



LAKE SIMCOE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (LSEMS)

STEERING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 29 – 10:00 a.m.

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
120 Bayview Parkway
Boardroom

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gayle Wood, Chair	-	Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Elizabeth Janz	-	Ministry of the Environment
Wolfgang Scheider	-	Ministry of the Environment
Peter Waring	-	Ministry of Natural Resources (Aurora)
Scott Duff	-	Ministry of Agriculture and Food & Rural Affairs
Hugh Simpson	-	Ministry of Agriculture and Food & Rural Affairs
Bruce Singbush	-	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Nestor Chornobay	-	Regional Municipality of Durham
Ian Bender	-	Simcoe County
Richard Forward	-	City of Barrie
John Waller	-	Regional Municipality of York
Bruce Hoppe	-	Township of Oro-Medonte
Gord Miokovic	-	Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

OTHERS:

Annabel Slight	-	Ladies of the Lake
Brent Kopperson	-	Windfall Ecology Centre
Gina Casey	-	Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

REGRETS:

Claude Lafrance	-	Ministry of the Environment
Chris Strand	-	Fisheries & Oceans Canada
Donna Big Canoe	-	Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nations
Kathy Suggitt	-	City of Orillia
Rob McAuley	-	Town of Innisfil
Richard Bates	-	Township of Ramara
Richard Danziger	-	City of Kawartha Lakes

1. Welcome & Introductions

Gayle welcomed Annabel Slight, Ladies of the Lake and Brent Kopperson, Windfall Ecology Centre, to the meeting and requested round table introductions.

2. Agenda

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS THAT the agenda for the November 29, 2006, meeting of the LSEMS Steering Committee, be adopted.

3. Minutes

Gayle provided a review of the minutes indicating there are no outstanding action items.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS THAT the minutes of the October 16, 2006 LSEMS Steering Committee be approved by consensus.

(b) Meeting Notes – LSEMS Working Group – November 17

Gayle requested that the meeting notes of the LSEMS Working Group be deferred to the end of the meeting in order to have a thorough discussion.

4. Deputation – Ladies of the Lake

Gayle introduced Annabel Slaight, co-founder of the Ladies of the Lake Conservation Association, and Brent Kopperson, Executive Director, Windfall Ecology Centre. Gayle extended condolences to Hilary Van Welter who recently lost her mother and could not be at the meeting.

Annabel provided a brief history around the work of the Ladies of the Lake followed by a history of the work of the Windfall Ecology Centre provided by Brent Kopperson.

Annabel advised that workshops were held regarding the Lake in 2006 and the results of those workshops were captured in the presentation provided at the meeting. The Naked Truth – Going Behind the Science as well as the Citizens' Action Plan were both products of the workshops and contain the recommendations of the participants.

Annabel identified the following eight priorities which were identified by the participants at the workshops:

1. Better policy and legislation;
2. Sustainable development;
3. Next Generation – get kids involved;
4. Community economics – balance and healthy economy;
5. Treasuring the Lake;
6. Science and research (work of LSEMS, CA, Provincial and Federal Governments needs to continue);
7. Infrastructure – get everyone to work on the same plan;
8. Healthy Shorelines.

Annabel advised that it was heard over and over that everyone needs to be working together and promote the “we” thinking rather than the current “they” thinking. Annabel referenced the Lake Champlain model and through surveys it was heard from residents “our lake is sick but WE are fixing it”. We need to get to the same place with Lake Simcoe.

Annabel reviewed the current LSEMS model (see attached) advising that when it was established it was a good model however it promotes the “they “ thinking and now needs to be changed.

Annabel presented a new proposed model for LSEMS (see attached) indicating that this was developed based on the Lake Champlain Basin Program model and encouraged everyone to visit their website at www.lcbp.org

Annabel outlined the next steps which include a meeting with provincial political staff from the four ministries.

Gayle advised that the LSEMS Steering Committee is supportive of reviewing alternate governance models and are embracing the concept for change. The intent of the various public consultation sessions held over the past two years and the LSEMS Working Group is to try and establish a model that is unique to the Lake Simcoe watershed.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS THAT the presentation provided by Annabel Slaight, co-founder of the Ladies of the Lake Conservation Association and Brent Kopperson, Windfall Ecology Centre regarding The Naked Truth – Citizens’ Action Plan be received; and FURTHER THAT the recommendation in the discussion paper “Daughter of LSEMS – a new Watershed Council for Lake Simcoe” dated November 15, 2006, and the proposed Watershed Council governance model be referred to the LSEMS Working Group for review and recommendation to the Steering Committee.

On behalf of the Steering Committee, Gayle thanked Annabel and Brent for the presentation.

5. Project Charter – LSEMS Working Group

Gayle provided an overview of the LSEMS history.

The LSEMS Working Group Charter was included with the agenda for the review and approval of the LSEMS Steering Committee.

