

TRCWR Steering Committee Draft Agenda
October 8, 2021 at 930 am
Web / Tele Conference

CONFIRMED ATTENDEES:

Brandon Doxtator (Oneida FN)
Brennan Vogel (Climate Change Liaison with COTTFN)
Cherlene Vieira (MECP) - CHAIR
Chris Harrington (UTRCA)
Courtney Jackson (Aamjiwnaang FN)
Daniel Bittman (LTVCA)
Eleanor Heagy (UTRCA) - MINUTES
Jason Wintermute (LTVCA)
Karen Maaskant (UTRCA)
Lyne Sabourin (Interdepartmental Indigenous STEM (I-STEM) Cluster/ Indigenous Science Liaison Office / Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada)
Ngan Diep (MECP)
Pat Donnelly (COL)
Stephen Marklevitz (LEMU MNRF)

Tara Tchir (UTRCA)
Trevor Robak (OMAFRA)

REGRETS:

Annabelle Laurin (COTTFN)
Dan McDonald (MECP)
Emma Young (COTTFN)
Jason Lehouillier (MECP)
Ken VanEvery (MNRF)
Mary Alikakos (COL)
Naomi Williams (WIFN)

UNCONFIRMED

Brian Locke (LEMU MNRF)
Jason Webb (Alymer MNRF)
Luca Cargnelli (ECCC)
Mark Peacock (LTVCA)
Sharilyn Johnston (Aamjiwnaang FN)

Meeting Goal to share information about related initiatives in the watershed and continue to develop a process of outreach and engagement to potential new partners and a process for tracking progress towards achieving SWA recommendations.

1. Welcome and Introductions - Tara

- London is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796
- Tecumseh is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, primarily the Three Fires Confederacy as well as other Anishinaabek peoples, Haudenosaunee, Attawandaron, Huron, and Myaamia; on lands connected with Treaty #2.
- Roundtable introductions for new steering committee member (Annabelle Laurin from COTTFN, Brennan Vogel from COTTFN?) and for presenters (Ngan Diep, Daniel Bittman and Lyne Sabourin)
- Review and approval of Minutes from July 7 2021 meeting (attached)

2. Presentations

- **Lower Thames Valley Water Monitoring by Daniel Bittman:**
 - The MECP-COA water monitoring project, providing preliminary water quality and loading results.
- **Initiatives within the AAFC by Lyne Sabourin:**
 - AAFC projects focused on watershed surface water quality monitoring in partnerships with CAs, Indigenous student employment opportunities in environmental lab work (including two in London for the winter term), the Healing Garden planning at AAFC London (see attached image of an example of a healing garden), an initiative from the

Eastern Ontario First Nation Working Group hosted by South Nation Conservation Authority <https://www.nation.on.ca/water/partnerships/eastern-ontario-first-nations-working-group> and other initiatives within AAFC, notably the Indigenous Science Liaison Office and the federal interdepartmental Indigenous STEM group to partner with FN.

- **Clarity on the Muddy Waters of the Thames River and its Interaction with Lake St. Clair: A synopsis of conditions, algal blooms and innovative tools by Ngan Diep**
 - In 2016, MECP and ECCC initiated a large-scale field campaign to examine the Canadian nearshore waters of Lake St. Clair and its priority tributary, the Thames River. This project expanded to include many binational partners to address the issue of harmful algal blooms, characterization of conditions over space and time and development of tools to track and predict HABs through remote sensing and instrumentation. The presentation is a summary of the key findings.

3. First Nations Engagement Committee

- **Update on Antler River Guardians program for 2021 season – Brandon, Annabelle, Tara**
 - Summary of activities from 2021
 - COTTFN is ready to pass the torch on to another FN community to administer the ARG4D program.
- **Funding Proposal – Tara, Brennan**
 - Provided a letter of support for Advancing First Nations Co-Management and Shared Governance of Regional Cumulative Effects in the Deshkan Ziibi Watershed by Chippewas of the Thames First Nation on Sept 10 2021 (see attached)
 - This potential project could build on the CIRNAC First Nations Adapt effort to support Conservation Authorities and First Nations with respect to building partnerships, knowledge, capacity and advancing efforts related to floodplain management at a regional scale as well as other local / watershed scale collaborations and engagements on capacity building to improve watershed communications on matters of environmental planning related to agriculture, urbanization and climate impacts in Deshkan Ziibi.
 - Project being led by Brennan Vogel (Climate Change Liaison with COTTFN), now working with Kelly Riley and Emma Young (Annabelle Laurin) in Treaties Lands and Environment.
 - In Brennan's words: "I foresee the creation of a core committee of folks CC'd on this email (e.g. FNs + CAs) continuing to working collaboratively to design and implement an iterative First Nations + Conservation Authorities led consultation framework to positively engage with neighboring municipalities and other stakeholders (e.g. health units, academia, higher government) on the gaps and opportunities to better address watershed issues such as riparian zone management and urban development / sewage bypass release as well as related climate risk issues (e.g. overland flooding) using 'Two Eyed Seeing' approaches that incorporate Indigenous knowledge with Western science. I was thinking a series of external partnership workshops and participating community-engagements and report-backs over the course of 2 years, but I am open to feedback and suggestions."
- **Representation on TSR Source Protection Committee (2 positions) – Jason W**
 - In the past, Kennon Johnson, Augustus Tobias and Darlene Whitecalf participated on the committee. The ratio structure has since changed so only have two vacant seats available.

- The per diem is \$150/mtg. The Source Protection Plan states that there are 2-4 mtg/year but it's only been about 2 meetings per year. However this could change as changes to the Director Technical Rules are being updated in the near future and we'll need more involvement from the SPC. Mileage is also reimbursed, however, meetings since COVID have been virtual and are expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

4. Update on SWA Sign-offs – Trevor Robak

- We have received signoff for the OMAFRA endorsement of the TRCWR SWA (attached).

5. Implementation and Outreach – Tara

- The TRCWR Steering Committee identified that outreach to a broader group is needed in order to seek feedback on how to achieve and track the recommendations in the SWA. To accomplish this, the Steering Committee recommended that at least 3 sub-committee working group meetings should be developed, where a steering committee member for each group will be identified to: i) lead development of an engagement, communication and outreach strategy related SWA recommendations ii) broaden involvement in the delivery and tracking of the SWA recommendations and iii) compile complementary initiatives for that working group. To that end, I have placed the following steering committee members in the following three working groups:
 - First Nations: Mary A, Courtney J, Eleanor H, Emma Y, Ken V, Naomi W, Brandon D, Sharilyn J, Tara T (and FN engagement committee members)
 - Municipalities and Conservation Authorities: Pat D, Eleanor H, Jason W, Mark P, Tara T, UTRCA Manager? Cheriene V?, Jason L? Stephen M?, Jason W?, Brian L?
 - Agriculture: Trevor R, Eleanor H, Cheriene V?, Jason L? Stephen M?, Jason W?, Brian L?, Tara T
- The minutes from the June 7 2021 and the July 7 2021 (attached) contain examples of tools that can be used to assist in tracking recommendations and broadening participation.

6. Implementation of Partner Recommendations

- Work has begun on summarizing activities that have been undertaken to address UTRCA WATER QUALITY and WATER QUANTITY recommendations (see attached draft work plans)

7. Other Project Updates / Roundtable– All

8. Next Meeting: