

Lakes (Watershed) Advisory Panel

Meeting Notes for April 19, 2016

Present:

Panel Members:

Lin Gibson
Wendy Wisniewski
Mary Henderson
Jeff Huska
Paul Truskoski
Burgess Hawkins
Ed Snucins
Derrick Luetchford
Lilly Noble
Anoop Naik
John Gunn
Sarah Woods

City Staff:

Lana Haslam
Stephen Monet
Paul Javor

Regrets:

Margaret McLaughlin
Charles Ramcharan

Public Attendance:

Alex Cieslewicz – Richard Lk
Brian Wills – Richard Lk
Louise Paquette – Clearwater Lk
Pierre Levesque – Clearwater Lk
Claude Nadon – Wanapitei Lk
John Lindsay – Minnow Lk
Brad Bowman – Minnow Lk

ADVISORY PANEL BUSINESS

- ❖ Handouts: Agenda, Draft meeting notes from February meeting, Lake Stewardship Grant Program Funding Guidelines and Application form.
- ❖ Draft Notes were approved.
- ❖ Lin recognized the efforts of the WAP subcommittee who drafted comments for the Ramsey Lake Subwatershed Study Terms of Reference.

DISCUSSIONS

Ramsey Lake Watershed Plan:

Paul J updated the panel on his presentation to Council on the list of priority watersheds to be studied after Ramsey Lake. The Junction Creek (JC) study will comprise seven individual subwatersheds: Junction Creek, Mud Lake, Simon/McCharles Lake, Garson, Meatbird Creek and Kelly Lake subwatersheds into one comprehensive study. The completion of the JC studies as a single study will allow the City to gain a holistic assessment of the Junction Creek subwatershed. This combined study will be more efficient in terms of management and costs. Whitewater Lake will be the last watershed to be studied with the MOECC funding agreement. The City has submitted draft Terms of Reference to the Province for all subwatershed projects

for consideration. The Public and anyone who submitted comments on the first round of public inputs will have an opportunity to comment again for a period of 10 days. The City will inform those who made comments as to how their comments were incorporated into the draft Terms of Reference. The City anticipates sending the contract out for bids in early May for Ramsey Lake, mid-June for Junction Creek and early Fall for Whitewater Lake.

Concerns were raised by John G. about the quick turnaround time for comments and work to be completed by the consultant. He is recommending a 'made-in-Sudbury' solution and expressed concern that the project will be rushed and the final product will be sub standard. Panel members suggested that there should be an extension to the timelines outlined in the funding agreement and recommended that they contact Glenn Thibeault - MPP for Sudbury to express their concern. The Panel asked Stephen M. to look into obtaining the funding agreement for review. Paul J. advised the Panel that the only extension allowed would be due to weather conditions when collecting data gaps during one season.

Stephen M. informed the Panel that the subwatershed studies will follow Conservation Ontario watershed template and will attract consultants with the proper experience. These studies will assist the City in implementing Official Plan policies relating to stormwater management and natural heritage and in the development of Drainage Master Plans. Like the work conducted as part of the preparation of the Source Protection Plan from 2007 to 2014, the subwatershed studies should not be expected to address all issues related to water quality.

PRESENTATIONS – Lake Stewardship Grant Updates

- ❖ Richard Lake: Alex Cieslewicz reported (PowerPoint) to the Advisory Panel that of the \$500, \$250 was spent on native plants for shoreline planting and the other \$250 was spent on printing a comprehensive booklet on lakefront living. The booklet will be distributed to the campgrounds on the lake since the one campground has doubled in size over the last 3 years. The group is also working with the Mine Mill campground to look into setting up a boat washing station on their property.
- ❖ Clearwater Lake: Pierre Levesque updated the Panel with a PowerPoint presentation. They recently formed in 2014. They have 12 members on their executive with 3 working group: education & awareness, health, environment & water quality and community building. Of the 62 residences on the lake, 51 are members with which they mostly communicate by email. Funds were used for lake clean up event and BBQ and a newsletter in order to foster a sense of community. In the future, they will be collecting membership fees to sustain the stewardship group.
- ❖ Minnow Lake: John Lindsay presented using PowerPoint. The group is concerned about the significant stormwater runoff into the lake. They used the funds to map the sediment deltas in the lake and took soil samples for metal analysis. They would like to see a stormwater treatment options installed around the lake, particularly the north end catchment. It was mentioned that oil grit separators are great for removing sediment but not so great at keeping metals out of the lake. Despite this, Minnow Lake is quite rich in biodiversity with lots of big fish being caught in the lake.

