

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes

Council Report

Report Number PLAN2018-054

Date: June 19, 2018
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Council Chambers

Ward Community Identifier: All

Title: Lake Management Implementation Action Plan

Description: Preferred Option for Lake Management Plan Implementation

Author and Title: Chris Marshall, Director of Development Services

Recommendations:

That Report PLAN2018-054, Lake Management Implementation Action Plan, be received;

That Council adopt the preferred option as outlined in Report PLAN2018-054; and

That approval of this Plan guides future budget considerations for the Total Municipal Investment portion of the Total Program Value.

Department Head:_____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other:_____

Chief Administrative Officer:_____

Background:

At the Council Meeting of December 13, 2017, Council adopted the following Resolution:

CR2017-1075

Moved By Councillor Miller

Seconded By Councillor Elmslie

Resolved That the Kawartha Region Conservation Authority (KRCA) and City staff work with the Lake Management Community Advisory Panel to develop a multi-year CKL Lake Management Implementation Plan for Council consideration before end of Q2 2018, inclusive of implementation program descriptions, success measures, project leads and associated costs.

CARRIED

This report addresses that direction.

Rationale:

Following Council's December 13, 2017 Resolution, a Task Force was established to prepare the Lake Management Implementation Action Plan. The Task Force included three City Councillors, Director of Development Services, Kawartha Conservation CAO, Director of Stewardship and Conservation Lands and Aquatic Biologist, Sturgeon Point Association, Chamber of Commerce, Shadow Lake Association, Balsam Lake Association, Community Advisory Panel, Head Lake High Shores Association and Rush/Head Lake Stewardship Group, Four Mile Lake Association, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and the CKL Environmental Advisory Committee. The complete Lake Management Implementation Action Plan is contained in Appendix A to this report. Implementation of the Lake Management Plans is important to our economy, the attractiveness of the area for tourism and to the continued growth of our communities that have developed around the lakes and rivers. Using these Plans to inform decision making is in direct accordance with the Strategic Plan for the City of Kawartha Lakes, specifically under the goal of Healthy Environment. The work proposed through this Action Plan will help to improve water quality, build community understanding and capacity, and attract additional investment in our community. Our lakes are important to our economy, our quality of life, and our environment.

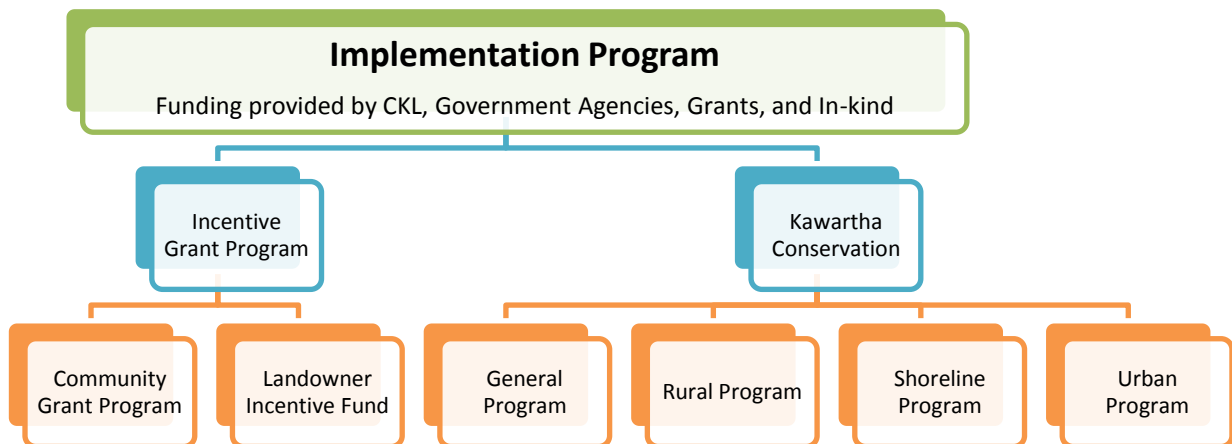
Implementation is more than just a list of projects and programs. Implementation means our beaches are open in the summer for residents and tourists to use. It means healthier fisheries that attract anglers all year long. Implementation means beautifying our urban communities with rain gardens instead of mud puddles. Implementation means building a community that is proud of our lakes, our towns, and our rural countryside. Implementation supports our locally grown food and better drinking water quality. Implementation is about building and supporting the community we want to live and play in.

