

APPENDIX ONE

Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

April 13, 1994

Introduction

Traditionally, land use planning has been done using boundaries - national, provincial, municipal and subdivision/severance/individual property - which are imposed on the landscape. It has become apparent that this approach can be a cause of, and be inadequate to properly address, the complex environmental issues we are faced with today. Instead of these artificial limits, it is now recognized that natural boundaries ought to be used as the basis for planning. Since water is fundamental to all natural systems, it is logical that the drainage basin, or watershed, is used as the basic planning unit.

The Kemptville Creek drainage basin (Figure 1) is the third largest tributary watershed of the Rideau River encompassing 458 square kilometres. Thus, it has a considerable influence on the 'health' of the entire Rideau system. The watershed is home to a slowly expanding human population as well as numerous species of flora and fauna all of which need an environmentally secure place to live and flourish.

Numerous issues - some of long standing within the watershed and others emerging out of changing societal values and public policy related to natural resource protection and stewardship - require attention in a watershed planning exercise. Preliminary discussions have identified the following issues in the Kemptville Creek Watershed:

Wetlands management:

Implementation of Provincial Wetlands Policy

- impacts on the viability of agricultural enterprise
- land development restriction implications

Uncertainty respecting the boundaries of identified wetlands as they change due to natural progression or artificial water levels control

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Fisheries, Wildlife and Waterfowl Management:

Identification of important habitats, from an ecological perspective

Conservation/Protection/Restoration requirements

Flood Plain Delineation:

Identification of flood susceptible areas upstream of Oxford Mills, to assist in the land severance and subdivision review process and to quantify present day flood risk (if any)

Surface Water and Groundwater Quality:

Public Health vs. Ecological Health requirements

Identification and Remediation of Pollution Sources

Storm Water Management guidelines for new development

Oxford Mills Dam Operating Policies:

Competing objectives: Local aesthetics
Aquatic habitat and wetlands management
Agricultural Land Drainage

Obsolete objectives: Water power
Low Flow Augmentation for Waste Assimilation

Beaver Management:

In an ecological context, the beaver's role in the watershed needs to be assessed with a view appropriate methods of limiting the undesirable impacts of a healthy beaver population, while allowing

Public Use & Water-based Recreation:

Existing and potential conflicts between the rights of private landowners and the desire for public access to and recreational use of the Creek, wetlands and other natural areas of the watershed need to be identified and resolved.

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Land Use and Development:

The Watershed Plan should provide guidelines for the planning and design of new development (including storm water management requirements) and guidelines for agricultural practice. The Plan should delineate areas of the watershed that are considered suitable for urban and suburban development, from an ecological perspective.

An integrated watershed management plan for the Kemptville Creek basin is needed to provide coordination amongst and between programs for the protection and restoration of the ecological health of the watercourse. The Watershed Plan will provide a set of comprehensive policy guidelines and recommendations to be applied in the preparation, review and approval of municipal Official Plans and land, infrastructure and economic development proposals in the watershed.

The Mission of the Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan is

to provide a technically sound, publicly valued Plan for the coordinated implementation of sustainable water and land management practices and policies throughout the Kemptville Creek watershed towards the conservation and restoration of the ecological health of the watershed while accommodating desirable human activity and enterprise.

These Terms of Reference will be used by the Interim Steering Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee as a guide for the management and accomplishment of the technical studies and public consultation activities required to formulate a viable management plan for the watershed of Kemptville Creek.

Proposed Approach:

The 1993 MOEE/MNR document entitled “Water Management on a Watershed Basis; Implementing an Ecosystem Approach” will be used as a general guide to undertaking the Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan (KCWP).

The watershed planning process involves three main stages as described on the following pages:

Stage 1: Setting the Stage

Stage 2: Preparing the Plan

Stage 3: Adopting the Plan

Stage 1: SETTING THE STAGE

The organizational and managerial aspects of the Watershed Planning process need to be established at the outset. The following organizational framework is proposed:

Steering Committee

The KCWP Steering Committee consists of appointees of the Councils of the Municipalities in the Kemptville Creek watershed. The Committee has discretion to add additional members, if required, to ensure that additional funding partners, core provincial agencies and public interest groups are adequately represented and heard.

