



THE TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Watershed Management Advisory Board Meeting #5/05

Chair:	Dave Ryan
Vice Chair:	Nancy Stewart
Members:	Gay Cowbourn
	Frank Dale
	Pamela Gough
	David Gurin
	Shelley Petrie
	Michael Thompson
	Dick O'Brien - Chair, Authority

October 21, 2005
10:30 A.M.

SOUTH THEATRE, BLACK CREEK PIONEER VILLAGE

AGENDA

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | MINUTES OF MEETING #4/05, HELD ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2005 | <u>Pages</u> |
| | (Minutes summary enclosed herewith on <u>Blue</u>) | |
| 2. | BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES | |
| 3. | DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF | |
| 4. | DELEGATIONS | |
| 5. | PRESENTATIONS | |
| | 5.1 A presentation by Peter Mitchell, Centre for Land and Water Stewardship, University of Guelph, in regards to item 8.1 - Caring for Your Land - A Stewardship Handbook for Oak Ridges Moraine Landowners. | |
| 6. | CORRESPONDENCE | |

- 7. **SECTION I - ITEMS FOR AUTHORITY ACTION**
 - 7.1 **SOURCE PROTECTION MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR FUNDING FOR 2005-2006** 3-9
 - 7.2 **ROUGE WATERSHED TASK FORCE**
Extension of Term of Appointment 10-20
 - 7.3 **OAK RIDGES MORaine - LEVEL TWO TEMPERATE WETLAND RESTORATION COURSE FOR CONSERVATION PRIORITY AREAS (CPA) 2 AND 11** 21-23

- 8. **SECTION IV - ITEMS FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BOARD**
 - 8.1 **CARING FOR YOUR LAND**
A Stewardship Handbook for Oak Ridges Moraine Landowners 24-25
 - 8.2 **2005 MULTICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM Update** 26-28
 - 8.3 **ROUGE WATERSHED TASK FORCE MINUTES**
Minutes of Meeting #3/05, held on April 21, 2005 and Minutes of Meeting #4/05, held on June 2, 2005. 29

- 9. **NEW BUSINESS**

NEXT MEETING OF THE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE #6/05
DECEMBER 9, 2005, IN THE HUMBER ROOM, HEAD OFFICE

Brian Denney
Chief Administrative Officer

/af

TO: Chair and Members of the Watershed Management Advisory Board
Meeting #5/05, October 21, 2005

FROM: Adele Freeman, Director, Watershed Management

RE: **SOURCE PROTECTION MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR FUNDING
FOR 2005-2006**

KEY ISSUE

Approval to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with respect to the delivery of provincially funded partnership capacity building projects for the period August 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 with administrative and technical responsibilities pursuant to the previously approved Memorandum of Agreement with respect to Source Water Protection Program Administration signed amongst the CTC Watershed Region conservation authorities - Toronto and Region, Credit Valley and Central Lake Ontario.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with respect to coordination and administration of partnership capacity building projects, between the Crown in right of Ontario, as represented by the Minister of Natural Resources, 2002796 Ontario Limited ("Conservation Ontario"), Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) and Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA) for the period August 1, 2005 until June 30, 2006;

THAT staff be authorized and directed to take such action as may be necessary to implement the Memorandum of Agreement including the signing of documents;

THAT the appropriate TRCA officials be authorized and directed to execute all necessary documentation required;

THAT staff of the 3 conservation authorities (CA) continue to seek additional funding from the province through Conservation Ontario to enable the CTC group to deliver the complete 2005-2006 deliverables as set out by the province;

AND FURTHER THAT copies of the staff report be provided to the CAO's of the City of Toronto and regions of Halton, Peel, York and Durham.

BACKGROUND

At Authority Meeting #3/04, held on March 26, 2004, Resolution #A67/04 was approved, in part, as follows:

THAT the proposed source protection planning region involving the jurisdictions of Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), and the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA) be endorsed;

THAT TRCA act as the lead conservation authority for this source protection planning region;

THAT TRCA staff work with staff of CLOCA and CVC to develop a memorandum of agreement, for approval by each conservation authority board, setting out the terms of administration among the three conservation authorities in the planning region;....

Subsequent to the Authority direction, the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with respect to Source Protection Program Administration was developed and signed by the three CAs.

At Authority Meeting #11/04, held on March 26, 2004, Resolution #A324/04 was approved, in part, as follows:

THAT the TRCA enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with respect to coordination and administration of partnership capacity building projects, between the Crown in right of Ontario, as represented by the Minister of Natural Resources, 2002796 Ontario Limited ("Conservation Ontario"), TRCA, CVC and CLOCA for the period December 1, 2004 until July 31, 2005;...

Subsequently, the CTC CAs successfully completed the technical and administrative work as specified by the 2004-05 MOA at the required reporting intervals. On August 31, CTC delivered Interim Preliminary Watershed Characterization Reports along with all the required budget and status reporting information required by Conservation Ontario and the Province.

Provincial Funding Agreement

Conservation Ontario and the province, as represented by the Minister of Natural Resources, have signed a Memorandum of Agreement setting out the terms and deliverables associated with the transfer of provincial source protection funding for the next funding period, 11 months from August 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006. This MOA requires the three conservation authorities in the CTC Region, the province and Conservation Ontario again to sign a Project Agreement setting out the respective responsibilities contained in Schedule C to the Memorandum of Agreement between the province and Conservation Ontario (Attachment 1).

The purpose of this staff report is to seek approval for TRCA's participation in this provincial funding agreement that represents the scope and work, administrative and financial terms.

The objective of the provincial funding is to ensure conservation authorities have sufficient capacity to meet the aggressive goals and objectives of the anticipated *Drinking Water Source Protection Act*. In preparation for legislation, the CTC conservation authorities will undertake preliminary watershed characterization, complete conceptual water budgets and initiate water budget numerical modeling. This preliminary technical undertaking will provide the groundwork upon which the local source water protection plan can be built.

The parties will collaborate on the development of planning, communications, mapping and other technical skills and capacities in the participating CAs, so that the conservation authorities can undertake the planning, research and analysis needed to implement the province's obligations under the proposed *Drinking Water Source Protection Act*.

The funding is to be used by CAs to undertake the following activities, prior to the enactment of source water protection legislation and promulgation of associated regulations:

A: Water Budget:

1. Conceptual Understanding;
2. Phase 2: Level 1 Numerical Modelling (Watershed Scale);
3. Phase 3: Level 2 Numeric Modelling (Site Specific).

B: Capacity Building:

1. Data Management/Acquisition;
2. Communications/Outreach;
3. Preliminary Watershed Characterization;
4. Threats Database/Issues Evaluation.

Details of the project, including specific products, deliverables, activities, milestone dates and budgets, are set out in Schedule C to the MOA. Staff of TRCA, CVC and CLOCA are in the process of preparing workplans and budgets in support of this MOA. Additional meetings to seek input from municipal staff are planned in November, 2005.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

The CTC Region will receive \$1,077,000 in 2005-2006 as base funding under the provincial funding agreement. These funds will be shared among CVC, TRCA and CLOCA according to an agreed upon workplan and budget allocation.

Based on the detailed planning and budget work undertaken by staff of the 3 CAs in September and October 2005 to meet the provincial Schedule of Deliverables (Attachment 1), the base funding is not adequate. The CTC CAs are negotiating with Conservation Ontario for additional funds to adequately fund the CTC work that the province expects to be completed in 2005-2006. Upon completion of negotiations with Conservation Ontario, the Memorandum of Agreement will be signed setting out the work that the CTC conservation authorities will complete, with the detailed CTC workplan identifying any necessary amendments to the provincial Schedule of Deliverables.

Report prepared by: Adele Freeman, extension 5238
For Information contact: Adele Freeman, extension 5238
Date: October 11, 2005
Attachments: 1

Attachment 1

EXCERPT from SCHEDULE “C”

to the Agreement dated the 1st day of August, 2005 between her Majesty the Queen in right of Ontario and the Association of Conservation Authorities of Ontario known as “Conservation Ontario”

Form of agreement between the Crown, Conservation Ontario and conservation authorities with respect to coordination and administration of capacity building projects

...

2. Summary Detail of Eligible Activity and Deliverables Reporting Schedule for Conservation Authorities

- This table represents the general anticipated pace of work for the duration of the Agreement, and the milestones of progress. It is recognized that individual CA regions will provide detailed workplans (as per section 2.4 above) that may indicate some variation from this schedule. Detailed workplan guidelines will be developed and provided to CA regions.
- Please note that specific activity and product deliverables may change pending the *Drinking Water Source Protection Act* expected to be introduced in fall 2005.

	Quarterly Report 1 Aug 05 to 30 Sept 05	Quarterly Report 1 Oct 05 to 31 Dec 05	Quarterly Report 1 Jan 06 to 31 Mar 06	Quarterly Report 1 Apr 06 to 30 Jun 06
Classification of Work	Eligible CA Activities Based on SWIG Guidance Aug 2005-June 2006			
Capacity Building - Administration	<p>ACTIVITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing staffing, project administration, skills training to build permanent capacity at the CA level for on-going DWSP work • Detailed workplan development • Develop a “Staff Development Plan” detailing on-going staff development opportunities to be undertaken or needed (TBD) <p>PRODUCT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Development Plan” detailing staff development opportunities planned, attended, and needed • Interim report of expenditures & detailed work plan as per CO/MNR provided template 	<p>ACTIVITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing staffing, project administration, skills training to build permanent capacity at the CA level for on-going DWSP work <p>PRODUCT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status/Update of “Staff Development Plan” detailing staff development opportunities planned, attended, and needed • Interim report of expenditures & status update on workplan as per CO/MNR provided template 	<p>ACTIVITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing staffing, project administration, skills training to build permanent capacity at the CA level for on-going DWSP work • Develop 2006-07 Work plan and Budget <p>PRODUCT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status/Update of “Staff Development Plan” detailing staff development opportunities planned, attended, and needed. • Interim report of expenditures & status update workplan as per CO/MNR provided template • 2006-07 Work plan and Budget Proposal 	<p>ACTIVITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing staffing, project administration, skills training to build permanent capacity at the CA level for on-going DWSP work <p>PRODUCT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status/Update of “Staff Development Plan” detailing staff development opportunities planned, attended, and needed. • Final report of expenditures & work plan as per CO/MNR provided template

	Quarterly Report 1 Aug 05 to 30 Sept 05	Quarterly Report 1 Oct 05 to 31 Dec 05	Quarterly Report 1 Jan 06 to 31 Mar 06	Quarterly Report 1 Apr 06 to 30 Jun 06
<p>Capacity Building - Outreach Strategy/ Communications</p> <p>(please note: Communications activities/Products are TBD contingent on the on-going direction and clarification provided by MOE pending Drinking Water Source Protection Legislation)</p>	<p>ACTIVITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with relevant targeted stakeholders (e.g. CA Boards, Municipalities) related to technical background/data collection • General communications, educational in nature promoting, key concepts such as watersheds, CA role in watershed management and basic information about water quality protection. • Develop and share good communication practices, tools, products and experiences including “success stories,” “tales of caution” and myths arising through consultations • Develop preliminary (pre-legislation) consultation plan <p>PRODUCT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation plan for interim period (pre-legislation) to become part of a phased communication/consultation plan • Summary report of stakeholders consulted and outcomes • Draft analysis of most effective communications approaches with watershed stakeholders to inform preparation of communications plan 	<p>ACTIVITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with relevant targeted stakeholders (e.g. CA Boards, Municipalities) related to technical background/data collection • General communications, educational in nature promoting, key concepts such as watersheds, CA role in watershed management and basic information about water quality protection. • Develop and share good communication practices, tools, products and experiences including “success stories,” “tales of caution” and myths arising through consultations • Create local communications plan, aligned with MOE/CO products and guidance. <p>PRODUCT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft phased Communication/ Consultation plan with focused stakeholder consultations • Summary report of stakeholders consulted and outcomes • Pending introduction of legislation, prepare local communications products based on MOE/CO materials (backgrounders, Qs & As, press releases, key messages) 	<p>ACTIVITY :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and deliver local communications plan (TBD) • Begin broad public consultation with all stakeholder group based on consultation guidance provided by MOE (TBD) • Support SWPPC and working groups (TBD). • Work with MOE to organize and facilitate training sessions around the legislation and regulations based on MOE training package for CAs and other targeted stakeholders in watershed region (TBD) • Where appropriate incorporate distribution of communications products provided by MOE and/or CO into communication rollout <p>PRODUCT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake development of 2006-07 Communications Plan • Develop and share good communication practices, tools, products and experiences including “success stories,” “tales of caution” and myths arising through consultations <p>PRODUCT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary report of stakeholders consulted and outcomes • Complete phased Communication/Consultation Plan • Produce and distribute local communications products (News Releases, Backgrounders, etc) aligned with MOE/CO products and guidance. 	<p>ACTIVITY :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going delivery of communications plan (Post Legislation, TBD) • Broad public consultation with all stakeholder groups based on consultation guidance provided by MOE (Post Legislation, TBD) • Support SWPPC and working groups. • Work with MOE to organize and facilitate training sessions around the legislation and regulations based on MOE training package for SPPB and SPPC members in watershed • Develop and share good communication practices, tools, products and experiences including “success stories,” “tales of caution” and myths arising through consultations • Complete development of 2006-07 Communications Plan <p>PRODUCT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary report of stakeholders consulted and outcomes • Communications Products (News Releases, Backgrounders, etc) aligned with MOE/CO products and guidance. • 2006-07 Communications Plan

