

Thames River Clear Water Revival – Thames River Water Management Plan  
**First Nations Engagement Committee Meeting #9 - Minutes**

Tuesday April 7, 2015, 9:30 – 12:30 pm

Aamjiwnaang First Nation

Maawn Doosh Gumig Community and Youth Centre

1972 Virgil Avenue, Sarnia ON N7T 8E5

**Attendance:**

Aimee Johnson (Walpole Island First Nation)  
Courtney Jackson (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)  
Dave Depuydt (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry)  
Eleanor Heagy (Upper Thames River Conservation Authority)  
Isabel Lewis (Caldwell 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)  
Chief Louise Hillier (Caldwell First Nation)  
Christine Rogers (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)  
Darryl van Oirschot (Caldwell First Nation)  
Dean Jacobs (Walpole Island First Nation)  
George Henry (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation)  
Larry French (Councillor, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation)  
Pat Donnelly (City of London)  
Rob Wallis (First Nation Liaison, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry)

**Purpose of Meeting:**

Refine youth engagement program and job descriptions

**1. Program type**

Aimee had sent out an options breakdown for three types of programs that could be developed. The group decided that option 2 was the best choice to do this inaugural year.

**Action: Tara to discuss with Cheriene the possibility of transferring the funding for the development of the preferred option (8K) towards implementation of the program.**

**2. Work Plan Items**

Task: May 1

Develop leader position (university / young adult aged) description for 2 positions

- Must have a separate advertising and interview process with specific skill set including environmental knowledge, responsible, mature, passionate
- Must complete CPIC (i.e. leaders will need background checks)
- High pay rate (at least \$15 - \$21/hr) to account for 24 hours in the field (advertise as wage verses hourly pay rate)
- Day off if work is complete
- Leaders will have extra time before youth program begins and after it ends to organize and to summarize work plan

- If leaders need time off during the summer, it needs to be scheduled

**Action: Aimee will circulate leader job description within two days**

Task: May 15

Hire leader position

- May include applicants from the summer student coordinators
- Very different process to hire leaders than to hire students (youth)

Task: end of May

Contact all 8 First Nations identified in the TRCWR TOR to determine interest in program.

Contact materials can include presentations to council or administration, newsletters, word-of-mouth.

- Some First Nations have summer student coordinators that need to be informed of this program to help select the youth
- Focus on contacting First Nations that aren't actively participating (i.e., Oneida, Delaware Nation – Moravian of the Thames, Munsee – Delaware Nation, Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point)
- Focus on outcomes and benefits
- Sharilyn and Aimee are willing to give presentations

Task: early June

MNRF Leader training in Barrie for leader positions

Task: June 15

Develop youth (high school aged) position description

Task: end of June

Hire / fill youth positions

- May include applicants from the summer student program (ideal if First Nation communities have a summer student who is paid for and can participate in this program for eight weeks). Aamjiwnaang has indicated they can place a student in this program to save costs of this program, while both Caldwell and Walpole Island cannot. The remaining 5 First Nations may or may not be able to place a summer student into this program:
  - ✓ Aamjiwnaang
  - × Walpole Island
  - × Caldwell
  - ? Chippewas of the Thames
  - ? Oneida
  - ? Delaware Nation – Moravian of the Thames
  - ? Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point
  - ? Munsee - Delaware

### **3. Leader position description / responsibilities**

- Develop contact materials explaining program for all First Nations
- Develop youth position descriptions and select candidates
- Attend MNRF leader training

- Develop and coordinate work schedule using calendar of events and list of potential projects / speakers
- Maintain log book of their experience
- Develop team building exercises
- Attend First Nation engagement committee meetings when required

**4. Items needed for program**

ITEM	NUMBER	IN-KIND (WHO?)	COST
Office space	2		
Computer	2		
Video recorder	1		
Van (seat 12)	1		
GPS Units	2		
Canoe and paddles	3		
Canoe safety gear	10		
First Aid Kit	1		
Vehicle Safety Kit	1		
CAA Membership	1		
Hand Tools	10 sets		
Gloves	10 pairs		
Steel toed boots	10 pairs		
Waders	10		
Hard hats	10		
PPE	10 sets		
Camping Equipment	10 people		
Coolers	TBD		
Bins / Barrels	TBD		
Waterproof bags	N/A		
Cell phones / radios	2		
Field guides	1 set		
Fuel	N/A		
Bug Spray	N/A		
Sunscreen	N/A		
Gifts for elders	TBD		
Logbooks	10		

**5. Training (see Youth River Program Option 2 for additional training opportunities)**

If applicants don't have the following certification / training then program will pay for the courses

Task: early June

MNRF Leader training in Barrie

Wilderness First Aid (LMAC Community CPR <http://www.lmac-cpr.ca/>) for leaders

**Action: Dave will verify date of MNRF leader training in Barrie. Tara will contact LMAC about possible wilderness training.**

Task: July

Basic canoe certification for leaders and youth, whitewater training for leaders (available in Minden)

Social media training, policies, codes of conduct for leaders and youth

Green check GPS certification for leaders and youth

First Aid and CPR certification for leaders and youth.

## 6. Work Project Ideas

Other project ideas:

- Water quality sampling (and analysis?)
- Canoe trip down lower Thames
- Erosion monitoring
- Investigate the cultural history of the river
- Assess spiritual values associated with the river
- Community environmental programs along the river
- Fish / benthic communities
- Species At Risk
- Creation story, TEK, Nation to Nation (Treaty talks)
- First Nation community projects and events (e.g. POW WOWs)
- DFO
- St. Clair
- Diving project (Sharilyn has contact)
- Evening campfires to learn about the First Nation communities, storytelling, events, etc.

**Action: First Nation committee members and steering committee to develop possible work projects for the team and name and schedule of specialists and elders to teach the team. Tara will circulate calendar and map to all First Nation partners**

## 7. Deliverables

- Logbooks / recording by youth and leaders of their experience (e.g. digital, hard copy)
- Final report by leaders
- Presentation by leaders
- Youth report to their own First Nation community
- Evaluation of program, including recommendations and lessons learned by leaders
- Copies of training manuals or presentations they received
- Map of erosion areas along the Lower Thames
- Results of water quality sampling and analysis
- Social media / Communication strategy for the project
- Synopsis of project specific deliverables
- Documentation of spiritual / cultural significant locations including place names, historical hunting and fishing locations, burial areas, stories
- Compilation of equipment

## 8. Other considerations

- How will funding be administered? Dave confirmed that the previous program at Chippewas of the Thames was transferred funding. The following First Nations could administer this program:

- ✓ Aamjiwnaang
- × Walpole Island
- × Caldwell
- ? Chippewas of the Thames
- ? Oneida
- ? Delaware Nation – Moravian of the Thames
- ? Chippewas of Kettle and Stoney Point
- ? Munsee - Delaware
- Where will this program be based?
  - 8 weeks for youth @ 4 days/wk
  - 12 – 16 weeks for leaders @ 5 days / wk
  - Ideally rotate to each of the 8 First Nations
  - Potential for leader breaks during Powwows
  - Potential to billet students
- Where will field work occur?
- Will there be a food budget for extended field visits?
- Will we pay applicant wages to take required courses / certification?

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday April 28, 2015 @ 1 pm (Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Sarnia)**