The Steering Committee will be kept informed of the status of the Plan throughout its duration by means of regular progress meetings. The Plan schedule to be established in Task 1.4 will relate Steering Committee meeting dates to key tasks requiring a Steering Committee decision or direction.

The Steering Committee will receive reports from the Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee. The Steering Committee will make recommendations and be accountable to the Executive Committee of the RVCA on matters dealing with consultant selection, approval of Terms of Reference, approval of interim and final reports, etc.

Technical Advisory Committee

The Technical Advisory Committee will consist of designated employees of the watershed municipalities, the core resource management agencies of the provincial government and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority together with professional consultants who may be retained to provide services to the study under specific terms of reference and contractual arrangements approved by the Executive Committee of the RVCA on the recommendation of the KCWP Steering Committee.

The Technical Advisory Committee will be chaired by the Water Management Coordinator of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. Administrative support for all aspects of the watershed planning process will be supplied by the RVCA.

Community Liaison Committee

To ensure that the interests and concerns of the watershed's residents are adequately accounted for on the process a Community Liaison Committee will be established to meet a number of times during the process to provide input and feedback. Further details on the establishment of the CLC and its role and functions are provided in the discussion of Public Participation and Communications, beginning on Page 13.

The specific tasks to be completed in this Stage of the watershed planning process, under the direction of the Steering Committee, are as follows:

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Task 1.1 — Terms of Reference Approval

Terms of Reference for the Watershed Plan will receive approval in principle from the Interim Steering Committee prior to their being issued for public review and comment as outlined in Public Participation and Communications Task 3.1.

Task 1.2 — Confirm Organizational Framework

Modify and/or confirm the organizational framework for the watershed planning process. Roles and responsibilities of the groups and individuals described above will

require clear definition. Formation of the Community Liaison Committee will be coordinated as discussed under Public Participation and Communications Task 3.2.

Task 1.3 — Terms of Reference Final Approval

Amend and adopt these Terms of Reference after receiving input from the Community Liaison Committee in its first meeting and the general public in comments submitted in response to the Notice of Plan Initiation. The Terms of Reference will retain the designation of DRAFT until then to show that the Terms of Reference remain open for amendment as needed thereby ensuring that issues and concerns of all individuals or groups are accommodated in the process.

Task 1.4 — Establish Plan Budget and Schedule

Determine the financial resources required to prepare the Watershed Plan and establish a schedule, identifying target dates for the important milestones in the progress of the study.

Task 1.5 — Work Assignments

Assign responsibilities for the completion of Plan activities defined in the Terms of Reference hand in hand with the establishment of budgets and schedules, decisions are to be made as to which of the participating agencies will take responsibility for undertaking various data collection and analysis tasks.

Stage 2: PREPARING THE PLAN

Having set the stage, the technical and community involvement work in preparing the Watershed Plan can proceed. The work will be undertaken in two phases, each with a specific objective, as follows:

Phase 1: To achieve a broad understanding of the Kemptville Creek watershed ecosystem in terms of its functions, its present status and the current or future stresses that may influence its status.

Phase 2: To recommend actions for appropriate resource management in the watershed with a view towards providing for sustained ecological health while accommodating human activities.

Phase 1: To Understand Watershed Functions and Status

Work to be done in this phase consists primarily of watershed data collection together with some analysis to describe important physical processes and phenomena which cannot be characterized through direct observation.

Task 2.1.1 — Hydrometric Data Collection

Streamflow and water level monitoring at strategic locations throughout 1994.

Climatic data collection (precipitation, temperature, etc.).

Conduct hydrologic and hydraulic analyses to estimate potential flood flows and water levels, characterize baseflows and determine the hydrologic significance of wetlands within the watershed.

Task 2.1.2 — Surface Water Quality Data Collection

Compile historical records.

Conduct water quality monitoring throughout 1994 to characterize the extent of water quality impairment in the watershed and identify the range of human activities in the watershed to which it may be attributed.

Water quality parameters to be investigated include:

Bacterial counts as indicators of the presence of pathogenic organisms and corresponding public health risk.

Nutrient concentrations and trophic state of the watercourse.

Concentrations of metals and toxic substances and corresponding risk to the health of aquatic plants and animals.

Water temperature and dissolved oxygen concentrations and the corresponding constraints on the health and diversity of the aquatic ecosystem.

Conduct sediment surveys and analysis in the lower reaches of the creek (below the Prescott Street bridge in the Town of Kemptonville) to characterize the rate of sediment deposition and sediment quality. The relationship between the quality of the creek bottom sediments and water quality, and the ecological health of the watercourse should be determined.

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Task 2.1.3. — Ecological Inventories

The inventories will be organized on the basis of Landform Types. These will include:

Forests	Wetlands
Rivers, Streams and Water bodies	Agricultural lands
Aggregate Resource lands	Town sites, human settlements

Compile information from historical records and through field surveys of habitat quality and species diversity to characterize the interaction of species and landform.

Prepare watershed mapping at a suitable scale to depict significant habitats, spawning and rearing areas, migratory routes, etc. and show boundaries of ecological units within the watershed.

Classify flora and fauna of the watershed in terms of local, regional or national significance.

Describe the ecological status of the watershed in 1994 in an historical context - how the watershed's ecological make-up has evolved since the earliest days of European settlement, through the various stages of watershed use and development (forestry, agriculture, rural residential, etc.)

Interpret the accumulated biological and ecological data on the watershed to provide a descriptive summary of the ecological processes at work in the watershed, their sensitivity to changing watershed conditions and whether those changes are induced by natural phenomena or by ongoing human activity.

Task 2.1.4 — Groundwater Data Collection

Compile information on the groundwater regime of the watershed (the abundance and quality of groundwater resources) by reference to water well records and previous site specific hydrogeological reports in the watershed together with field observations (and local knowledge) of flowing artesian wells and springs.

Identify areas of significant groundwater recharge and discharge at a suitable scale and degree of accuracy to characterize the significance of groundwater/surface water exchange in maintaining or limiting the health of aquatic ecosystems in the watershed.

Task 2.1.5 — Land Use Data Collection

Compile present land use information from available land use mapping, municipal records, interpretation of air photo and/or satellite imagery, ground level surveys and any other efficient means.

Compile information on potential land use changes by reference to approved municipal Official Plans and perceived patterns and trends in land development and settlement. Future land use changes should be placed in near term and long term categories.

Compile information on the present style of land use activities to determine if there is a trend toward improved management practices (Environmental Farm Plans, Best Management Practices) and whether these have begun to have any effect on the health of the watershed ecosystems. Identify current limitations to agricultural productivity/viability (including natural constraints and those resulting from economic and regulatory conditions).

Compile information on existing and proposed infrastructure systems that support commercial, industrial, agricultural and residential use of the watershed's land base.

This includes transportation and communications networks, municipal services (storm and sanitary sewers, water supply and distribution systems, sewage treatment plants, land fill sites, agricultural drains, etc.) and major utility systems (hydro, natural gas, oil) serving the watershed.

Task 2.1.6 — Regulatory/Policy Fabric

Compile information on the existing network of legislation, regulations and the accompanying policies governing land use changes and resource management activities to characterize the controls presently in effect within the watershed.

Task 2.1.7 — Interim Report on Watershed Functions and Status

Document the findings and conclusions of the data collection phase of the Plan process in a written report. To a considerable extent it could be regarded as a “State of the Watershed” report for the year 1994. Watershed mapping and other graphics should be used extensively:

- to convey an appreciation of the quality and sensitivity of watershed ecosystems,
- to identify significant environmental areas
- to identify future developments in the watershed
- to identify important agricultural lands, forestry lands, or other resources in the watershed.