Water Budgets	Phase 1: Conceptual Understanding	Phase 1: Conceptual Understanding	Phase 1: Conceptual Understanding (Expected Complete March 2006)	Phase 2: Level 1 Numerical Model(s)
	<p>ACTIVITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine Objectives for Conceptual Water Budget Development Review Existing Available Data Identify Information Gaps <p>PRODUCT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data report identifying objectives, data review and information gaps 	<p>ACTIVITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derive Data Derivatives <p>PRODUCT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map Booklet including (minimum): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Geological / Physiographical Ground & Surface Water Characterization Water Use (refer to Draft Interim Technical Directions Watershed Characterization" June 23, 2005 (for further detail on accepted map products) 	<p>ACTIVITY :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Conceptual Understanding Peer Review Prepare Conceptual Report Recommend and Select Numeric Models <p>PRODUCT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptual Water Budget Report Peer Review Report for Conceptual Water Budget Report on selected numeric model 	<p>ACTIVITY :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine Objectives for Numerical Model Development Fill Information Gaps Derive Data Inputs Develop Model(s) Surface Water Quantity Ground Water Quality Verify & Calibrate Numerical Model Peer Review Report Preparation <p>PRODUCT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim status report on Phase 2 Level 1 Numerical Model Summary Report on Numeric Modelling work-to-date
<p>Watershed Characterization</p>	<p>ACTIVITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compilation, review assessment of existing data and information for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Source water protection region Physical description Hydrology Naturally vegetated areas Aquatic ecology Human characterization Water uses and values Water quality (general overview only) Identification of data and knowledge gaps for the watershed description component <p>PRODUCT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim report for watershed description including products e.g. maps, written descriptions, etc. identification of data and knowledge gaps 	<p>ACTIVITY :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compilation, review and assessment of existing data and information regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sources of Water Quality Information Water Quality Guidelines Selection of appropriate water quality parameters and data analysis techniques Characterization of raw water for drinking water sources Identification of data and knowledge gaps for surface and groundwater quality <p>PRODUCT :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim report for existing water quality conditions and trends including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> products e.g. maps, written descriptions, etc. identification of data and knowledge gaps for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> surface water quality ground water quality 	<p>ACTIVITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compilation, review and assessment of existing data and information regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vulnerable areas potential and identified threats to surface and groundwater quality identified issues and potential issues Preparation of interim report <p>PRODUCT :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim report on existing data re: vulnerable areas, threats and issues including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> products e.g. maps, written descriptions, etc. identification of data and knowledge gaps for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vulnerable areas potential and identified threats 	<p>ACTIVITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of "final" watershed characterization report <p>PRODUCT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Final" watershed characterization report including all component parts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watershed description Water quality Water budget conceptual understanding Description of vulnerable areas Status of threats inventory/assessment Identified issues and potential issues Peer Review Report on watershed characterization Identification of data and knowledge gaps for ongoing DWSP activities.

Water Budgets	Phase 1: Conceptual Understanding	Phase 1: Conceptual Understanding	Phase 1: Conceptual Understanding (Expected Complete March 2006)	Phase 2: Level 1 Numerical Model(s)
Threats Database/ Issues Evaluation (Please note: Threats Database/ issues evaluation activities/Products are TBD contingent on the on-going direction and clarification provided by MOE pending Drinking Water Source Protection Legislation)	ACTIVITY : None (TBD)	ACTIVITY : None (TBD)	ACTIVITY : None (TBD)	ACTIVITY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preliminary scoping of threat inventories using available well head protection area delineation ● Conversion/transfer of existing threat data to threat inventory standard format for scoped areas ● Initiate collection of new data within well head protection areas PRODUCT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Status of threats inventory/assessment (from Watershed Characterization) ● Plan for threat inventory collection ● Preliminary threat inventory from existing data

TO: Chair and Members of the Watershed Management Advisory Board
Meeting #5/05, October 21, 2005

FROM: Deborah Martin-Downs, Director, Ecology

RE: ROUGE WATERSHED TASK FORCE
Extension of Term of Appointment

KEY ISSUE

Status update of Rouge watershed planning study and extension of term of appointment for Rouge Watershed Task Force members.

RECOMMENDATION

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT staff continue to support the Rouge Watershed Task Force in their development of a first full draft watershed plan by December 2005;

THAT the term of appointment for the Rouge Watershed Task Force members be extended by six months to June 30, 2006;

AND FURTHER THAT the Rouge Park Alliance be so advised.

BACKGROUND

As directed by the Authority and the Rouge Park Alliance, a Rouge Watershed Task Force was formed in April 2004, according to a membership and mandate outlined in a Terms of Reference. As per the Terms of Reference, the mandate of the task force is to develop a watershed management plan and ensure the interests of all watershed stakeholders are considered. Members of the task force were appointed by the Authority for a term ending December 30, 2005.

The original task force workplan set out to prepare a watershed plan by June, 2005. While a considerable number of initiatives are underway on all aspects of this project, there have been delays in defining the future land use and management assumptions and in setting up the primary hydrology model to the technical team's satisfaction. Staff and task force member time has also been spent on unplanned, but important, activities such as review of the important provincial Greenbelt Plan and Places to Grow initiatives and their implications for the watershed plan. Consequently, the task force has revised its original workplan with a new goal of producing a draft plan by December 2005 and a final plan by June 2006. The period between January to June 2006 would provide the opportunity for thorough consultation, peer review and refinement of the final watershed plan.

The members of the Rouge Watershed Task Force have expressed an interest in extending their term and at Meeting #5/05, held on September 15, 2005, adopted the following resolution:

THAT the Rouge Watershed Task Force request that The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority extend the term of the current members of the Task Force by six months to June 30, 2006.

The attached status report (Attachment 1), was tabled at Rouge Watershed Task Force Meeting #5/05 held on September 15, 2005. The report highlights the main accomplishments to date and notes ongoing work and next steps in italics. The following important management issues are being discussed and recommendations arising from these discussions will form a central part of the watershed plan:

- water balance management, including stormwater management, needed to manage instream erosion and other hydrological imbalances and water quality concerns;
- lack of natural cover, particularly in the headwater areas;
- extent and form of urban growth and its potential impacts on the watershed: the potential for implementing more sustainable community designs and promoting more sustainable practices;
- the role of rural/agricultural lands in watershed health;
- climate change; and
- the watershed context for Rouge Park.

Drinking water source protection is also an important management consideration in this watershed. Staff are monitoring the provincial source water protection initiatives and are preparing for the integration of source water protection plans with the ongoing watershed planning process.

The Rouge Watershed Task Force feels that the Rouge watershed is at a threshold, and this plan will be instrumental in influencing management decisions that will significantly affect the long term health of this watershed. Special effort is being made to ensure that the final watershed planning products provide specific implementation direction in a most accessible way for practitioners. Consideration is also being given to incorporating the recommendations within existing management and planning frameworks to the extent possible, to streamline implementation.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Funding for the Rouge watershed planning study is provided by the Region of York and City of Toronto capital budgets. The additional funding requirements associated with the task force extension can be accommodated within the planned 2006 budget.

