

Thames River Clear Water Revival – First Nations Engagement Committee Meeting

HOST: Aamjiwnaang First Nation
DATE: Wednesday, July 27, 2016 from 9:30 am – 3 pm
LOCATION: Maawn Doosh Gumig Community and Youth Centre
1972 Virgil Avenue, Sarnia

Attendance:

Eleanor Heagy (Upper Thames River Conservation Authority)
Lareina Rising (Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change)
Lorraine Moir (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry)
Mary Alikakos (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation)
Murray Blackie (Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Chair)
Skload Riley (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation)
Sharilyn Johnston (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)
Tara Tchir (Upper Thames River Conservation Authority) – Project Manager

Antler River Guardians from the 4 Directions:

Cain Grosbeck
Jake Albert
Journey Cornelius
Shaylene Stone
Tahlanna Miskokomon

Regrets:

Aimee Johnson (Walpole Island First Nation)
Christine Rogers (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)
Courtney Jackson (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)
Chief Louise Hillier (Caldwell First Nation)
Dave Depuydt (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry)
George Henry (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation)
Larry French (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation)

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Antler River Guardians from the 4 Directions
 - Media training will take place today
 - We need to provide the Guardians with key messages and a list of the partners
 - Media training – messaging, how to talk to media, what to post and not to post (e.g., TEK, locations of SAR, etc.) – Sharilyn can provide from FN point of view, importance of TEK, etc.
 - Talk to Chereine tomorrow to get MOECC message
 - Lareina has contact at Six Nations who can provide social media training
 - Shaylene has passwords for the Facebook and Twitter accounts
 - Tuesday, August 2 – at SOAHAC (COTTFFN) – will do mussel ID (missed the session this week)
 - Friday, August 5 – cultural connection day with three MNRF ranger crews at COTTFFN pow wow grounds
 - Mary will talk with Chief White-eye to set up presentation to COTTFFN chief and council in August. Aamjiwnaang has meetings in August and September. Need to reach out to all FN with traditional territory, so September would be easier. Fifteen minute presentation.
 - Concerns that we include all the FN in the program, so maybe look at other options to bring in students

- Arnold Norman Yellowman – one of the SAR people for Aamjiwnaang FN.

3. Engagement Strategy

- Lorraine gave an overview of the revised draft strategy. She is also developing a treaty map that shows the treaties, with the watersheds overlaid.
- Discussion of how the engagement strategy fits into the watershed strategy (TRCWR).
- Lareina – “engagement” may not be the right term – original goal was to involve First Nations from the very beginning in development of plans, and in outreach and implementation. Need to ensure connection is all the way through the process.
- Goal 4 of the TRCWR refers to TEK. This goal and the underlying objectives were developed by the steering committee. The FN engagement committee can develop its own goals and objectives, which should have regard for the vision and process of the TRCWR.
- Add some numbers to the flow chart - #s involved in various committees.
- Cultural component – referring to water as a “management resource” is not compatible with FN values.
- Sharilyn said Union Gas is proposing to give each of the four FN \$5000 towards the Antler River Guardians project. The FN each need to approve.
- They will investigate who from WIFN can get involved on the FN engagement committee and the steering committee.
- TEK – add to all the components around youth engagement, how we do things on the land, pesticide management, etc. – whatever recommendations FN put forward, TEK needs to be incorporated.
- Indigenous or Traditional Ways of Knowing/World View (not TEK).
- FN youth are struggling to understand that knowledge and how leaders can put that into policy.
- WMP water quality – FN recommendation re: phosphorus – Land Laws may be in the future, depending on whether FN can have constitutions. Land Codes are more relevant to COTTFN. FN can be leaders on environmental management on their own lands, and then share with the broader communities.
- There need to be tools in place for enforcement. Bylaws aren’t being enforced now.