

Niagara Coastal Community Collaborative

October 4th, 2018, 5:30–8:30pm – Crystal Ridge Branch of the Fort Erie Public Library

Attendees:

Rick Froese
Erica Froese
Paul Collard
Bath Palma
Clayton Nadeau
June Chipp

Rick Stockton
Tim Seburn
Jody McKenna
Julia Hatcher
Luca Cargnelli
Jim Merrick

Nadine Litwin
Annie Michaud
Cheryl
Brie Smalldon
Gary Stemerding
Dave Maiden

Welcome:

Gregary Ford
Aleyna Burns
Sarah Yoshida
(Niagara College Students)
Emery Scott
(Web Design)

Summary of Action Items:

- Brainstorm suggestions for new website domain name and additional functionality
- Julia and Jody to work with ECCC student to compile clad. survey results
- Julia to distribute the final version of the Citizen Science funding proposal
- Julia to follow up with Amy requesting additional fowlers toad survey info

Website Maintenance and Expansion:

Emery Scott was introduced to the group. Emery works in web design and has volunteered to maintain and expand the website. The group discussed several potential way to improve the website functionality including:

- A more descriptive domain name rather than www.nccc.nearshoreframework.ca
- A function to submit historic photos
- Links to social media

The group was invited to continue brainstorming ideas for discussion at a later meeting

Overview of Cladophora Survey Experiences:

The group of surveyors reported back that the surveys were successful and most people found it to be a positive experience. The following general observations were made by surveyors:

- General agreement that there was less Cladophora this year than last year (about ½)
- Less visible growth in the water
- Fewer dead fish washed up on shore
- More wind from the South – Eastern direction than usual
- Zebra muscle shells appear to accumulate in one area on the beach
- Some surveyors noted they thought algae growth was more dense near drains

Survey results were collected by Jody and Julia who will work with a student at Environment and Climate Change Canada to compile the data. The data will be shared with scientist for further analysis.

Citizen Science Application Update:

Luca Cargnelli provided an update regarding the Environment and Climate Change Citizen Science funding Swim Drink Fish was awarded all of the available program funds, for monitoring beach water quality for swimming.

- Establish a series of hubs around the Great Lakes to coordinate testing for e coli by citizen scientist.
- Include equipment for testing in house and a full time coordinator.
- Lake Erie basin hub has not yet been selected, however Niagara College notified SDF, their interest to be the Hub host

Future Work Planning:

The group discussed the ongoing need for a specific work plan with allocated resource requirements so that the search for funding may continue.

- A system for prioritizing tributaries with potential for restoration activities was suggested acknowledging that a lot of info is already available.
- The group noted the need to access and archive information from Collaborative members that is isn't currently digitized or available for sharing. Google Drive was suggested a potential solution.
- A working session at the MNRF facilities was suggested to nail down some details for decision.
- Julia to distribute the final version of the Citizen Science funding proposal from March as a starting point. Much of the plan can be repurposed for new application.

Other Business:

- Amy was unable to attend the meeting but sent word that a limited amount of toad surveys were carried out and toads were found at all beaches surveyed. The group expressed interest in further information and Julia agreed to contact Amy for an update.
- The group aimed to meet again in late November.