Report prepared by: Sonya Meek, extension 5253
For Information contact: Sonya Meek, extension 5253
Date: October 3, 2005
Attachments: 1

Attachment 1

ROUGE WATERSHED PLANNING STUDY STATUS REPORT as of September 7, 2005

INTRODUCTION

The Rouge watershed planning process consists of three phases with predominant periods of activity noted in brackets:

Phase 1:	Scoping and Characterization (March 2003 - May 2004)
Phase 2:	Analysis and Evaluation (March 2004 - November 2005)
Phase 3:	Watershed Plan development (April 2005 - June 2006)

This Status Report highlights the main accomplishments to date, according to each phase of work. Ongoing work and next steps are noted in italics. This report gives study partners an update on the overall project and will provide a context for work to take place over the fall. Comments, questions, and suggestions on any aspect of the work are welcome.

PHASE 1 - SCOPING AND CHARACTERIZATION

State of the Watershed Report

The Scoping and Characterization Phase resulted in the preparation of a draft State of the Watershed report, in which current watershed conditions were characterized according to a set of watershed goals, objectives, indicators and working targets defined by the Task Force. Current and future management issues were identified for further analysis during Phase 2. Key management issues include: extent and form of urban growth and its potential impacts on the watershed; stormwater management (especially retrofits) needed to manage instream erosion and other hydrological imbalances and water quality concerns; lack of natural cover, particularly in headwater areas; the role of rural/agricultural lands in watershed health and the need for strategies to facilitate a viable agricultural economy that will sustain those lands; and climate change. A working summary of key messages and key issues was prepared by the implementation committee and discussed with the Task Force at its March 10 and April 21, 2005 meetings.

The draft State of the Watershed report was broadly circulated for comment to local stakeholders and external peer reviewers. The Task Force carefully reviewed the proposed targets during a series of "target workshops" held at Task Force meetings between October, 2004 and April 2005. Several notable revisions are being made to the draft State of the Watershed Report as a result of these reviews:

- *Public Use Chapter - Revisions to the goal, objectives, indicators and targets were discussed at a meeting with Task Force and municipal parks staff representatives in August, 2005. The resulting changes broaden the scope of this area of interest beyond strictly “trails” and “publicly owned lands”. Definitions of terms such as “greenspace” and “natural areas” are being clarified and, where possible, standardized definitions are being adopted. The chapter is being rewritten accordingly and will be circulated to the Task Force for review. The meeting also served to identify management issues associated with Public Use, including the need for guidelines to assist in the determination of “acceptable” uses in given locations.*
- *Natural Heritage Chapters - Revisions are being made to address amphibians and other species and their role in the natural heritage system.*
- *Land and Resource Use Chapter - Revisions to the goal, objectives, indicators and targets were discussed with the Task Force at their June 2, 2005 meeting. The chapter is being rewritten to address the broader scope of subject matter encompassed in this framework, and in particular to address sustainability concepts.*
- *Part 2 - Current Management Framework - The draft SOW Report contained a very incomplete review of existing management programs in the Rouge watershed. A revised inventory and assessment of the strengths, weaknesses and gaps in current programs is being prepared in the context of the watershed goals/objectives and management issues that arose from the current conditions report findings. The critique of programs undertaken as part of the management summits is being recorded in this revised Part 2 work.*
- *Other Editorial Changes - Staff have revised other chapters of the report based on any comments received to date. The report will continue to remain draft until any further findings from the studies can be included and all watershed planning documents finalized together to ensure consistency. Only chapters undergoing substantive revisions will be re-circulated to the Task Force over the fall. Closer to the end of the process, a fully revised report will be circulated for comment.*

Task Force Principles

Peter White led the Task Force in developing a set of guiding Principles, which it submitted to the Chair of the Greenbelt Task Force for consideration in its work. These principles have been revisited from time to time to ensure the watershed planning work is in keeping with them.

- *Triple Bottom Line - Task Force representatives (Peter White, Bryan Buttigieg TBC), TRCA and York Region planning staff will be meeting with a Senior Planner from the City of Hamilton to learn from their experience at implementing the Triple Bottom Line as part of their Vision 2020 plan.*
- *Net Gain - Results from a TRCA-Pollution Probe workshop focusing on the Duffins Creek Watershed’s application of “net gain” is being reviewed as a guide in applying this principle in the Rouge watershed.*

- *Precautionary Principle and Adaptive Management - have been suggested as additional principles to add to the Task Force's list.*

Local Knowledge

- *Compilation of Historical Photos and Archival information - A group of Task Force members including Paul Harpley, Lionel Purcell, Murray Johnston, and Lorne Smith, has met several times to coordinate this compilation and develop strategies for long term storage and public access.*

PHASE 2: ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The Analysis and Evaluation Phase serves an important role in that it provides the foundation and the scientific basis upon which the preferred management strategy is selected and the implementation recommendations are determined. This phase involves the identification, analysis, and evaluation of various management options designed to address the above-noted current and future management issues. One component of this work involves prediction of the watershed’s response to eight future land use and management scenarios using a linked set of modelling tools. Results will be evaluated according to their effectiveness at meeting the Task Force’s watershed objectives and associated targets and other “integration” considerations, including multiple benefits, spatial extent of the watershed benefitted, public acceptability, etc.

Defined Scenarios

The watershed’s response will be modelled for eight future land use and management scenarios, described in Table 1.

TABLE 1: Rouge River Watershed Scenarios			
#	Name	General Description	Rationale
1	2002 Conditions	Existing conditions as of 2002	Provides a baseline for comparison
2	Official Plan (OP) Build-out	OP build-out with current management practices and implementation of Rouge Park on the Ontario Realty Corp. lands transferred to TRCA for Rouge Park purposes	Will show effect of build-out already approved or adopted using current, state-of-the-art practices (eg. stormwater management)
3	OP Build-out and Stormwater Retrofit	Scenario 2 + Implementation Toronto’s 25 yr Wet Weather Flow Master Plan (WWFMP) and “905” municipalities’ stormwater retrofit plans	Will show benefits of stormwater retrofit implementation in moderating effects of existing and future urban growth

