



18 March 2016

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Email: Paul.Javor@greatersudbury.ca

Re: Greater Sudbury Watershed Studies

Dear Sirs:

The Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance (GSWA) is very pleased that the Province has provided the necessary funding for the preparation of comprehensive watershed studies. This will ensure more informed decisions so that our City of Lakes and drinking water supply can be protected, and ecosystem recovery can begin. It is also appreciated that the City of Greater Sudbury has consulted with the public and is offering an opportunity for input into the Terms of Reference.

The generous contribution that the Province of Ontario has made towards the long-awaited watershed studies should allow the City to take a true watershed approach, where the entire Vermilion River Watershed, as well as its key subwatersheds, are considered.

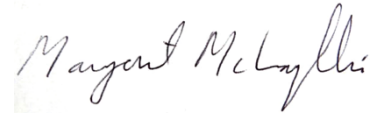
The scope and focus of the watershed studies are key to a meaningful outcome. The GSWA urges the City to expand its focus to a true watershed approach, rather than just focusing on stormwater. It is important to focus on the protection of the natural ecosystem functions and the benefits that they provide to our communities.

It is also important to engage the wealth of knowledge that exists within our community. Our local scientists and stewards must have an important role to play in this initiative, and that data which is already available is sourced and used wherever possible. GSWA also recommends that best practices as set out by Conservation Ontario, and the precautionary principle, are followed.

This short timeline for comments has made it challenging to pull together a comprehensive submission; however, there have already been several excellent submissions made by some of our member organizations, such as the Vermilion River Stewardship, the Junction Creek Stewardship, Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury, as well as the Watershed Advisory Panel. The GSWA wishes to extend our support for their recommendations.

In light of these submissions, we urge the City to consider which watersheds are selected for the study. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input into this important initiative.

Sincerely



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