The Lake Management Planning process has, over the last ten years, engaged our community and identified concerns and priorities on issues affecting the health and appeal of the Kawartha Lakes. This process has also increased community awareness and involvement, and leveraged substantial external funding through early implementation efforts. Building on the momentum established through early implementation efforts will help increase program uptake and encourage more in-the-ground action.

The Lake Management Implementation Action Plan proposes to maintain and build on this momentum of involvement and investment generated through the planning process with the goal of maintaining and improving the appeal of our lakes as an engine for economic growth. The Plan summarizes the greatest common concerns expressed by residents throughout the City and proposes science-based solutions to address these concerns. An annual review with each lake community will identify targets for that year and to continue to leverage external funding to assist with the financial viability of achieving these targets.

Task Force Recommendations:

The Task Force recommends two program areas for implementation.



Incentive Grant Program:

The Community Grant Program provides funding for actions directly linked to the recommendations within the Lake Management Plans. This fund will empower community groups and individuals to deliver projects within our community and leverage the investment of the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Projects may include aquatic plant control measures, establishing community rain gardens or implementing an invasive species mitigation program within their community. This fund empowers groups like cottage associations to take action to manage aquatic plant growth within their lake or other similar projects at the local level. Groups can apply for funding for their projects, with matching

contributions being both cash and in-kind. In these projects, the community group is the lead organization; however other partners and supporters may be involved.

It is recommended that Kawartha Conservation take a leadership role in administering and reporting on the fund under the guidance of a Grant Selection Committee.

The Landowner Incentive Fund will enable private landowners to implement best management practices that will have a direct impact on the health of our lakes. This is also a matching grant program with leveraged funds coming from the landowner as well as other government agencies. This program provides incentives to help landowners take action. Projects will be approved by a committee but may include fencing cattle out of streams, re-establishing native vegetation in riparian areas, or implementing low impact development projects on their property to reduce runoff and flooding.

Kawartha Conservation Program:

The second stream includes programs developed and lead by Kawartha Conservation. These programs will attract community investment and build partnerships that leverage knowledge, effort, and impact, and help others to achieve Lake Management Plan objectives. The programs of Kawartha Conservation are captured under four main categories of General Programs, Rural Programs, Shoreline Programs, and Urban Programs. The specific projects proposed, over a 5 year period, have been evaluated by the Task Force and the following recommendations have been made.

General Program:

Implementation Oversight and Coordination will ensure collaboration between multiple partners including the various agencies with jurisdiction over our lakes. Projects such as the remediation of the Bobcaygeon dam are outside the jurisdiction of Kawartha Conservation but it is recognized that this type of project is of significant interest to the community and may pose a benefit to water quality and habitat. Facilitating this type of project will ensure that priority actions from the Lake Management Plans are highlighted in other agencies.

The **Sedimentation and Erosion Control Planning Program** will advance erosion and sediment control practices for projects in-and-around water for the construction and construction related industries. The release of materials from construction and development sites to local watercourses can have significant long-term impacts on water quality, community aesthetics, fish habitat and others.

Rural Program:

The **Agricultural Stewardship Program** provides information and support to help our farming community implement best management practices on their properties such as working with farmers to construct fencing along creeks to keep the cattle from polluting the water. Farmland makes up nearly 50% of the Kawartha Watershed and is particularly important in sustaining our rural communities.

The Rural Residential Stewardship Program provides information and resources to landowners about wells, septic systems, and woodlot management, to protect the quality of our drinking water. Supporting these landowners when making land management decisions will have a positive impact on the health of our lakes and the beauty of our region.

The Investigative Upstream Monitoring Program includes the monitoring of streams which will provide information on when and what nutrients are entering our watercourses. By identifying the source of these nutrients, action can be taken to resolve the situation before it becomes a larger problem in our lakes.

Shoreline Program:

The **Aquatic Plant Control Project** will scientifically test the effectiveness of existing technologies to establish their impact so that permitting agencies can better support their use. The results from these tests will provide landowners with better tools to control aquatic plants at the site level and reduce our reliance on pesticides in the water.

The Shoreline Stewardship Program will help landowners address issues such as erosion, nutrient runoff, and aquatic plants along their shorelines. Community beaches will act as public demonstration sites that will address the high E-coli readings that result in beach closures. Managing shoreline properties is essential if we want to improve the state of our lakes.

The Shoreline Planning and Policy Background Project will review best practices that other municipalities use to protect the waterfront such as Zoning, Site Plan, Development Permit Areas or Tree Cutting Bylaws. This research will help to identify the tools that the City of Kawartha Lakes could use to protect the waterfront areas that are so important to the water quality and long term health of the lakes.

