

ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes

Meeting: Friday, March 12, 2010

Committee Members Present

Robert Walker	Clearview	Cal Patterson	Wasaga Beach
Doug Little	Adjala-Tosorontio	Joan Sutherland	New Tecumseth
Ralph Hough	Oro-Medonte	Gerald Poisson	Barrie

Committee Members Regrets

Chris Carrier	Collingwood	John McKean	Blue Mountains
Mary Brett	Adjala-Tosorontio		

Staff Members

Glenn Switzer	Director of Engineering & Technical Services
Kate Northcott	Water Resource Engineer-In-Training
Dave Featherstone	Manager, Watershed Monitoring Program
Tina Desroches	GIS Analyst
Ryan Post	Hydrogeologist/Source Water Protection Coordinator
Brian Smith	Water Resource Technologist/Flood Warning Coordinator

- 1. Adoption of Agenda**
- 2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair.**

Mary Brett was selected as Chair and Ralph Hough was selected as Vice Chair of the Engineering and Technical Services Advisory Committee for 2010

3. Program Overview

Glenn Switzer outlined that a program workshop is scheduled for the April Board of Directors meeting. Staff are presenting this Program Overview to outline the major components of the Engineering and Technical Services programs and the related business plan targets for each program. These targets can then be related to the various legislation and mandates presented on the Preliminary Summary of NVCA Targets and Associated Mandate figure provided in the staff report by Wayne Wilson.

Engineering Program

Kate Northcott outlined the engineering program for 2010. The targets for the program are:

- Improve stream health to ultimately 100% healthy streams
- Meet Provincial Water Quality Objectives
- Zero lives lost and minimal property damage
- Zero unauthorized development in Hazard Lands

She described the underlying principles used in the review of planning and regulation applications:

- Evaluate on a watershed Basis for the protection of downstream municipalities

- Keep development out of hazards areas
- Treat stormwater from new development for quantity and quality control

She also highlighted the guiding documents used in the review:

- MNR Natural Hazards Technical Guides
- MOE Stormwater Management Planning and Design Manual
- NVCA Stormwater Management Guidelines

Watershed Monitoring Program

Dave Featherstone outlined the watershed monitoring program for 2010. The targets for the program are:

- 100% healthy streams
- Meet provincial surface water quality objectives (total phosphorus <0.03mg/L; total suspended sediments <25mg/L)
- Minimum 30% forest cover
- 75% streamside vegetation (within 30m of stream)
- Minimum 10% wetland cover

He described in detail the main program areas of the monitoring program:

- Surface Water (Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network)
- Biomonitoring (Benthic Sampling)
- Instream Temperature Sampling
- Baseflow Sampling
- NEW! Bacteriological Sampling Program
- Terrestrial Monitoring, Minesing Wetland,
- Breeding birds monitoring at Marl Lake and Minesing
- Invasive Species (Common Reed, Garlic Mustard)
- Species at Risk

He outlined the Natural Heritage System development:

- Ongoing Plan review role (advisory)
 - Review of Ecological Impact Studies
 - Basis for the review are the Provincial Policy Statement and the upper tier and lower tier municipal planning documents
 - Assistance with natural heritage system and associated policy development (Official Plan policies and schedules)
 - Key to work closely with municipalities to develop defensible natural heritage systems and to resolve contentious developments in/near significant natural heritage features (including Ontario Municipal Board support)
- Natural Heritage Plan development planned to proceed in 2010

Communications for this program are achieved through:

- Watershed Report Card
- Stream Health Map Updates
- Website
 - Giant Hogweed (Dangerous Plants)
 - Invasive Species (coming soon)
 - Canoeing (Ecotourism)

Flood and Erosion Hazard Management Program

Brian Smith outlined the Flood and Erosion Hazard program for 2010. This program is based on a Memorandum of Agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources and is funded 50/50 by the province. The targets for the program are:

- Zero lives lost and minimal property damage

Brian outlined the major components of the program:

- **Flood and Erosion Control Structures**
 - Develop operation and maintenance (O&M) manuals and emergency preparedness plans
 - Fulfill provincial requirements under the pending Dam Safety Legislation, capital repairs and studies
 - Undertake regular operations and maintenance as detailed in the O&M manual
- **Flood Forecasting and Warning (FF&W)**
 - Develop and maintain an automated stream gauge and meteorological network
 - Maintain snow course network
 - Develop and maintain a reliable, flexible data collection, storage and backup system
 - Strive to meet current GTA and MNR minimum standards for Flood Forecasting and Warning
 - Monitor watercourse events
 - Development of a flood forecast model
- **Flood Forecasting and Warning Communications**
 - Maintain a Flood Contingency Response Plan for a co-ordinated emergency response with our municipalities
 - Continue to liaise with provincial, GTA and municipal flood response organizations
 - Issuance of Flood Warnings, Advisory and Safety Bulletins

4.0 Geographic Information System / Information Technology Program

Tina Desroches outlined the important role GIS/IT plays in support all of the core functions of the NVCA as follows:

- Provide data capture, management and analysis support to ALL departments in the NVCA in support of all NVCA goals and objectives
- Provide a secure computer network environment of servers, firewalls, desktops and laptops
- Provide software and hardware training and support
- Fulfill data and mapping requests for external agencies and the public on behalf of NVCA programs
- Maintain data sharing partnerships with partners and external agencies

The 2010 work program includes the following special projects:

- Generic Regulation Hazard Mapping Update
- Centralized Database Development
- Watershed Wide Natural Heritage System
- Southern Georgian Bay Coastal Shoreline Initiative (Env. Can., MNR)
- 2008 Landuse Update

- Agriculture Resource Inventory Mapping Project (OMAFRA)
- 3D South Simcoe Geological Study (MNDM)
- Source Water Protection

NVCA Groundwater & Source Water Protection Program

The NVCA Groundwater & Source Water Protection Program overview was deferred due to lack of time. Additional information on the program will be presented at the next ETS Advisory Committee meeting

Summary

Members had the following comments or questions:

Engineering Services

- It was explained to Ralph Hough that the NVCA standard for flooding has not changed from the 50 yr to 100 yr. The greater of the 100 year or Timmins storm is the Regulatory flood event in the NVCA area of jurisdiction
- It was outlined to Doug Little that the fees for peer review set NVCA Board of Directors after review and consideration at the Planning Advisory Committee

Environmental Monitoring

- Cal Patterson outlined his concerns over invasive species and in particular the common reed (*Phragmites australis*), as it is having a significant impact in Wasaga Beach. He supports the NVCA continued efforts to bring this under control and outlined the difficulties in controlling this species especially on private lands
- Doug Little enquired if invasive species and species at risk are provincial programs. Dave Featherstone outlined that these are provincial mandates and the NVCA does receive direct funding for our contribution indirectly through funding of summer staff
- Gerald Poisson noted that natural heritage is our next priority and asked if there is it an issue of supporting finances. Dave Featherstone explained the delays are the result of evaluating the difference systems available and staff capacity.

Flood Forecasting and Warning

- It was explained to Cal Patterson that the NVCA is responsible for flood forecasting and warning through our Memorandum of Agreement with the MNR and that the municipalities have the primary responsibility for the welfare of residents and should incorporate flood emergency response into municipal emergency planning protection in their municipalities

GIS/IT

- Ralph Hough commented that staff need to improve regulation mapping products to streamline the regulatory process because of delays for development that are not actually located in a hazard area

Power point presentation from the Advisory Committee meeting will be available to the members upon request.

ADJOURNMENT