

**Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy
Steering Committee Meeting #5
October 15, 2010
Perth, County of Lanark**

Steering Committee Members Attendance: Doug Struthers, Sheldon Laidman, Pam Buell, Noelle Reeve, Tracy Zander, Mary Kirkham, Steve Knechtel, Dennis Staples, Lynn Clouthier, Bill Thake, Jane Topping, Judy Brown, Frank Kinsella, Ken Graham (RVCA), Terry Butler

Secretariat: Chris Smith, Susan Millar, Melissa Francis

Observers: David Taylor (Friends of the Tay Watershed Association), Taro Alps (Greater Bobs and Crow Lake Association).

Regrets: Susan Freeman, Randy Malcolm, Don Marrin, Bill Glover, Sandra Candow, Chief James Marsden, Elizabeth Savill, Karen Currie, Bill Dobson, Clive Doucet, Doug Thompson, Cliff Meness, Aubrey Churchill, Brenda Hurrele

1. Welcome from Mary Kirkham, County of Lanark

2. Approval of August 13, 2010 meeting minutes

- a. **MOVED** by Steve Knechtel. **SECONDED** by Bill Thake. **CARRIED**.

3. Planners Group Updates

The Planners Group met on October 8, 2010 to work through the tasks requested by the Steering Committee at their August 13, 2010 meeting. Most tasks were discussed and the remaining items, specifically, Item 8(e) 'Visual Assessment methodology' and Item 8(g) 'Proposed Approach for the RCLS', identified in the August 13 Steering Committee meeting minutes will be addressed at the next meeting being held at the beginning of November.

a. Status of new Chair and Alternate Chair of Planners Group

The Planners Group supported the change of wording within the Terms of Reference:

'Sheldon Laidman from the Township of Rideau Lakes has been designated as the Chair and Mary Kirkham from Lanark County will assume his responsibilities when he is unavailable. Both Sheldon and Mary sit on the Strategy Steering Committee as alternate representatives for their municipalities.'

WAS REVISED TO:

'A chair and alternate chair shall be selected from within the members of the Planners Technical Advisory Group. The term shall be determined by the Group. The chair and/or alternate chair shall report to the Steering Committee as required.'

b. Status of Planners Chart

The Planners Chart has been completed (minor editing changes to be made) and a preliminary analysis was developed by Chris Smith, Mary Kirkham and Noelle Reeve. This summary was presented to the Steering Committee.

Summary Conclusion:

- Environmental protection is a common goal amongst all Municipalities, Counties and Conservation Authorities.

- Waterfront development policies and Environmental Impact Study provisions are well developed in almost all municipalities largely because of the Conservation Authority Act regulations governing these issues.
- Cultural Heritage provisions are less well developed. Many municipal Official Plans have cultural heritage policies but it is not clear which municipalities have registers of cultural heritage properties as well as policies. This is likely because there is no corresponding Act requiring such provisions to be included in the development approval process.
- Less than half of municipalities have Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment provisions.
- Only 2 municipalities (Ottawa and Kingston) have undertaken any form of Visual Character Assessment.
- Only 2 municipalities (North Grenville and Ottawa) have design guidelines, controls or policies for scenic areas.
- There appears to be a clear resource gap in the capacity of municipalities to undertake Visual Assessments and Design Guidelines.
- Virtually all agencies have a GIS capability and ability to share GIS resources either in house or through the counties.

Summary Recommendations:

- Undertake mapping
- Develop RFP to undertake visual assessment and prepare design guidelines
- Develop Policy Framework

c. City of Ottawa mapping proposal

c1) Sheldon Laidman, on behalf of the Planners Group, presented the City of Ottawa proposal to undertake a Geo-Data project for the Strategy. The purpose is to prepare a multi-layered, geo-data mapping file for the Strategy that will be made available to the agencies/governments that are represented on the Steering Committee. The mapping file will be used to:

- analyse and define the visual setting and the cultural landscape areas along the corridor
- identify opportunities and constraints to enhance the user experiences and the human and wildlife connections within and abutting the corridor
- based, on the above, delineate the boundaries of the corridor
- prepare maps and graphics associated with public meetings and implementation documents

To prepare the base map, Ottawa will combine GIS data from all municipalities and counties to create thematic maps. The proposed budget is a maximum of \$7500 to prepare the mapping and an additional \$1500 per layer. Further detailed discussions will be required with the City of Ottawa, Planners Advisory Group and the Secretariat to define the scope, number and cost of the map layers. The Planners Group supports this proposal and passed a resolution to request that the Steering Committee also support it.

