

**Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources
Agreement Implementation**

**Agreement Advisory Panel Meeting
March 3, 2011 Toronto, Ontario**

Meeting Notes

Materials Circulated Prior to Meeting

- Agenda
- Great Lakes Placemat
- Water Conservation Goals and Objectives Update
- Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Water Levels Plan presentation
- Asian Carp presentation
- Ontario Biodiversity Strategy presentation
- Canada Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes

Distributed at meeting

- October 25, 2010 draft Cumulative Impact Assessment discussion document
- Link to MNR website for maps
<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/water/documents/document/285331.pdf>

AAP Attendees

Joe Vermunt	OFA
Michael Brooks	OWWA
Karina Suraga	York Region
Lisa Lin	York Region
John Jackson	Great Lakes United
Paul Norris	Ontario Waterpower Association
Lesley Hymers	Ontario Mining Association
Chris Winter	CCO
Rob Carson	OPG
Sarah Miller	CELA
Penny Beames	York University/CELA
Tim Lotimer	OWWA
Mary Muter	Sierra Club Ontario
Dawn Sucee	OFAH
Elaine MacDonald	Ecojustice
Dan McDermott	Sierra Club of Canada
Bob Duncanson	Georgian Bay Association
Tina Shankula	OFA
Sarah Rang	Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Cities
John Challinor	Nestle Waters Canada
Rhonda Gagnon	UOI
David Naftzger	Council of Great Lakes Governors

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Peter Johnson	Council of Great Lakes Governors
Elizabeth Griswold	Canadian Bottled Water Association

MOE

Sharon Bailey
Lori Byers
Carol Salisbury
Stephen Maude
Elizabeth Everhardus
Angela Homewood
Brenda Lucas

MNR

Eric Boysen
Jennifer Keyes
Jonathan Staples
Rochelle Andrew
Paula Thompson (phone)
Catherine Jefferson

Welcome and Introductions

Eric Boysen opened the meeting with a brief description of the realignment at MNR and indicated that Jennifer Keyes was the Manager of the Great Lakes and Water Policy Section and therefore responsible for the Agreement and implementation on MNR's behalf.

He expressed his hope that we could continue to work together on the Agreement as well as on other issues that impact us such as the Great Lakes, including water quality, quantity and ecosystem health.

Jennifer Keyes suggested a round table of introductions for the benefit of the new people on the panel and those on the telephone.

Update on US Implementation

David Naftzger and Peter Johnson of the Council of Great Lakes Governors (CGLG) participated by phone. David provided an overview of the recent changes in US politics resulting with 6 new governors. The CGLG staff is providing briefings to the new Governors. There remains ongoing commitment to the Agreement etc despite the number of new players. The Regional Water Resource Managers Initiative (RWRMI) is working on the cumulative impact assessment with a focus on quantity/water budgets, draft before 2013. Waukesha proposal is under review by DNR but not clear when to expect it. Baseline info is housed with the Regional Body (RB) and Compact Council (CC) and subject to amendment. There is an interest globally in agreements and how we have worked together in the Great Lakes Basin. A book chapter by David Naftzger on the Compact and Agreements (Water Management in the US) is being completed. No dates yet for RB/CC meetings.

Q: Asian Carp – is the RB working with US Army Corps of Engineers on the issue of Asian Carp? Any consideration what this would mean? Impact Supreme Court decision?

A: Government is concerned and engaged in solutions. GLC + GLSC Cities looking at analyses and options and discussions with Governors, The CC and RB are not the venues for discussion.

Q: 2013 Consultation – are conservation objectives included in this consultation?

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A: 2013 reference is to the cumulative impact assessment commitment. Assessment results may be used as basis for reviewing standards, conservation goals and objectives.

Eric Boysen thanked David and Peter and mentioned the importance of aligning Ontario's priorities with those of the other Great Lakes Jurisdiction in order to work towards collective goals for the Great Lakes.

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- **Intra-Basin Transfer Regulation status (Sharon Bailey)**

Notes to follow.

- **Water Conservation Goals and Objectives Update (Sharon Bailey)**

Ontario would like to get both pieces moving forward together but time is tight. The Intra-basin transfers and conservation goals are separate items. Conservation Goals and Objectives is just a decision notice since it has previously been out for comment.

