

Niagara Coastal Community Collaborative

April 11th, 2019 5:00–8:00pm – Crystal Ridge Branch of the Fort Erie Public Library

Attendees:

Gregory Ford
June Chipp
Rick Stockton
Tim Seburn
Clayton Nadeau
Don Lubberts
Nadine Litwin
Gary Stemerdingk
Diane Stemerdingk
Ian Twyford
Cheryl Schoneville
Annie Michaud

Rick Froese
Paul Collard
Dave Maiden
Brie Smalldon
Jasmine Labelle
Jody McKenna
Julia Hatcher
Luca Cargnelli

Remote:

Cheriene Vieira
Deanna Lindblad

New Members:

Lorraine Bay Association:
Eva Kessel & Klaus Reif
Niagara College:
Emily Pejic
Megan Lalli
Eric Buiter
Robin Chowns
Zack Moore

Summary of Action Items:

- o Gregory to continue work on wetland prioritization
- o Clayton to investigate the process for opening a bank account for The Collaborative
- o Dave Maiden to provide update reports on the results of the Beaver Creek project
- o Gregory to set up social media presence (twitter, Instagram, etc.)
- o Julia to update Cladophora survey methodology and acquire additional equipment (measuring wheel)
- o Cladophora Survey Volunteers to meet June 5th, 10am at Nickel Beach for training
- o Cheriene to review if Regional MECP staff can present at a future meeting to the collaborative or provide information on local Phragmites prevention and control activities

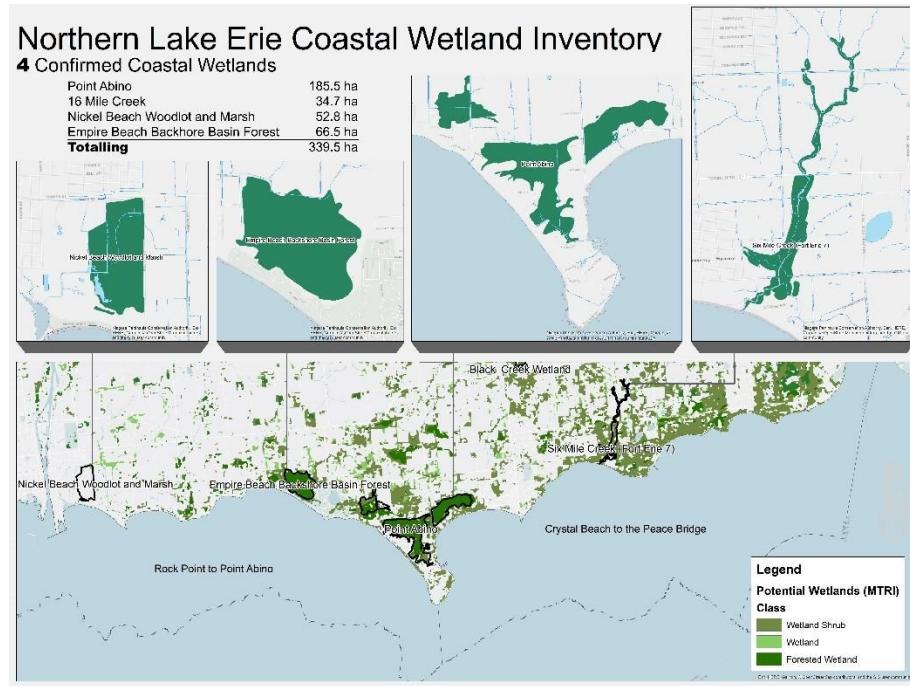
Swim Drink Fish Partnership Update: Jody

The SDF partnership has been confirmed. SDF will provide the sample testing equipment and a coordinator for the sampling season.

- It will be hosted by Niagara College and SDF will hire the coordinator with the assistance of the Collaborative.
- A Memorandum of Understanding is being drafted to more clearly define the roles of the SDF, Niagara College, and The Collaborative in this partnership.
- Monitoring will occur at three beaches this summer, potential to add additional sites if funds can be found (about \$800/site).
- The communications team at Niagara College is planning a media announcement, it will happen some time after SDF announcement in late May.
- The group discussed the possibility of sampling additional water quality parameters, particularly phosphorus, if the town of Fort Erie could find funds. Annie thought it may be possible and would consider how it might fit into the Niagara students' terms/volunteer aspirations.

Prioritizing Wetland Restoration Options: Gregory Ford

Gregory has identified wetlands with potential for restoration. He hopes to ground truth the satellite imagery this summer. While it does appear that a lot of wetlands have been lost, he hopes that there is potential to improve connectivity. The map of the wetlands can be found below.



Update on Website Design: All

The group discussed a new domain name for the Website. Julia will follow up with Emery regarding updating the website material. Gregary offered to setup the corresponding social media accounts to promote The Collaborative.

Cladophora Citizen Science 2019 Season Monitoring: All

The group agreed to continue surveying for another season. The group will meet June 5th at 10am at Nickel Beach for this season's training day.

- Jody and Julia spoke with Dave Depew who confirmed that there was also little Cladophora wash up in Lake Ontario with the exception of one major wind event. This makes him more interested in the in water observations. He will be doing more sampling in Lake Erie this year including a site at Rockpoint.
- Additional suggestions for updating the methodology included: using polarized sunglasses to see deeper into the water, having a metre stick for scale, and taking a rough wind estimate.
- Rock Point volunteer is needed to align with ECCC study sites, Jody in discussions with Donna Cridland about finding a local person.
- Jody noted that ECCC has recently acquired some simple drones which we may be able to borrow to support the Cladophora surveys.
- Annie will see if Niagara college students are looking for volunteer opportunities.

Other Topics: All

- The Collaborative's applications to the Loblaws Water Fund was NOT successful. When asked why Loblaws responded only that they had many applications.
- The need to incorporate in order to access a larger pool of funding opportunities was noted again. As a first step Clayton agreed to look into how a bank account could be opened for The Collaborative in order to establish a banking history

- The ALUS program was noted as a possible resource for the Lorraine Bay association who have identified an issue and have targeted recommendations for remediation. (<https://alus.ca/>)
- Cheriene to investigate what MECP is doing regarding Phragmites in The Collaborative geography. Dianna noted that she could arrange a guest speaker on Phragmites upon The Collaborative's request.
- Annie suggested we have Josh Diamond from the NPCA give a presentation on their water quality monitoring program at a future meeting.