



Memorandum of Understanding to Create

"Sister Waters" Partnership between Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and EcoPeace Middle East (Good Water Neighbors Program Mayors/Municipalities)

Whereas, the Great Lakes / St. Lawrence Region and the Lower Jordan River Valley are set in completely different geographic and geo-political environments, one representing approximately twenty percent of the world's surface freshwater which is shared by two nations who live in peace with each other, and the other being a threatened basin located in one of the world's most water scarce and conflict-ridden regions; and

Whereas, in spite of the different settings, the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and EcoPeace Middle East (through its Good Water Neighbors Program) have developed similar methods of supporting mayors, as well as other stakeholders from cross-border cities and towns, in order to protect the natural water bodies on which their communities' economies and quality of life greatly depend; and

Whereas, communities near both bodies of water recognize the benefits of international collaboration, the exchange of technical expertise, shared management of natural resources, and the pursuit of peace; and

Whereas, The Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and EcoPeace Middle East are committed to facilitating multilateral "Sister Waters" partnerships between mayors and municipalities from both regions, for the purpose of sharing knowledge, experiences, and publicly available information in trans-boundary water management, community-led action, and other activities designed to restore and protect the water resources and enhance the well-being of the communities that depend on them;

Therefore, The parties agree to facilitate technological, business, educational, capacity-building and community exchanges through sister city and sister water relationships, including workshops, site visits, and opportunities for technical experts, municipal administrators, business leaders, and youth delegations, subject to available funding, and to jointly pursue sources of funding to sustain and enhance the partnership's associated activities.

If either party has concerns over security risks or other problems arising out of the partnership, either party may withdraw from the partnership without cause on 30 days notice.

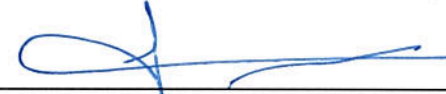
Agreed this 24th day of April, 2015.




Mayor John Dickert, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



Mitch Twolan, Vice Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

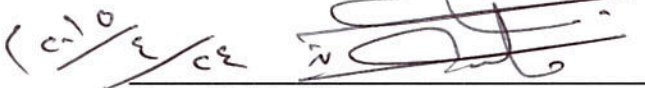


Munqeth Mehyar
President, EcoPeace Middle East




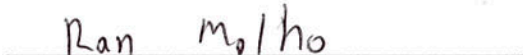
Mayor Denis Lapointe, Board Member and Past Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Israeli/Palestinian/Jordanian Mayors, on behalf of their communities:



Mayor Khelifa Aldyyat
Jordanian City of Dier Allah


Mayor Hassan Jirmi, 2013 4
Palestinian Village of Zubeidat 24


Mr. Ran Molho
On behalf of Mayor Yossi Vardi
Israeli Jordan Valley Regional Council

Sister Cities International (SCI) and Citizen Diplomacy Initiatives (CDI) hereby express their support in and commitment to the vision of creating partnerships between Lower Jordan Valley and American communities, in line with the Memorandum of Understanding signed on October 17th between SCI, CDI and EcoPeace.



Steven Kalishman for
Citizen Diplomacy Initiatives



Adam Kaplan for
Sister Cities International