



Community Advisory Panel Meeting #6

Wednesday, November 23, 2011

10:00 – 12:30

Kawartha Field Center, Ken Reid Conservation Area
277 Kenrei Road, Lindsay, ON K9V4R1

Minutes

Present:

Chris Appleton	(Sturgeon Point Association)
Doug Erlandson	(Balsam Lake Association)
Brian Junkin	(Councilor, City of Kawartha Lakes)
Steve Strangway	(Councilor, City of Kawartha Lakes)
Doug Elmslie	(Councilor, City of Kawartha Lakes)
Richard Ovcharovich	(HKPR Health Unit)
Dave Kerr	(City of Kawartha Lakes)
John Williamson	(Kawartha Protect Our Water)
Lou Probst	(City of Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee)
Mike Stedman	(Kawartha Lakes Stewards Association)
Terry Contois	(The Moorings Community Association – Cameron Lake)
Cathy Armstrong	(Balsam Lake, Killarney Bay-Cedar Point Cottage Association)
Doug van Hemessen	(Victoria Stewardship Council - MNR)
Terry Rees	(Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association)
Catherine Gravely	(Sturgeon Lake)
George Routcliffe	(The Moorings Community Association – Cameron Lake)

Kawartha Conservation Staff:

Rob Messervey, Chief Administrative Officer
Dave Pridham, Manager, Environmental and Stewardship Services
Rob Stavinga, Water Resources Technician
Alex Shulyarenko, Water Quality Specialist
Sarah Quesnelle, Resource Technician
Shalin Abbott, Stewardship Coordinator
Brent Kulba, Communications Specialist

1. Welcome

Chris Appleton, Chair, greeted participants and thanked them for attending. This was followed by roundtable introductions.

2. Approval of minutes and business arising from the minutes

The previous meeting's minutes were reviewed. Action items from these minutes resulted in volunteers for editing Lake Management Plans and reports: Action items from the minutes were reviewed with a brief update on their current status:

- Mike Benner is developing site alternation by-law for shoreline activity
- Rob Messervey stated that streamlining proposals on jurisdictional requirements are currently

- underway and that Sturgeon Lake will be a pilot project for these changes
- Brent Kulba stated that mail-out packages are available upon request
 - Brian Junkin reported that Chamber of Commerce is strongly interested in the Lake Management Planning process
- Steve Strangway presented the City of Kawartha Lakes Lake Management Plan to the Chamber of Commerce and will continue to provide updates
- Editing of Watershed Characterization Report - Mike Stedman has a volunteer from the Kawartha Lake Stewards Association and Brian Junkin indicating interest from a niece.

Motion to approve the minutes was lead by Steve Strangway, seconded by Terry Rees.

3. Approval of Balsam and Cameron Lake Management Plan Terms of Reference

- It was noted that the Community Advisory Panel should have a Ministry of the Environment representative.
- Doug van Hemessen noted that the Victoria Stewardship Council could be listed as a potential partner for the invasive species study component.

Motion to approve the Terms of Reference was lead by Doug Erlandson, seconded by Brian Junkin.

4. Lake Management Plan updates

i) Lake Management Plan Open Houses – Dave Pridham

- Dave reviewed the Open Houses, attendance and special guest presentations that occurred in October and November 2011 in Bobcaygeon, Lindsay and Fenelon Falls
- Three or four open houses are planned to occur in 2012, beginning in the spring
- Locations may include community centres, Sturgeon Point
- Action Item:** Dave Pridham asked for input on future open house locations
- It was widely agreed that reaching seasonal residents is a priority
- Open houses should include action items for people and provide take-home material i.e. what they can do to help on their property, etc
- Advertising a week before on signs; advertising with hydro bill schedule may help promotion
- Brent Kulba reviewed advertising methods including radio and newspaper ads, online event calendars and posters
- Cottager association meetings, other festivities in local towns i.e. Fenelon Falls, Bobcaygeon were considered to be an excellent opportunity to reach a large number of residents; should have presence and information available to the public
- Meetings within other organizations, e.g. KLSA meeting in May in Bobcaygeon to inform attendees of the Lake Management Plans and open houses
- Action Item:** Dave Pridham and Rob Messervey asked that all contact information known for associations be forwarded to Kawartha Conservation, attention of Rob Stavinga.
 - Doug Erlandson will forward along contact information for associations on Balsam Lake
 - It was noted that an information package, or Lake Management Plan brochures be made available for Chamber of Commerce meetings, or other areas such as realtors, farmer's market in Bobcaygeon
 - Third week in August considered prime time for open houses, particularly if there is a blue-green algae bloom; opportunistic timing would likely provide larger turnouts
 - Haliburton-Muskoka-Kawartha Children's Water Festival (Brent Kulba attends on behalf of Kawartha Conservation) is expanding the number of attendees and seeking organizations that can develop and run activities centres

Action Item: Both members of CAP and Kawartha Conservation should promote Lake Management Planning and advertise any upcoming open houses or other events. A speaker package including

notes and handouts should be prepared for such occasions i.e. basic speaking notes, brochures, contact information

ii) Overview of Open House Surveys and Results – Brent Kulba

- 100 surveys completed between October and November 2011; 59 at open houses and 41 online
- Summarized general results of surveys with waterbody of interest, impression of water quality, specific concerns (i.e. waterfowl, blue-green algae), etc.
- Brent can be contacted for additional details.

