



Assimilative Capacity Studies for the Lake Simcoe Watershed and Nottawasaga River Studies Update #4 - April 29, 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 Oversight Committee, as well as the ACS Steering Committee. LSRCA and NVCA are encouraged to forward the Studies Update to their respective Board members. The last update was completed on March 21st, 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 is divided into four sections: Technical Studies, Communications Plan, Administration and Peer Review.

TECHNICAL STUDIES

Update to April 29th, 2005

Requests for Proposals

1. Water Quality Target Setting and TMDL Development RFP
 - draft RFP developed and presented to ACS Technical Committee for comment on March 10th, 2005
 - comments were received from several Technical Committee members
 - RFP was issued to six consulting firms on April 26th, 2005 and is due on May 18th, 2005
 - report recommending preferred proposal/consultant will be presented for approval at the ACS Steering Committee meeting on May 26th, 2005

Projects Underway

1. Hydrodynamic Mixing Zone Modeling of the Confluence of the Nottawasaga River and Nottawasaga Bay
 - awarded to SNC Lavalin
 - contract has been executed
 - start up meeting held at NVCA on April 19th, 2005
 - data requests are being processed by all parties
2. Three Dimensional (3D) and Hydrodynamic Modeling for Lake Simcoe
 - awarded to Baird and Associates and Gartner Lee Ltd.
 - contract has been executed
 - start up meeting held at Gartner Lee on April 5th, 2005 and a follow-up technical meeting with the consultants, LSRCA and MOE is scheduled for May 3rd, 2005
 - data requests are being processed by all parties

3. Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Loadings/Empirical Model
 - well underway with MOE-EMRB staff
 - draft report and phosphorus load estimates projected to be completed by end of May
 - meeting was held between MOE and LSRCA staff on April 14th, 2005 with a further meeting scheduled for May 9th, 2005 to review status to date
4. CANWET Modelling
 - awarded to Greenland International Consulting
 - contract has been executed
 - a series of start up meetings were held in late March and early April between the consultant and LSRCA staff
 - a series of technical/data needs/GIS meetings were held between the consultant, LSRCA and NVCA
 - LSRCA and NVCA staff are currently working on data requests and various GIS products
 - initial draft results will be produced in late May to early June

Targets for May

- Professional Services Agreement will be negotiated and signed by the LSRCA by May 31st, 2005 for Water Quality Target Setting and TMDL Development
- Technical Committee Meeting - May 11th, 2005
- Steering Committee Meeting - May 26th, 2005
- Continue to work closely with MOE-EMRB to complete tributary phosphorus load estimates for Lake Simcoe subwatersheds
- Continue to work closely with retained consultants to ensure project process continues in a timely manner to meet ACS timelines
- Continue to process and provide data to all projects

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Update to April 29th, 2005

- LSRCA and NVCA staff continue to assist consultant with research phase of communications plan development
- began the development of a secure internal ACS website to better communicate project progress, identify roles and responsibilities, and provide access to all developed documents and reports
- began the development of an ACS “micro-site” to be housed on the LSRCA corporate website and linked to partner websites
- hosted a workshop on April 18th, 2005 for ACS Administrative Team, which focused 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
- developed draft Project Charter for the LSEMS/ACS Communications Working Group, to be discussed and approved at the May 3rd, 2005 Communications Working Group meeting

Presentations/Outreach

- presentation on the Province’s IGAP and ACS was presented to the Barrie Landowners Development Association on April 26th, 2005 by Bruce Singbush (MMAH) and Rob Baldwin (LSRCA)

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Assimilative Capacity Studies for the Lake Simcoe and Nottawasaga River Watersheds

- ***Targets for May*** 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
- launch ACS “micro-site” on LSRCA’s website, with links to partner websites
- launch secure internal website for improved communications and information dissemination
- presentation and panel discussion on IGAP and ACS will be held on May 10th, 2005 for the Lakeland Chapter of OPPI in the City of Barrie
- finalize common goal statement and guiding principles for the project, in consultation with the Communications Working Group and consultant

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

Draft Peer Review Committee will be presented and discussed at the ACS Steering Committee on May 26th, 2005.