

TRCWR Steering Committee Meeting Minutes, March 27, 2020 (virtual meeting)

In attendance:

Tara Tchir
Pat Donnelly
Cherlene Vieira
Mary Alikakos
Eleanor Heagy
Chris Harrington
Jason Wintermute
Jason Lehouillier
Ken VanEvery
Trevor Robak
Luca Cagnelli
Brandon Doxtator
Warren Huff

1. Finalized SWA document – Eleanor

- Updates prior to posting to address accessibility, may request City of London to review for other opportunities for accessibility features
- Link to web page:

<https://www.thamesrevival.ca/home/shared-waters-approach/>

- Direct link to pdf:

<http://thamesriver.on.ca/wp-content/uploads//SharedWatersApproach-Dec2019finaldraft.pdf>

ACTIONS:

- Eleanor to forward to Mary for review for additional accessibility features.

2. Steering Committee member endorsement of SWA – Chris

- Several partners outlined approaches to date in preparations for member endorsement approaches, including ECCC/MECP indicating similar approaches to the sign-off for the Grand River Water Management Plan, OMAFRA, CAs, boards and FNs councils for next steps.

ACTIONS:

- Partners will work towards sign off as soon as possible in formats appropriate for their organization that can be appended to online SWA document and send to Chris, Eleanor and Tara.
- Tara, Mary and Pat will work together to develop an outreach strategy for the chiefs and councils of the First Nation partners to deliver and seek endorsement of the SWA

3. Update on Antler River Guardians program for 2020 season – Cherlene

- Cherlene, Emma, Chris and Tara updated the proposal early in the new year and the finances have come through for summer 2020
- There is a recognition that with COVID the summer might look a little different, but hopefully the program will run at some capacity during the 2020 summer
- As the program develops, it may need assistance from other agencies as in the past (MNRF rangers, technical expertise and support, connections)

4. Work Planning/Next Steps

a. Proposals for work this year

i. SWA Implementation and Outreach – Chris

- Originally envisioned as a COA planned proposal

- Implementation aligns with the LTVCA goals
- Suggest that it will be important to recognize agricultural groups during outreach, engagement and potential participation in future activities

ACTIONS:

- Each interested committee representative will send ideas to Cheriene as to how implementation would look to them and she will modify the proposal
 - ii. **NSERC Application (Adam Yates – University of Waterloo) – Tara/Pat**
 - Proposal was developed using the SWA document

ACTIONS:

- Chris will forward the NSERC proposal backgrounder by Adam Yates to the committee
- Each committee representative will let Chris / Pat know if they can support the proposal in principle by April 9th, 2020
 - iii. **Others – All**
 - LTVCA mentioned the recurring algal blooms that seem to be separate cause than those from Lake St. Clair, perhaps coming from upstream given the speciation of the algae, and that it might be good project to determine where the blooms in the lower Thames are coming from
 - Presentation by MECP on joint project at a HABs workshop this week highlighted some different speciation of the HABs in/from the Thames River compared to other areas.
 - FNs engagement plan associated with City of London's WWTP Master Plan

ACTIONS:

- Cheriene will look into hosting a webinar with Ngan Diep about this
 - LTVCA mentioned that another topic might be Species At Risk. UTRCA mentioned that an ecosystem based recovery strategy for the Thames might have some appeal, which may include a natural heritage system strategy
- b. **Steering Committee role moving forward – All**
 - We are in a period of transition, would be helpful to keep the representation but perhaps we need to open it up to others, as well as other members on the committee
 - The role is tied into where the implementation is going to go, may change the steering committee role quite a bit, so another model with more working groups might be a better approach

ACTIONS:

- Some thought will be put into the structure of committees, governance, etc. as part of the SWA implementation and outreach proposal
- c. **Partner Updates – All**
 - Lake Erie LAMP has some small articles on the report (nutrient reduction in the LTVCA, water management plan) to continue to provide SWA with awareness / publicity at the international level.

Next Meeting – Chris

ACTIONS:

- Doodle poll for meeting last week of May to be sent out by Chris.