



Assimilative Capacity Studies Simcoe Watershed and Nottawasaga River Studies Update #3 - March 21, 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 last update was completed on February 18th, 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 March 21st, 2005

Requests for Proposals

1. Hydrodynamic Mixing Zone Modeling of the Confluence of the Nottawasaga River and Nottawasaga Bay
 - issued to 5 consulting firms
 - received 4 proposals
 - reviewed by representatives from the LSRCA, NVCA, MOE, 2 member municipalities
 - preferred proposal presented to ACS Steering Committee March 21st, 2005 for approval
2. Three Dimensional (3D) and Hydrodynamic Modeling for Lake Simcoe
 - issued to 5 consulting firms
 - received 3 proposals
 - reviewed by representatives from the LSRCA, MOE, 2 member municipalities
 - preferred proposal presented to ACS Steering Committee March 21st, 2005 for approval
3. Water Quality Target Setting and TMDL Development RFP
 - draft RFP developed and presented to ACS Technical Committee for comment on March 10th, 2005
 - comments due no later than March 18th, 2005

CANWET Modelling

Cost estimate from Greenland Consulting has been reviewed and final cost has been negotiated. Cost estimate was presented at the ACS Technical Committee on March 10th, 2005. A recommendation to accept cost estimate has been forwarded to the ACS Steering Committee for formal approval to allow the LSRCA to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Greenland and begin work immediately. Overview of the CANWET model and its capabilities will be presented at the ACS Steering Committee on March 21st, 2005 by Dr. Barry Evans of Penn State University.

Targets for March and April

- \$ Professional Services Agreement will be negotiated and signed by the LSRCA by April 1st, 2005 for above mentioned RFPs #1 and #2
- \$ RFP for Water Quality Target Setting and TMDL Development will be revised and issued no later than March 25th, 2005
- \$ Technical Committee Meeting - May 11th, 2005
- \$ Steering Committee Meeting - May 26th, 2005
- \$ Work closely with MOE-EMRB to complete tributary phosphorus load estimates for Lake Simcoe subwatersheds.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Update to March 21st, 2005

- \$ finalized and signed Professional Services Agreement between LSRCA and LM Marketing and Communications.
- \$ ACS Communications Working Group meeting was held on March 1st, at which time the consultant presented their approach/methodology for development and implementation of the communications plan
- \$ Communications consultant presented their approach/methodology for development and implementation of the communications plan to the ACS Technical Committee on March 10th, 2005 and the ACS Steering Committee on March 21st, 2005
- \$ assisted consultant with research phase of communications plan development
- \$ Communications consultant facilitated a meeting on March 17th, 2005 between LSRCA and NVCA to improve operating efficiencies and identify opportunities for solidifying the partnership

Targets for March and April

- \$ presentation to Barrie Home Builders Association on ACS and IGAP by LSRCA, NVCA and MMAH
- \$ 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
- \$ assist consultant with research phase of communications plan development
- \$ develop an internal ACS website to better communicate project progress, identify roles and responsibilities, and provide access to all developed documents and reports
- \$ develop an ACS Amicro-site@ to be housed on the LSRCA corporate website and linked to partner websites
- \$ host a workshop on April 18th, 2005 for ACS Administrative Team. Workshop will focus on developing a common goal statement and guiding principles for the project, as well as a detailed process map(s) outlining the who, what, why, when and how of implementing the ACS project.

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ADMINISTRATION

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

Steering Committee

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

Technical Committee

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

Communications Working Group

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

PEER REVIEW

A draft Peer Review Committee was developed and presented for review to the ACS Technical Committee on March 10th, 2005. The ACS Peer Review Committee structure and composition will be discussed at the ACS Steering Committee on March 21st, 2005.