



Assimilative Capacity Studies for the Lake Simcoe Watershed and Nottawasaga River Studies Update #2 - February 18, 2005



PURPOSE OF THE STUDIES UPDATE

On October 14th, 2004 the Province of Ontario announced funding for the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) and Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) to undertake assimilative capacity studies within the Lake Simcoe watershed and Nottawasaga River. Since the announcement, staff from both Conservation Authorities and provincial ministries have been working together to develop and finalize the terms of references for these studies and a workplan outlining how the studies will be completed. The Steering Committee approved these documents at their February 3, 2005 meeting.

In order to keep all partners up to date on progress being made on these studies a monthly >Studies Update= will be completed and distributed to all members of the ACS staff team. The first update was completed on February 8, 2005. The >Studies Update= will provide a brief report on progress over the previous month as well as a brief outline of what the targets are for the coming month. This report will be divided into three sections: Technical Studies, Communications Plan and Administration.

TECHNICAL STUDIES

Update to February 18th, 2005

Requests for Proposals have been completed, as follows:

- \$ Hydrodynamic Mixing Zone Modeling of the Confluence of the Nottawasaga River and Nottawasaga Bay
 - \$ Three Dimensional (3D) and Hydrodynamic Modeling for Lake Simcoe
 - \$ The above RFP's were circulated on February 17, 2005, to a Working Group of the Technical Committee (TC) for immediate review and comment by February 24th, 2005.
 - \$ The RFP's will be forwarded to the consultants on February 25th, 2005.
 - \$ The TC will review and approve the RFP's on March 10, 2005. Any changes to the RFP will be sent to the consultants as an addendum. The TC will be requested to approve a working group to complete consultant selection.
 - \$ The preferred consultant will be presented to the Steering Committee on March 21, 2005.
- \$ The Steering Committee (Feb. 3/05) endorsed using the CANWET model to undertake watershed nutrient modeling for the studies. Staff have begun negotiations with Greenland International Consulting Inc. to undertake CANWET modeling for the Lake Simcoe and Nottawasaga River. A draft proposal from Greenland has been received and LSRCA staff are completing an initial review and negotiations. The proposal will be formalized and brought forward to the Working Group and the Steering Committee for approval so that the LSRCA can enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Greenland and begin work immediately.

Targets for February and March

- \$ Issue the above mentioned RFP=s.
- \$ Complete RFP for Water Quality Target Setting and TMDL Development for Lake Simcoe and its watersheds and the Nottawasaga River.
- \$ Technical Committee Meeting - March 10th, 2005
- \$ Steering Committee Meeting - March 21st, 2005
- \$ Review RFP=s and other related technical issues at Steering Committee.
- \$ Table Staff Reports at the Steering Committee meeting with recommended consultants for the lake and mixing zone model.
- \$ Enter into Professional Services Agreements for the lake and mixing zone models.
- \$ Issue the RFP for Water Quality Target Setting and TMDL Development for Lake Simcoe and its watersheds and the Nottawasaga River.
- \$ Schedule all Steering and Technical Committee meetings for 2005.
- \$ Work closely with MOE-EMRB to complete tributary phosphorus load estimates for Lake Simcoe subwatersheds.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Update to February 18th, 2005

A media release was sent out on October 14th, 2004 regarding the studies. There was some exposure on the topic and a few follow-up stories.

A Request for Proposals to develop an implement a communications plan for the Assimilative Capacity Studies was distributed to seven consultants on December 16th, 2004. On January 17th, 2005 four proposals were received. These proposals were reviewed and ranked by ACS staff and the consultant with the highest ranking was recommended to the ACS Communications Working Group (Jan. 27/05). The Communications Working Group endorsed the selection and made a recommendation to the Steering Committee to approve the commencement of negotiations with the preferred consultant. This recommendation was endorsed by the Steering Committee (Feb. 3/05), and negotiations with the selected consultant have begun.

LSRCA Communications staff met with the selected consultant on February 15th, at which time the proposal was discussed in detail, questions and concerns dealt with and a draft Professional Services Agreement reviewed. It is anticipated that the final Professional Services Agreement will be signed the week of February 21st.

An ACS Communications Working Group has been formed utilizing the LSEMS Communications Working Group as a basis and adding representatives from NVCA, municipalities within the Nottawasaga River watershed and Midhurst District MNR. This working group met on January 27th and has scheduled meetings for the first Tuesday in March, May, July and September. Based on the development and implementation of the communications plan this group may need to meet more frequently. This will be determined by the end of March.

Targets for February and March

- \$ finalize Professional Services Agreement between LSRCA and LM Marketing and Communications.
- \$ assist consultant with research phase of communications plan development.
- \$ ACS Communications Working Group meeting to be held on March 1st, at which time the consultant will present their approach/methodology for development and implementation of the communications plan.
- \$ set-up meetings between consultant and key provincial, municipal and Conservation Authority staff as part of the research and message development phase of the communications plan.
- \$ Consultant will present to the March 10 TC and March 21 SC.

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ADMINISTRATION

The following meeting schedule (to be confirmed) is proposed for the studies:

Steering Committee

March 21st, 2005
May 26th, 2005
August 18th, 2005
September 29th, 2005
October 27th, 2005
December 1st, 2005

Technical Committee

March 10th, 2005
May 11th, 2005
July 21st, 2005
September 15th, 2005
October 13th, 2005
November 17th, 2005

Communications Working Group

March 1st, 2005
May 3rd, 2005
July 5th, 2005
September 6th, 2005

A letter has been sent to the Province, as per the instructions from the Steering Committee to include the 4 streams in the Collingwood area.

PEER REVIEW

A draft Peer Review Committee will be developed for review and approval by the TC on March 10, 2005.