

Thames River Clear Water Revival – Thames River Water Management Plan
First Nations Engagement Committee Meeting #10 - Minutes

Tuesday April 28, 2015, 12:30 pm – 3:30

Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Maawn Doosh Gumig Community and Youth Centre
1972 Virgil Avenue, Sarnia

Attendance:

Aimee Johnson (Walpole Island First Nation)
Chief Louise Hillier (Caldwell First Nation)
Courtney Jackson (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)
Dave Depuydt (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry)
Eleanor Heagy (Upper Thames River Conservation Authority)
George Henry (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation)
Isabel Lewis (Caldwell First Nation)
Larry French (Councillor, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation)
Murray Blackie (Director, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority)
Sharilyn Johnston (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)
Tara Tchir (Upper Thames River Conservation Authority) – Project Manager

Regrets:

Bonnie Plain (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)
Christine Rogers (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)
Darryl van Oirschot (Caldwell First Nation)
Dean Jacobs (Walpole Island First Nation)
Pat Donnelly (City of London)
Rob Wallis (First Nation Liaison, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry)

Purpose of Meeting:

Finalize Youth Engagement Program

1. Program type

Discussion about costs and logistics of having two leaders and 8 high school youth. It was decided that having one leader and 4 high school youth from the four First Nations actively participating on the Engagement Committee (if possible) would be more practical for the pilot year. The program can be expanded next year to include more youth and leaders.

2. Logistics

- Aamjiwnaang will administer the program. A program code will be set up through the finance department.
UPDATE: COTTFN will administer the program. Aamjiwnaang, along with the help of all First Nations, will assist in providing supervisory support to the group.
- Larry will find out about borrowing canoes from COTTFN. There may also be a van available.
- Sharilyn also has a van that may be available.
- Munsee Delaware Nation has an Environmental Forestry program that the youth may want to spend time with.
- Aimee, George and Rob to interview and hire potential leader before the next meeting. All committee members will submit interview questions to Aimee.

UPDATE: Aimee, George and Tara interviewed three candidates for the leader position on May 28. It was decided, based on consensus through email, that two leaders would be hired for this position.

3. Workplan items to consider

- Float plan and check-in points whenever on the water
- Tailgate meeting to identify risks at each site

4. Possible deliverables of the project

- Communication Plan that includes social media training that addresses responsibility
- Charter “code of ethics” that all members of the team, including leaders, sign off on
- Develop a calendar and map of activities for the group to attend if possible (e.g. concert at COTTFN on June 20, Powwows)
- Gather information that can be shared in the First Nations section of the Water Management Plan.

5. Thames River Clear Water Revival/Water Management Plan

- Tara explained that she would like to have a First Nations chapter/section in the Water Management Plan.
- Eleanor encouraged everyone to consider what the committee and participants can contribute to the Thames River Clear Water Revival website (www.thamesrevival.ca). This website can be used to promote the Youth Engagement program, as well as other relevant projects and activities of the First Nations.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday June 3, 2015 @ Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Sarnia. Time to be determined.

UPDATE: Meeting to be held June 3 at 12:30 @ Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Sarnia