This report will serve as an important reference document in subsequent steps in process.

Phase 2: *To Formulate a Watershed Management Plan*

The key steps in developing a water management plan are set out below. Because of the consultative approach proposed for the Plan, the tasks are discussed here in general terms. More specific description of tasks will occur as issues become better defined and as constraints and opportunities become better understood during Phase 1.

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Task 2.2.1 — The Watershed Vision

“Watershed planning begins with a description of the end in mind. Goals of the watershed plan provide a statement of how the watershed should be in the future — a target condition, involving numerous ecosystem components. They address watershed management issues and needs.

Initially, broad “goals” will have been formulated to guide the gathering of information [phase 1] on biophysical conditions in the watershed. On the basis of the information collected, goals for watershed management can now be formulated with greater understanding and certainty.” [excerpt from Water Management on a Watershed Basis: Implementing an Ecosystem Approach , June, 1993]

A series of goals for the watershed of Kemptville Creek will be formulated. Collectively, the goal statements serve as an expression of the common Vision adopted for the Kemptville Creek Watershed and will be focussed on defining the desired state of the watershed relative to the present condition as determined in Phase 1.

Task 2.2.2 — Watershed Objectives

Specific watershed objectives will be defined each relating to the established watershed Vision and dealing with the water-based natural resource issues in the watershed. These objectives will clearly indicate the extent to which the Watershed Plan will embrace the concepts of Retention, Rehabilitation, Replacement or Restoration of valued resources within the watershed. The process of establishing Watershed Objectives will involve identifying the various differing interests at work within the watershed, of which some may be in conflict with or complementary to others. The process will involve compromise and trade-offs and must therefore be undertaken in a consultative manner.

Fish & Wildlife:

Fish and wildlife objectives for the study area are to be described in terms of the plant and animal communities which, if present, would be indicative of the watershed being in a healthy and sustainable state; the objectives will have regard for the watershed’s natural functions and its resulting capacity to support flora and fauna; the diversity and relative abundance of constituent species in the “ideal” Kemptville Creek ecosystem(s) will be described.

Water Quality:

Reach-by-reach objectives will be set for the following water quality parameters:

Fecal Coliform	Total Phosphorus	BOD
Suspended Solids	Dissolved Oxygen	un-ionized ammonia
Metals	Temperature	

and other parameters which may be found to require consideration based on available data and field monitoring activities; objectives will take into account the following:

Rideau River water quality objectives and the effect of Kemptville Creek quality on the Rideau River, water quality requirements for supporting the desired aquatic ecosystem on a sustained basis

Water quality requirements for limiting human health risks, given the established watershed objectives related to public use and recreational issues as well as any consumptive uses made of the waters of Kemptville Creek.

Water Quantity:

Desirable ranges of water levels will be defined on a reach-by-reach and season-by-season basis to meet the following needs:

flood damage prevention	agricultural land drainage
wetlands management	aesthetics & water-based recreation

Baseflow targets for supporting aquatic ecosystems in the watershed will be defined.

Specific management objectives for the operation of the Oxford Mills Dam will be established under the terms stated above.

Public Use and Recreation:

Objectives will be defined related to:

- outdoor recreation and nature observation opportunities
- preservation of the amenity value of the watercourse in the Town sites and rural communities through which it flows
- public open space requirements
- provision of recreational pathways and access points to public lands and waters in the watershed

Task 2.2.3 - Alternatives and Evaluation

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Alternative measures that could be used to achieve the watershed goals and objectives will be first identified and then evaluated in terms of their appropriateness in the Kemptville Creek basin. This will be carried out as a strategic planning exercise with the intent of maximizing benefits (to the watershed as a whole) and minimizing the effort and costs to formulate planning decisions and implement programs and projects that could combine to constitute the watershed management strategy.

