

First Nation Liaison Report 2011

The Source Protection First Nation Liaison Committee is currently in the process of filling out its membership to represent the eight First Nations in the Thames-Sydenham and Region SPR. It was hoped that a First Nations advisory council would be created earlier in the source water process but the necessary groundwork to get the ball rolling was lacking. Attempting to approach individual First Nations to be placed on the Council agenda proved to be an exercise in futility; so engaging the Tribal Council, Southern First Nations Secretariat brought the source water situation to the London District Chiefs Council's attention.

The First Nation SPR representatives understand the need for source water protection and it is through their combined efforts that Delaware Nation and Chippewas of the Thames have indicated that they were interested in the Well Head Protection Area Mapping by the consultants. It has seemed that once this presentation was made the other First Nations were more inclined to meet.

These previous months members from Oneida Nation of the Thames, Kettle & Stony Point First Nation, Delaware Nation and Chippewas of the Thames have gotten together to create a Terms of Reference for the FNLC. The process is that each First Nation appoints two people with technical expertise to the committee with an alternate and these individuals would review policies and make recommendations that return to the LDCC table. From there the Chiefs direct the chair of the FNLC what to take as concerns or recommendations to the larger Source Protection Committee.

As funding sources for the First Nations have already been allotted, it is necessary to find some way to fund this committee. The Ministry of Environment had monies available through Capacity Funding Grant, to assist First Nations to participate in the source water protection initiative. However due to lack of uptake the program was in the process of being clawed back when applications began showing up. At this time, those applications that have been received are being considered for review. In our area Oneida Nation of the Thames; Delaware Nation and Aamjiwnaang First Nation have applications in at this time.

Once again, the process to engage all First Nations is an ongoing effort.

April

First Nation Liaison Committee – TOR Planning
First Nation – Well Head Protection Area Mapping

May

Battle of Longwoods (3 days)
Source Protection Committee Mtg
Elgin County Children's Water Festival (3 days) – Pinafore Park

June

First Nation Liaison Committee – TOR Planning

SPC – Working Group Mtg

Waste Diversion Mtg – Munsee-Delaware Nation – Source Water Presentation

Solidarity Day @ Victoria Park – First Nation display

Meet the Funders workshop – Lamplighter Inn (2 days)

July

Biish-Fest (Aqua-fest) Planning Mtg Kettle & Stony Point with Lambton Shores

Sun Fest – Victoria Park (4 days)

Home County Festival – Victoria Park (3 days)

Biish-Fest (Aqua-fest) Planning Mtg – Kettle & Stony Point with Lambton Shores

Maximizing Website & Social Media workshop- Tecumseh Development Corporation (2 days)

First Nation Liaison Committee – Initial Meeting

August

Aamjiwnaang Environment Committee – TOR for FNLC/Capacity Funding Grant

Delaware Nation Administrator - TOR for FNLC/Capacity Funding Grant

SPC – Working Group Mtg

Biish-Fest (Aqua-fest) – Presentation of Turtle Island Play

Little Readers, Walpole Island Library – Presentation of Turtle Island Play

Nightwalk with the Spirits – Rehearsal

Nightwalk with the Spirits – Play (rained out)

First Nation Liaison Committee – Meeting

September

SPC – Working Group Mtg

Aamjiwnaang Greenteens (Environmental Youth Group) – display

Upcoming Events

Chatham-Kent-Lambton Children's Water Festival

First Nation Liaison Committee – last Wednesday of the month

Taste of Fall – Longwoods