There was some concern that there is no representation from Simcoe County on the LSEMS Working Group.

Gayle responded that there were discussions at previous meetings regarding the participation on the Working Group and the current membership was approved. However should the Steering Committee wish to amend the membership to include the Simcoe of County that would be acceptable.

Gayle advised that all recommendations from the Working Group will be vetted through the Steering Committee for final approval before going forward to the decision makers.

Following the discussion and some clarification, Gord Miokovic, in light of time, retracted his motion to have Simcoe County represented on the Working Group at this time.

Ian Bender of Simcoe County indicated he would discuss this with Rick Newlove and report back to the Steering Committee regarding having a member of Simcoe County participate on the Working Group.

The Steering Committee reviewed the Conflict of Interest Clause and approved the clause tabled at the meeting as Draft 3, with a change to reflect “comprised of members from diverse organizations...”

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS THAT the Project Charter for the LSEMS Working Group dated November 17, 2006, be approved subject to the refinement of the Project Milestones and Deliverables.

**3.(b) Meeting Notes – LSEMS Working Group – November 17 and
6. Next Phase of LSEMS**

Gayle advised that a recommendation to the Steering Committee is included in the November 17th minutes requesting an extension to the LSEMS Working Group until June 30, 2007.

This extension is requested as some members of the Working Group are of the opinion that they cannot fulfill their current mandate by March 31, 2007. Gayle advised that the Steering Committee needs to have a discussion around:

1. Does the SC approve the request for extension from the Working Group; and
2. If the SC approves this, how will it be done?

Some LSEMS partners believe that an extension to the current MOU is needed. We need to discuss the pros and cons to doing that.

Elizabeth Janz, MOE, advised that the Working Group will need more time to develop recommendations for the Steering Committee. It is recognized that all partners agreed that this process would take time. The Provincial Members have been looking at this process around the current Phase III timelines of March 31, 2007 and following discussions have determined that the timelines are not feasible. The Watershed Basin Wide Plan will not be complete which will provide the scientific background to have detailed dialogue around objectives and governance models that we will be presenting to our political decision makers. It is debatable if we will be ready by the Summer 2007.

Gayle advised that there are two issues:

1. We do not have any recommendations on a new governance model for the SC to consider and recommend to the political partners; and
2. The completion of the Watershed Basin Wide Plan – the draft plan is nearing completion, but has not yet been consulted on nor provided to the SC for review.

The Steering Committee needs to have a thorough discussion on whether or not an extension is required and if so the duration of the extension in order to get all of the work done. Only want to extend once.

Provincial Partners: Recommending a 12-18 month extension.

Conservation Authority: Would prefer a shorter extension – perhaps to December 31 2007. The Authority also recommends matching funding. LSEMS continues to receive funding from municipalities and would like to see some dedicated funding from the Province.

The Authority has been completing the Comprehensive Basin Wide Plan and the resources that were to be dedicated from the LSEMS partners were not available. If the Authority is to continue to work on this plan through the next year, those resources are required.

The Authority would like to continue as the lead agency if an extension is approved. The Authority would be looking from some very strong support from all partners in this regard.

Durham Region: 18 months may not be enough time. Still need to continue with the programs currently underway. Regional Council needs to continue funding LSEMS and would recommend continuing the funding for the next two years.

York Region: The public would perceive this action as a bureaucracy collapsing. We need to de-link these priorities. The business plan is going to take some time to complete; the governance model could be completed rather quickly; the issue of funding should not be buried for the next 12 months – need to put that forward now. The Province needs to address this issue as the municipalities are getting tired of being the only funding partners.

MOE: Do not want to lose the momentum however we believe that we cannot move this forward quickly enough. We do want to see enhanced activities and we will be looking at funding.

Following this extensive discussion, it was determined that a separate meeting of the Steering Committee is required in order to have further dialogue and come to a final resolution regarding the extension.

A meeting will be scheduled for mid-December to discuss:

- Extension of timelines;
- If extension is approved, identify what will be done;
- Specifics around the business plan;
- Who will lead process through the extension;
- Phase III Report;
- Status of current Business Plan;
- Discuss LSEMS achievements;
- Discuss Funding (establish dollar amount required).

Also, in order to have a meaningful discussion, the SC will require all the facts. Need to know what still needs to be done on the Comprehensive Basin Wide Plan. De-linking is a good suggestion – need to identify what the links are in order to de-link.

Advise the Working Group that the SC approved their Project Charter subject to refinement of the deliverables and that the Steering Committee will be meeting again in December in order to further discuss their request for an extension and the hiring of a facilitator.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS THAT the minutes of the LSEMS Working Group held on November 17, 2006, be received for information.

7. LSEMS Phase III – Accomplishments

This item deferred to the next meeting.

8. Other Business

No other business identified.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

original signed by:

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