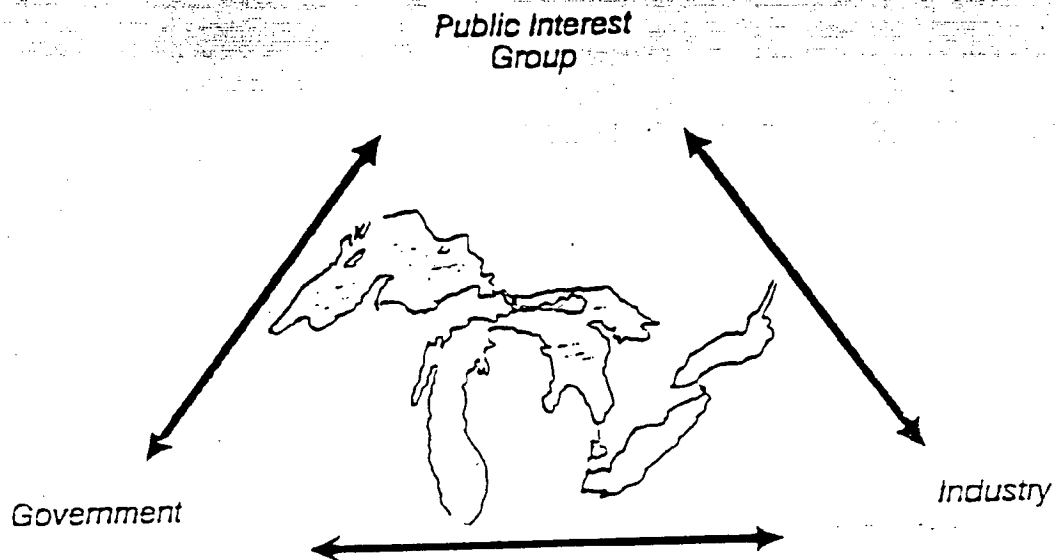


LAKE ONTARIO



Design Specifications
for the Three Sector Interaction==
Stewardship Indicator

Part of the Lake Ontario Toxics Management Plan

Administered by the Four Parties:

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Environment Canada
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Ontario Ministry of the Environment

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. Nature of the Indicator

The three sector interaction indicator is designed to show trends in terms of the degree to which public interest groups, industry and the government interact with regard to Lake Ontario issues.

By assessing the level of interaction, the indicator will show whether or not opportunities exist for the enhancement of stewardship. Interaction is defined as sharing of information and cooperation. Key members of the three sectors will be surveyed to assess the frequency and quality of their interaction with particular offices/agencies that they deal with on a regular basis. Stewardship itself will not be measured. The interaction that occurs is an important representation of the potential for stewardship to occur.

II. Explanation of graphics

The graphics show the possible trends that would be illustrated in the indicator after a couple of years of data monitoring. The trend is either an increase, decrease or a consistency in the frequency and quality of interaction. Samples of potential graph outcomes appear on page #10.

III. Limitations

The primary limitation of the indicator is that it will take a few years to assess trends. Specific data (survey responses) from the first year can be reviewed, however, to find shortcomings in the interaction among groups. This and other limitations are developed in the main text.

IV. Interpretation of the Indicator

The indicator will show trends in interaction. If there has been a reduction in the frequency and/or quality of interaction, then care should be taken to determine where the problem exists and efforts to enhance interaction should be initiated. Even if the trend is positive, problems may exist, so users should review the data to see what offices/agencies might enhance their interaction activities.

I. Introduction

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There is a diversity of groups and agencies that are involved in the decisionmaking processes that affect the stewardship of the Lake Ontario system. Government policies, industrial activities and the influence of public interest groups on these processes combine to become the human component of the ecosystem. Better information sharing and communication, resulting from interaction of these groups, allows for more informed decisionmaking and better stewardship of the lake. This human component, if properly managed, can serve to enhance the stability and integrity of the natural systems in and around the lake. This indicator will show the degree of interaction within a public that can be seen as encompassing three sectors.

Key representatives of industry, government and public interest groups will be surveyed as to the frequency and quality of their interactions with one another. Over time, these interactions will be monitored to yield numerical data which will show a trend toward or away from a higher frequency and quality of interaction. Frequency and quality will be assessed separately. The assumption here is that an increase in frequency and quality of interaction will lead to a healthier lake ecosystem.

