

Notes from the Land & Water Stewardship Advisory Committee
“Electronic” Meeting No. 1/08
Held on January 25.2008

Members Present:

Joan Sutherland, Town of New Tecumseth. Barry Ward, City of Barrie, Reg Cowan, Springwater Twp., John Crawford, Township of Oro/Medonte, John McKean, Town of the Blue Mountains, Orville Brown, Township of Clearview

Regrets:

Staff: Byron Wesson

Called to order at

Agenda was accepted

No pecuniary interests

1. Healthy Waters Program - (recommended grant program changes)

Recommendation – Whereas the Lands and Water Advisory Committee do approve the proposed changes to the 2008 Healthy Waters Grant Program be it resolved that these changes be forwarded to the Executive and Full Board for information.

To remain current and assist in meeting our watershed improvement objectives staff do considerable research to determine what works best with “Best Management Practices” (BMP). Through consultation with the Healthy Waters Review Committee in late 2007 it was recommended that some changes be made for the 2008 program season. To better assist with our landowners schedules and getting in as much of the year as possible the Lands and Water Stewardship Advisory Committee were asked to review (via email) some proposed changes to the “Grant Program” and respond accordingly. All members did respond positively on or before the January 25.08 Board meeting. As noted by staff in the original emailed package, the proposed changes will not affect the 2008 budget in terms of an increase. It is simply the adding or deleting of some available funded options to the program.

The recommended changes are included as Attachment C-1

Healthy Waters Review and Recommendations 2008

The Healthy Waters Grant Incentive Program continues to provide financial and technical advice to landowners and community groups interested in doing environmental projects that improve water quality and habitat in the Nottawasaga Valley Watersheds. Since 2000, NVCA watershed stewardship programs have reached over 500 landowners, completed nearly 500 projects and involved thousands of volunteers.

Healthy Waters Program		2007
Projects Granted (CRR incld)		51
Site Visits		91
Information Requests		101

Recommended Projects to Include:

Eligible	Base Grant	If Environment Farm Plan/ SWP eligible	Maximum Grant
Conservation Tillage & No Till: equipment to convert from conventional till	30%	30%	\$2000
Liquid Fertilizer Injection Equipment to inject liquid manure to reduce surface runoff of TP (90+%) and TN loss. Not to be used on tile-drained farms.	50%	50%	\$2000
Septic System Upgrade: protect ground and surface water by repairing or replacing faulty or malfunctioning septic systems with equal or better system, within 2 year WHPA capture zones or 30m from surface water	30%	30%	\$2000
Erosion Control Structures: Contour – strip farming, terracing, WASCoBs, agro-forestry strip cropping (not direct tilling – drop inlets without settling capacity)	50%	30%	\$4000
Vegetated Filter Strips: engineered filter strips with diffusion pipe from livestock yard, to filter runoff (must be designed by certified person with eaves, concreted yard, grates, diffusion pipe, filter strip)	50%	50%	\$4000
Treatment Wetlands: Treatment wetlands/cells for manure runoff can reduce SS, BOD, P, N and fecal bacteria counts by 80-90%, Effluent concentrations can be as low as < 5 mg/L for NO ₃ and < 3mg/L for P (subsurface preferred).	50%	50%	\$5000
Manure Storage & Livestock Yard Runoff Reduction: Creating covered concrete/ earthen manure storage to reduce runoff and seepage to groundwater. Pavement of livestock yards eligible if done in conjunction with eaves.	30%	30%	\$2000

Change to Riparian Planting grant guidelines:

That the grant cap of \$3750 be increased to \$6000. Given the increasing cost of planting and to encourage large riparian property owners to plant their entire reach. This is for small-stock plantings.

Change to Riparian Planting grant guidelines:

Change the grant rate from 75% to 85% due to increasing costs of trees and planting. (Riparian plantings tend to be hand-planting and consequently more expensive than field plants, however, they confer significant habitat and water quality benefits to the adjacent stream.)

Change to Riparian Planting grant guidelines:

That a \$1000 cap be set for large-stock planting, with a limit per plant of \$10. Grant rate of 50% (less than 75% for small stock). Must be native species of wildflower, shrub or tree (and a supported reason why small stock is not being used).

Change to Stream Erosion Control grant guidelines:

Clarification that erosion control or other stream works must have a significant environmental benefit, and not be for the local protection of property structures.