Action Item: Email the survey results to CAP members.

iii) 2011 Water Quality Sampling Update – Alex Shulyarenko

- Alex reviewed all sampling programs related to Lake Management Planning: nutrients (including provincial network PWQMN), *E. coli* sampling, Kawartha Water Watch as well as flow and precipitation monitoring. In total more than 500 samples have been collected and analyzed.
- *E. coli* concentrations are low across the watershed, in some cases levels did exceed provincial guidelines. The highest *E. coli* concentrations are found in Jennings Creek (geomean = 189 cfu/100 mL) and in McLaren Creek (geomean = 102 cfu/100 mL). The provincial guideline is 100 cfu/100 mL
- Three rounds of *E. coli* sampling from two residential canals. Concentrations ranged from 2 to 44 cfu/100 mL
- Sediment sampling showed no *E. coli* in lake sediments, with one exception where low level (20 cfu/1g) were detected from the Ken Reid Conservation Area beach
- Phosphorous and nitrogen levels were reported to illustrate similar trends within the watershed as last year: tributaries in the southern areas of the watershed have higher phosphorus and nitrogen concentrations than tributaries in the north
- Levels are higher on Sturgeon Lake this year than last year, with highest levels occurring in September
 - Reasons for this are uncertain, Alex reports that precipitation levels were not significantly higher; septic, lawn fertilization, waste water treatment plant are potential sources
- Winter water sampling occurs on tributaries, however not on lakes. Alex investigated water quality on Lake Scugog in previous years and found that phosphorous and nitrogen levels remain very low in winter months
- Richard Ovcharovich also added that phosphorus levels in lakes in winter months are low due to ice coverage; runoff is minimized and nutrient sources for organisms are depleted

iv) MOE report: PCB Sediment Delineation of the Scugog River, July 2011 – Alex Shulyarenko

- Alex provided update on the MOE sediment sampling from the Scugog river in October 2009 and corresponding report released in July 2011. MOE staff collected samples from 56 stations along the river between the mouth of Sinister Creek and Sturgeon Lake. It was reported that in 54 out of 56 sediment samples PCB concentrations exceeded Ontario Sediment Quality Guideline (Lowest Effect Level, 70 ng/g). Twenty two samples exceeded Canadian Sediment Quality Guideline (Probable Effect Level, 277 ng/g). The highest PCB concentrations were detected at locations 1.4 km, 1.8 km and 4.6 km downstream of the mouth of Sinister Creek.
- PCBs are from past contamination from Sinister Creek and maybe from some historical inputs from the Lindsay Street North landfill site as well as the Lindsay WPCP. There are no present sources.

v) Sturgeon Lake PCB Phase 1 sampling results and plans for Phase 2 in 2012 – Alex Shulyarenko

- Five sediment samples have been collected from the south-western portion of the lake. Samples have been analyzed for PCBs, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), Organochlorinated pesticides, metals as well as total phosphorus, total organic nitrogen, total organic carbon and particle size. PCBs and OC pesticides (Heptachlor-Epoxide) were detected above the guidelines at two stations near Snug Harbor. At the same stations metals such as cadmium, chromium, copper, lead and zinc as well as PAHs also exceeded corresponding guidelines.

- Sediment sampling is planned to continue in 2012 in the eastern portion of the lake
- Disturbance of sediments is the primary concern as re-suspension of PCBs can occur; this is a particular problem in shallow water areas with swimmers and/or high-speed boating
- High concern was noted in areas of the Scugog River and boat speeds, speed limits should be posted to reduce speeds and wakes, this issue has already been brought to Trent-Severn Waterway, will continue to inquire

Action Item: Public should be notified of risk associated with the PCB contamination in sediments and sediment disturbance; boat speed limits should be posted in the Scugog River