The Near Shore Monitoring Project includes taking water samples closer to the shore and will act as an early warning system to identify where pollution is entering the lake. This monitoring is pro-active in identifying the problems areas so that solutions can be found to resolve issues before they become larger problems over time.

Urban Program:

The Bluescaping Program will result in the implementation of low impact development features at the lot level. This program approaches solutions from all levels including working with landowners, developers, landscapers, and the policy and permitting agencies. This improved collaboration will result in wise and effective development choices as well as cost effective retrofits which will reduce the impact our urban areas have on stormwater ponds and surface water.

Recommended Investment:

The Task Force considered each program area at three different funding levels. The recommendations below are a result of considering a balance of effectiveness, priorities, and budget constraints.

Program		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Incentive Grant Program						
	Community Grant Program	15,500	15,500	36,500	36,500	36,500
	Landowner Incentive Fund	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Kawartha Conservation Program						
General Program						
	Implementation Oversight & Coordination	65,700	65,700	65,700	88,700	88,700
	Sedimentation & Erosion Control Planning	33,300	21,400	33,300	21,400	33,300
Rural Program						
	Agricultural Stewardship	27,900	27,900	55,800	27,900	27,900
	Rural Residential Stewardship			38,400	38,400	38,400

	Investigative Upstream Monitoring	34,700	34,700	34,700	44,400	34,700
Shoreline Program						
	Aquatic Plant Control	18,900	18,900	18,900	19,300	
	Shoreline Stewardship	46,000	46,000	46,000	46,000	46,000
	Shoreline Planning & Policy Background	23,300	36,400			
	Near Shore Monitoring	28,600	28,600	28,600	10,300	
Urban Program						
	Bluescaping	33,100	43,700	43,700	43,700	43,700
Total Municipal Investment		357,000	368,800	431,600	406,600	379,200
Grant Funding Leveraged		135,600	140,600	248,100	155,300	140,000
In-Kind Support Leveraged		135,100	131,000	151,700	146,800	135,300
Total Program Value		627,700	640,400	831,400	708,700	654,500

Recommendations on program levels and length are based on the potential impact of the program on the environment and the economy, the capacity of Kawartha Conservation and partners to reach the objectives, and the funding impact on the City of Kawartha Lakes and the other supporting foundations. The recommended programs and service levels will garner 78% return on investment over the 5 year period proposed.

Other Alternatives Considered:

The Lake Management Implementation Action Plan contains a number of fully costed implementation options. Staff is recommending that Council adopt the proposed lake management implementation option contained in this report as it has been approved by the Community Advisory Panel and the Board of Directors of Kawartha Conservation.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

Staff feels that the proposed recommendation as approved by the Community Advisory Panel and the Board of Directors of Kawartha Conservation is generally the most cost effective option.

Relationship of Recommendations to the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan:

The Lake Management Implementation Action Plan directly addresses Goal 3 – A Healthy Environment within the Strategic Plan. The recommendations discuss the recommended actions needed to improve upon the health of our lake systems throughout the City of Kawartha Lakes. The shift from our Lake Management Planning process to the implementation of recommended actions marks the finalization of the planning process. The purpose of this plan is to utilize the Lake Management Plans to inform decision making (3.1.5) and to protect and enhance our water quality (3.1.6). The implementation of this Plan will result in the execution of Low Impact Development demonstration sites (3.1.4) throughout urban communities. Aspects of the Action Plan are directly related to supporting and protecting agricultural land (3.1.7) through projects, facilitating knowledge transfer, and attracting external investments. Many of the projects are focused on protecting our natural landscape and the goods and services those features and functions provide (3.1.8).

Consultations:

The Lake Management Implementation Action Plan was prepared through a Task Force containing a large number of interests. The Lake Management Implementation Action Plan has been approved by the Community Advisory Panel and the Board of Directors of Kawartha Conservation. The Community Advisory Panel is made up of 25 individuals representing various Lake Associations throughout the City as well as representatives from City Council and staff, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Parks Canada, Trent Severn Waterway, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, Kawartha Conservation, and academia.

Conclusion:

In consideration of the comments contained in this report, Staff respectfully recommends that the proposed funding option contained in this report be ADOPTED by Council.

Attachments:

Appendix A – Lake Management Implementation Action Plan



Appendix A
PLAN2018-054.pdf

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Department Head: Chris Marshall, Director of Development Services

File No.: C11