4	OP Build-out and Enhanced Natural Cover	Scenario 2 + enhanced natural cover as per TRCA's targeted Terrestrial Natural Heritage System (TNHS) and draft ecological corridor of Little Rouge Corridor Management Plan (in prep)	Will show benefits of enhanced natural cover in moderating effects of existing and future urban growth
5	OP Build-out Stormwater Retrofit and Natural Cover	Scenarios 2 + 3 + 4	Will show benefits of stormwater retrofit implementation and enhanced natural cover in moderating effects of existing and future urban growth
6	Full Build-out	Scenario 2 + Full build-out to boundary of Oak Ridges Moraine and Greenbelt Protection area with current management practices (e.g., SWM valley corridor protection)	Will show impact of full build-out with existing management practices
7	Full Build-out With All Opportunities	Scenario 5 + sustainable community design and implementation of Rouge Park North in the full build out area delineated in scenario 6. City of Toronto's WWFMMP 100 yr Storm Water Retrofit plan and comparable retrofit assumptions in existing "905" urban areas. Agricultural BMPs.	Will show whether improvements from all opportunities are adequate to mitigate full build-out.
8 a)	Climate Change 2050 with Full Build-out	Scenario 6 + climate change 2050	Will show effects of climate change on full build-out in 2050
b)	Climate Change 2080 with Full Build-out	Scenario 6 + climate change 2080	Will show effects of climate change on full build-out in 2080
c)	Climate Change 2050 and Full Build-out with all Opportunities	Scenario 7 + climate change 2050	Will show whether improvements to full build-out are adequate to mitigate effects of climate change in 2050
d)	Climate Change 2080 and Full Build-out with all Opportunities	Scenario 7 + climate change 2080	Will show whether improvements to full build-out are adequate to mitigate effects of climate change in 2080

- *Scenario Definitions and Assumptions Report* - TRCA staff have prepared a draft report and set of maps illustrating the scenarios. These are undergoing final review with study partners. Delays in completing certain scenario mapping layers (e.g. refinement of the TRCA's Revised Regional Terrestrial Natural Heritage System for the Rouge watershed, determining methods for approximating the locations of Markham Small Streams and Rouge Park North corridors, and the Sustainable community scenario) have delayed the completion of the scenarios. All scenarios are now complete with the exception of the Sustainable Community Scenario (#7). Given the delays in model availability (see below), this hasn't been as significant a problem.
- *Sustainable Community Design Scenario Report* - Delivery of this draft consultant report was late. It is estimated that the completion of this work, including consultation with relevant study partners will take until the end of September. All other scenarios are being modelled in the interim, and therefore it is hoped that this final scenario will be available once the modeller is finished with the others.

Modelling Tools

The Watershed Response Model (Figure 2) is being used by TRCA to analyse the watershed's response to the future scenarios. The Model illustrates the pathways and order in which changes in individual watershed systems occur in response to changes in land cover, climate or management practices. Predictive modelling tools have been identified to evaluate each individual watershed system. Through coordination among technical team members, we have identified common indicators for evaluating interdependencies and have ensured that the output data requirements of one model meet the input requirements of the next model in sequence (i.e. units, time scale, etc.) and/or that appropriate translations can occur.

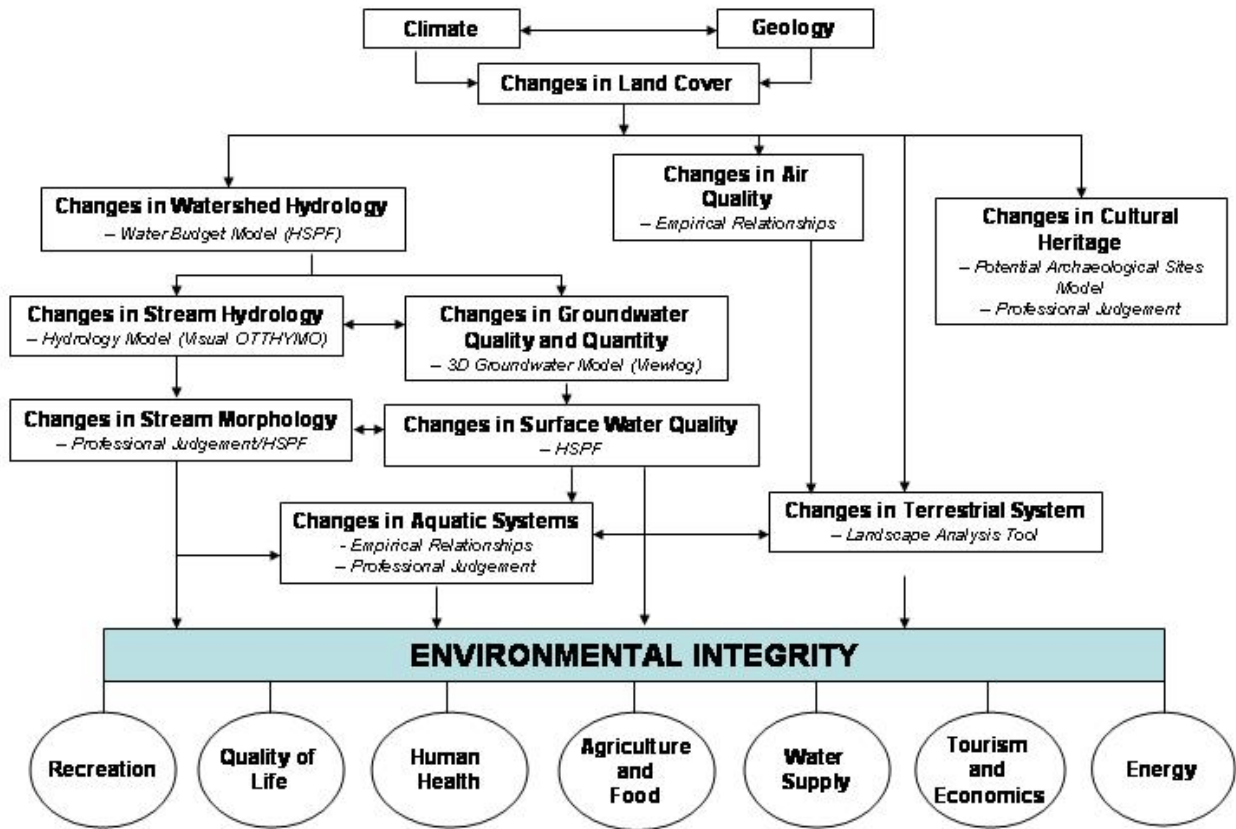
TRCA adapted the watershed response model from an initial model developed by Snodgrass et al. (1996), which focused on impacts on aquatic ecosystems, and on a later adaptation of that work by Credit Valley Conservation (CVC, 2001). In 1996, Snodgrass noted "...the field is at least half a decade away from being able to quantify the "stress-response" relationships as a predictive tool for impact assessment, and the immediate future will depend upon relationships and synthesis of models and experience. TRCA first used the model in its Duffins Watershed Planning Study and intends to build upon that work in the Rouge study by improving the sophistication of the aquatic and terrestrial predictive tools over previous efforts.

- *HSP-F* - In August, 2005, the set up and calibration of the primary hydrology model, HSP-F, was completed. This step took longer than expected, however now that it is running, it is expected that the majority of scenario runs can be modelled by the end of September, 2005.
- *MODFLOW (Groundwater model)* - The York-Peel-Durham-Toronto groundwater modelling team, Earthfx, will be modelling the groundwater system's response to the future scenarios, based on output from the HSP-F model and other scenario data. Although that team is under high demand by a number of Regions and Conservation Authorities on the Oak Ridges Moraine, they have been made aware of our modelling needs and timeframe and our project is on their master list of priorities.