II. Purpose of the Indicator

The purpose is to recognize the importance of interaction among sectors to the stewardship of Lake Ontario, and to assess trends in the frequency and quality of interaction among the three sectors of the involved public.

Nature of the Indicator

The three sector interaction indicator is designed to show trends in terms of the degree to which groups interact. This will involve the assessment of interaction among three sectors. Interaction is the sharing of information and the cooperation of involved parties with regard to decisionmaking relevant to the lake. By assessing the level of interaction, the indicator will show whether or not opportunities exist for the enhancement of stewardship. Stewardship itself will not be measured. The interaction that occurs is an important representation of the potential for stewardship to occur.

The assumption is a high degree of information sharing and communication allows for a greater potential for the enhancement of responsible stewardship.

Value of the indicator

This indicator is designed to show if there is a need for improvement in the ways in which the three sectors communicate. It should be seen as an opportunity for improvement, not as a vehicle for criticism. Stakeholders in environmental and public interest groups, government and industry alike should use these results. The ultimate motivation for this process is the enhancement of interaction and the betterment of stewardship.

III. Illustration of the Indicator

Description and explanation of graphics

There will be twelve graphs produced for each year's data combined with data collected in previous years. Six of the graphs will show relationships in terms of frequency of interaction, and six will show the relationship in terms of quality of interaction. The following relationships will be assessed in these terms:

1. public interest groups' requests of government
2. government's requests of public interest groups
3. industry's requests of government
4. government's requests of industry
5. industry's requests of public interest groups
6. public interest groups' requests of industry

Each sector will be shown in the graph as a single unit. However, in the data collection, care should be taken to identify several subgroups. This will allow for greater specificity in determining what areas need attention. The following is a suggested breakdown for the groups:

Government:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| A. federal-Canada | B. federal-United States |
| C. provincial | D. state E. local |

Industry:

- A. public B. private

Public Interest Groups:

A. groups with a Lake Ontario focus

B. groups with localized focus

C. unaffiliated individuals

D. groups not consistently involved

The graphics themselves will simply show the trend in the sector relationships. A second layer of data, resulting from the survey, will show the relationships among the groups in the sector breakdown. More specific references will then be in a third level which will appear in the appendices.

GRAPHS..... see page #10

IV. Limitations

The following limitations should be kept in mind:

1. There will be no assessment of the degree to which intra-sector groups interact, i.e. there will be no indication of state to federal, state to local, or local to federal government interaction

2. A positive trend shown in the graph is not necessarily a positive indication of stewardship. It is, however, a positive indication of the potential for stewardship to occur. A negative

trend is, therefore an indication of a limited potential for stewardship to occur.

3. It will take a number of years to assess a trend, if in fact the trend is positive, it must not be seen as indicative of a diminished need for continued development of inter-sector interaction

4. Costs of monitoring indicator :

The indicator will require a yearly survey. The following is a list of activities involved in monitoring the indicator:

- A1. survey design
- A2. survey dissemination
- B. compilation of data
- C. preparation of reports and graphics
- Other items to consider:
- D. staffing costs
- E. follow up phone calls
- F. postage

V. Assumptions

As with any design, there are certain operational assumptions that must accompany utilization of the indicator.

These include:

1. Interaction is defined as the sharing of information and cooperation between or among groups and agencies with a vested interest in the health of the Lake Ontario ecosystem.

2. The assessment of interaction will consider the interaction between each of the three sectors. It will be considered a two-way relationship. For example, in looking at industry's attempts to work with the public interest groups, one must also consider the attempts of these groups to work with industry.

3. Government is defined here not merely as the regulatory structure, but includes all levels and aspects of government which are involved in the policymaking and decisionmaking process. Legislative bodies and judicial proceedings are included.

4. The trend in terms of frequency and quality of interaction among the three sectors is indicative of the movement towards or away from the enhancement of the potential for responsible stewardship.

VI. Interpretation of the Indicator

The graphs will show the trends which are occurring, if in fact the trend is positive, it is primarily an indication that current practices should continue to develop.

If in fact the indication is a negative one, the graphs will not provide the specificity necessary to determine a course of action. The users will need to refer to the supporting data to see which offices/ agencies are not rated as being



Dow Canada

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Vidal Street, P.O. Box 3030,
Sarnia, Ontario N7T 7M1
Canada

June 12, 1992

Fax to:

J.S. O'Connor

xc: Members of EWOG
Sub-Committee on Indicators

Attached is my proposal on what an appropriate indicator on responsible stewardship might be for the corporate sector. I look forward to discussing this with the sub-committee on June 16.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G.N. Werezak".

