

STAFF REPORT: ADMINISTRATION

REPORT TO: Council
MEETING DATE: October 27, 2008
REPORT NO.: A.08.12
SUBJECT: Great Lakes Municipal Working Group
PREPARED BY: Stephen Keast, Clerk

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report A.08.12, "Great Lakes Municipal Working Group"; and

THAT Mayor Anderson be authorized to participate as a member of the Great Lakes Executive Committee in relation to the Canada-Ontario Agreement Memorandum of Cooperation.

B. Background

The Canada-Ontario Agreement Memorandum of Cooperation – Municipal Great Lakes Working Group is a follow-up to the agreement of cooperation executed between the Ontario government and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative to facilitate the input of municipal advice regarding the Canada-Ontario Agreement on the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem. Our Chief Administrative Officer will be involved in this Group to ensure Staff support.

The process would be establishment of a Great Lakes Municipal Working Group representing Ontario Great Lakes municipalities that will identify common positions on priority issues of municipal interest. From this group, a Municipal-Provincial Committee would be established together with Provincial representatives to review the priority municipal issues. Details of this are attached.

An Executive Committee of Mayors and Ministers would then meet once in April, 2009 to discuss the priority issues. Government of Ontario representatives would then negotiate with the Government of Canada regarding priority issues with respect to the Canada-Ontario Agreement Memorandum of Cooperation.

Mayor Anderson, through her participation with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, has been invited to be a member of the Executive Committee.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Preserving and enhancing natural and environmental features and cultural heritage of the community.

D. Environmental Impacts

Preservation and enhancement of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.

E. Budget Impact

Mileage for four 10:00 am meetings in Toronto, the remainder being via teleconference. Accommodation would be required for the final Executive Committee meeting in April, 2009 if Mayor Anderson is a member of this Committee. Current budget projections are adequate to fund these costs.

F. Attached

1. Correspondence from the Canada-Ontario Agreement Memorandum of Cooperation – Municipal Great Lakes Working Group.
2. E-mail correspondence from Nicola Crawhall regarding expenses.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Keast, Clerk



Canada-Ontario Agreement Memorandum of Cooperation Municipal Great Lakes Working Group

1. Introduction

- In July 2008, the Ontario Government and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative signed an agreement of cooperation to facilitate the input of municipal advice on the negotiation and implementation of the Canada-Ontario Agreement on the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.
- The COA MOC commits the GLSLCI to facilitate a process of engagement with Ontario municipalities and the Ontario Ministries of Environment (MOE), Natural Resources (MNR) and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).
- Based on discussions with MOE staff, there is a nine-month window, from September to April 2009, to inform and influence the Government of Ontario's initial negotiating position with respect to the COA. The process outlined below has been developed to fit into this 9-month window.

2. The process

GLSLCI staff and MOE staff have agreed to the following process to engage the Ontario municipal sector in discussions with the Ontario Government on the Canada-Ontario Agreement.

The process involves:

- a) A Great Lakes Municipal Working Group (GLMWP), made up of Ontario Great Lakes municipalities that will identify and develop common positions on 3 priority Great Lakes issues of municipal interest.
 - b) A Municipal Provincial Committee, made up of a subset of GLMWP members and provincial officials from the Ministries of Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. The committee will discuss the issues identified by the GLMWP over the course of 4-5 meetings.
 - c) An executive committee made up of mayors and ministers who would meet once in April to discuss the priority issues identified through the above process.
- There will be time after April '09 to continue to work with the Ontario Government on other issues relevant to COA, including implementation issues.

