

Partner Working Group Meeting #1 (Stage 2) Meeting Summary

Tuesday, July 26th, 2022

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Zoom

Attendees:

- **PWG Members:** Cameron Irvine (Grand River Conservation Authority), Caroline Karvonen (Alectra), Carolyn Suter (Enbridge), Dan Atkins (Guelph Public Library), Dilip Paramar (Upper Grand District School Board), Dwayne Shelswell (Guelph General Hospital), Emily Charron (Red Cross), Karen Chisholme (Wellington County), Les Petroczi (Guelph Junction Railway), Lester Tang (Guelph Police Service), Mark Poste (Wellington County), Megan Contini (Guelph General Hospital), Michael Frisina (Alectra), Michael Glazier (Guelph Catholic School Board), Peter Glaab (Wellington Catholic School Board), Rae Walton (Wellington Catholic District School Board), Sarah Kines (Enbridge), Stephanie Shifflett (Grand River Conservation Authority)
- **City of Guelph Project Team:** Shelley Lorenz, Mari MacNeil
- **Consulting team:** Tara Roumeliotis (Matrix), Quentin Chiotti (Matrix), Melani-Ivy Samson (Matrix), Susan Hall (LURA), Melissa Gallina (LURA)

Regrets:

- Bo Cheyne (Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health), Daniel Salvatore (CN), Daryl Goetz, (Guelph Police Service), Dave Pringle (University of Guelph), Gordon Cobey (Guelph Police Service), Julie Rorison (Metrolinx)

Agenda Items

- Welcome & Introductions
- High-Level Project Overview & Status Update
- Questions of Clarification from PWG
- Group Discussion
- Closing & Next Steps

Summary

Agenda Item

Welcome & Introductions

- Shelley Lorenz welcomed the group and provided a Land Acknowledgement.
- Susan Hall provided an overview of the agenda. She noted that the purpose of the meeting is to provide a high-level overview of the project and status update, answer questions from the PWG, and discuss in small groups a series of questions. Susan then led a round of introductions.

High-Level Project Overview & Status Update

- Tara Roumeliotis provided a brief overview presentation speaking to the project scope, vision and goals, and how the Partner Working Group (PWG) will be engaged through this process.
 - PWG member organizations are those with a direct impact on City services or assets (or vice-versa), which could be affected by climate change.
- Additionally, Tara provided high-level information about climate change adaptation and mitigation to frame the meeting's breakout discussions, including:
 - Climate change's impacts resulting in warmer weather, surface and water temperatures; greater precipitation; and the increased spread of disease and invasive species.
 - Climate-related hazards can impact a range of services provided by municipalities requiring both mitigation and adaptation.
 - **Mitigation measures** include actions that reduce climate change e.g., clean energy
 - **Adaptation measures** manage or reduce climate change impacts e.g., disaster management, resiliency planning
 - Several actions can be categorized as both mitigation and adaptation, and are therefore understood to have **co-benefits** e.g., water conservation, land use planning changes (complete communities)
- Guelph's Corporate Climate Adaptation Plan is focused on the adaptation component of climate change action. Information on the City's climate mitigation efforts can be found here: <https://guelph.ca/living/environment/energy/>
 - The scope of the project is focused on corporate-led actions as this is the place where the City has the greatest ability to influence City assets, however it is important to understand what City partners are doing to avoid duplication and promote collaboration.
- The project includes four stages. During Stage 1, the project team has worked with City staff to craft a project vision and goals categorized by environment & health, infrastructure, economy, safe, and fairness.
 - Stage 2 is focused on gathering data. Stage 3 prepares the risk assessment. Stage 4 prepares the climate adaptation plan.
 - For future engagement, the team will reach out to validate areas of alignment in the risk assessment in Stage 3. Later, the team will circulate relevant sections of the plan to PWG members for feedback as the plan is refined.

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Questions of Clarification from PWG

- Susan Hall opened the floor to questions from the PWG about anything presented.
- No questions were raised during the Questions of Clarification period.

Group Discussion

- Leading into the group discussion, the project team shared five questions for discussion. These questions were:
 - Do you have any assets, operations or services that directly affect or are affected by City of Guelph assets, operations and/or services?
 - Do you have any assets, operations or services that directly affect users in the Grand River watershed downstream of the City of Guelph (e.g., Cambridge, Paris, etc.)?
 - Does your organization have any climate-related plans and actions?
 - E.g., Adaptation plans, Emergency Preparedness Plans, Infrastructure Upgrade Plans,
 - Measures like tree planting, erosion prevention, communication measures.
 - Do you currently collect any climate-related data?
 - Quantitative (e.g., temperature data, precipitation data, etc.)
 - Qualitative (e.g., anecdotal, seeing land-cover changes and other ecological changes)
 - Are there any other partners we should be speaking with?
- PWG members were separated into three groups based on their organizational affiliation. Each group answered the same questions listed previously.
- **Group 1 – Alectra Utilities, Enbridge Gas, and Grand River Conservation Authority**
 - Direct impacts from City of Guelph
 - Power supply to residents, has been impacted by downed poles and wires
 - There are a number of Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) properties close by or used by City – important to understand who is responsible for these properties where there is overlap
 - Road clearing impacting response time for utility contractor vehicles to reach downed trees or wires to reconnect the grid
 - Downstream impacts
 - GRCA highly attuned to challenges of fluctuations of too much or too little water
 - Climate-related plans and actions
 - Enbridge has a net zero target in operations by 2050, and 35% in GHG intensity for 2030
 - Enbridge has several projects in the work including Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), hydrogen and geothermal, a hybrid heating pilot in London, and Natural Gas-powered buses in Hamilton.
 - Alectra has completed some climate modelling, knowing the growing season is longer to monitor tree trimming program
 - Alectra looking at distributed energy resources such as small generation or storage (battery)
 - Alectra looking into automatic switches on lines to route lines that are still operational when others are down

