



Assimilative Capacity Studies for the Lake Simcoe Watershed and Nottawasaga River Studies Update #5 - May 31, 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 April 29th, 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 May 31st, 2005

Requests for Proposals

1. Water Quality Target Setting and TMDL Development RFP
 - RFP was issued to six consulting firms on April 26th, 2005 and is due on May 18th, 2005
 - report recommending preferred proposal/consultant was approved at the ACS Steering Committee meeting on May 26th, 2005
 - the contract was awarded to Golder Associates and the LSRCA has begun negotiations for the Professional Services Agreement

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
 - model and database being populated with collected data
 - field monitoring of water quality and hydrodynamic processes underway
 - calibration and initial model runs begin in early June

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2. Three Dimensional (3D) and Hydrodynamic Modeling for Lake Simcoe
 - awarded to Baird and Associates and Gartner Lee Ltd.
 - contract has been executed
 - model and database being populated with collected data
 - digital bathymetric mapping has been developed for Lake Simcoe
 - calibration and initial model runs begin in early June
3. Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Loadings/Empirical Model
 - well underway with MOE-EMRB staff
 - draft report and phosphorus load estimates projected to be completed early June
 - meeting to be held June 8th to review draft reports and P load estimates
4. CANWET Modelling
 - awarded to Greenland International Consulting
 - contract has been executed
 - LSRCA and NVCA staff are currently working on data requests and various GIS products
 - significant progress has been made in obtaining and providing data
 - calibration and initial model runs begin in early June

Targets for June

- \$ Professional Services Agreement will be negotiated and signed by the LSRCA for Water Quality Target Setting and TMDL Development
- \$ TMDL Consultant start-up meeting scheduled for June 6th, 2005
- \$ Technical Committee Meeting - June 30th, 2005 - Consultants will be presenting their respective findings to date.
- \$ A meeting will be held in June with the Provincial Oversight Committee and all ACS retained consultants to review all respective work plans, identify all critical paths and timing.
- \$ 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 May 31st, 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
- \$ second draft of the ACS Amicro-site@ has been developed and is currently being reviewed
- \$ finalized Project Charter for the LSEMS/ACS Communications Working Group, approved at the May 3rd, 2005 Communications Working Group meeting
- \$ final draft of Guiding Principles being circulated for final comments

Presentations/Outreach

- \$ ACS update presented to the Lake Simcoe watershed municipal CAO=s on May 26th, 2005
- \$ presentation and panel discussion on IGAP and ACS on May 10th, 2005 for the Lakeland Chapter of OPPI in the City of Barrie

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Targets for June

- \$ 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 Amicro-site@ on LSRCA=s website, with links to partner websites
- \$ launch secure internal website for improved communications and information dissemination
- \$ distribute final common goal statement and guiding principles for the project
- \$ draft Communications Plan being developed for presentation to Communications Working Group on June 14th, 2005

ADMINISTRATION

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

Steering Committee

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

Technical Committee

March 10th, 2005 (complete)
May 11th, 2005 (cancelled)
June 30th, 2005 (in place of May 11)
July 21st, 2005
September 15th, 2005
October 13th, 2005
November 17th, 2005

Communications Working Group

March 1st, 2005 (complete)
May 3rd, 2005 (complete)
June 14th, 2005
July 5th, 2005
September 6th, 2005

PEER REVIEW

Draft Peer Review Committee was discussed at the ACS Steering Committee on May 26th, 2005. Peer Review Committee will be finalized in the immediate future pending outstanding confirmation of a few invited experts.