

Niagara Coastal Community Collaborative

Dec.6th, 2017, 6:00-8:30pm – Crystal Ridge Branch of the Fort Erie Public Library

Attendees

Participants:

Rick Stockton
Jim Merrick
Beth Palma
Rick Froese
Erika Frose
Nadine Litwin
Albert Garafalo
Tim Seburn

Mike Rose
June Chipp
Gary Stemerding
Diane Stemerding
Cheryl Schonerille
Ian Twyford

Organizing Team:

Local Champions:

Albert Garafalo
Environment and Climate Change Canada:
Luca Cargnelli
Janette Anderson
Jody McKenna
Julia Hatcher
Pete Zuzek (Zuzek Inc.)

New Participants:

Leah Feor – local resident with an interest in sustainability

John Litwin – Water quality specialist

Brie Smalldon – Active member of Friends of Fort Erie Creeks

Alison Thomson – Local resident with experience with restoration

Summary of Action Items:

- Further develop a demo web mapping tool. Two conference call with screen sharing will be arranged for January 16th in the morning and evening for input from members
- Arrange for a Lake Erie nutrients presentation for January meeting by Environment and Climate Change Canada staff
- Explore Trillium Funding Opportunities for discussion at next meeting
- Next meeting January 23rd, 2018 at the Crystal Ridge library

What we heard:

Terms of Reference & Workplan:

The group reviewed changes to the Terms of Reference document including a revised diagram outlining the roles of the various subgroups and how they will interact.

- Commented that there may be an opportunity to engage additional groups including some US groups such as the Buffalo Water Keepers, Buffalo yacht club, Buffalo Canoe Club.
- Several potential models were explored that could act as an example for the NCCC structure. The group agreed that a first step would be to develop a collaborative mindset and that a potential centre may evolve in the future. Further investigation into potential structures can be explored further.
- Janette gave an overview of the evolution of a Lake Huron group (Framework for Community Action) with similar ambitions as the NCCC. Noted that the group has been able to access significant funding once the local groups had aligned their visions and

developed a plan. Often funding groups favor applications with strong existing partnerships.

- Cooperate support was identified as potential means to increase the capacity of the group through funding. Carolina Forests was used as an example of a group who has leveraged such resources effectively.

Friends of Fort Erie Creek Monitoring Capacity:

Ian Twyford provided an overview of the current capacity of Friends of Fort Erie Creeks to monitor water quality parameters in tributaries and a brief history of past monitoring efforts.

- Have been monitoring creeks for 25 years in roughly 30 creeks (not all creeks flow into Lake Erie study area). Recently have acquired additional physical space with a lab capable of onsite analysis. Parameters include ammonia, nitrate, chlorophyll, pH, turbidity and conductivity among others. They also have equipment that is able to make in situ field observations of many water quality parameters.
- Past efforts have consisted of general surveying and specific studies in response to change to change (ex. After the Beaver Creek realignment). The group has had limited capacity to share this info in the past.
- Would like to create a water monitoring plan that complements the work done by the NPCA if able to secure adequate funding.

Website Review and Discussion:

The group was led through an overview of the NCCC website currently being put together to facilitate the activities of the collaborative and provided feedback.

- Regarding the web mapping tool: group data layers to make them easier to navigate
- Include additional information about tourist locations or other culturally significant areas
- Albert will work to provide information on hardened shorelines and beach enhancements
- The group suggested potential resources to populate the web mapping tool including: NPCA watershed management plans, NPCA identified old growth forest, and Friends of Fort Erie Creeks change in creek orientation over time.
- The group discussed potentially having a login so that sensitive data can be shared among collaborative member such as the MNRF fowler's toad survey data.
- Suggested including a visual representation of environmental change in the region such as a timeline or historic photos

Other Business:

- The group reviewed the Trillium Collective Impact funding stream and agreed to review further before next meeting