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- Alectra looking at developing a fulsome adaption plan
 - GRCA conducting dam safety analysis
 - GRCA monitoring the watershed low flow targets; undertaking efforts to make water management more resilient and improve flood forecasting
 - Exploring changes to back-up generators
 - Communication plans to leverage improved delivery of information during extreme weather to municipalities, customers
 - GRCA collaboration with the City for sub-watershed studies
- Climate-related data
 - Enbridge has heating degree day data
 - GRCA Floodplain mapping study on the Speed River in Guelph
 - Alectra conducts post-storm event learnings
 - Alectra beginning modelling for service area
- Other partners
 - Telecom groups
 - IESO forecasts capacity shortfall
 - University of Guelph (who are part of the PWG but were a regret for this meeting)
- **Group 2 – Wellington County, Red Cross, and Wellington Catholic District School Board (WCDSB)**
 - Direct impacts from City of Guelph
 - School bus schedule
 - Access to water
 - Electricity supply
 - Downstream impacts
 - Wells for Guelph are in Wellington County
 - Farming and food futures closely tied to water access
 - GRCA stormwater management (e.g., dams) impacts areas that are physically downstream
 - Climate-related plans and actions
 - Wellington County has an emergency management and response plan, and a source water protection plan
 - WCDSB is in the process of upgrading physical plants
 - Students have shelter in place drills for extreme weather events
 - Red Cross piloting emergency management in areas of Canada with high incidence
 - Workforce adjustment to respond to emergencies both virtually and in-person
 - Climate-related data
 - Anecdotally, there have been issues identified with school roofs and drains due to heavy wet snow and freezing rain
 - Both have also disrupted school schedules
 - WCDSB is reliant on the public to report weekend issues such as fallen trees
 - Other partners

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- Insurance companies, fire and emergency services
- **Group 3 – Guelph General Hospital, Guelph Police Service, Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB), and Guelph Public Library**
 - Direct impacts from City of Guelph
 - Utilities (electricity, water, and gas), water particularly important
 - For hospital sterilization purposes and cooling
 - For school operations – loss of water or electricity will shut the school down, difficult to get students home if there is an outage while they are at school
 - Water has been carted into impacted schools before (typically in more rural communities and not Guelph)
 - Waste services important to keep hospital hallways clear and clean
 - Hospital also requires clear roads for ambulances, especially to the north and south ends of the City
 - Many patients dependent upon public transportation to reach the hospital
 - Library buildings are owned/leased by the Library Board, the new Baker Street Library will be owned by the City
 - Typically, there is alignment with Guelph Transit during extreme weather events, if public transit is not running, the library is not open
 - Downstream impacts
 - UGDSB oversees before and after-care programs – disruption to these programs causes ripple effects on families that depend on these programs
 - Police Headquarters is located in a floodplain
 - Climate-related plans and actions
 - Co-generation at the hospital, however it is sized too small to sell back to the grid (500kW of power, half the base load)
 - Hospital goes into “Island Mode” without power from the main grid
 - Hospital has planned energy retrofits
 - Library adopts City policies and is planning to be more green
 - Library provides free public access to a warm or cool space in extreme weather (HVAC is 57 years old), and public washrooms
 - UGDSB has several sustainability initiatives including
 - All elementary schools will have solar power that can be sold back to the grid
 - Tree planting, water and energy conservation initiatives, changing utility sources
 - Guelph Police Service has several resilience initiatives – back-up diesel generators, gasoline from above-ground storage tanks
 - Climate-related data
 - *Participants in this group did not identify climate-related data their organization collects.*
 - Other partners
 - *Participants in this group did not identify any partners.*

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- **Group 4 – Wellington Catholic District School Board and Guelph Junction Railway**
 - Direct impacts from City of Guelph
 - GJR has greater independence now to make decision in-house enabling it to respond more nimbly
 - Downstream impacts
 - WCDSB is conscious of the roof and parking lot surfaces on their properties as contributing to heat island; looking for ways to reduce this impact or harness these spaces for solar energy generation
 - Climate-related plans and actions
 - GJR engaging in environmental remediation of its right-of-way including removing contaminants, exploring alternative vegetation control methods (hand-cutting or alternate chemicals, especially around waterways)
 - GJR interested in hydrogen electric motors
 - GJR purchasing an old locomotive building in Campbellville
 - GJR has completed several track modernization initiatives including switching to LEDs, motion detection on crossings (reduces idling)
 - GJR has safety management system to plan, respond, and learn from emergencies
 - WCDSB has severe weather plans
 - WCDSB schools equipped with air conditioning – it was noted that many other schools do not which may result in virtual learning or other arrangements on extreme heat days. Though not a formal action, the WCDSB representative raised the opportunity that might exist for WCDSB schools to serve as additional cooling stations during summer months when school is out for the summer.
 - Climate-related data
 - *Participants in this group did not identify climate-related data their organization collects.*
 - Other partners
 - *Participants in this group did not identify any partners.*

Closing & Next Steps

- Susan Hall thanked participants for attending the meeting and identified future opportunities to participate such as check-ins to validate areas of alignment

Adjourn