

## Thames River Clear Water Revival Steering Committee Meeting # 7 **DRAFT MINUTES**

HOST: Walpole Island First Nation  
DATE: **Friday November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012**  
LOCATION: Walpole Island Council Chambers, 115 Tecumseh Road, Wallaceburg, Ontario  
TIME: 900AM – 1230PM  
CHAIR: Chris Harrington

**PURPOSE:** *Consensus on the goals and objectives of the Water Management Plan TOR  
Prepare to discuss sign-off of TOR  
Consensus on official launch messaging and event*

Confirmed Attendees:

Tara Tchir	Lareina Rising
Jason Wintermute	James Jenkins
Pat Donnelly	Rob Wallis
Daniel Deleary	Ted Briggs (conference call)
Ian Kerr	Eleanor Heagy
Trevor Robak	April Varewyck
Chris Harrington	Dr. Dean Jacobs
	Ron Soney (WIFN Councilor)

Regrets:

Dave Richards	Jenn Richards
Luca Cargnelli	Tom Copeland
Dan McDonald	Mary Ellen Scanlon
Oneida Councilor (TBD)	

### Minutes

#### 1. WELCOME AND REVIEW OF AGENDA

- A. Introductions (new members, guests)
- Welcome to Eleanor Heagy who is the communications specialist from the UTRCA assigned to this project.
  - **Welcome to Ron Soney who is WIFN's Heritage Centre portfolio councilor. Mr. Soney attended part of the meeting to receive some background on the project.**
- B. Additions to November 2<sup>nd</sup> agenda
- Agenda was reorganized to ensure there was some time devoted to discussion of an official launch

## 2. MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2012 MEETING (attached)

### A. Errors or omissions

- Tara reviewed changes to the minutes
- Minutes were accepted.

### B. Review outstanding action items (Table 1)

- Ian provided additional names for the technical working groups.
- **All members agreed to consider additional experts in the field of water quantity, quality, climate change, BMPs and communications and provide that information to Tara ASAP. Refer to item #5 below.**
- **Tara reviewed outstanding action items and will update the summary tables after the meeting.**

## 3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON GREAT LAKES STRATEGY AND PROTECTION ACT

### A. Presentation by Ted Briggs and Mary Ellen Scanlon that emphasizes links to Thames River Watershed

- The Great Lakes Protection Act has been shelved for the time being.
- **It was decided that a presentation on the Great Lakes Strategy will be postponed until the next meeting.**

## 4. REVIEW OF DRAFT VERSION 3 OF THAMES RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

### A. Consensus on goals and objectives

- Tara discussed the balance between having a broadly scoped water management plan and more narrowly scoped objectives.
- Tara also discussed that this plan should help other agencies and First Nations in their work, but not do their work for them. As well, it is important to not get pulled into narrowly scoped or “hot” issues that should be studied on their own.
- Chris further added that the topics and ideas that are not captured in the Water Management Plan are still recorded and will be considered in the broader Watershed Strategy. **These will be prioritized by the steering committee at a later date and responsibilities will be assigned to them.**
- **The committee agreed that a list of acronyms should be included as an Appendix in the TOR.**
- **It was decided that the section on BMPs will be removed and instead the management plan will use the results from the BMPs to develop recommendations for water quality and quantity.**
- The goals of the TOR were re-written as a collaborative effort. **Tara will incorporate them into Version 4 of the TOR.**
- **Process:** i) Tara will re-write the TOR and identify significant changes to Version 4 **with different colored text**, ii) Version 4 of the TOR will be sent out electronically, and all members will be asked to either submit changes back (using track changes) or to call Tara directly, iii) Once all input has been gathered, Tara will re-write the document, highlighting the new

changes to the document and re-send (Version 5 of the TOR), iv) At that point, a meeting will be held (conference call or in-person) to discuss and finalize the document, v) Tara will incorporate changes, and Version 6 of the TOR will be sent to communications staff for editing.

- It is anticipated that the TOR will be ready for sign-off by end of December 2012.