The identification step will explore all of the possible measures and approaches that could be used to achieve the watershed objectives. The evaluation step will analyse the alternatives in terms of:

- cost and affordability
- public acceptance
- technical or administrative feasibility
- effectiveness and reliability (including effectiveness on private or public land)

- degree of ease or difficulty in implementation
- compatibility with other strategic objectives

It will be necessary to further define the scope of work and specific tasks involved in evaluating alternatives after an initial “screening” of the full list of possible approaches and solutions. The initial screening process will eliminate those approaches or alternatives which can be considered to be inappropriate for the watershed without needing in-depth analysis (with documentation as to why). Initial screening will also serve to identify the scope of technical, socio-economic and environmental analysis required to adequately evaluate and compare the remaining alternatives. Consideration will be given to applying weights to the evaluation criterion.

Task 2.2.4 — Watershed Plan Production

The results and findings of all previous steps will be summarized in the Draft Watershed Plan. The Plan will prescribe a set of actions which, if carried out according to a suggested implementation plan, will provide for the achievement of the watershed Vision. Included in the plan will be recommended procedures for monitoring the response of the watershed to the plan’s implementation over time and for reviewing the Plan’s validity and updating it, if required, on prescribed schedule.

The Watershed Plan must include an implementation strategy, naming the organization or agency that is best positioned to take the lead role in carrying out each element of the Plan. The implementation strategy should identify priorities amongst the various actions that need to be taken and estimates of the costs involved in implementation, as required for budgeting purposes.

The Watershed Plan will be written in plain language so as to be easily understood by the average non-scientific person. The text should be supported and supplemented by the use of high quality graphics and colour illustrations. Separately-bound technical appendices will be produced, as required to document the biophysical data collected during the study and the technical analyses upon which the watershed plan recommendations are based.

Non-traditional media will be considered (as alternatives to or supplementary to the conventional printed report format) to enhance the effectiveness of the report in informing watershed residents of the existence of the Plan and its content. [Examples: Videotape productions, CD-ROM format text and graphics, etc.]

Final editing and production of the watershed plan will follow after the final round of public and agency consultations which will be focused on reviewing the draft Watershed Plan.

3. Public Participation and Communications

As noted in the Introduction, the final product of the Plan must be a technically sound, publicly valued management plan for the watershed. To achieve this result, it is imperative

that the concerns and opinions of the public be taken into account in all phases of the watershed planning process. The work plan should provide opportunities for the public to participate in Plan activities and should provide for timely dissemination of information about the watershed and information about decisions being made as the Plan progresses.

Public Participation and Communication activities will be coordinated and integrated with the completion of tasks related to “Setting the Stage” and “Preparing the Plan” (outlined above).

Task 3.1 — Notice of Plan Initiation and Call for Expressions of Interest

After approval in principle of these Terms of Reference by the Interim Steering Committee, a notice will be published in daily and weekly newspapers serving the watershed area, advising that the Watershed Plan process has been initiated and the Draft Terms of Reference are available for review and comment. Similar notices will be sent by mail to recognized non-government organizations that may have relevant interests in the watershed. The notice will invite individuals and groups to register their interests and concerns and to indicate their willingness to participate more actively as members of a Community Liaison Committee to be established for the Plan.

Responses to the Notice will provide the basis of a mailing list for interested members of the public and organizations which shall be added to as the Plan progresses.

Task 3.2 — Formation of the Community Liaison Committee

From the Expressions of Interest submitted by individuals and non-government organizations, the Community Liaison Committee will be created. Coordination of the Committee will initially be provided by the Community Relations staff of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. After its inception, the CLC will be encouraged to operate independently but within the scope and mandate set out in these Terms of Reference in regards to matters relevant to the Watershed Plan. Effort will be made to ensure that there is balanced representation on the CLC of all geographical regions of the watershed and of all relevant interest groups. While its size will not be arbitrarily limited, the CLC will be encouraged to work out its own efficient and effective organizational structure, following democratic principles. Administrative support for the CLC (preparation of agenda, recording and preparation of minutes, meeting room arrangements, etc.) for the CLC will be provided by the RVCA with funding from the Watershed Plan budget.

