

Thames River Clear Water Revival Initiative (TRCWRI)
Steering Committee Meeting # 5
MINUTES

HOST: City of London
DATE: June 19, 2012
LOCATION: Lambeth Community Centre – 7112 Beattie Street, Lambeth Ontario
TIME: **930 AM – 330 PM** (Lunch, snacks and drinks provided)
ATTENDEES: Steering committee members
CHAIR: Pat Donnelly

Confirmed Attendees:

Tara Tchir	Chris Harrington
Dan McDonald (replacing Dan Carlow)	Mary Ellen Scanlon
Jason Wintermute	Bill Armstrong (in lieu of Ian Kerr)
James Jenkins	Lareina Rising
Pat Donnelly	Dave Richards
Tom Copeland	April Varewyck
Luca Cargnelli	

Regrets:

Dr. Dean Jacobs	Daniel Deleary
Rob Wallis	Ted Briggs

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

A. Introductions

- Welcome to Dan McDonald who is replacing Dan Carlow as the OMFRA representative on the steering committee
- Welcome to April Varewyck who represents Oneida First Nation and is in the process of determining how to become engaged with the project.

B. Additions to agenda

- No additions at this time

2. MINUTES OF MARCH 26th, 2012 MEETING (attached)

A. Errors or omissions

- March 26th, 2012 minutes were accepted as complete

B. Outstanding action items (Table 1)

- Tara reviewed Table 1, noting that most of the items will be addressed at today's meeting.
- There was discussion around the importance of developing a list of complimentary projects as that will assist in identifying gaps of knowledge and in developing the strategic plan. ***It was decided that Tara will circulate a draft summary and that each committee member will review and provide additional information.***

- There was discussion about reviewing the work of the Project Manager and the technical teams. ***It was decided that the Project manager will develop an annual work plan that must be signed off by the steering committee.*** The job specifications of the position will be included with the work plan. It was decided that the technical working group will be larger than the people entrenched in the specific deliverables. ***This larger group will serve as the peer review for the specific technical work.***
- There was discussion about the timeliness of communication. ***Tara will send out the draft agenda at least one week prior to the meeting and ask for feedback 2 – 3 days prior to the meeting so that the agenda can be finalized. Tara will also attempt to send out minutes within a week of the meetings.***
- There was some discussion around how efficiently the action items were being completed. Tara mentioned that sometimes she had to chase individuals down to address the action items. ***It was decided that all key decisions and tasks to be accomplished will be identified in the minutes and that the body of the email will specifically identify individuals and the action items that are associated with them so that members are more accountable.***

3. UPDATES RELATED TO INITIATIVE (roundtable discussion)

- A. Ministers Award for Environmental Excellence
 - Pat described this award and how it would be a good fit for the project. ***The steering committee decided that once some deliverables have been completed, this would be a good award to apply for in July of next year.***
- B. Western University Masters of Environmental Sustainability (MES) Final Report (attached)
 - Pat described the process of how the UWO MES students developed material for their report. ***While the report does provide a starting point for discussion and the cited materials and resources in the report are reliable, it was decided that it is not an accurate document and therefore should not be widely circulated.***
 - The point that can be taken from this project is the importance of considering First Nation engagement in future projects.
- C. Ontario's Draft Great Lakes Strategy June 2012 (attached)
 - ***Ian Kerr offered (via email) to bring in a policy person from MOE at next meeting to provide a briefing. It was recommended that this item remain on the agenda for the next meeting and that the steering committee read Ontario's Draft Great Lakes Strategy, then the Great Lakes Protection Act, so that we can ask questions of the policy person at the next meeting.***
 - Mary Ellen provided a brief description. The Strategy has been circulated for a 60 day review and will become the plan for the Great Lakes. It is posted on the Environmental Registry and establishes why the Great Lakes are important and what Ontario will do. The Strategy was circulated and one of

the recommendations was that a Great Lakes Protection Act will be developed.

- The Great Lakes Protection Act (Bill 100) is new legislation and asserts an interest in the health of the Great Lakes. It is an opportunity to provide a provincial interest. It allows the provincial minister to designate an Area of Concern (AOC) on the Great Lakes where there is stress, and then direct action such as setting targets. The Thames River watershed is the type of area they are interested in, as is the Grand River watershed and the Lake Huron SE Shores.
- The Great Lakes Protection Act is accompanied by a community action funding source (\$25,000 or less) called the Great Lakes Guardian Fund with staggered application times and completing projects on the ground. This is to support the empowerment and engagement of communities.
- The Great Lakes Protection Act will also establish a Guardians Council that will provide advice on priorities to the minister.
- The Great Lakes Protection Act will promote collaboration and coordination amongst the Great Lakes community including ministries, conservation authorities, First Nations, Métis and groups with an interest in the Great Lakes.