- ❖ Long Lake: Mary H provided the Advisory Panel with a one-page written report. The Long Lake Stewardship group requested an extension for time to use the funds. They were able to gather additional water samples on Long Lake due to the warm fall in 2015. They are organizing a membership meeting for May 29th and will host a guest speaker to present the final report for the lake.
- ❖ Ramsey Lake: Lilly N. presented with PowerPoint. Funds were used to leverage additional funding of \$2,500 from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. They created a rain garden on the grounds of Laurentian University just to the left of the entrance on University Road. This site was selected since it is adjacent to a small wetland area that occasionally floods. Many volunteers were involved in the planting of native plants: Ramsey Lake Stewardship Committee, LU's Sustainability Dept., School of the Environment students, and Drs. Beckett, Spires and Buchanan. Plants were obtained from Southview and Azilda greenhouses. Signage will be provided by Laurentian University.
- ❖ Lake Wanapitei: Claude Nadon presented with PowerPoint. Their group used the funds to create and erect a billboard at Tony's Marina on fish species in the lake and invasive species. It is designed the same as the one the Wanapitei First Nations have at Rocky's marina. Funds raised by selling sponsorship spots on the sign are used to buy shoal markers and host other events on the lake. Other project the group was involved with was the construction and installation of duck boxes and hosting a toxic material collection day with the Skead Community Centre. The group is also involved with the Lake Partner Program and monitoring of the Wanapitei Provincial Park.
- ❖ Fairbank Lake: Lana H. presented on behalf of the Fairbank Lake Camp Owners' Association that submitted a written report with maps and receipts. The group purchased 4 flashing solar-powered water safety navigational marker lights. The lake has many mid-lake shoals that need to be marked due to heavy boat traffic in the summer. These are visible in the dark to warn boaters of the hazardous shoals. They hope the markers will help reduce accidents and protect wildlife nesting areas along the shoreline. The markers were installed by stewardship members.
- ❖ Four Lakes: Lana H. presented for the Four Lakes Community Association (Joe, Hanmer, Frenchman, and Dixon lakes). Cedar trees were purchased in the fall from Pineneedle Farms for delivery in May. Volunteers from the Gardening group will be handing the out to the members on the Road Clean Up day.
- ❖ Vermilion River: The Vermilion River Stewardship requested an extension to the grant money. They were looking for help with the cost of a sediment core sample and analysis to be taken on Simon Lake. Sediment core sampling would add to the data already being collected for the Lower Vermilion Source Water Quality Monitoring Project, and provide relevant data to aid in determining the possible contribution of lake bottom sediment to lake water quality issues on Simon Lake. Dr. Cummings of Guelph University had students who were interested in coring the lake but chose to do other lakes that were more pertinent to their area of interest; however, he suggested that the group try again in 2016.

ITEMS TABLED FOR NEXT MEETING

- ❖ Update on the Ramsey Lake Watershed Plan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ Long Lake Stewardship Annual Meeting – May 29th. Location and times to be determined. Mary will let the Panel know once it has been confirmed.
- ❖ Junction Creek Stewardship Committee
 - Creek clean up, April 30th behind the parking lot of Great Canadian Superstore on Lasalle Blvd.
 - Trout release, May 14th, at Twin Forks playground on Gary Street, from 11-1 p.m.