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Task 3.3 — Liaison Committee Meeting No. 1

- to confirm, or otherwise reject the premise, from the public’s viewpoint, that there is a need for the proposed Watershed Plan.
- to identify additional watershed issues that have as yet not been addressed in the Terms of Reference.

- to review and provide recommendations to the Steering Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee on the Draft Terms of Reference.
- to identify those tasks in the terms of reference which can be accomplished partially or entirely through the efforts of volunteer participants in the Plan process.

Task 3.4 — Community Liaison Committee Meeting No. 2

- to review and discuss the Interim Report on Watershed Function and Status as background to a discussion of the Watershed Vision and Objectives from the public's viewpoint.

Preliminary Goal and Objectives statements will have been drafted by the Technical Advisory Committee.

- to provide recommendations regarding arrangements for Public Open House No. 1.

Task 3.5 — Public Open House No. 1

- to provide an opportunity for the public at large to become better informed of the objectives of the Watershed Plan, the findings of the Phase 1 — Data Collection of the work - the functions and status of the watershed and the Watershed Vision and Objectives as adopted for the Watershed Plan formulation.

Task 3.6 — Community Liaison Committee Meeting No. 3

- to participate in the initial screening of alternative measure and approaches. A long list of possible actions for inclusion in the Watershed Plan will be prepared by the Technical Advisory Committee. The CLC will be asked to identify alternatives that are considered worthy of further evaluation and consideration from the public's perspective and those which should be rejected (and why). Concerns respecting any of the alternatives to be subjected to further evaluation will be documented so that the analyses required to adequately address those concerns can be included in the re-defined scope of analytical work to be undertaken in Task 2.2.3

Task 3.7 — Community Liaison Committee Meeting No. 4

- to review and comment on the draft Watershed Plan which will have been prepared by the Technical Advisory Committee providing input to the Steering Committee review of the same document.
- to provide recommendations regarding arrangements for Public Open House No. 2.

Task 3.8 — Public Open House No. 2

- to expose the proposed watershed plan to broader public scrutiny and discussion and to gain a sense of the degree of public support that the Plan should expect to receive (how highly will it be valued?) prior to editing and publication of the final report.

Task 3.9 — Ongoing Communications

On completion of each task identified in these Terms of Reference, a news release will be prepared and distributed to media in the watershed, in effect providing informal progress reports for general public information. All individuals and groups on the mailing list referred to in Task 3.1 will also receive copies of these news releases. The content of all such communications shall be subject to the approval of the Technical Advisory Committee and the Steering Committee, or the individuals to whom such approval granting authority may be delegated.

Stage 3: Adopting the Plan

The Watershed Plan will only take the official status that is given to it by the parties who were involved in its preparation. To maximize the likelihood that the Plans recommendations will be acted on resolutions of support for the Plan will be sought from the Council of each municipality within the Watershed. The proposed resolution will include a commitment on the part of the municipality to have regard for the Watershed Plan recommendations when land use planning and development decisions are being made, and in the ongoing delivery of municipal services and programs in the watershed.

Senior management of provincial government agencies and Board of Directors of the Conservation Authority will be requested to make similar commitments to support implementation of the Plan.

APPENDIX TWO

List of Steering and Technical Advisory Committee Members

Steering Committee Members

Ron Godkin, Township of Rear of Yonge and Escott

Bill Stevenson, Township of Elizabethtown
Bill Stevenson Jr., Township of Elizabethtown

Gordon Brundige, Township of Kitley

Dr. John Hollinger, Township of Wolford and Township of Merrickville-Wolford

Robert Woolham, Township of Augusta

Frank Breitenstein, Township of South Gower
Judy Armstrong, Township of South Gower
Scott Freeth, Township of South Gower

Don Thompson, Township of Oxford on Rideau
Owen Fitz'Gerald, Township of North Grenville

