

Thames River Clear Water Revival (TRCWR) Initiative  
Steering Committee Meeting # 20  
**DRAFT MINUTES**

**DATE:** Thursday December 3, 2015  
**LOCATION:** Watershed Conservation Centre (UTRCA building)  
1424 Clarke Road  
London, ON  
**TIME:** **10:00 – 2:30 PM** (Lunch, snacks and drinks provided)  
**CHAIR:** Dan McDonald and Tom Copeland

**CONFIRMED ATTENDEES (15):**

Aimee Johnson, Walpole Island First Nation  
Cherlene Vieira, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change  
Chris Harrington, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority  
Dan McDonald, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change  
Jason Wintermute, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority  
James Peters, Caldwell First Nation  
Pat Donnelly, City of London  
Sharilyn Johnston, Aamjiwnaang First Nation  
Tara Tchir, Project Manager, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority  
Tom Copeland, City of London  
Trevor Robak, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Vicki Hilborn, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Guests:

- Silke Nebel (UTRCA)
- Yuxia Niu (UTRCA)
- Grant Wilkins (UTRCA)
- Mark Helsten (UTRCA)
- Karen Maaskant (UTRCA)

**REGRETS:**

Cam McCauley, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Chief Louise Hillier, Caldwell First Nation  
Eleanor Heagy, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority  
Jenn Richards, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Luca Cargnelli, Environment Canada

**UNCONFIRMED:**

George Henry, Chippewas of the Thames  
Dean Jacobs, Walpole Island First Nation  
Delaware Nation - Moravian of the Thames  
Larry French, Chippewas of the Thames  
Oneida Nation of the Thames



## PURPOSE OF MEETING

- Updates
- Chapters of the Water Management Plan

### 1. WELCOME AND REVIEW OF AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES (10 – 10:15)

- a) Introductions
- b) Last minute additions to December 3, 2015 agenda
  - None
- c) Errors or omissions to minutes of August 12, 2015 (attached)
  - Cheriene provided an update on GFIs and the Water Management Plan and clarified last bullet point on the minutes to reflect that she will be a connection between this steering committee and the other initiatives (LENT, GLWQA, COA).

***ACTION: Tara to update August 12, 2015 minutes.***

### 2. UPDATES (10:15 – 12:30)

- a) WISKI (water quality) data storage and analysis (presentation by Tara and Yuxia)
  - Tara provided the update, with support from Karen, Mark, Grant and Yuxia.
  - WISKI is an environmental data management software system that is becoming the industry standard. It has integrated modules that work together or stand-alone. The water quality and quantity data and ecological data can be housed together. Data, information and reports can be shared very easily.
  - The UTRCA has already made a significant investment and recently purchased three Modules. They compiled and imported PWQMN and PGMN data within the watershed. Yuxia then provide more detailed information about the system including the data validation system. There are 400 water quality parameters and 98 water quality stations.
  - Tara then outlined how the queries can be used to effectively get information. Web Access (KIWIS) was also discussed, so the public could access some of the information at some time in the future.
  - The next step is to develop a team comprised of surface and groundwater quality/quantity experts to address administration; develop an inventory of data available to include in the database and determine data input priorities for the group; review standard sampling and analysis procedures (e.g. benthics); etc.

***ACTION: Steering Committee Members to send the name of the person who could represent your organization to Tara, by December 11<sup>th</sup>.***

***ACTION: Tara will investigate the possibility of including the results of what the reduction in P has been since 2008 in the Water Management Plan since that is the level that needs to be reduced by 40%.***

- b) Phosphorous Recycling (presentation by Silke, UTRCA)



- The presentation began with a history of phosphorus and how it has been so important over time. The historical sources of P have changed significantly in recent decades. Lake 226 in August 1973 was referenced.
- Since P is a finite resource, it is important to use it wisely. 75% of phosphorus is mined out of Morocco and the Western Sahara. Phosphorus continues to be imported into watersheds. Phosphate recycling-take wastewater through Struvite, but a cost differential would be required for imported vs. recycled phosphate.
- The George Bailey award offers \$10,000,000 for the best way to remove Phosphorus from freshwater.

***ACTION: Silke to explore the possibility of determining the phosphorous budget for the watershed, and potentially develop into a proposal in the New Year for doing this work.***

- c) First Nation Youth Stewardship Project (Antler River Guardians from the 4 Directions)
- The steering committee watched a summary video about the value of the program and what the students learned from this initiative. The students completed wetland restoration and native tree planting, and learned about traditional medicine, drumming and canoe building. They were also trained in a variety of health and safety procedures, as well as in field techniques for water quality and biology.
  - They had a group of six for this year from 3 First Nations and would be interested in expanding it for next year with several groups of youth based out of various First Nations within the watershed.
- d) Review of action items
- i. Luca to provide Thamesville station update

***ACTION: Dan to follow up with Luca.***

- ii. Cheriene to present more information about the Leamington tributaries
- Presented map and spreadsheet of PTTW information

***ACTION: Cheriene to ask Hugh Geurtz to present information about the greenhouses and how much phosphorous is being discharged at the next meeting.***

***ACTION: Cheriene to provide more information on the Ontario Great Lakes Protection Act – Bill 66 - at the next meeting.***

- e) New and Improved TRCWR Website (presentation by Tara)
- Tara showed the group the updated website. There is a communications meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Members are encouraged to provide input on the website. Please provide information through your communications representative.

***ACTION: Eleanor to consider adding Adam Yates' information to the website.***



***ACTION: May be able to provide some communication about this initiative now that the phosphorous target has been set for Lake Erie. Messaging around the formation and goals of the revival would be timely.***

### **3. WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (12:45 – 2:30)**

- Tara reviewed 6 chapter sections (Introduction, History, Collaborative Process, Landscape, Land Use and Population Trends, Climate, and First Nations Declaration) with the steering committee and received additional comments that were incorporated directly into the document.
- It was confirmed that this is a technical document. A shorter, six page document will accompany this technical document.

***ACTION: Tara to incorporate comments and to request specific information from members of the steering committee who are responsible for particular topics.***

***ACTION: Steering committee members to provide information to Tara when requested for particular topics under their jurisdiction or of interest/relevance to them.***

***ACTION: Tara to divide the plan into main sections and organize working meetings around each section with technical experts to support writing related sections of the plan.***

***ACTION: Tara to develop a work plan to target completion of final draft for fall 2016.***

### **4. NEXT MEETING**

***ACTION: Tara to organize a meeting for January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 with technical staff to work on writing water quality section.***

***ACTION: Steering committee to ensure appropriate technical experts are at the meeting and prepared to work with group to write components of the plan.***

