

Minutes – Community Advisory Panel Special Project Committee, Mtg#1

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm; Friday August 3, 2012 - Kawartha Conservation Board Room

Present: Pat Warren (chair), Doug VanHemessen; Doug Erlandson; Chris Appleton; Lou Probst; Paul Reeds; Mark Majchrowski; Brett Tregunno; Alex Shulyarenko; Dave Pridham

Regrets: Catherine Gravely; Rob Tonus

Role of Committee will be as a task orientated group that will:

- Provide recommendations with respect to plan format
- Provide expertise and input with respect to plan recommendations; determine who is required or interested to work on the task at hand, e.g. can draw in other individuals not presently involved with process – e.g. members of agricultural community as we develop the agriculture strategy
- Providing recommendations and timely feedback on aspects of the draft plan – as a group, one on one, by phone or e-mail
- Report back to CAP

General synopsis of main discussion points re plan format and how we proceed

- Prefer the format of the Lake Simcoe Plan, and suggested that "Phosphorus Reduction" is the keystone issue to be presented in plan; other pollutants will be reduced as a result of phosphorus reduction strategies being implemented. The Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan demonstrates very well the science and research, i.e. actions are linked to the research.
- Looking for lake-specific information and actions, consider "what makes Sturgeon Lake unique"; recognized a "timing issue" in terms of getting certain actions out before science is available.
- Need to provide "management options" to public for feedback and input, more likely to uptake actions when faced with options; the term "pollution" resonates with farmers, no farmer wants to be a polluter.
- Perhaps provide a set of options, e.g. 1, 2, 3
 - 1 – do nothing – and present the consequences
 - 2 - stewardship activities
 - 3 – regulations and enforcement
- Regulations, e.g.
 - Blowing leaves and cut grass onto roadways, and allowing into storm drain system
 - Development of shoreline zones
 - Grazing immediately adjacent to stream sides
 - If regulations, can we effectively enforce?
- Some concern expressed re education – is it effective? If not, then what other options?
 - Ensure understanding of the issues
 - Peer pressure
 - By-laws

- Legislation, e.g. Lake Simcoe Act
 - Incentive funding
 - Go to specific user groups – ensure their input to plan development
 - Ensure collaboration
- Ensure plan is not generic – must be specific and targeted. Must bring together input from other relevant planning initiatives, e.g. the Community Sustainability Plan.
 - Challenge Kawartha Conservation to put to paper, one-pager, best-bet action items for shoreline residents, farmers, urban land owners, etc.;
 - Within the document itself, need to present issues/actions up front then science and background info later, i.e. start with the 'Plan' followed by the 'Characterization Report'.
 - Simplicity is key for public uptake of actions; we are "implementing" many action items now (e.g., blue canoe, urban guide, etc.),
 - Need to focus on specific issues and how best to deal with them; nutrient loading is one of a suite of issues being identified by public (e.g., others include invasive species, pcb's, beach closures, etc.); need to clarify expectations for successful management.
 - Let's not compromise the requirement for a foundation of solid, current scientific research that will be the basis for decision making and to measure ongoing changes in our lakes.
 - We already have best-bet action documents for early stewardship activities – either in development or now being distributed.
 - Must communicate realistic expectations and 'lag time' in terms of response to management activities.

What other concerns resonate with the public:

- For a great many, the key concern is beach closures. E-coli is the primary concern. Phosphorus is not the issue to those who are looking for a public swimming opportunity.
- Fisheries – Kawartha Lakes Fisheries Assessment Unit considers this to be a significant opportunity.
- Grey water - will be a challenge changing behaviour of lake users (e.g., greywater disposal from boats... difficult to stop boaters from dumping into lake) and how to enforce.
- Invasive species

Annual Report Comments:

- In terms of graphs comparing values to objectives, need to adjust bar graphs from 3D to 2D, to ensure easy comparability.
- Not sure of value in report with respect to management actions.
- Questioned why phosphorus spiked in 2011, response from Alex was that was a direct result of blue-green algae bloom.
- Next step is endorsement of report by the Science and Tech committee.

ACTION ITEMS: Kawartha Conservation to draft, one-pager, with 10 or so general, best-bet action items that landowners can do to address water quality concerns.

NEXT MTG: October 17, 1600-1800, Kawartha Conservation boardroom