Ralph Raina, Town of Kemptville
Fern Ferland, Town of Kemptville

Technical Advisory Committee Members

Ed Reynolds, Area Supervisor, Kemptville District Office, Ministry of Natural Resources
Anne Hinton, Ministry of Natural Resources

Dave Dillenbeck, Regional Biologist, Ministry of Environment and Energy

Paul Ross, Regional Director, Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Stuart Leyenaar, Grenville County Agricultural Representative, Ministry of
Agriculture & Food

Michael Payne, Soil & Crop Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture & Food

Jim Craig, Supervisor, Environmental Health Department, Lanark, Leeds & Grenville
District Health Unit

Fred Dollman, Administrator & Clerk-Treasurer, United County Leeds & Grenville

Sue Herring, Rideau Canal Office, Canadian Parks Service

Ray Gilmour, Clerk-Treasurer, Twp. of Augusta

Martha Sladek, Clerk-Treasurer, Township of Oxford on Rideau
Carl Cannon, Planner, Township of North Grenville

Elwood Varty, Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Kemptville
Cal Pominville, Town of Kemptville

Dorothy McCargar, Clerk-Treasurer, Township of South Gower

Heather Wilson, Township of Wolford

Elsie Carley, Clerk-Treasurer, Township of Rear of Yonge and Escott
Darlene Noonan, Clerk-Treasurer, Township of Rear of Yonge & Escott

Atty Jones, Clerk-Treasurer, Township of Kitley

Barbara Kalivas, Planner, Township of Elizabethtown

APPENDIX THREE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

KEMPTVILLE CREEK WATERSHED PLAN

Community Liaison Committee Meeting/Visioning Exercise
Oxford-on-Rideau Township Hall
Saturday May 11, 1996

Present: Stew Hamill, Merrickville
Don Cameron, Kemptville
Carolyn Seburn, Kemptville
David Seburn, Kemptville
Greg Watt, North Augusta
James H. Brooks, North Augusta
Don Brooks, North Augusta
Doug Lousley, Oxford Station
Jessica Fry, Kemptville
Marcel Lavigne, North Augusta
Chantal Lavigne, North Augusta
Paul vander Ham, North Augusta
Don Thompson, Kemptville
Robert Woolham, North Augusta
M.T. Beardmore, Oxford Mills
Ronald E. Hough
Bruce Reid, RVCA
Diane Downey, RVCA
Lynn Preston, RVCA
Dr. John Hollinger, Wolford

Visioning Exercise

The large group broke into three smaller groups. The groups were asked by Diane Downey, facilitator for the exercise to imagine or “envision” what they would like to see their “ideal” watershed look like in 20 years time. They were asked to draw and make statements of what they saw. The following is a complete list of all the statements made during the visioning exercise. They are recorded “as heard” and no interpretation of these statements has been done.

- ▶ water quality - clean
- ▶ groundwater - quantity
- ▶ original drainage - pre 1960 - no beavers
- ▶ supplement flow in creek in summer
- ▶ recreation potential - fishing, swimming
- ▶ estate/land use - sustainable, farms to be farmable
- ▶ aesthetics - looks good