- Information on PCB contamination in wildlife can be found. For fish, the Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish contains useful information, however it was noted that up-to-date data should be requested

vi) Pigeon Lake Management Plan – Rob Messervey

- The proposed Pigeon Lake Management Plan outline was presented including surrounding tributaries in the watershed
- Plan proposed plan to include Little and Big Bald lakes as well as Buckhorn Lake
- Peterborough County is major funding source, will determine extent of project
- Concerns include algae, wild rice, accelerated weed growth, Nogies Creek, water quality
- Lake associations very interested in lake management planning process
- Source Water Protection may play major role in 2012
- Omemeo lagoons and Pigeon River may have large impact on management plan
- Rob thanked the City of Kawartha Lakes (CoKL) for support and noted appreciation of the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) for contributions and resources brought
- Partnership with Trent University, Dr. Paul Frost, NSERC proposal underway - will highly complement work to be done

vii) 2012 Work Plan – Dave Pridham, Brent Kulba

- Stewardship action: the Blue Canoe, highly successful on Lake Scugog for shoreline naturalization strategies and reaching landowners; funding from EcoAction, a group within Environment Canada
- Potential new partnership with University of Toronto professor; would like to conduct water quality analysis in Kawarthas next year for two weeks in August and September
- Many communication activities for lake management plans and stewardship activities in 2012: meetings, presentations, local events, social media, articles, Pigeon Lake Management Plan launch, Blue Canoe, etc.

viii) Profiling Lake Management Planning – Rob Messervey

- Overall good results, Rick Johnson and day at Queen's Park where Kawartha Conservation got space, spoke to many cabinet ministers, MPPs, etc.
- KLSA forums are appreciated
- October 16-18 was Latonnell Conservation Symposium with water theme for 2011; Dave Pridham and Rob Messervey have presented on lake management planning and community guidance of planning and plan implementation

ix) Lake Management Planning Annual Report – Rob Messervey

- Report serves as the return of the investment; accomplishments, goals, actions, etc.
- Need small working group to pull together a draft, important to be collaborative
- Volunteers: Chris Appleton and Doug Erlandson

Action Item: Any others able to volunteer their time for the report are asked to contact Rob

5. Stewardship at Kawartha Conservation – Shalin Abbott

- Five key programs in Stewardship department include revision of urban programs for Scugog, CoKL vegetative buffers on public lands, shoreline naturalization program (jurisdiction-wide with 95 site visits this year)
- High priority communities include those that are older, highly dense, on waterfront, old septic systems may be present; meeting property owners to discuss stewardship concerns will continue next year
- Other events include the Rate Payers Association annual general meeting, fall community fairs and more for 2012
- Blue Canoe program goal to reach 2600 landowners on 3 lakes over 3 years
- Partnership with Stewardship Council aids in program to offset landowner costs to purchase native plants for shorelines
- Programs may proceed, however will be limited without external funding from sources such as Environment Canada (e.g. EcoAction)

6. Potential communication strategies for blue-green algae in 2012 – Richard Ovcharovich

- Communication/advisory strategies currently in place do not reach those affected in time
 - Lag in advisory postings are partially due to observation, sampling, and analysis; analysis is conducted in one laboratory, taking 3 days to identify the algae and 5 days to identify toxins present
 - Meeting involving HKPR Health Unit to develop new communication plan with goal to be in effect March/April 2012
 - Some algae blooms are isolated, others are lake-wide, blooms are transported around lakes with wind, therefore difficult to advise on locations and timing
 - Current focus on educating public to protect themselves (poison ivy analogy): identification skills, determining level of risk, and precautions to be taken
 - Precautions need to be taken for swimmers as contact with cells can lead to allergic reactions, boiling water increases risk due to release of toxins
 - In some cases contact or ingestion can lead to significant low health
- Action Item:** Once communication plan is in place, HKPR Health Unit will partner with CAP to extend message to public
- KLSA will be producing an algae primer in spring 2012

7. Round table updates on partner activities related to Lake Management Planning

Lou Probst- Revisit on septics, experiencing conflicts with privacy and gaining property information. Chris Appleton advised that this is a sensitivity issue rather than a legal issue

John Williamson – Scugog Report

Mike Stedman – The Milfoil Report is available, reports on water quality and algae also available

Cathy Armstrong – Rideau Conservation Authority provides basic property plans to attend to erosion concerns, septic systems and basic landscape designs on cottage properties

Doug van Hemessen – Kawartha Farm Stewardship Council, relates to water quality such as livestock fencing, stream crossings etc. Deals with surface water, other organizations handle barnyards and manure storage mechanisms

Steve Strangway – Revisit of gasoline availability at marinas, and increasingly difficult to get fuel. Notes to Minister of Environment and Transportation, Laurie Scott, Donna Villemaire with Trent-Severn Waterway

Doug Elmslie – Source Water Protection may have strong implications for Lake Management Plans. Throne speech mentions Great Lakes Protection Act; possible to carry over to Kawartha Lakes

Richard Ovcharovich – Concern for PCB in sediment, may require further investigation i.e. sampling beaches

Dave Kerr – Capital projects proposed for 2012 include regarding the Lindsay Street North landfill. This will remove 10 000 tonnes of buried waste away from the Scugog River. Regrading will lead to water shedding rather than pooling and thereby reduce leachate. Desludging of Lagoon 6 will also occur. Terms of Reference currently underway

Douglas Erlandson – Agrees that CAP and Kawartha Conservation should work together to promote Lake Management Planning process, volunteer speakers should be prepared with package, including notes and brochures (previous action item)

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on February 15, 2012

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 p.m.