a) Great Lakes Municipal Working Group

- A Great Lakes Municipal Working Group (GLMWG) is being established and facilitated by the GLSLCI.
- The GLMWG will identify key issues of municipal interest under COA and propose specific goals or targets to include in the next COA.
- The working group will have 15 members with broad geographic representation from across the entire Ontario Great Lakes region, including representatives from Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Georgian Bay, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario (east), Lake Ontario (central) and Lake Ontario (west). Each region will have two representatives, one GLSLCI member and one non-GLSLCI member.
- Selection of working group members will be based on the following criteria
 - a) Municipal interest in participating in the process
 - b) Representation from each of the Great Lakes
 - c) Representative diversity in size of municipalities
 - d) Diversity of occupations (planners, public works, environmental services, etc)
- A terms of reference will be drafted for the working group.
- It is anticipated that the GLMWG will meet twice between October 2008 and April 2009, with one meeting amongst GLMWG members only, and the second meeting with provincial officials. A proposed schedule for meetings can be found below, under 'Calendar'.
- The working group will meet one week before each meeting of the Municipal-Provincial Committee (see below).
- The first meeting of the municipal working group and last meeting will be face to face, with the others via teleconference.
- All joint municipal-provincial committee meetings will be face to face, with the option of joining via teleconference.
- Short background discussion papers/power point presentations on key issues will be prepared for the working group by GLSLCI to help members prioritize issues and reach common ground on their advice to the Ontario Government.
- Summaries of discussions will be recorded and shared with the members of the working group in advance of the following meeting.

b) Municipal Provincial COA-MOC Committee

- The MPC will be made up of members of the GLMWG, and representatives from the Ministries of Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.
- Observers from other relevant ministries, such as the Ministries of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Energy and Infrastructure will also be invited.
- Federal representatives from Environment Canada, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and Natural Resources Canada, will be invited as observers.
- The MPC will meet once a month between November '08 and April '09. Proposed dates are shown below, under 'Calendar'
- A terms of reference will be drafted for the committee.
- Committee meetings will be co-facilitated by GLSLCI and an MOE official. .

c) Great Lakes Executive Committee

- One ½ day meeting of provincial and local elected officials will be held in the second half of April 2009 to convey the municipal advice to the provincial ministers, and to discuss key issues.
- It is anticipated that the Executive committee will include the Ministers of Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.
- The municipal mayors represented on the Executive Committee will be from the same municipalities represented on the Municipal-Provincial COA-MOC Committee.
- The Great Lakes Executive Committee will be co-chaired by Mayor Lynn Peterson, chair of GLSLCI, and Minister John Gerretsen.

3. Key Issues

Proposed Top 3 Priority Areas

The following three broad priority areas are proposed to capture issues of municipal interest. Background information will be prepared on the 3 priority areas and presented to the MGLWG.

- i) Wastewater management
- ii) Climate change adaptation
- iii) Improving near shore water quality and waterfront vitality

i) *Wastewater management*

Definition of problem:

- sewage and storm water are major sources of contaminants in the near shore ecosystem. Wastewater systems are likely to be overwhelmed by extreme precipitation events associated with climate change, require design changes to adapt to new circumstances.

Possible Priority issues

- Combined sewer separation
- Construction of wastewater retention tanks
- Green infrastructure to reduce storm water, eg. Green roofs, pervious surfaces, use of wetlands.
- Water conservation to reduce volume of sewage
- Development of municipal sewer use by-laws
- Design implications of climate change adaptation

ii) *Climate change adaptation*

Definition of problem:

- Municipal infrastructure design needs to adapt to anticipated climate change impacts, including transportation, and water and wastewater infrastructure; increase in urban heat particularly in large urban centres; greenhouse gas emissions related to municipal energy consumption; role of local energy utilities in energy generation.

Possible Priority issues

- Climate change adaptation measures for municipal infrastructure
- 'No regrets actions' to reduce urban heat
- Energy efficiency and water conservation measures to reduce municipal greenhouse gas emissions
- promotion of green energy by local energy utilities to reduce greenhouse gases and to promote local employment.

iii) *Improving nearshore water quality and waterfront vitality*

Definition of problem:

- Some areas of the Great Lakes near shore are nearing collapse; Nonpoint sources like agricultural runoff, septic systems, urban stormwater, bird droppings are difficult to regulate; increase in filamentous algae and blue-green algae due to nutrient pollution; impact of invasive species; nearshore degradation affects recreational enjoyment of shoreline, eg. beaches closures.