- Aquatic predictive tool - The Ministry of Natural Resources has developed an automated programming tool to evaluate the aquatic system's response to hydrological changes that arise from the future scenarios. This work is based on Les Stanfield's studies that correlate aquatic system health with watershed characteristics, including percent impervious and other hydrological indicators. This program is ready for use, once the hydrologically modelling results are available.

Figure 2 - Watershed Response Model and Predictive Tools Used in the Rouge Watershed Planning Study

Rouge Watershed Response Model and Predictive Tools



Management Summits

Task Force members and key stakeholders and experts are being engaged in “management summit” discussions on key issues. The purpose of these discussions has been to further define the issues, implementation barriers and to determine potential solutions that should be recommended in the final watershed plan. Recommendations arising from these discussions tend to focus on implementation (i.e. “how” and to some extent “what”) and will complement the management strategy directions arising from the scenario modelling work, which will point to what actions are most effective, how much, where and why should they be undertaken.

The key issue topics identified to date include:

- *instream erosion, water balance, stormwater management, and water quality - This “water balance” summit is in the process of being scheduled for late September. During the background research for this issue, staff identified the need for a water balance policy. An outline for a draft policy and guideline paper will be table for discussion at the meeting. TRCA staff have also joined a discussion group, involving water balance practitioners in BC and Alberta and facilitated through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, to share information and experiences from those jurisdictions.*
- *Lack of natural cover - a management summit was held on Sept. 8, 2005 to explore mechanisms for enhancing natural cover and dealing with encroachment and exotic species.*
- *Temporary impacts of construction practices - a management summit has yet to be scheduled and is awaiting the assembly of additional background.*
- *Barriers to the implementation of sustainability practices - a management summit was held on Sept. 9, 2005. A proposed social marketing study was also discussed. This study will engage private homeowners and businesses, representative of the cultural and demographic characteristics of the Rouge, to determine effective marketing strategies for Rouge objectives and ways to overcome barriers to the implementation of innovative practices.*
- *Barriers to the protection of agricultural lands - a management summit is in the process of being scheduled for late September.*
- *Other management topics - aggregate pit rehabilitation and continuation of initial discussions on public use guidelines and cultural heritage issues will also be the subject of upcoming meetings.*

Evaluation Criteria and Approach

A preferred management strategy will be determined by reviewing how different areas within the watershed respond to future scenarios of stress and management options, as demonstrated through the modelling studies. Results of “management summit” discussions will also contribute to the team’s understanding of the relative acceptability of different management and implementation approaches. A proposed two stage process for evaluating the modelling and management summit results was discussed with the Task Force at the June 2, 2005 meeting:

Stage 1 - Primary Evaluation Criterion

- *ability to meet selected Rouge objectives and targets*

It is proposed that a subset of the targets be used in the initial evaluation process, as certain indicators/targets are more quantitative in nature (i.e. modellable) and are likely to give a good indication of the overall effectiveness of each scenario as they represent integral system functions (i.e. key issues).

Stage 2 - Additional Evaluation Criteria - considerations for effectiveness, efficiency and equity

- *consistency with task force principles, as in initial Task Force Greenbelt letter*
- *multiple benefits and integration considerations*
- *long term sustainability (maximum environmental gain, minimum cost, maximum social acceptability)*
- *public acceptance*

The Task Force, assisted by the technical team and key stakeholders, will apply and reference these evaluation criteria during a series of meetings and facilitated workshops, designed to develop a preferred management strategy. ***See facilitator under Phase 3.

PHASE 3 - WATERSHED PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The final phase involves preparation of the watershed plan and implementation plan.

Watershed Planning Document Outlines

Based on stakeholder input to date, the watershed plan itself is envisioned to be a concise document geared to a broad audience and focussing primarily on “what’s new and different” from what we are currently doing. There may be a detailed “implementation reference guide” that accompanies the plan, where all technical details, maps, criteria, model policies, etc. are presented. There will also be a full set of other background documents, ensuring the transparency and defensibility of the planning process.

The Task Force will discuss a proposed outline for all final Rouge watershed planning documents at their September 15, 2005 meeting.

Facilitator and Writer

Arrangements are in the works to contract a facilitator and writer, well known and respected by the Task Force, to help the Task Force in its discussions and development of a draft management strategy and implementation plan. This person would also assist the Task Force in collating its ideas into a concise draft plan suitable for a broad audience.

Partner Involvement, Consultation and Peer Review

The main mechanisms for partner involvement during the development of the draft watershed plan include:

- Task Force meetings, scheduled September 15, October (date TBC), November (date TBC) and December 15, 2005; and
- Focus group meetings - the topic focused management summits are serving as focus group meetings around key issues.

Broad-based consultation, through community open houses, stakeholder focus group meetings, and a peer review workshop, was originally planned to occur in early fall 2005. These meetings were intended to discuss the modelling results and potential management approaches. However, due to delays in the availability of modelling results and the very tight timeframe to accommodate even the Task Force's deliberations in the fall, it is expected that the year-end product will be less complete than originally thought and therefore the consultation schedule should be revised accordingly.

It is recommended that the broad-based consultation be post-poned to January-February, 2006. The Task Force's engagement of key partners during the fall 2005 management summits is expected to be a meaningful and effective way of seeking input and so will replace many aspects of the consultation in the developmental stages of the plan. Input from the broader community and expert peer reviewers in January-February will be the most efficient time to engage those groups, and ensure their input is incorporated as the Task Force continues to refine its work by June 2006.

Watershed Newsletter

The Implementation Committee recommended the need for a communication piece that would assist in raising public awareness about the management issues in the Rouge watershed and encouraging participation in the planning process.

A draft newsletter has been prepared for Task Force discussion at its Sept. 15, 2005 meeting.

TO: Chair and Members of the Watershed Management Advisory Board
Meeting #5/05, October 21, 2005

FROM: Nick Saccone, Director, Restoration Services

RE: **OAK RIDGES MORaine - LEVEL TWO TEMPERATE WETLAND
RESTORATION COURSE FOR CONSERVATION PRIORITY AREAS (CPA) 2
AND 11**

KEY ISSUE

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) participation in a Level Two Temperate Wetland Restoration Course for Conservation Priority Areas 2 and 11- Oak Ridges Moraine.

RECOMMENDATION

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT staff participate in the Level Two Temperate Wetland Restoration Course for Conservation Priority Areas (CPA) 2 and 11 on the Oak Ridges Moraine;

AND FURTHER THAT staff report to the Watershed Management Advisory Board on the deliverables, priorities and outcome of this training course.

BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Natural Resources has conducted a Temperate Wetland Restoration Training Program for the past ten years in southern Ontario. The course is a collaborative effort, developed by staff from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Environment Canada, Trent University and Ducks Unlimited. The course is administered through the Watershed Science Centre at Trent University. To date over 200 resource management professionals have taken this course. The TRCA has been one of the strongest supporters of this program and over 13 staff have attended the Level One Training Course. This investment in training has provided an important foundation for the development and delivery of many programs including TRCA's watershed Habitat Improvement Plans and has also developed a high degree of staff capacity in the field of wetland restoration.