D. Others?

- Environment Canada has created two First Nations staff positions. Once they have been filled, one of those individuals will participate in this initiative.

4. REVIEW OF DRAFT CHARTER (Version 7)

A. Brainstorming short (one year) and long term (five year) goals for entire TRCWRI (see attached notes)

- The steering committee brainstormed goals between 1 – 3 years for the project, which were condensed and summarized in a separate document entitled “Goals.doc”. ***The steering committee will be provided with this document and asked to provide comments prior to Tara establishing strategies and action plans.***
- The steering committee discussed the need to incorporate community core values and priorities in the vision statement. Desire to know how the community interprets the relationship with the Thames River. ***It was decided that the vision statement “A Healthy and Vital Thames River” captures the technical component in “healthy” and the community component in “vital”.***
- There was discussion on the development of guiding principles / core values. ***It was decided that the core values will guide the steering committee in how it makes decisions and will be based on:***
 - ***Preserve ecological integrity***
 - ***Preserve cultural integrity***
 - ***Aim for long term sustainability***
 - ***Address community values and develop relationship to the river***

- It was decided that the charter needs a strategic alignment section which links partner participation to the goals of the project. ***The partners in the project agreed to provide this information once the goals were defined.***
- ***It was decided that the TOR for the technical working group will ensure that the work is integrated rather than operating in individual silos.***
- ***It was decided that the governance model will consist of the Steering Committee that will identify and prioritize specific tasks of short duration for the technical working group to work on. As well, specific standing committees for First Nations engagement and for communications will supply information to the steering committee to assist in prioritization of tasks.***
- ***It was decided that the conflict resolution process will be put in an appendix and only the principle of collaborative governance will remain in the body of the charter.***
- The work plan for the project is missing in the charter. ***Tara will work on this once the goals and strategic actions have been decided. Tara will review the GRCA charter.***
- ***It was decided that the in-kind charter development expenses will be recorded in the minutes, not in the charter***
- ***It was agreed that signing of the charter means agreeing to participate in the process.*** This also generated discussion around membership in the steering committee. ***It was decided that if more First Nations decide that they want to be on the steering committee, some duplicate representatives for the agencies may have to step down.*** This will be decided as needed. ***Dave Richards also mentioned that Jenn Esberg from MNR might be a good fit for the steering committee and he will approach her to discuss.***
- There was discussion around the external communication plan and Tara mentioned the need to develop some goals for the charter which can then be used to develop an external communications plan. ***It was decided that once the goals have been decided, a communications group will be assembled to develop a funding proposal for an external communications strategy to support this project.***

5. FIRST NATIONS DIVERSITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

- A. Meeting summaries (March 30th and May 3rd) by James Jenkins
 - The first meeting was essentially an introductory meeting.
 - The second meeting discussed examples of past consultation processes that were and were not successful. The members also agreed to provide information for upcoming events so that the committee can attend.
 - ***The steering committee requested Tara to provide copies of the minutes.***
- B. Upcoming awareness session on June 28th at COTTFN
 - Similar to the MNR awareness training sessions but tailored to the region and issues of this group. It will present some basic information and then focus in on the 8 First nation communities

- City of London and CAs do not have these training opportunities, so this is a much needed and anticipated event
- Goal is to develop relationships and train members in cultural awareness and sensitivity for First Nations
- The value of the session is in being in the room and engaging in the discussion. It will be a safe place to ask the questions that you may have and to bring the comfort level up.

6. MUNICIPALITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

A. Summary of activity

- Pat is approaching larger municipalities:
 - contacted Oxford with the intent to re-engage and bring them up to date
 - conversations with Ray Northruft from Stratford
 - Pat and Tara will be going to Chatum – Kent on Tuesday June 26th to talk with Marsha Coyne (who attended both charettes) and update her on progress
- Next step is to develop a priority list of others (e.g. Thames Centre) and develop a municipal engagement strategy. The steering committee discussed other venues that may exist for municipal engagement such as the South West Economic Alliance (SWEA) and events with city managers and chief administrators. ***It was not decided who should do this work.***

7. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP UPDATE

A. Recommended agency representatives (from each partner on steering committee)

- This item was not discussed. ***It will remain on the agenda for the next meeting.***

8. OTHER BUSINESS / NEXT STEPS

A. Decide on date, purpose, and chair of next meeting

- UTRCA will host the next meeting and LTVCA (Jason Wintermute) will chair
- ***Tara will send out a survey for a meeting in July.***

9. CLOSING REMARKS

- Thanks for the participation and continued interest. ***Tara will send out a summary of the brainstorming session and minutes for comments.***