MOTION: That the Steering Committee accept the offer by the City of Ottawa to proceed with the mapping proposal.

MOVED by Frank Kinsella. **SECONDED** by Dennis Staples. **CARRIED.**

ACTION: The Secretariat will draft a thank you note to the City of Ottawa. Doug Struthers will sign and send it on behalf of the Steering Committee.

c2) The Planners Group has discussed the study boundaries and the City of Ottawa has recommended that each municipality indicate what they would like these boundaries to be. Ottawa will then put a map together and the Planners Group and Steering Committee will determine what the study area. Terry Butler noted that a representative from the Rideau Heritage Route Tourism Association be included in consultation for boundary definition.

ACTION: Ottawa will distribute map to Planners and Steering Committee to obtain input on potential study boundaries.

c3) Once established, a mechanism is required to ensure that mapping remains up to date. After the two year mapping project is complete, the Steering Committee and Planners Group will determine how the information will be maintained..

4. Friends of the Tay Watershed Association letter

The first draft of the mapping project will include the area the letter is referring to.

ACTION: The Secretariat will keep The Friends up to date on mapping project progress.

David Taylor from the Friends of the Tay Watershed Association was present and stated that the Friends are available to provide more information to the Steering Committee about why it is important to have a specific recommendation about the inclusion of Bolingbroke Dam and Tay River in the Strategy.

5. Other Canadian UNESCO sites: What heritage policies exist?

Melissa Francis gave a brief overview of the information she had obtained from other sites in Canada.

ACTION: The Secretariat will present more information regarding other Canadian and international sites (particularly canals) when it becomes available.

6. PPS Letter:

Susan Millar discussed the contents of the letter and the recommended revisions by the Planners Group. The final version can be found as an Appendix to these minutes.

MOTION: That the PPS letter be approved and sent to the Province by October 29, 2010.

MOVED by Steve Knechtel. **SECONDED** by Mary Kirkham. **CARRIED.**

ACTION: The Secretariat will revise the letter to reflect changes discussed by the Steering Committee and it will then be signed by Doug Struthers. The Secretariat will post it.

ACTION: The Secretariat will distribute the letter to the Steering Committee so representatives can share with their Councils.

7. Update on meeting of Provincial Ministry representatives

At the beginning of September the Strategy Secretariat met with 8 provincial representatives from various Ministries to discuss the Strategy and the progress made thus far. The next meeting will be scheduled in the next few months.

8. Correspondence:

The Steering Committee received an email from Susan Freeman regarding the PPS letter. Her comments were addressed during Item 6.

9. Roundtable

-Where are we with the Community Advisory Committee?

- a. Doug presented information to the Rideau Heritage Network (September 2010) and the question regarding community involvement was raised. At the moment, the Steering Committee is not in a position to create a Community Advisory Committee until more details of the project are determined. The Steering Committee suggested that a communications piece be developed to update the public/interested parties on the progress of the Strategy. Should it be a Powerpoint presentation to share with Councils? Short notes to share with daily and weekly media sources? Public information meetings?

ACTION: The Secretariat will compile an updated slideshow/video for Councils.

-The annual Symposium held by Parks Canada will not be held in November this year; possibly in Spring 2011.

-Pam Buell and Doug Struthers attended the World Canals Conference in Rochester, NY in September. Pam presented information on the Strategy and it was well received.

ACTION: Doug Struthers will provide details about the Friendship Agreement between the Chinese and Ontario 1000 Islands at the next meeting.

10. Next meeting:

Smiths Falls location which will be determined. Tentative date: December 3, 9am.