Based on the success of this program, MNR has secured funding from the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation to develop and deliver a Level Two Temperate Wetland Course. This course has been developed by Mr. Angus Norman, a Wetlands Specialist in MNR's Southern Science and Information Section; Mr. Kevin Erwin, an internationally renowned wetland ecologist from Fort Myers, Florida; and Mr. Dan Mansell a landscape ecologist from Peterborough, Ontario with over 30 years of senior management experience within MNR; and Gord MacPherson, TRCA, Restoration Services. Although defined as a course, this program is really a planning/mentoring process between multiple agencies that will direct implementation activities over the next few years on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

This course will provide a systematic landscape review of the Oak Ridges Moraine in two areas centred around the Albion and Glen Major Forest Tracts. These areas have been identified as Conservation Priority Areas (CPA) through a scientific evaluation of the Oak Ridges Moraine by MNR. This course will be a valuable tool to identify and prioritize wetland restoration in the CPA's and is in support of the wetland component of the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation funding for TRCA projects within these two CPAs.

This program will provide the following deliverables:

- list of potential wetland restoration sites within the two CPA's and adjacent areas of the Oak Ridges Moraine;
- prioritize the wetland sites based on water management/landscape ecology criteria;
- integrate watershed planning and natural heritage planning with wetland restoration opportunities on the Oak Ridges Moraine;
- develop conceptual wetland restoration plans for each identified wetland;
- foster teamwork and consensus, and promote liaison between Oak Ridges Moraine agencies.

This initiative will also train participants to restore wetlands successfully on the Oak Ridges Moraine. Two teams of 7 to 10 participants will be formed; one team for each area. Participants for this initiative will be chosen mainly from graduates of Level 1 Introductory Wetland Restoration Courses.

RATIONALE

Staff are actively developing habitat restoration plans for many areas within TRCAs jurisdiction. Recently, staff secured funding from the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation to develop and implement restoration plans for the two identified CPAs. The ability to work with other agencies under the mentorship of Mr. Mansell, Mr. Erwin and Mr. Norman presents a unique opportunity for staff. Staff are convinced that this program will not only identify wetland restoration sites within the Oak Ridges Moraine, it will also assist the long term and future wetland implementation on this significant landscape.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Funding to operate and administer this program has been provided by the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation. Each participating agency is providing the in-kind support of technical staff time. In total, 8 TRCA staff will be involved and include technical staff from Restoration Services, Ecology and Watershed Management. This program will require one formal day per month for eight months and an additional day has been allocated (if required) for preparatory work. The program will commence in November 2005 and finish in June 2006.

Financial details are outlined below:

AGENCY	FUNDING	DETAIL
Oak Ridges Moraine	\$68,000	Base Funding for course
Ministry of Natural Resources	\$65,000	In-kind staff support
Wildlife Habitat Fund	\$5,000	In-kind staff support
Ontario Streams	\$5,000	In-kind staff support
TRCA	\$40,000	In-kind staff support

Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation funding will support costs associated with the program including consultants, materials, travel and expenses. TRCA funding is available for staff time in the Humber Habitat Improvement Plans, Duffins Natural Heritage Implementation and Oak Ridges Moraine support for CPA 2 and 11 budgets.

Report prepared by: Gord MacPherson, extension 5246
For Information contact: Gord MacPherson, extension 5246
Date: October 12, 2005

TO: Chair and Members of the Watershed Management Advisory Board
Meeting #5/05, October 21, 2005

FROM: Carolyn Woodland, Director, Planning and Development

RE: **CARING FOR YOUR LAND**
A Stewardship Handbook for Oak Ridges Moraine Landowners

KEY ISSUE

Launch of a new stewardship guidebook for rural non-farm private landowners on the Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM).

RECOMMENDATION

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the staff report titled CARING FOR YOUR LAND - A Stewardship Handbook for Oak Ridges Moraine Landowners, be received.

BACKGROUND

A comprehensive new stewardship handbook for rural non-farm private landowners has been published by the Centre for Land and Water Stewardship at the University of Guelph. The handbook was commissioned as a collaborative effort of several conservation organizations to use in their stewardship programs on the Oak Ridges Moraine. Partners included Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), through the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition (CAMC), Ontario Stewardship Councils and the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust. The Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, Conservation Ontario and TD Friends of the Environment were some of the additional funding partners. Staff from several conservation authorities, including TRCA, had direct input to the writing and review of the handbook. Plans are currently being developed for an official launch of the handbook this fall.

SUMMARY AND USE OF CARING FOR YOUR LAND

The handbook is an informative, easy-reading document that provides advice for landowners on the Oak Ridges Moraine who wish to protect, enhance and manage the environmental features on their land. "Action Tips" and advice are included for:

- naturalization and wildlife habitat;
- streambank and kettle lake shoreline restoration;
- woodland trails and plantation management;
- developing a personal stewardship plan; and
- caring for private well and septic systems.

Additional sections in the handbook provide information to describe:

- the important water resource functions of the Oak Ridges Moraine;
- special places on the moraine, including several TRCA conservation areas;
- being good neighbours with the surrounding agricultural community;
- the importance and benefits of good land stewardship; and
- a listing of stewardship service organizations, including conservation authorities.

There are a number of opportunities to use the handbook in TRCA program areas. The handbook is ideal for use in existing stewardship outreach programs, workshops and landowner contact programs. Use of the handbook can also be promoted at watershed advisory committee meetings and at public open houses for the (sub) watershed studies currently under way for Oak Ridges Moraine watersheds. The handbook was originally developed as a tool for a proposed ORM-wide landowner contact program. TRCA is now a partner in a recently approved proposal submitted to the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation for a pilot project to initiate a collaborative landowner contact program on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The Caring for Your Land handbook promotes a positive relationship between rural non-farm landowners and the agricultural community. The handbook emphasizes the care and restoration of natural systems using native species. In that regard it supports the approach and implementation of the Terrestrial Natural Heritage System Strategy and also The Living City objectives for Healthy Rivers and Shorelines and Regional Biodiversity. The handbook supports the goal of the CAMC to build partnerships to ensure effective stewardship services on the ORM. The handbook will serve as an important tool in the stewardship work of TRCA and CAMC member staff and other partners on the Oak Ridges Moraine. Copies of the handbook are available to Authority members upon request.

Report prepared by: David Burnett, extension 5361

For Information contact: David Burnett, extension 5361; Patricia Lowe, extension 5365

Date: August 24, 2005

TO: Chair and Members of the Watershed Management Advisory Board
Meeting #5/05, October 21, 2005

FROM: Adele Freeman, Director, Watershed Management

RE: **2005 MULTICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
Update**

KEY ISSUE

An update regarding the Multicultural Environmental Stewardship Program.

