate and long-term threats from climate change.
Ensure Tribal Access to Climate Change Resources

5. Tribes must have fair and equitable access to federal climate change programs.

6. Tribes must be made eligible for existing and future federal natural resource funding programs for which states are eligible, but from which Tribes are currently, or might be, excluded.

7. A fair and equitable set-aside of direct monies or allowances must be made available for distribution to Tribes through legislation, administrative actions, and existing and future federal natural resource funding programs.

Traditional Knowledges and Climate Change

8. Indigenous traditional knowledges, with the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples, must be acknowledged, respected, and promoted in federal policies and programs related to climate change.

WHEREAS, the current Administration has taken strides that support Tribal measures to cope with climate change, including, but not limited to, the November 5, 2009, Executive Memo directing agency heads to submit a detailed plan of actions that agencies will take to implement the policies; Executive Order 13175 - Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments; and Department of Interior Secretarial Order 3289 - Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resource; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that GLIFWC does hereby support the implementation of the “Tribal Climate Change Principles: Responding to Federal Policies and Actions to Address Climate Change” as a guiding policy for U.S. federal agencies and that all federal agencies actively engage GLIFWC and GLIFWC member Tribes in plans to implement these principles.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as __________ of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission hereby certify that the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Board of Commissioners is composed of 11 members, of whom 8 members, constituting a quorum, were present and voting at a meeting hereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the __25th__ day of __January__, 2016; that an affirmative vote of 7 members; 0 against; and 1 abstaining, and the said resolution has not been rescinded or amended.

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GLIFWC Board of Commissioners