G.N. Werezak

Attach.

:mq

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERISM

PROPOSAL:

Administrator Reilly and Minister Charest have both endorsed voluntary commitments by industry as an effective tool for improving the environment. An important indicator for consideration by the EOWG Stewardship Indicator sub-committee has to be:

"The number of corporations/organizations with a voluntary publicly announced emissions reduction program".

It is therefore proposed that one of the major elements under item 4 - "Environmental Volunteerism" - be the above indicator dealing with the corporate sector. Or, as an alternative, it be given a priority of its own and be included separately on our list.

Background:

In February of 1992, EPA Administrator William K. Reilly asked over 600 U.S. companies to reduce voluntarily, pollution caused by 17 high priority toxic chemicals. The goal is to reduce, by one-third, the total releases and transfers of the 17 target chemicals by 1992; and to reduce them by one half by 1995. The elements were drawn from the Toxic Release Inventory using 1988 as a baseline year.

At the time the above announcement was made, it was acknowledged that significant voluntary efforts were already underway. Those noted included the chemical industries Responsible Care Program and the efforts by paper mills to cut dioxin emissions. In promoting this 33/50 program, EPA believes it can help achieve significant reductions ahead of statutory timetables, promote prevention as a more cost-effective alternative to traditional waste management methods and bring about earlier cost-saving health benefits.

As noted above some industry sectors had already initiated a voluntary program. The Canadian Chemical Producers' Association Responsible Care program was one such program. It as well as the U.S. Chemical Manufacturing Association program commits member companies to responsibly manage their products through their entire life cycle. From the product development phase right through to the ultimate disposal, Responsible Care sets out the standards of performance in a series of Codes of Practise. Membership in the CCPA is contingent on accepting the Responsible Care principles.

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One further action plan that came together in 1991 was the endorsement by Canadian Environment Minister Jean Charest of an initiative developed by the New Directions Group - a Canadian coalition of environmentalists and industrialists. In their paper "Reducing and Eliminating Toxic Substance Emissions: An Action Plan for Canada", the Group calls for a national emissions inventory as well as the development of the five-step reduction/elimination process to be used for reducing or eliminating certain chemical emissions. The New Directions Group calls on Canadian industry to develop and publish pollution prevention action plans to achieve targeted reduction levels.

Minister Charest has promised to implement the recommendations of the New Directions Group and has since set up two initiatives - the NPRI and ARET programs - for that purpose. NPRI is the National Pollution Release Inventory and ARET stands for Accelerated/Reduction and Elimination of Toxic Substance Emissions.

The most recent example of a voluntary initiative associated with chemicals and the Great Lakes is the commitment by the North American automakers to quantify the toxins their plants are emitting into the Great Lakes basin as the first step to preventing further pollution.

This initiative has the full support of Ontario Environment Minister Ruth Grier who is quoted as saying "with this memorandum of understanding, the auto-making industry becomes Ontario's first industrial sector to introduce a voluntary program aimed at preventing pollution".

Proceeding from here:

It would appear appropriate to review this proposed indicator with the organizations that would be asked to participate and to solicit their endorsement and proposals on appropriate mechanisms to collect the data. Given that this Sub-Committee supports the "Corporate Volunteerism" indicator the author would be prepared to undertake such a review.



GREAT LAKES UNITED

June 30, 1992

Joel O'Connor
Stewardship Committee Chair,
Lake Ontario Ecosystem Workgroup
U.S. EPA, Region 2
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10007

Dear Joel,

This letter is a follow-up to our discussion at the June 17, 1992 meeting of the Stewardship Committee of the Lake Ontario Ecosystem Objectives Work Group. Attached you will find a proposal for a workshop, convened by Great Lakes United, that would provide feedback to the committee on stewardship indicators. The purpose of the workshop will be to provide guidance to the committee on the applicability and utility of draft stewardship indicators.

It was my understanding from the meeting that you would be discussing with Paul Bertram and Trevor Reynoldson the possibility of convening this workshop in conjunction with a workshop for all the members of the Ecosystem Objectives Work Group. The activities and costs identified in this proposal are only for a workshop of the Stewardship Committee.

As you know, I will be leaving GLU at the end of this month. Karen Murphy of our staff will be the contact person in the organization for follow-up discussion on this proposal. You can contact her at (716) 886-0142.

