



Lake Simcoe Region
conservation authority



LAKE SIMCOE REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY, JIRA, UNIVERSITY OF GUADALAJARA, AND AYUQUILA-ARMERIA WATERSHED COMMISSION – TWINNING PARTNERS

Revised Twinning Letter of Partnership

February 18, 2013

1.0 Background:

In 2009, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA), Ontario, Canada won the coveted Australian Thies International Riverprize Award for excellence in watershed management. Along with a monetary prize of \$250,000 (AUD), the LSRCA accepted an additional \$100,000 (AUD) to advance a Twinning Partnership. After an extensive search, LSRCA selected JIRA, Ayuquila River in Mexico as the twinning partner and commenced the first Mission of many in November of 2011 to work together.

From September 22nd to 30th, 2012 JIRA and their partners (JIRA), the University of Guadalajara (the University) and the Ayuquila-Armeria Watershed Commission (the Commission) visited LSRCA for Mission 2 of the partnership. During this time, it was agreed, in principle, that the partnership would be expanded to include the University and the Commission.

On December 11, 2012, at the 60th Ordinary Session of the Ayuquila-America Watershed Commission, the celebration of this Twinning Partnership to the whole basin was authorized.

2.0 Purpose of the Revised Letter of Partnership:

The original Letter of Intent (LOI) to partner with JIRA was approved by both parties in July of 2011 and Mission 1 of the Twinning Partnership in November of that year.

The purpose of this Revised Letter of Partnership (LOP) is to seek approval from JIRA, the University and the Commission to become signatories to this expanded partnership. The LSRCA's Board of Directors approved this expansion on September 28, 2012 during Mission 2 of the partnership.

3.0 Twinning Partnership Roles and Responsibilities:

This revised LOI will clarify the relationship between the LSRCA, JIRA, the University and the Commission through a twinning partnership.

A Business Plan for the twinning partnership was approved by the International River Foundation on January 28, 2011. This Plan advanced a Vision to promote an integrated watershed management program for the Ayuquila River through a partnership with the LSRCA for sustainable river programs. Under a new partnership, the proposed Vision Statement is:

“The LSRCA (Canada), and JIRA, the University of Guadalajara (Department of Ecology and Natural Resources-CUCSUR) and the Ayuquila-Armeria Watershed Commission (Mexico) are committed to working together to promote an integrated watershed management on the Ayuquila-Armeria river basin by developing twinning programs that will meet desired objectives and inspire positive social and environmental change in both countries.

It is the intent of LSRCA to assist its twinning partners to become a Thiess International Riverprize Winner for protection and restoration of the Ayuquila-Armeria river basin.”

This LOP will be effective for the period 2013 to 2015 and will be in accordance with the approved Business Plan for the twinning project which may be amended from time to time with the agreement of all parties. An ongoing partnership agreement will be discussed after 2015.

The LSRCA’s commitment is to:

- Agree to work together for a beneficial relationship between all parties;
- Assist with the development of an integrated watershed management program for the Ayuquila-Armeria River through four formal missions and an ongoing relationship;
- Provide technical and training support both during and remotely between missions;
- Provide overall guidance and institutional support;
- Provide in kind support and funding for the twinning program;
- Seek additional funding for the twinning program; and
- Provide communication updates and assessment reports regarding the twinning process.

The JIRA’s commitment is to:

- Agree to work together for a beneficial relationship between all parties;
- Assist with the development of an integrated watershed management program for the basin;
- Provide technical and training support both during and remotely between missions;
- Facilitate the involvement of the wider basin community including government, business and local community groups;
- Contribute to the project both in kind and financially and seek additional funding for the twinning program; and
- Assist the LSRCA with progress reports and financial summaries in support of the project’s communication updates and assessment reports.

The University’s commitment is to:

- Agree to work together for a beneficial relationship between all parties;
- Assist with the development of an integrated watershed management program for the basin;
- Work with JIRA and the Commission to implement a monitoring program for the basin;
- Facilitate the involvement of the wider basin community, particularly the academic community;

- Contribute to the project both in kind and financially and seek additional funding for the twinning project; and
- Assist the LSRCA with progress reports and financial summaries in support of the project's communication updates and assessment reports.

The Commission's commitment is to:

- Agree to work together for a beneficial relationship between all parties;
- Assist with the development of an integrated watershed management program for the basin;
- Work with partners to increase water quality, improve user conflicts and promote education;
- Facilitate the involvement of a wider basin community, particularly watershed municipalities in the upper and lower basin (outside JIRA), the States and the Pacific Center Watershed Council;
- Contribute to the project both in kind and financially, as far as resources reach, and seek additional funding for the twinning project; and
- Assist the LSRCA with progress reports and financial summaries in support of the project's communication updates and assessment reports.

4.0 Statement of Understanding

This document is a statement of understanding and is not intended to create binding or legal obligations on any party. It has been signed in both languages (English and Spanish versions).



Robert Grossi, Chair
Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority



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