



FRIENDS OF STOCO LAKE

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 Friends of Stoco Lake
 FOSLStoco

Stoco Lake Stewardship Plan Initial Meeting of the Steering Committee

Wed April 29, 1 to 4 p.m.
Committee Room, Municipality of Tweed Office

Draft Meeting Summary/Actions

Attendees:

FOSL: Vicki McCulloch, Chair; Ruth James-Morrow, Director
Municipality of Tweed: Councillor Don DeGenova; Community Development Manager
Rachelle Hardesty
Quinte Conservation: Maya Navrot, Conservation Education Coordinator
Regrets: Terry Murphy, General Manager, and Tim Trustham, Ecologist and Planner
Quinte Conservation

Note – the order of conversation has been modified to reflect the specific order of agenda items.

1) Overview of Activity to Date/ Update Since Jan 26 Public Meeting

a) Background Information Collection/'State of the Lake' Report

Maya Navrot noted that Quinte Conservation has agreed to prepare the 'State of the Lake' report for the Stoco Lake Stewardship Plan. Tim Trustham (QC) has been reviewing existing information and identifying potential information gaps. Gap areas initially identified include amphibians, reptiles, birds, vegetation. Fisheries is another area with little recent documentation.

It was noted that Quinte Conservation has capacity address some of the gaps; in the case of the recent East Lake Stewardship Plan, the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority was contracted to do some fisheries electroshocking. Trillium funding covered some of studies done to fill information gaps.

Vicki McCulloch noted that there are some local experts who could be approached to share their significant knowledge with respect to local environment, e.g. Jason King, Joe Bartok, George and Elizabeth Churcher, Denice Wilkins. Rachelle is quite involved in local fishing activities, and there are many long-term anglers on the Lake. Vicki noted that a specialist in mussels had also been in touch. A small group of these local experts could provide important input to the 'State of the Lake' report, and may be willing to participate in community engagement activities.

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FOSL asked Evan Morton at the Heritage Center to pull some information together from their archives on the social, economic, and cultural history of Stoco Lake. He provided this information via email on March 16, and wrote a couple of columns on cottage history in April 2015 (he has provided them electronically to VM, who has passed on to Maya). People have been following up on these columns with Evan, and Vicki noted that there are several families with long histories on the lake including Chisholm (Rachelle is related), Sills, Sutherland and others. Walt Chisholm's family recently donated a banker's box of his Stoco Lake files to FOSL.

The Loyalist student volunteers that came forward at the January community meeting have been working with Quinte Conservation, but are busy with their academic year-end.

The recent East Lake Plan is a model to consider; their website has the plan document itself (distributed to Steering Committee March 14), as well as their Terms of Reference, meeting minutes etc. See <http://www.eastlakeplan.ca/>

Action: Maya Navrot to send Steering Committee a brief summary of the gaps identified by Quinte Conservation, and potential costs for work to fill those gaps.

Action: Maya Navrot to send Rachelle Hardesty information re: weeds and fragmentation/reproduction ('break-off')

Action: Vicki McCulloch to contact local naturalist Jason King re: participating in 'State of the Lake', possible 'Bioblitz' (see d below) and sharing his contact information with Steering Committee/Quinte Conservation (he subsequently agreed)

Action: Don DeGenova to contact George Thompson and Elizabeth Churcher (local residents and involved in Quinte Field Naturalists) re: participating in 'State of the Lake' and possible 'Bioblitz' (see d below) and sharing their contact information with Steering Committee/Quinte Conservation (they subsequently agreed)

b) Update on Watersheds Canada Pilot Project

Vicki McCulloch was in touch with Barbara King at Watersheds Canada, who noted that their pilot project (discussed at the January community meeting) involving 5-10 lakes won't likely receive funding until 2016. It may become more national in scope; had originally been envisioned as an Ontario project. In the meantime, Barbara has offered to assist in identifying potential funding sources in advance of the pilot (see below).

c) Potential Participation Bioblitz

After some discussion, it was agreed that a bioblitz (<http://www.ontariobioblitz.ca/about-us.html>) type of activity involving community members in 'citizen science' might be planned for Fall 2015 and/or Spring 2016. Quinte Field Naturalists and local experts could be approached for participation. Maya Navrot will be participating in a bioblitz in May, and can report back at the next Steering Committee meeting



Action: Maya Navrot to report on her bioblitz experience.