It was good to meet you and I look forward to reading about the success of the stewardship workgroup.

Sincerely

Philip Weller

An international organization dedicated to conserving and protecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River
State University College at Buffalo, Cassety Hall • 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14222
(716) 886-0142

Canadian Address: P.O. Box 548 Station A • Windsor, Ontario N9A 6M6

**A Workshop to Provide Public Comment
on
Indicators of Ecosystem Stewardship**

Purpose

To assist the Stewardship Committee of the Lake Ontario Toxics Committee in receiving public comment and feedback on proposed stewardship indicators for Lake Ontario, Great Lakes United will organize and facilitate a public consultation workshop. The workshop will bring together members of the public with the Stewardship Committee for a detailed discussion of stewardship indicators. The workshop will be organized to explain and describe the proposed stewardship indicators and to provide a mechanism for the committee to get feedback in the utility and applicability of the draft indicators.

The workshop will be an opportunity for a select group of people from an informed public to comment and discuss in detail the indicators with the committee. The workshop will be part of an overall public consultation process that will include a mailout of information on ecosystem indicators to a wider audience.

Method

Great Lakes United will develop a list of proposed invitees to the workshop with an emphasis on ensuring participation from a range of sectors, including:

- Environmental Groups
- Businesses
- Native Organizations
- Municipal Government
- Academic Institutions
- Hunting and Angling Groups
- Community Organizations

A maximum of twenty five participants will attend the workshop. Great Lakes United will develop a draft list of potential participants and circulate that to a steering committee of Stewardship Committee members. The invitee list will be modified based on the input of the steering committee.

Great Lakes United will then contact potential participants and ensure their participation. Effort will be made to identify persons from the same sector to substitute for those invitees who cannot attend.

In advance of the workshop a package of background material will be assembled and mailed by Great Lakes United to confirmed participants. The package will include:

- * Directions to the meeting
- * Logistical Arrangements for Accommodations
- * Background Information on Ecosystem Objectives
- * Copies of Draft Stewardship Indicators
- * A list of Invitees and Committee members

The participants will be expected to read the preparatory materials prior to the meeting and to come prepared to discuss the contents.

The workshop will be broken down into four components. Each component of the workshop will be chaired by Great Lakes United. The first component of the workshop will be an introduction of participants, a description of workshop format, and a background presentation on the overall ecosystem objectives workgroup and the stewardship committee in particular. The presentation will be made by the chair of the Stewardship committee.

The introduction and overview presentation will be followed by short presentations from Committee members on proposed stewardship indicators. The presentations will be a summary of the written material provided to the participants prior to the workshop. Opportunity for questions and clarification will be available.

The third component of the workshop will involve three small breakout groups in which participants will discuss the utility and practicality of the proposed indicators. The breakout groups will be chaired by a facilitator, and a recorder will be present to ensure a detailed record of the discussions is kept.

The final component of the workshop will be a plenary session of all the participants. A report back from each workshop group will take place followed by a formal facilitated discussion of the entire group.

After the workshop, Great Lakes United will prepare a report of the workshop. The report will be distributed to all the stewardship committee members and the workshop participants. The report will include a summary of the breakout group discussions and the final plenary discussion. The report will be prepared and submitted to the committee within four weeks of the conclusion of the workshop.

Timing and Location

Based on preliminary discussion it is recommended that the conference take place in the fall of 1992. It is recommended that the preferred location would be Buffalo or Toronto.

Budget

Conference Organizer	(12 days X \$200/day)	\$2,400
Conference Facilitator	(2 days X \$250/day)	\$500
Administrative Assistance	(8 days X \$125/day)	\$1,000
Recorders	(3 X 1/2 days X \$50)	\$150
Assistant Facilitators	(1 1/2 days X 2 X \$150)	\$450
Postage and Mailing		\$350
Photocopying and Printing		\$600
Telephone		\$600
Lunch and Coffee	(30 X \$15)	\$450
Travel for Participants	(25 X \$200)	\$5,000
Administrative Costs	(15%)	\$1,625
Total		\$13,125

Conclusion

This workshop proposal is based upon discussion that took place at the June 17, 1992 meeting of the Stewardship Indicators Committee of the Lake Ontario Ecosystems Objectives Workgroup. It is expected that the organizing of the workshop would be done in consultation with a steering committee made up of representatives of the Stewardship Committee.