

GREATER SUDBURY WATERSHED ALLIANCE & CGS ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING MEETING

January 10, 2017 11: 30 a.m.
Tom Davies Square Room C-13A

NOTES

PRESENT: Stephen Monet, Lana Haslam from Environmental Planning; Alex Cieslewicz, Craig Hamilton (Richard); Margaret McLaughlin (Fairbanks and GSWA Chair); Nicole Wittke, Punam , Dave Hodge (St. Charles); Lesley Flowers (Vermillion & Grassy Lake); Stuart Greaves (Panache); Susan Darling (Long); David Young (McFarlane); Elaine Porter (Ramsey); Bill Querney, Dave Petryna (Nepawhin);

GSWA (AIS) arranged a meeting with Stephen Monet, Manager of Environmental Planning Initiatives to discuss, examine and strategize regarding the use of jute burlap coverings as a control method for Eurasian Water Milfoil in Sudbury area lakes.

1. EWM Problem on Various City Lakes - Chair Alex C invited lake representatives to briefly report on the status of EWM on their respective lakes. There was a wide range of responses. A few lakes are seeing little or no EWM, OR the lake dwellers are not yet recognizing what they are seeing, e.g. Panache, Fairbanks, Vermillion River, Grassy Lake. Several small lakes have dense coverage making recreational use of waterfronts very challenging, e.g. St. Charles, Richard, perhaps McFarlane. Long Lake has sections throughout with dense patches at boat launches and head of lake near Grant Lake. Nepawhin is noticing a definite increase in EWM and there is interest in starting a stewardship group.
2. Pilot Project - GSWA supports the idea of a pilot project to test jute laying as a control method. We would need to determine a) parameters of the study and b) funding sources. To choose an appropriate lake(s), the group would be interested in the opinion of Environmental Planning staff.

Parameters – Probably choose one small lake and possibly also choose a small section of a larger lake. An example of a section of lake that could be used is the end of Long Lake between the culvert and flow from Grant Lake. It would be possible to section this off like a pond, a controllable area, with the use of ‘curtains’.

There was consensus that we want and need approval from MNR. Stewardship groups feel a responsibility to be passing on the correct information to lake residents.

Stephen plans to phone a contact in Quebec to ascertain more details of the EWM projects there.

Stephen will make contacts for us at MNR and help set up a meeting with GSWA, e.g. Derrick Luetchford and Mike Hall, District Biologist. He suggests a smaller group should represent GSWA. We have questions about the Work Permits & process, and about the amount of space lake dwellers can clear in the lake in front of their properties.

Funding – One idea is to turn the GSWA-CGS annual water education event into a major awareness event. Invite other parties such as MNR, other Ministries?, Conservation Ontario, ABV des 7, Block-Aid, and also invite potential investors, entrepreneurs. Stephen suggested we meet with the CGS Economic Development Dep’t and he would facilitate this by contacting Director Ian Wood to determine whom GSWA should meet with from Economic Dev. GSWA and Envir Planning would need to meet in March to plan an April event. To seek funds from CGS we’d have to wait for the 2018 budget and do our lobbying next November. Might be useful to learn the number of CGS taxpayers who are lake dwellers (Lana Haslam mentioned their department is trying to learn this.)

Comments and questions:

- CGS continues to map area lakes, a few each year. Records are maintained.
- Is it possible to plant native species in places where they have been eliminated? Source?
- Boat Washing stations have unfortunately not been very effective. Use seems to decline.

- Be cognizant of two previous failures in Sudbury, i.e. Resonator and Weevil Project.
- Sometimes irregular growth or spread of EWM, i.e. there are inexplicable decreases temporarily.

Adjournment 12:45. Attendees thanked Stephen and Lana for their time and support.

MEETING OF GSWA 12:45 – 1:15 p.m.

Importance of MNR. Consensus that we need information and approval. Need to learn whether one Work Permit per lake will suffice, whether spawning times will be consistent, etc.

Do-It-Yourself Dock Kits - Suggestion made to acquire one of these from Block-Aid so we have the instructions and so we have it available for demonstration purposes, e.g. at the major April event or at lake stewardship meetings.

Nicole will contact Block-Aid requesting a donation of one kit. Leslie could pick up in Ottawa later this month.

Alternatively Bill Querney offered his business's courier service.

Early Warning System for Blue Green Algae Blooms – This can be effective for lake/river residents and can be an incentive for them to provide their email to the stewardship group.

Suggestion to call the major April event “Milfoil Madness”.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Stephen Monet will

- call Quebec Ministry contact for additional info from her re EWM efforts
- contact MNR to set up meeting soon with GSWA
- ascertain amount property owners can clear in a lake
- contact Ian Wood to facilitate meeting between Economic Development and small GSWA group

GSWA will acquire Block-Aid Dock kit

GSWA will meet with MNR representatives

GSWA will meet with members of Economic Planning department of CGS

GSWA and CGS/Environmental Planning will meet (probably in March) to plan a major April event.

Susan Darling, Recorder