Action: Steering Committee to consider bioblitz as one of the community engagement activities going forward.

d) FOSL website overhaul, social media

The FOSL website is being updated, and there is a 'Friends of Stoco Lake' Facebook group and now a Twitter account (@FOSLStoco). These can all be used as well as other communication methods once the community engagement approach/planning process is clearer.

2) Terms of Reference for Steering Committee

Ruth James-Morrow asked whether the Plan should include the larger watershed, given that upstream activities influence Stoco Lake. It was agreed that the Plan should consider the factors (both farther upstream and more local) that influence the Lake, but that the focus will be on the local area, and the Steering Committee will not include for example, municipalities or organizations outside the Municipality of Tweed.

Agreed upon elements of the Terms of Reference:

- The Stewardship planning process will take a community-based approach, led by FOSL, in partnership with the Municipality of Tweed and Quinte Conservation. Individuals and organizations will be involved in the process through community engagement activities or specific activities for the plan (e.g. gathering information on the local lake environment).
- The Steering Committee will be a FOSL sub-committee, as per FOSL's October 2008 Governance Structure document
- The Steering Committee representatives from each of the three organizations – FOSL, QC, Municipality of Tweed – will report back regularly to their constituents on the Steering Committee activities, seeking direction or confirmation as needed, e.g. when seeking funding/in-kind resources, external funding applications, engagement of consultant (pending funding)
- Mandate to include oversight of planning process, coordination of funding requests
- The East Lake Steering Committee Terms of Reference to be reviewed to be used as a guide the Stoco Lake Terms of Reference
- Hastings County (Justin Harrow) will be invited to attend the FOSL AGM, and will be informed of the Stoco Lake planning process, but will not be asked to sit on the Steering Committee.

Vicki McCulloch added that the Chair of the Moira Lake Property Owners Association had recently been in touch recently saying that they would provide any information we might need for the Stoco Lake Plan. The Moira Lake group prepared an action plan in 2002.



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Action: Vicki McCulloch to prepare draft Terms of Reference for the Stoco Lake Stewardship Plan Steering Committee/FOSL Sub-Committee (if possible before May 8 Community Development Committee meeting) for Steering Committee review and presentation to constituent organizations.

3) Review of French Planning Services Proposal

The proposal for the Stoco Lake Stewardship Plan from French Planning Services was distributed to the Steering Committee on March 14. Not all members had yet reviewed it in detail, although it was agreed that the timelines, tasks, and budget seemed reasonable. External funding would be needed to engage French Planning for all or part of the proposal tasks. It was asked if other quotes would be sought. Vicki noted that FOSL had previously received quotes from French Planning in 2007 (also from Michalski Nielsen) and 2010. French Planning has literally written the book on lake planning (the 2009 Lake Planning Handbook http://lakeplan.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=125&Itemid=129), has led many lake planning processes in Ontario, and is a partner with Watersheds Canada for the pilot project that we hope to participate in.

The priority is to get the Steering Committee Terms of Reference in place.

Action: the French Planning Proposal will be revisited at the next meeting, in light of upcoming funding application deadlines.

4) Funding Sources and Deadlines

Councillor Don DeGenova noted that, in the absence of a specific proposal or the establishment of the Steering Committee, the Municipality of Tweed had set aside \$5,000 in the 2015 budget for the Stoco Lake Stewardship Plan. This was based on a request from FOSL at the January 2015 Council meeting (following the January community meeting, which was attended by all members of Council). Once specific activities or budget is determined by the Steering Committee, the Municipality can be approached for funding.