B. Consensus on justification and work plan of the TOR

- It was decided that stronger wording about Treaty rights and Duty to consult with First Nations is needed up front in the TOR. **Tara will incorporate discussion in the Draft Watershed Strategy Charter and the First Nation Engagement Strategy into Version 4 of the TOR, and look to the First Nation representatives to ensure these address their concerns.**
- **Work plan and other components of the TOR will be discussed at the next meeting and through the revision process of the TOR.**

C. Sign-off

- **The committee agreed to share the most recent TOR with appropriate signing authorities to give them the heads up about this project and solicit additional comments on the Draft document.**

D. Other Issues

- Discussion around whether the Management Plan should address the issue of dredging the mouth of the Thames. It was decided that this topic will not be evaluated directly as part of the management plan, but that recommendations around reduction of sedimentation in the Thames and discussion of natural river processes would be included in the water management plan to assist with this issue.

**5. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN) UPDATE**

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

- Item # 6 in the September 5<sup>th</sup> minutes has the most recent agency representatives listed. **The committee agreed to share the most recent TOR with appropriate technical staff to give them the heads up about this project and solicit additional expertise for the technical committees.**

**6. WEBSITE**

A. Review list of headings (to be distributed at meeting)

- **Tara and Eleanor will work on this list and submit electronically to the group for review. It was noted that the website should be kept simple.**

**7. DISCUSS OFFICIAL LAUNCH**

A. Brainstorm ideas around a launch event and focus of launch (TRCWR, Water Management Plan, SWI funding, etc.)

- Key messages:
  - There are many values associated with the Thames (cultural, historical, natural, recreational, health, etc.)
  - Thames River is considered a priority watershed and there is a need for a comprehensive, collaborative study using innovative technology, modeling and research
  - Update on chronology of project development that is simple
  
- Launch Ideas:
  - Focus on youth and develop events and activities that engage youth
  - Host four events, one in each season (e.g. winter – snow snake, spring/summer – canoe trip, fish/bird migration, anniversary of Tecumseh’s death, water festival) and move location to different areas of the watershed (e.g. start at top and move downstream?)

## 8. FIRST NATIONS DIVERSITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

- A. Draft Engagement Strategy (update)
  - Much work is still needed on this document and it is not ready for distribution.
  
- B. Application to the Creative Communities Prosperity Fund (attached)
  - James provided a summary of the application as it is much broader in scope than water quality and quantity issues.
  - The intent is to compile traditional knowledge already available, rather than conduct in-depth studies.
  - It was noted that this is the first regional project **of its kind** undertaken by First Nations in Southern Ontario. In addition to the end product, there is enormous value in documenting the process and the lessons learned.
  
- C. Background information about Traditional Ecological Knowledge studies
  - There was discussion around the sensitivity of the information that may be gathered through this process. It was agreed that this is a First Nation initiative, and therefore the First Nation communities decide what information and knowledge they wish to contribute to the Water Management Plan.

## 9. MUNICIPALITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE (Pat)

- A. Summary of activity
  - Unfortunately, we ran out of time and did not address this. **An update will be provided at the next meeting.**

## 10. OTHER BUSINESS / NEXT STEPS

- A. The “delisting” of the Thames River from the Navigable Waters Act
  - The discussion centered on an awareness of the delisting and speculation as to the impacts of this.
  
- B. Agricultural committee update
  - Tara and Trevor met and discussed the importance of engaging the agricultural committee early in the process. **It was decided that Tara, Eleanor and Trevor will meet to discuss this further and provide an update to the steering committee at the next meeting.**
  
- C. Decide on date, purpose, and chair of next meeting
  - See process under item 4a.
  - Once the TOR is complete, it is anticipated that the steering committee will spend time brainstorming components of the watershed strategy, including prioritization of and responsibility for, these components. The steering committee will also be kept informed about actions of the technical committee(s).
  - **Next meeting will be via conference call and will involve a web-type presentation of the most recent TOR to seek consensus on the final document. The date and time of this meeting will be confirmed once Tara has incorporated all comments on this version.**