



LAKE SIMCOE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (LSEMS)

STEERING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 29, 2007 – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Boardroom

MINUTES

Members Present:

Gayle Wood, Chair	-	Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Anne Neary	-	Ministry of the Environment
Elizabeth Janz	-	Ministry of the Environment
Claude Lafrance	-	Ministry of the Environment
Tracy Smith	-	Ministry of Natural Resources (Aurora)
Hugh Simpson	-	Ministry of Agriculture and Food & Rural Affairs
Bruce Singbush	-	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Tim Haldenby	-	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Tija Dirks	-	Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal
Melanie Boivin	-	Fisheries & Oceans Canada
Nestor Chornobay	-	Regional Municipality of Durham
Ian Bender	-	County of Simcoe / Town of New Tecumseth
Rick Newlove	-	Simcoe County
Stew Patterson	-	City of Barrie
Barb Jeffrey	-	Regional Municipality of York
Bruce Hoppe	-	Township of Oro-Medonte
Rob McAuley	-	Town of Innisfil
Richard Bates	-	Township of Ramara

Communications Working Group

Ken Neale, Chair	-	Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Deborah Styles	-	Ministry of Natural Resources (Midhurst)
Isabelle Speerin	-	Ministry of the Environment

Others Present:

Karen Wianecki	-	Solutions Planning (Facilitator – LSEMS Working Group)
Peter Waring	-	Ministry of Natural Resources
Mike Walters	-	Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Mark Valcic	-	Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Kimberley MacKenzie	-	Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation
Gina Casey	-	Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

Regrets:

Wolfgang Scheider	-	Ministry of the Environment
Scott Duff	-	Ministry of Agriculture and Food & Rural Affairs
Donna Big Canoe	-	Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nations
Kathy Suggitt	-	City of Orillia
Gord Miokovic	-	Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
Richard Danziger	-	City of Kawartha Lakes

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Agenda

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS THAT the agenda for the May 29th, 2007, meeting of the LSEMS Steering Committee, be adopted.

3. **Minutes**

(a) **Minutes – Steering Committee**

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS THAT the minutes of the April 4th, 2007, meeting of the Steering Committee be approved by consensus.

(b) **Minutes – LSEMS Working Group**

Gayle provided an update on the Phase III extension to March 31, 2008, during which time three items are identified for completion: Phase III Progress Report and Summary: recommendations for a new governance model and the Comprehensive Basin Wide Plan.

Peter Waring, Co-Chair of the Working Group provided an overview on the current progress of the LSEMS Working Group (WG) advising that their work is moving forward extremely well and remains on target for completion of the recommendations report by June 30, 2007.

Peter commended Karen Wianecki, Planning Solutions, who has been facilitating the meetings of the WG and is leading the process very well.

Karen Wianecki, Planning Solutions, provided a detailed presentation regarding the work completed to date by the WG.

Following the presentation, there was some discussion amongst the SC Members which identified the following:

- There needs to be a clear focus and vision; management related criteria vs. tools and power;
- We need to clarify the implementation tools – what will provide legitimacy to the governance model;
- The Report needs to provide a range of possibilities along with the advantages/disadvantages of each recommendation;
- Funding will be a key focus for the new governance model;
- The new governance model will need be aligned with initiatives currently underway (i.e. source water protection);
- We need to ensure there is focus on avoiding duplication of work (indicated this discussion will happen at the SC level once the recommendations are provided);
- There appears to be lack of clarity on how the governance will fit in terms of other initiatives – influence and power. How will it be legitimized? How is it going to protect the lake with everything else that is going on?

- We need to provide a stronger role for the public and need a strategic plan for the lake. Currently, each partner of LSEMS is carrying out various projects; need to create the opportunity to work collaboratively. The value would be to complete work on strategic priorities.

In response to the funding issue, Karen Wianecki advised that the WG Members agree this is a critical part of the governance model. Each member of the WG was asked to respond to a series of questions related to the partnership and what is important. Currently the information is missing from the municipal and the provincial members, however It is agreed that this information is critical to complete the work and their responses are forthcoming.

There was a question related to the role of the secretariat and if it will be a parallel structure to the LSRCA? The Working Group concurs that Lake Simcoe requires a face and there needs to be an entity that people can go to in order to obtain information pertaining to Lake Simcoe. The discussions around the secretariat have not yet happened at the WG however it is expected these details will be addressed during such discussions.

In response to a concern related to the Governing Council being high level politicians and whether or not this might affect the consistency of the program in terms of an election every four years? Information was shared that similar models operate this way and in fact the three models researched in depth by the WG strongly recommended that high level participation is required at the decision making table in order to be successful. It was further advised that there is an expectation that each committee will formulate an annual workplan which should not be affected should the membership change due to an election.

Karen advised that the Working Group view this as a very positive process and have collectively come to a consensus on what the Lake needs. They understand that their function is to make recommendations to the SC for consideration on a new governance structure.

