

Niagara Coastal Community Collaborative

Jan.23rd, 2018, 5:30-8:30pm - Crystal Ridge Branch of the Fort Erie Public Library

Attendees

Participants:

Rick Stockton	Mike Rose	Albert Garafalo
Jim Merrick	June Chipp	Jody McKenna
Beth Palma	Gary Stemerding	Julia Hatcher
Rick Froese	Diane Stemerding	Pete Zuzek (Zuzek Inc.)
Erika Froese	Cheryl Schonewille	Guest:
Nadine Litwin	Ian Twyford	Sandra George (ECCC)
Albert Garafalo	Olivia Groff	
Tim Seburn	Jack Hallinga	
Leah Feor	Brie Smalldon	
Felix Barbetti	Annie Michaud	
Don Luberts	Allison Thompson	

New Participants:

Paul Collard - Local resident of Stevensville
Clayton Nadeau - Port Colborne EAC

Summary of Action Items:

- All members are to review the TOR for final comment by Feb.5th
- All members who have data they would like to share on the website is to contact Julia Hatcher to discuss
- The Coordinating Committee will draft a workplan for discussion at the next meeting (will meet for a planning session on Feb.6th, 2018)
- Continue to explore Trillium Funding Opportunities for discussion at next meeting
- Next meeting February 27, 2018 at the Crystal Ridge library

What we heard:

Website Discussion:

Minutes from the Jan. 16th meeting minutes were reviewed and Peter Zuzek gave an overview of progress being made on the website. Future comments can be sent to Julia.

Comments:

- Expand explanation of the purpose of the group and include Lake Erie in the title
- Consider including shoreline management plan, net exclusions zones, and GLATOS data (potentially just as a link to the GLATOS site)
- Adjust the colour scheme if possible to also have texture as well as colour to ease distinguishing between types
- Suggested to include a list of other NPCA parameters that are available even if they all cannot be shown

Cladophora in Lake Erie - Presentation by Sandra George

Sandra George from Environment and Climate Change Canada provided an overview of the nutrient issues in Lake Erie with a focus on nuisance algae in the Eastern Basin. A copy of the slides will be made available along with the minutes on the NCCC site.

Major discussion points:

- There is limited information regarding the distribution of Cladophora throughout Lake Erie's Eastern Basin, existing survey work fails to collect this information Potential for a citizen science oriented program to record occurrences. Rochester was identified as having a Cladophora beach fouling monitoring program.
- Don suggested that beach gradient may play a role in limiting the impact that Cladophora has on reach accessibility as it appeared to dry out more quickly reducing the negative smell
- Efforts to explore ways of making municipal drains more effective at removing phosphorous without being choked by plants are ongoing
- The Ontario Domestic Action Plan for reducing phosphorus loads to Lake Erie should be available in late Feb. and will be circulated to the group
- On the topic of how a collaborative such as the NCCC may contribute Sandra also noted that that phosphorous monitoring in tributaries may also help to fill knowledge gaps
- Further questions for Sandra George can be directed to ECCC staff for further response

Terms of Reference & Workplan:

The TOR document was distributed to the group and comments are expected by end of the week to Jody and Julia. A work planning session for the coordinating committee is scheduled for the first week of February, anyone interested in participating in this full day meeting were instructed to ask Jody for more information. The workplan activities will centre around 3 broad ecological priorities raised by the group so far:

1. Habitat and Species
 2. Nutrients and Algae
 3. Beach Postings
- It was noted that there will be data and information gaps for each priority that will need to be addressed before action can be planned, such as where is the algae is originating
 - While more information will be needed to form this collaborative, plans and existing programs such as beach plantings are encouraged to continue
 - The importance of engaging private property owners was identified as a major component in addressing these large scale issues
 - The group briefly discussed 2 funding opportunities that may support the Collaborative. Firstly the Trillium foundation has a new round of the collective impact funding becoming available in fall of 2018 (applications due Nov.7 2018) and ECCC will be releasing funding for citizen science projects in the near future (Likely in Feb.). A major topic of discussion among the coordinating committee will be how the group may best access these funds through either an existing group or establishing a new group with appropriate status.

Other Business:

- The group will meet next on Feb.27th at the Crystal Ridge Library at 5:30 pm