

Thames River Clear Water Revival (TRCWR) Initiative  
Steering Committee Meeting # 21  
**DRAFT MINUTES**

**DATE:** Friday June 3, 2016  
**LOCATION:** Watershed Conservation Centre (UTRCA building)  
1424 Clarke Road  
London, ON  
**TIME:** **9:00 – 1PM** (Lunch, snacks and drinks provided)  
**CHAIR:** Dan McDonald

**ATTENDEES (12):**

Cam McCauley, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
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  
Jenn Richards, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Lorraine Moir, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Pat Donnelly, City of London  
Sharilyn Johnston, Aamjiwnaang First Nation (call-in)  
Tara Tchir, Project Manager, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority  
Trevor Robak, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Vicki Hilborn, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

**REGRETS:**

Aimee Johnson, Walpole Island First Nation  
Chief Louise Hillier, Caldwell First Nation  
Eleanor Heagy, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority  
George Henry, Chippewas of the Thames  
Larry French, Chippewas of the Thames  
Luca Cagnelli, Environment Canada  
Mary Alikakos, Chippewas of the Thames  
Tom Copeland, City of London

**PURPOSE OF MEETING**

- Provide updates

**PROPOSED AGENDA**

**1. WELCOME AND REVIEW OF AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES**

**a) Introductions**

**b) Last minute additions to agenda**

- Reviewed and approved

**c) Errors or omissions to minutes of December 3, 2015**

- Reviewed and discussed
- Substantial discussion occurred on the Thamesville monitoring station:



- Feeling was that EC hadn't moved this forward, and more discussion occurred as to how the steering committee could help. It could possibly take up to 2 years before start-up again. The biggest risk is to EC in order to know if the 40% number has been met. Will leave issue on the agenda as a standing item.
- Luca has been away for a few months, but is back now and will be reengaging on the work of the committee.

***ACTION: Tara will send out the proposal to OMNRF as an FYI***

- Action items on Leamington tributaries was parked for now:
  - Cheriene has been approved for 116.5 thousand for monitoring work in that area. Need to confirm changes in greenhouse discharges and possible seasonality of P-levels in the Leamington area tributaries.

## 2. UPDATES

### a) Domestic Action Plan (DAP) – Cheriene

- Plan developed by February 2018. It is to be immediately implemented and results expected within 5 years. It is a living document.
- Meets GLPA and LENT commitments but is a stand-alone plan.
- Number of different working groups operating under the Nutrients Annex that are moving forward
- Commitment is at the Federal level yet the plan will apply to all organizational levels. There will only be one plan for all commitments
- Several Federal and Provincial agencies on the annex including Ag Canada, OMAFRA, DFO, OMNRF, OMOECC and E.C who do not have as much local knowledge that the local First Nations, CAs and municipalities have to develop priorities
- Scale of the current data is only at the quaternary watershed level (provincial WQMN). Came up with 15 – 20 universal priority areas in the broader Lake Erie basin. Need to go back and compare with local quantity and quantity information to confirm work.
- informal meetings / consultation being conducted to gather water quality and quantity information from local organizations / groups (CAs, municipalities) that will be used to develop priority actions
- Developing a more formal consultation process for First Nations, Aboriginals and Metis
- Recognition that there are no hotspots to target efforts. Focusing on targeted geographical areas could be perceived poorly, so need broad application. It will be difficult to prioritize efforts based on geographical areas. Instead, a broad application of tools and options are being considered in order to make a difference, with phased in approach by priority watershed / sub watershed and / or sector
- Implementation will occur using outreach and regulations
- Monitoring will be a key component. We don't have the level of monitoring right now to baseline what is needed for the 40% reductions, nor the local monitoring needed. Monitoring gaps will be investigated using various protocols



(e.g. Heidelberg protocol), but not sure if that level of monitoring will be adopted. Will determine what is most applicable.

- MOECC is currently funding the implementation of additional monitoring stations in the LTVCA as recommended by Freshwater Inc. (doubling of stations and extension of the monitoring program into winter and spring). Focus is on quality.
- GLASI is incorporating monitoring of pumping schemes
- While the DAP is moving forward at the Federal and Provincial levels, the TRCWR is moving forward at the local / grassroots level. Now is the opportunity to bring forward recommendations for the DAP. Sandra George is on the mailing list for the water quality and quantity technical working groups so she is aware of the work. DAP input from TRCWR will time well with the fall recommendation schedule.
- The Lake Erie Nutrient Targets (LENT) Workgroup recently announced that the OHIO DAP has been released

**b) Water Management Plan – Tara**

- Work plan (timelines and responsibilities)
  - There is a need to do some communications work on the TRCWR – Eleanor has some funding.
  - Water Quality and Quantity groups are well underway.
  - Need to have some more input from the First Nations. Might be issues with local elections occurring in July that may delay things.
  - Tara has received most of the information from the various agencies due by May.

