



Conservation
ONTARIO
Natural Champions

Conservation**ONTARIO**

Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities



Conservation Ontario Climate Change Update

March 27, 2012

Overview

- Recap of 2011 activity
- CO 2012 Climate Change work plan
- Miscellaneous updates

Southern Ontario Climate Change Workshops

- 3 Workshops across Southern Ontario in Jan-Feb 2011 with OCCIAR (based on the 2010 Northern Ontario Workshop)
- The objectives of the workshops :
 - Raise awareness of climate change and its implications to Conservation Authority business
 - Provide an update on provincial perspective and initiatives
 - Provide opportunity for Conservation Authorities to share current Conservation Authority climate change initiatives
 - Discuss challenges and approaches for incorporating adaptation and mitigation into Conservation Authority programs

Workshop Outcomes: CA Short Term Priorities

- Share Conservation Authority strategies, models and matrixes
- Develop a forum or venue to share information
- Develop climate change education and communication materials specific to Conservation Authority programs
- Undertake local modeling
- Identify critical partners
- Begin to develop individual CA strategies and tools
- Assess how CA operations can incorporate climate change into existing programs

Workshop Outcomes: CA Long Term Priorities

- Build the Science (monitoring, models, etc)
- Address aging flood program (FP mapping, Flood forecasting, etc)
- Promote incorporation of climate change into provincial policy
- Identify budget implications for climate change adaptation
- Begin work on specific issues: shoreline, water levels, stewardship, natural heritage studies, storm water management, regulations, etc.
- Assess how climate change adaptation is incorporated into CA Integrated Watershed Management plans
- Develop risk management framework
- Identify and set up training modules for Conservation Authority staff
- Identify opportunities (e.g. tourism/outdoor)



Workshop Outcomes: Conservation Ontario's Role

- Advocacy
- Central hub for information
- Education and awareness
- Promote consistency among Conservation Authorities
- Partnership development
- Identify areas where CAs can leverage resources
- Facilitate training/workshops for CA staff
- Keep CAs informed on developments around climate change initiatives
- Facilitate development of guidance documents
- Solicit and provide input to climate change initiatives on behalf of CAs

Provincial Climate Ready Report June 2011

- Provinces formal response to the Climate Change Expert Panel Report from 2009.
- Summary of Conservation Ontario's Response to the Expert Panel Report
 - An Integrated Watershed Management approach can address multiple issues and objectives;
 - CAs can provide local watershed expertise to help the Province
 - CAs have local implementation capacity and their programs span a wide range of issues
 - Conservation Authorities have established local relationships
- Key CO Recommended Actions:
 - Protect Ontario from Water Hazards
 - Create a Provincial Watershed Management Working Group
 - Define Conservation Authority Role in Climate Change Adaptation

CO 2012 Workplan

- Establish a CO Adaptation Working Group
- Support the incorporation of climate change into CA programs
- Establish a Communications Working Group to guide the development of communication products for CAs;
- Establish web based platform for CA information exchange on climate change
- Develop and hold CA staff training session to educate CA staff across program areas about climate change
- Provincial/Federal Liaison
 - Implementation of provincial strategy
 - Great Lakes



CO Climate Change Working Group

- Working Group established
 - Steve Knechtel, Cataraqui
 - Chandra Sharma/Ryan Ness, Toronto
 - Paul Sajatovic, Nickel
 - Hazel Breton, Hamilton
 - Pam Lancaster, Ganaraska
 - Phil Beard, Maitland
 - Mark Shifflett/Teresa Hollingsworth, Upper Thames
 - Charley Worte/Jane Lewington, CO
- Preliminary responsibilities for the group include:
 - Advising on CA climate change adaptation priorities
 - Identifying CA staff training needs and assisting in developing workshops
 - Assisting in the development of a web portal for CA information exchange
 - Advising on CA communications needs related to climate change
- First conference call later this week

Updates

- COA Climate Change Monitoring Project
 - PGMN/PWQMN Review to determine watershed climate change sensitivity and identify potential monitoring sites completed in 2010 in partnership with MOE and CAs
 - 2011-12 construction of integrated monitoring sites on representative watersheds for detection of climate change impacts in 5 CA watersheds including Lakehead
- Weather-Water Gateway nearing completion under the Regional Adaptation Collaborative
- MNR Water Budget Climate Change Tools available

Updates cont'd

- CO is pursuing inclusion of climate change in the proposed Great Lakes Protection Act, Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and Canada Ontario Agreement
- National Water Adaptation to Climate Change Forum March 22,23 led by TRCA
 - National Compendium on Water Resource Adaptation Information is under development and will be available shortly

Further Information

CO Website Climate Change page

- look under “What We Do” tab:

www.conservationontario.ca