The comment was made that there needs to be an overarching strategy to address conservation. WOWCA is intended to do this but there is still work to be done. The collective challenge is to link programs together and identify things needed to be done, and ongoing tasks that could be shared.

Regional Water Resources Managers Initiative (Jonathan Staples)

Jonathan provided a brief update to reiterate that the agreement provides a commitment to work towards identifying how to approach cumulative impacts (handout) attached to minutes.

Q: has the issue of fracking for natural gas been considered in the studies? It could actually change the flow of water

A: specific issues such as fracking would be considered in what will be the appendix of the study and that may be a good issue to look at

Comment on the issue of Lake Erie and a suggestion that the amount of water should be calculated based on the full amount not the consumptive use because it is the consumptive use that stays (i.e. is used) in the basin.

There was positive and encouraging feedback on the work that is being done.

Protocol Status (Catherine Jefferson)

A very brief overview of ongoing work on the protocols for proposals reviewed from Ontario and those proposals coming from other states and provinces. Lessons learned from York Region and other places will be used in fleshing out a skeleton that has been drafted. The Panel will be kept apprised and may be asked to assist in next steps.

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Asian Carp (Jennifer Keyes)

Discussion on the topic of Asian Carp and being prepared for more than one path of entry. Update on what MNR is doing to insure they are prepared if Asian Carp arrive through the fish food industry pathway. The panel was concerned over the Asian Carp issue and very supportive of MNR's current position, and plan of action for Asian Carp.

Eric Boysen invited panel members to volunteer as observers in the upcoming Asian Carp workshop on March 11, 2001, adding that this is the first step to identify gaps.

Some panel members expressed a concern that the public needs to know about what activities are underway to address issues such as the carp. The Ithaca New York website is a good example of information sharing. There was a comment that prevention is required to address carp issues.

The Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Water Levels Plan (Eric Boysen)

Plan Bv7 background and update. Eric advocated thinking of the plan in terms of an important step in the right direction and an improved alternative to the current plan. Eric mentioned the importance of adaptive management and looking at longer term issues. All parties should work together to make certain Agreements as a whole are covering all aspects of the Great Lakes and to avoid duplication and overlap while missing an important part of the ecosystem.

UOI wanted Eric to make sure the Mohawks of Akwasasne are contacted about the plan as it may have significant impacts on them. Eric agreed and mentioned IJC has sent letters to FN in Ontario.

Canada Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes (Jennifer Keyes)

There has been one extension to the renewal period and another just proposed. This will allow for more consultation and make efforts to maximize the work being done in the Great Lakes. MNR wants to continue to work with the Panel on this issue even if it isn't specifically directed to the Great Lakes Agreement.

MNR wants to work with the Panel as COA moves along. Comments were made that more money is needed to address the Great Lakes, Lake Huron and Georgian Bay in particular.

Q: what are Ontario's priorities?

A: MNR priorities are to continue to work on invasive species and biodiversity. There are still AOC's to resolve and the nearshore areas are a concern due to nutrients and impacts from erosion.

Ontario Biodiversity Strategy (Eric Boysen)

There was an update on the status of the Ontario Biodiversity Strategy; panel members are supportive of the strategy.

Agreement Placemat (Eric Boysen)

A document has been developed and referred to as a "placemat" It summarizes components of the Agreement and provides timelines and deliverables. We see this as a good communication tool that can be modified according to the level of detail required for specific audiences.

The Panel are to provide comments to MNR by April 1st. Once completed, the placement will go up on the Agreement website.

Wrap-up and Next Steps

Eric thanked the Panel members for participating, indicating we will start to hold meetings at more regular intervals.

The panel agreed that they would be interested in being engaged in broader water issues which are interconnected to and work towards the intent of The Agreement.

There was an announcement of the Sierra Club Great Lakes Symposium and the Mother Earth Water Walk, both upcoming events.

The following are Action Items coming from the meeting:

- Panel to provide comments on the Agreement placemat by April 1st to MNR;
- MNR to post the final version of the placemat on the Agreement webpage;
- A commitment was made to hold another AAP meeting once the IBT regulation is posted in order to get the Panel's feedback on the regulation wording;
- The Panel is to provide additional items for discussion.

Adjournment

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