Request to Issue News Release – Working Group

Peter Waring, Co-Chair of the WG, advised that at the last meeting of the WG a request was put forward for the SC to consider issuing a News Release highlighting the work of the WG. It is suggested that this be done to coincide with the completion of the Report on June 30, 2007. The reason behind this request is that it is perceived that the community is not aware that the cooperative work taking place between the government and stakeholders and this is an opportunity to profile the good work being done and this inclusive partnership.

Following discussions amongst the SC Members, there was not consensus on approving this recommendation from the WG to issue a News Release. The SC did however concur that a news release could be issued addressing the extension to LSEMS Phase III and identify the three deliverables for such extension.

Gayle suggested that the Provincial members begin to put together some appropriate wording for the News Release for approval by their respective ministries in order to have something prepared for June 30 (date the WG Report is due).

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS THAT the minutes of the April 2nd, April 13, April 25, and May 4, 2007, meeting of the LSEMS Working Group be received for information.

Gayle extended thanks to Karen for joining the SC meeting and providing a very detailed presentation.

Action:	Prepare News Release re: Phase III extension and deliverables for approval by Provincial Ministries and Conservation Authority in preparation of a June 30 release date.
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Responsibility:	LSEMS SC – Provincial Partners
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4. Final Phase III Progress Report and Public Summary

Gayle introduced the members of the LSEMS Communications Working Group in attendance to present the Phase III Progress Report and Public Summary.

Ken Neale, Chair, CWG, presented a colour draft of what the cover of the final LSEMS Phase III Report might look like. The following recommendations were made:

- Include maps;
- Put graphic of Lake Simcoe on the cover;
- Include LSEMS logo on the cover and list the partners on the back cover;
- Include strong statement that this document is reporting on the approved LSEMS Business Plan for the period 2001-2007

Based on the request of some Members requiring additional time to review the Phase III Report, the following recommendation was passed:

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS THAT the Steering Committee approve, in principle, the Draft Phase III Technical Report, dated May 29, 2007; and THAT the Steering Committee Members provide any further comments on this report by June 12, 2007; and

THAT any comments received be shared with the Steering Committee and final comments be received by June 19, 2007; and THAT provided all comments are agreed to by the Steering Committee, the document be forwarded to the LSEMS Communications Working Group for the preparation of a final print ready document; and

THAT the print ready Phase III Technical Report be forward to the province for the information of the Deputy Ministers prior to public release; and FURTHER THAT subject to receipt of sign off by the Deputy Ministers that the LSEMS Communications Working Group prepares the document for final printing.

Public Summary

The following recommendations were made pertaining to the Public Summary:

- Identify the municipalities (simply stating “municipalities” is too generic);
- Highlight more projects;
- Remove photo of the Working Group;
- Include Assimilative Capacity Study – major achievement;
- Focus on three key themes: stakeholder engagement; restoration activities; scientific investment;
- Include the phosphorus loading pie chart (identifies source of input);
- Include photos from LSEMS conferences;
- Include “success stories” from all partners;

The SC Members agreed to submit additional comments related to the Public Summary by June 12, 2007 as well as any success stories they wish to see highlighted in the report. Comments received will be shared for review and approval with the final document being approved by June 19, 2007.

Gayle thanked the LSEMS CWG for their work on both the Technical and Summary Reports.

5. LSEMS Phase III Extension Workplan

The Draft LSEMS Steering Committee Workplan for the LSEMS Phase III Extension was circulated with the agenda.

Gayle requested the SC Members review the Workplan and provide their comments by June 12. Comments/Revisions received will be incorporated into the Workplan as required and the revised document will be provided with the June 20 meeting agenda.

The Members were requested to record the schedule of meetings in their respective calendars and advise Gina if there are any dates that are problematic in terms of attendance.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS THAT the LSEMS Steering Committee Workplan for the LSEMS Phase III Extension be received; and THAT the Steering Committee Members provide comments on the Workplan by June 12, 2007.

6. Request for Quote - Facilitator

A LSRCA Request for Quote (RFQ) to engage the services of a facilitator to work with the LSEMS Steering Committee was circulated with the agenda.

The Steering Committee expressed their support of this initiative.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS THAT the LSRCA Request for Quote for the services of a facilitator to work with the LSEMS Steering Committee be received.

7. Who Does What Chart

As the “Who Does What” document is included with the minutes.

The Steering Committee Members are requested to review and provide input to this document which will then be provided to the Communications Working Group to be translated into a public use document. Comments are to be submitted to Gina Casey and the revised document will be placed on the June 20th agenda for discussion and approval.

8. Next Meeting

Date: June 20th, 2007
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Location: Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
“Boardroom”

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

original signed by:

D. Gayle Wood, CMM III
Chair, LSEMS Steering Committee

Attachments:

1. Who Does What document