RECOMMENDATION

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT the 2005 Multicultural Environmental Stewardship Program update be received.

BACKGROUND

The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) is the most ethnically diverse region in Ontario with immigrant communities making up more than 50% of the population. To build a greater awareness of local environmental issues amongst new Canadians and to engage them in community environmental stewardship projects, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) developed the Multicultural Environmental Stewardship Program (MESP) in 1997.

As a lead agency involved in community outreach and stewardship we have developed a variety of strategies to engage a diverse audience including:

- translating conservation fact sheets and posters into the most common languages other than English spoken in the GTA;
- research and compilation of demographics information for internal and external clients;
- building a database of active community organizations;
- disseminating environmental information at community festivals and events;
- identifying new community action project sites and programs in large immigrant settlement areas; and
- working with a variety of municipal and community stakeholders to develop and enhance community capacity in diverse neighbourhoods throughout the TRCA's jurisdiction.

In 2005, TRCA implemented a number of programs to reach the target audience. These include the following:

Highland Creek English as a Second Language (ESL) Outreach Initiative

In January, a committee of ESL practitioners and students from the Scarborough community formed to develop a toolkit containing hands-on environmental stewardship activities for ESL students. This initiative is coordinated through the Highland Creek Environmental Stewardship Program.

TRCA's Citizenship Ceremonies

TRCA, in partnership with the Etobicoke Citizenship and Immigration Centre, hosted a citizenship ceremony in March during the Enbridge Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival at the Kortright Centre for Conservation. Following the ceremony, 32 new Canadians from 13 different countries and their families enjoyed a pancake reception and tour of the sugarbush.

Environmental Experience Subsidy Program

This new program subsidizes the cost for new Canadians, disadvantaged youth and other community groups facing social and economic barriers to experience TRCA's conservation areas and to familiarize themselves with TRCA's watersheds.

In March, TRCA engaged 200 ESL students and their families with a one-hour guided sugarbush tour and associated activities offered at the Bruce's Mill Enbridge Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival. In June, 35 youth in Peel Region from the Malton Environmental Stewardship Youth Corp and the Toronto Chinese Community Services Association were given the opportunity to tour the fish hatchery and fish at the Glen Haffy Conservation Area.

Wincott Wetland Community Action Site

In June, TRCA and the City of Toronto hosted the 2nd annual community environmental celebration at Wincott Park North in Etobicoke with over 300 residents in attendance. This festival continues to support our partnership with this diverse community of new Canadians and link residents to actions as part of the City of Toronto's Water Pollution Solution plan to address impacts from stormwater.

Additional stewardship activities included the distribution of water efficiency kits to local homeowners in July and a clean-up with local Grade 3 students in October during National Waste Reduction Week.

Invasive Species Outreach Strategy

Invasive species continue to pose a significant threat to the integrity of Lake Ontario ecosystems and the fisheries they support. This project will help to reduce the risk of new introductions of invasive species to the Lake Ontario watershed, slow this spread to inland waters, and improve awareness about this issue within Toronto's diverse community.

In partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources, staff are researching cultural and/or religious practices of releasing live fish in Lake Ontario ecosystems. In September, contact with key members of the Toronto's Buddhist community was established to further our understanding of their cultural and/or religious live fish release practices.

This project will also support target 2a, A Self Sustaining Fishery in the Toronto Area of Concern (AOC). Specifically, increasing the proportion of native species towards 100% of the total fish community as set out by the Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan (RAP) team. It will support the bi-national fisheries management objectives for Lake Ontario that have been set by the Lake Ontario Committee (under the Great Lakes Fishery Commission), as well as the Lake Ontario Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP).

River Offerings Monitoring Program

Over the past year, TRCA and Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) have formed a partnership to address concerns about religious offerings being placed beside or directly in local watercourses by the Hindu community living in Peel Region. The offerings observed to date are both organic and inorganic in nature, and include: flowers and leaves; coconuts, lemons and other fruits; jewelry or coins; clothing; and ashes. While these offerings are not the largest source of water pollution, they do have the potential to place additional stress on our river systems and introduce invasive species.

The strategy to date has been to work closely with religious leaders in the Hindu community to gain a better understanding of this religious practice and to develop and pilot an outreach education and stewardship program to promote alternatives to placing items in the river. Through the support of the Brampton Area Community Foundation, TRCA and CVC, in cooperation with several Hindu priests, are developing a publication for distribution to members of the community providing information on these alternatives.

Translation

TD-Friends of the Environment Foundation is supporting the Chinese translation and printing costs of the educational *Fish* Poster and Healthy Yards *Naturescaping* Fact Sheet. These items will be disseminated at community festivals and events in Fall 2005.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

TRCA will continue to implement the programs listed above in the Fall of 2005. The majority of the programs are 2005 pilots and TRCA will continue to seek funding and expand program deliverables in 2006 through building partnerships with multicultural groups, identifying and eliminating barriers that limit their participation and transferring skills that allow groups and individuals to contribute in the long-term to environmental restoration and to secure meaningful employment. These goals are in keeping with the sustainable communities component of The Living City vision.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

In 2005, financial support for the MESP program was provided by the City of Toronto, Region of Peel, York Region and the Environment Canada-Ontario Ministry of the Environment Remedial Action Plan program. Additional funding to support individual program costs has been secured from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Brampton Area Community Foundation (BACF) and the Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA). TRCA also continues to receive in-kind support from a variety of partnerships established with religious and cultural organizations, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, immigrant settlement agencies and other community groups. Through this generous support, the 2005 operating budget for the Multicultural Environmental Stewardship Program is approximately \$80,000.

Report prepared by: Larissa Mohan, extension 5394
For Information contact: Larissa Mohan, extension 5394
Date: October 12, 2005

TO: Chair and Members of the Watershed Management Advisory Board
Meeting #5/05, October 21, 2005

FROM: Deborah Martin-Downs, Director, Ecology

RE: **ROUGE WATERSHED TASK FORCE MINUTES**
Minutes of Meeting #3/05, held on April 21, 2005 and Minutes of Meeting #4/05,
held on June 2, 2005.

KEY ISSUE

The Minutes of Meeting #3/05, held on April 21, 2005 and Minutes of Meeting #4/05, held on June 2, 2005 are provided for information.

RECOMMENDATION

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Minutes of the Rouge Watershed Task Force Meeting #3/05, held on April 21, 2005 and Meeting #4/05, held on June 2, 2005, be received.

BACKGROUND

Copies of the minutes of the Rouge Watershed Task Force are forwarded to the Authority through the Watershed Management Advisory Board. These minutes constitute the formal record of the work of the Rouge Watershed Task Force and serve to keep the Authority members informed of the steps being undertaken to develop the Rouge Watershed Plan.

Report prepared by: Sylvia Waters, extension 5330
For Information contact: Sylvia Waters, extension 5330
Date: October 3, 2005