

TRCWR Steering Committee Meeting: Draft Minutes

November 14, 2022 at 9 am (virtual and in person at UTRCA Watershed Conservation Centre)

ATTENDANCE

- Brandon Doxtator (Oneida First Nation)
- Brennan Vogel (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation(COTTFN))
- Courtney Jackson (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)
- *Eleanor Heagy (Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA))
- Emma Young (COTTFN)
- *Jason Wintermute (Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA))
- *Mary Alikakos (City of London (COL))
- Naomi Williams (Walpole Island First Nation)
- Ngan Diep (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP))
- Pat Donnelly (COL) - CHAIR
- Rob Hyde (Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)) – in place of Luca Cargnelli
- Stephen Marklevitz (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF))
- *Tara Tchir (UTRCA)
- *Tracy Annett (UTRCA)
- Trevor Robak (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs) – on secondment to different role within ministry

*in person

REGRETS

- Jason Lehouillier (MECP)
- Ken VanEvery (MNRF) – on secondment to different ministry
- Luca Cargnelli (ECCC)
- Mark Peacock (LTVCA)

Meeting Goal:

To agree on organization of SWA, how to incorporate tasks about partner recommendations and deliverables, and next steps of implementation and communication.

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgements, and Introductions

2. Review and Approve Minutes from October 8, 2021, Meeting

The draft minutes were amended to remove a comment regarding not knowing the effects of climate change on algae blooms, as this is not the case.

3. Outstanding Items

- Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Region Source Protection Committee (SPC): The SPC is still requesting two First Nations representatives for the committee. Tara will give contact information for Chippewas of the Thames and Oneida Nation of the Thames to the Source Protection Project Coordinator.

- New committee members and SWA sign off/endorsement: If new agencies, nations, or organizations join the SWA Steering Committee (SC), they will be required to review the SWA and may provide comments, but there is no need for them to officially signoff or endorse it.
- Tara will draft an email to inform Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) of the SWA and asking if they wish us to share information about the initiative in the future.
- Examples of engagement strategies/plans or communications plans for engaging with a First Nation community: Committee members were asked to provide any examples they are able to share, so that we can develop something similar.
- The Steering Committee Terms of Reference (TOR) are posted on the SWA / TRCWR website. SC members are asked to review them for discussion at the next meeting. Any changes to the TOR will need signoff by all SC partners.

4. Presentations

Tara gave a presentation regarding linkages between the Shared Waters Approach and UTRCA's watershed-based resource management strategy (WRMS), which is being developed. She also showed a spreadsheet she is developing to track UTRCA action items.

5. Reorganization of SWA according to Eflow and Spiritual Values

Tara provided an overview of her work to develop an implementation plan for the UTRCA recommendations, and how she has reorganized and condensed the SWA objectives and recommendations around the five components of environmental flow (eflow). The committee supported the direction she has taken.

6. Components of the Communication and Outreach Plan (Draft)

UTRCA will communicate actions they are doing to meet the SWA recommendations and deliverables, broken down into 1, 5, and 10 year tasks, and where the gaps are. Public feedback (e.g., How are we doing? What else can we be doing?) can be gathered and used to help refine and prioritize actions. UTRCA communication around the WRMS will also include the SWA.

7. Partner / Subcommittee Updates

- Targeted subcommittee meetings will be on an as needed basis. It is not clear whether a natural heritage subcommittee is needed. We do not have a lead for the agriculture subcommittee. Tara will meet with the First Nations individually.

8. Round Table

- Stephen provided an update on two projects. They have been placing acoustic tags on Walleye and there are receivers all along the river from Lake St. Clair up to Fanshawe Dam. The habitat suitability mapping project is also making good progress.
- Ngan mentioned interest in hearing about First Nation youth stewardship programs that can be implemented by each First Nation community, and encouraged the First Nation partners to contact her.

9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 25, 2023, from 9 am – 12 noon.