***ACTION: Tara will resend the work plan to include steering and technical committee review of draft changes.***

***ACTION: Everyone is to review the work plan in relation to all of the Draft Water Management Plan sections and provide information requested by the appropriate deadlines.***

***ACTION: Tara will incorporate the recent (May) submissions and resend the Draft Water Management Plan with track changes by the end of June for a two week review of changes.***

***ACTION: Tara will incorporate the June submissions and resend the Draft Water Management Plan with new track changes by the end of July for a two week review of changes.***

- Recommendations
  - Cautionary example of the Elgin Shoreline Plan – Jason
    - 4 CAs along the shoreline of one county developed an action plan based on science to meet the planning act requirements of Elgin municipalities. Land landowners showed up disliking a few recommendations, specifically not allowing shoreline protection. Accused of not publically consulting, not following procurement. Elgin didn't approve the plan. Lower Thames thought they had done everything right.



- Partially resulting from the absence of outreach, the implementation of the plan was prevented by a few vocal residents. To ensure this does not happen with the TRCWR and WMP, the LTVCA is compiling a roadshow to municipalities to show what the TRCWR is doing to address the water quality and quantity issues in the Thames River and to enable the municipalities to provide input into the DAP.
  - Since the TRCWR doesn't have all municipalities at the table, we need to push for engagement. Also concerns about agricultural community accepting any regulatory or enforcement based rules. Caution about consultation approaches. Opportunity to bring folks on board.
- Sign off process
    - Review need for minister / chief signoff and possible impacts of having individual agency recommendations sections rather than a single set by consensus. Perhaps we should have both. A set of consensus-based recommendations for the various key themes of the recommendations and then an individual section for each agency. May result in more scrutiny on the individual recommendations and a general endorsement of the document based on the broader consensus.
    - Part of this process will be to define specific terms found in the table (e.g. OMAFRA considers BMPs as purely voluntary while this may not be the case with other organizations)

***ACTION: Tara will resend the table with extra columns to identify consensus areas. Everyone is to go through the recommendations and identify what they will specifically support and what they may have issue with. This would then leave the recommendations that each agency feels outside of their mandate.***

- Next Steps (Implementation / Action Plan)
  - Environment Canada would like an implementation plan to begin before the end of the year
  - MOECC has provided funding for the project manager position to the end of 2016, which is the wrap-up of the water management plan

**c) First Nation Liaison Position – Chris**

- A position description for a First Nation liaison position was developed as part of the MOECC funding proposal for the youth program. The youth program was fully funded (50K), but the liaison position (60K) was not given that many First Nation requests for funding were submitted to MOECC and supported
- Chris Harrington prepared a request for resources from the TRCWR partners for other funding opportunities. It was also discussed with Sandra George from



Environment Canada who requested that the position description be sent to her for review

- Minister of Environment visited Aamjiwnaang last Thursday and saw the youth presentation. They found the project valuable. Sharilyn Johnston is meeting with Minister McKenna's staff in Ottawa on June 9<sup>th</sup> and will be discussing the youth program and traditional ecological knowledge
- CELA application related to SWP position and the liaison position got delayed until September
- There was discussion of developing a subcommittee for funding to support this and similar initiatives given the capacity issues of First Nation staff. It was suggested that Dave Depudyt (OMNRF Partnership Specialist) could help with this role.

***ACTION: Tara to forward the First Nation youth liaison position description to the group and to Sandra George***

**d) Watershed Strategy**

- Next steps after water management plan

***ACTION: Discussion about what the next phase / step of the watershed strategy is postponed until the next steering committee meeting***

**e) Round Table**

- POW WOW June 25 and 26 and Solidarity Day celebrations for Aamjiwnaang
- COA funding for project manager position, LID, LTVCA monitoring WISKI and First nations Youth program are going through first set of approvals. Enhanced funding for Leamington greenhouses and chitosan bio-filter
- MNRF is engaged in Annex discussions, specifically around what contribution natural heritage makes to phosphorous reduction. Hoping to expand wetland creation / restoration projects. Also developing a climate change adaptation strategy, wetlands strategy and reviewing the CA Act
- City of London maintaining connection to the Great Lakes Cities Initiative
- Developing a WISKI hub with LTVCA, UTRCA, SCRCA and possibly ABCA and Essex. Need to see if GLASI information can be incorporated

**3. NEXT MEETING**

***ACTION: Tara will send out dates in August to review water management plan with steering committee***

