

Niagara Coastal Community Collaborative

Feb.27th, 2018, 5:30-8:30pm - Crystal Ridge Branch of the Fort Erie Public Library

Attendees:

Rick Froese	Leah Feor	Brie Smalldon
Paul Collard	Mike Rose	Allison Thomson
Bath Palma	Donna Cridland	Albert Garofalo
Clayton Nadeau	Nadine Litwin	Cheryl Schonerille
Ian Twyford	Don Lubberts	Julia Hatcher
June Chipp	Deb Malcolm (Observer)	Jody McKenna

Summary of Action Items:

- Jody to arrange talks with Mari Valiz and Tom Edge if they are available
- Leah to send information on the potential OMAFRA funding
- The core group of interested member to continue to collaborate with the citizen science application due March 15, 2018

What We Heard:

Road Map Review:

The group reviewed the summary slide outlining the Terms of Reference, our overarching goals, and our action plan. The group discussed expanding the scope west, developing the communications piece, and inventorying the activities being done.

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Starting the Technical Team:

The group discussed what additional expertise is needed for the technical team or data sources we can tap into. Suggestions included:

- The Niagara Region and health units who monitor beaches
- Tom Edge an Environment and Climate Change Canada scientist who has carried out e. coli source track downs in the area (Jody will try to arrange a talk by him)
- Modeled nutrient loadings produced by Environment and Climate Change Canada for the Niagara tributaries
- Mari Valiz of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority who has established similar community activities on Lake Huron
- Daryl McGoldrick an environment and Climate Change Canada scientist in Great Lakes water quality monitoring who also coordinates science among partners on the Great Lakes which may provide guidance on developing a monitoring plan

Citizen Science Funding Opportunity:

The group discussed the proposed ideas for the citizen science stream of the Great Lakes Protection Initiative by environment and Climate Change Canada. The intention is to develop a plan in year one (this year), carry it out in the Crystal Beach to Fort Erie stretch in year 2 and expand westward in year 3/4. The proposed streams include water quality monitoring in tribs, Cladophora monitoring on beaches, habitat surveys along the shorelines, and an assessment of the level of natural shorelines. Details of the proposal are still TBD and are being developed by the core group. Comments to Jody McKenna are welcome at any time.

- The group suggested having a form on the website or an app to submit entries so we can produce a database
- Suggestions around physical safety of volunteers was discussed and highlighted as important
- It was noted that many of the users of the shoreline are only seasonal which will impact the project (limited volunteers outside of the summer season)

Additional Items:

- Leah noted a potential funding opportunity through OMAFRA for community economic development in rural communities. Potential to link our work with economic benefits to tap into this funding.