

**ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes**

**Meeting: Friday, May 8, 2009**

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**Committee Members Present**

Rick Archdekin	Wasaga Beach	Ron Simpson	Bradford West Gwillimbury
Barry Ward	Barrie	Joan Sutherland	New Tecumseth
Ralph Hough	Oro-Medonte	Robert Walker	Clearview
Bill Van Berkel	Innisfil		

**Committee Members Regrets**

Chris Carrier                      Collingwood

**Staff Members**

Glenn Switzer	Director of Engineering & Technical Services
Dave Featherstone	Manager, Watershed Monitoring Program
Tina Desroches	GIS Analyst
Ryan Post	Hydrogeologist, Coordinator Source Water Protection
Allan Rodie	Source Water Protection Assistant

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**1. Adoption of Agenda**

**2. Land use Updating: A GIS Approach (Tina Desroches)**

Tina presented an overview of the land use updating project of outlined in the agenda. The following questions were put forward:

Q: How often does the land use layer need to be updated? A: It can be only be updated when new aerial photography of the watershed is completed. Staff would like to keep this layer as current as possible because it is used so much in our work; however updating is contingent upon having staff and funding to complete the task.

Q: Will the NVCA be able to complete natural heritage mapping for all our member municipalities with this update? A: Ecological Land Classification (ELC) mapping is required for this. It breaks the land use layer into more detail related to different agricultural and ecological land covers. The NVCA has assisted 3 municipalities to date and have been waiting for the County of Simcoe and MNR to complete their County Geenlands update before moving ahead with other municipalities.

Q: Ralph Hough asked if the cost of this project is optional or general levy. A: The three natural heritage projects were completed as special benefitting which is an optional program paid directly by the municipality

**Moved by:** Ralph Hough  
**Seconded by:** Bill Van Berkel

**Recommend That** the NVCA proceed with the land use update project, including the hiring of one contract staff for a six month period subject to the confirmation of 100 % funding from the Source Water Protection Program

**Carried:**

**3. NVCA/Niagara Escarpment Commission baseflow study 2008** (Ryan Post, Allan Rodie)

Allan provided an overview of the Niagara Escarpment Baseflow Study for the members as summarized in the agenda. This work is very important to the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) as it will help support their next NEC plan update in 2015. It is also important to the local municipalities as it provides natural conditions baseflow information which will be used to evaluate the impacts of new development on the escarpment such as the proposed quarry in Melancthon.

The following questions were put forward:

Q: Does baseflow vary from year to year? A: Yes it does vary. That is why baseflow studies must be completed over a number of years, particularly in wet and dry years to capture the full range of baseflow.

**Moved by:** Joan Sutherland  
**Seconded by:** Rick Archdekin

**Recommended That** the report Niagara Escarpment Baseflow Study: 2008 Results/2009 Plan be received

**Carried:**

**4. An Integrated Water Resource Management Strategy For The Innisfil Creek Watershed** (Ryan Post)

Ryan presented the results of the Integrated Water Resource Management Strategy For the Innisfil Creek Watershed that was prepared by WESA Inc. and Rob de Loe Consulting Services with funding from Agriculture Canada. This is an important step in bring the farming community into a strategy for water resource management in this watershed.

The following questions were put forward:

Q: Are any agencies looking to develop drought resistant crops that will need less irrigation? A: Staff at the NVCA are not aware of work in this area but would support work in this field through OMAFRA.

Q: Is there any opportunity to develop storage reservoirs. A: It would be very difficult to develop large volumes of storage in a reservoir in this watershed because of the flat topography and the environmental impacts of on line dams. However staff are aware of two flood control reservoirs that were proposed through the Drainage Act on the upper Innisfil Creek. It would be up to the drainage engineers to determine if some of that storage could be made available for irrigation.

**Moved by:** Ron Simpson

**Seconded by:** Ralph Hough

**Recommended That** the staff report entitled COWSEP project summary: Development of an Integrated Water Resource Management Strategy for Innisfil Creek be received.

**Carried:**

In addition, the members suggested that the presentation should be made to the Board of Directors

5. **NVCA 2009 Groundwater Overview** (Ryan Post)

Ryan reviewed the NVCA 2009 Groundwater Overview. This document is very similar to the report cards in the format and is intended to provide well owners with a better understanding of how wells function and the importance of protecting the aquifers that provide them with their water supply.

**Moved by:** Joan Sutherland

**Seconded by:** Rick Archdekin

**Recommend That** the NVCA 2009 Groundwater Overview be received

**And Further That** staff investigate opportunities to distribute the overview directly to well owners

**Carried:**

**ADJOURNMENT**