Quinte Conservation is providing 'in-kind' resources (e.g. 'State of the Lake' report, identification of funding sources).

The East Lake Plan was funded by Trillium and the CFDC, with in-kind from Quinte Conservation. Funding was also provided by a developer, whose proposal triggered the lake planning process.

It was agreed that an inventory of potentially relevant funding sources is needed. Examples mentioned included the Great Lakes Guardian, Trillium, Community Futures Development Corporation, Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation. TD Friends of the Environment funding is more suitable for implementation/actions. Barbara King at Watersheds Canada has offered to assist in identifying sources in advance of their pilot project (which won't get underway until 2016).



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Rachelle noted that she has access to a funding source list and will distribute to everyone. Vicki added that an inventory of sources had been prepared several years ago as part of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan process.

Councillor DeGenova noted that the Municipality of Tweed could possibly issue tax receipts for donations toward funded activities for the Lake Stewardship Plan, e.g., contracted sampling work. *(note: following the meeting, Vicki remembered Watersheds Canada can also administer any 'joint funding' on behalf of the Steering Committee/Working Group. They do this for other groups, they are audited annually etc. They can also provide tax receipts for donations by individuals or businesses and earmark the funds for the Stoco lake plan.)*

It was noted that Trillium has recently changed their application process; For example, there will be smaller application forms for smaller projects. Don DeGenova noted that he sits on the Trillium Board for this region and would have to recuse himself from any consideration of a funding application for the Stoco Lake Stewardship Plan.

Action: Rachelle to distribute funding source document to Steering Committee (done May 5 via Vicki to Steering Committee)

Action: Vicki to follow-up with Barbara King at Watersheds Canada re: potential funding sources and any assistance they may be able to provide. (Subsequently Barbara noted that Trillium may be a good fit, and that she is willing to work with us on an application: http://www.otf.ca/sites/default/files/green_people_metrics.pdf). VM will be speaking again with her again on May 26.

Action: Rachelle and Don to follow –up with Municipality re: potential for issuing tax receipts and what would be necessary to set that up.

5) Discussion of Lake Planning Process and Activities/Timelines (including awareness, initial community engagement)

The two-year timeline outlined in the French Planning proposal was generally agreed to be reasonable. Community engagement can begin, e.g.

- Update on planning process at FOSL AGM in June
- Periodic media communications
- Development of a survey (see the East Lake survey as a model that could be modified for Stoco Lake purposes) that could be administered for example at the Canada Day boat tours, and on-line (e.g. Survey Monkey) throughout the planning process
- An initial community engagement event – a workshop/forum on Saturday September 26

As Rachelle noted, it will be important to ensure that the actions identified in the plan are implemented, and not relegated to a shelf.



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A work plan/communication strategy will need to be developed to guide the planning process.

Action: FOSL to develop an initial contact list for the Lake Planning process, based on January community meeting, individuals/organizations indicating interest, and organizations with relevant mandates

Action: Ruth James-Morrow to follow-up on survey, with potential initial implementation on Canada Day

Action: Steering Committee members come prepared to continue conversation on work plan and communication strategy at the next meeting.

6) FOSL AGM June 6

An update on the lake planning process will be provided at the FOSL Annual General Meeting Sat. June 6, 9 a.m. at the Tweed Library. The Steering Committee will all be present and can contribute to the update (Vicki will prepare some brief notes). Specifically:

- Draft Steering Committee Terms of Reference will be tabled for approval
- The January community meeting, Watersheds Canada pilot project, and the discussions to date of the Steering Committee, including Sept. 26 event will be presented.

7) Next Steps/Other Actions

In addition to those above, the following actions were identified:

Action: Rachelle Hardesty to obtain signage for Stoco Lake boat launches advising re: prevention of invasive species (can utilize existing budget)

8) Next Meeting Date/Location

Action: Next meeting will be immediately following the FOSL AGM, Saturday June 6, approximately 10:30 a.m. until noon