Priority issues

- Local land use planning as it affects near shore water quality
- Agricultural practices as they affect near shore water quality
- Improved access to beaches, beaches management
- Increased septic system inspections
- Control of unregulated camping on Crown lands
- Public access to shoreline (eg. Tiny Twp issue)
- Municipal input into Areas of Concern
- Local rapid response to invasive species, protocol for cooperation with Ministry of Natural Resources

4. Proposed Schedule for COA MOC process

Meeting	Proposed Date	Goals
Meetings of Municipal Great Lakes Working Group	Oct 28, 2008	Agreement on terms of reference, presentations on 3 priority topics, agreement on schedule of meetings, workplan
Meeting of Joint Municipal-Provincial Committee	Nov 4 th , 2008	Agreement on terms of reference, process, workplan, schedule, top priorities
Meetings of Municipal Great Lakes Working Group	Nov 19, 2008	Background and discussion on topic #1, climate change adaptation
Meetings of Municipal Great Lakes Working Group	Nov 26, 2008	Agreement on advice on topic #1, climate change adaptation

Meeting of Joint Municipal Provincial Committee	Dec 3, 2008	Discuss topic 1, climate change adaptation
Meetings of Municipal Great Lakes Working Group	Jan 28, 2009	Background and Discussion on topic #2, near shore water quality and waterfront vitality
Meetings of Municipal Great Lakes Working Group	Feb 4, 2009	Agreement on advice on topic #2, near shore water quality and waterfront vitality
Meeting of Joint Municipal Provincial Committee	Feb 11, 2009	Discuss topic 2, near shore water quality and waterfront vitality
Meetings of Municipal Great Lakes Working Group	Feb 25, 2009	Background and Discussion on topic #3, waste water management
Meetings of Municipal Great Lakes Working Group	March 4, 2009	Agreement on advice on topic #3, waste water management
Meeting of Joint Municipal Provincial Committee	March 11, 2009	Discuss topic 3, waste water management
Meetings of Municipal Great Lakes Working Group	April 1, 2009	Discussion and agreement on possible components of municipal Great Lakes Agenda (side agreement to COA)
Meeting of Joint Municipal Provincial Committee	April 8, 2009	Discuss summary of advice to Ministers, Municipal Great Lakes Agenda
Briefing for Mayors in advance of Executive Committee meeting	Week of April 13	GLSLCI staff and select members of MGLWG brief Mayors and answer questions, seek agreement from Executive Committee on advice to Province of Ontario.
Meeting of Executive Committee	Week of April 20, 2009	Mayors provide advice to Ministers on 3 priority topics, followed by discussion

Corrina Giles

From: Nicola Crawhall [nicola.crawhall@sympatico.ca]
Sent: October 22, 2008 12:24 PM
To: Corrina Giles
Cc: Paul Graham
Subject: RE: Municipal -Provincial Great Lakes Process



Corrina,

That is great news. Paul will be a great asset to the process. In terms of costs and assistance with costs- We are trying to keep costs to a minimum by starting face to face meetings at 10am, so most folks can drive from early am rather than come in the night before. And we are minimizing the number of face to face meetings to the first two and the last two, and holding all the meetings in between via teleconference. Hopefully, the only accommodation that would be required would be for the last meeting, of mayors and ministers, in April.

So far, we have only received a request for financial assistance from the Town of Marathon, near Thunder Bay, because they have to pay for flights and accommodation for the face to face meetings. Please let me know if Blue Mountains is also requesting funding assistance and I'll raise this with David Ullrich.

In terms of where and when, the first two meetings are being held on October 28th from 10-3pm (municipal working group) and November 4th from 10-2pm (joint municipal-provincial committee) respectively. The Oct 28th meeting is being held at the Doubletree Hotel near Pearson Airport on Dixon Rd. An agenda, address and directions will be sent out by tomorrow directly to Paul. The Nov. 4th meeting will be held in Toronto, but the Province has not yet confirmed a location.

Regards,

Nicola

From: Corrina Giles [mailto:cgiles@thebluemountains.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2008 11:09 AM
To: Nicola Crawhall
Subject: Municipal -Provincial Great Lakes Process

Good morning Nicola,

Paul Graham, CAO, will be our designated staff person for this process. Please provide the location of the first two meetings at your earliest convenience. Thanks

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