- ▶ buffer zones - natural shorelines
- ▶ forests - healthy
- ▶ rural character - preserved
- ▶ no flooding of farmland due to beaver
- ▶ big trees with a variety of species
- ▶ septic systems inspected regularly
- ▶ shoreline buffers near lawns
- ▶ cattle restricted from creek
- ▶ recreation opportunities - hunting, fishing, canoeing
- ▶ 8 good logs in the Oxford Mills dam
- ▶ residents in villages and on farms
- ▶ tourists - visitors - canoeists, cyclists, hikers, diners, cross country skiing
- ▶ no purple loosestrife
- ▶ no cattle in creek
- ▶ canoeing (navigable) from Cranberry and Mud Lakes to Oxford Mills
- ▶ good mix of wildlife - deer, birds, waterfowl
- ▶ residential development less scattered along roads
- ▶ urban, agricultural and residential lands are managed for ecological health
- ▶ decrease phosphorus loading in the creek from Kemptonville down
- ▶ residential development includes natural habitats
- ▶ increase wildlife habitat in urban areas
- ▶ small family farms
- ▶ people to take responsibility for their actions. Stop whining and do something.
- ▶ the creek in balance the way it was 40 years ago: flowing, clear, well drained land, forests
- ▶ healthy trees/forests not damaged by beaver
- ▶ beaver control
- ▶ a fish ladder at Oxford Mills
- ▶ swimming at Oxford Mills
- ▶ fish throughout the creek: pike, mudpout, perch
- ▶ cropping and livestock profitable
- ▶ clean water - surface and ground
- ▶ swimmable water - quality and quantity
- ▶ no groundwater shortages
- ▶ natural unobstructed drainage - flow
- ▶ predictable, regular flow during all seasons
- ▶ canoe and fish from Oxford Mills to North Augusta
- ▶ sustainable land uses and agricultural practices
- ▶ good aesthetics along creek
- ▶ public non-commercial forests
- ▶ rural character
- ▶ natural shorelines

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Statement of Priorities

Once each group presented their statements of vision for the watershed, they were asked to prioritize them. Each person was given five dots to place beside the issues they felt were the most important to deal with. Dots could be placed on five different issues or more than one could be placed beside any issue. The following six were identified as the key issues or objectives, in no particular order, for the watershed:

- ▶ To be able to swim in the creek
- ▶ A good mixture of wildlife
- ▶ Natural, unobstructed flow in the creek
- ▶ Beaver control
- ▶ Eight good logs in the Oxford Mills Dam
- ▶ Recreation

Each group was then asked to suggest ways in which each of these objectives could be met. The following are the suggestions as heard from the three groups:

▶ Swim

- Partnerships between landowners, township, MNR and RVCA
- Water Quality studies to identify sources of pollution
- Education: for urban residents to reduce stormwater problems
 - for homeowners on proper use of fertilizers/chemicals
 - for farmers on how to maintain buffer zones and proper use of chemicals
 - for creek shoreline owners to protect buffer zones
 - for septic system owners
- Identify where swimming is possible (depth)

- Put 8 logs in the dam and manage it
- Improve water quality
- Fence livestock

▶ Wildlife

- Sustainable forestry - partnerships
- Establish buffer zones - landowners
- More farmland, more crops, more wildlife
- Planning control to manage lot creation and severances
- Maintain shoreline habitat (beaver)
- Maintain forest habitats (beaver)
- Control spread of loosestrife or make environment less attractive to it (beavers)
- Maintain linkages between corridors and habitats (not necessarily by regulation)

▶ Enhance Flow

- Remove beaver dams
- Improve upstream drainage
- Go and Look
- Measure water levels
- Better survey of creek bed profile

▶ Beaver Control

- Lobby townships, add to taxes to remove
- Landowner agreements - control group (inter-municipal co-operation)
- Stewardship group (partnering)
- Identify sanctuaries, removal areas, hire trappers
- Education
- Workfare/Boot camps
- Incentives for trapping
- More predators - mink, wolf etc.
- Identify areas where beaver should be restricted to

- ▶ Eight logs
 - Lobby MNR
 - Landowners (inter-municipal co-operation) agree to “test period” after obstructions are eliminated
 - Find the money through MNR or RVCA (levy) or through municipality
 - Designate an operator for the dam Options: MNR, RVCA, Local with guidance
- ▶ Recreation
 - Look after the first 3 priorities as listed above
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Advertise what we’ve got
 - Awareness of Opportunities

Once the exercise was completed, Lynn explained the next few steps in the process. The information from this meeting will be put together to formulate watershed objectives. These will be brought forward to the Technical and Steering Committees for comments. The objectives will then be presented to the public in an open house some time this summer. Alternative ways in which we might achieve these objectives will be brought forward to all committees for comment. Once done, the first draft of the final Watershed Plan will be written and presented to all committees this fall.

Bruce thanked everyone for coming. The meeting adjourned at 1:15.

