TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON - ELECTRONIC MEETING
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2022 - 10:00 A.M.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81980174668?pwd=dE5rYkFsNWk3R2w4SVpsNDkxdXBFdz09

Meeting ID: 819 8017 4668
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+1 647 374 4685 Canada
+1 647 558 0588 Canada
+1 778 907 2071 Canada
+1 204 272 7920 Canada
+1 438 809 7799 Canada
Meeting ID: 819 8017 4668
Passcode: 911192

AGENDA

1. Election of a Chair

2. Call Meeting to Order

3. Land Acknowledgement Statement:

We would like to begin by acknowledging that Melancthon Township recognizes the ancestral lands and treaty territories of the Tionontati (Petun/Wyandot(te)), Haudenosaunee (Six Nations), and Anishinaabe Peoples. The Township of Melancthon resides within the lands named under the Haldimand Deed of 1784 and the Lake Simcoe-Nottawasaga Treaty (Treaty 18).

These territories upon which we live and learn, are steeped in rich Indigenous history and traditions. It is with this statement that we declare to honour and respect the past and present connection of Indigenous peoples with this land, its waterways and resources.

4. Additions/Deletions/Approval of Agenda
Motion - Moved by _____, Seconded by _____ that the Agenda be approved/amended. Carried.

5. Delegations

6. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest or Conflict of Interest

7. Approval of Draft Minutes – December 3, 2021

Motion - Moved by _____ Seconded by _____ the minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Committee held on December 3, 2021 be approved as circulated. Carried.

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

9. General Business

1. ESC Plan
2. Request for Data to Improve Ontario's Tallgrass Geospatial Database
3. Other/Addition(s)

10. Confirmation of Meeting

Motion - Moved by _____ Seconded by _____, that all actions of the Members and Officers of the Environmental Sustainability Committee with respect to every matter addressed and/or adopted by the Committee on the above date be hereby adopted, ratified and confirmed; and each motion, resolution and other actions taken by the Committee Members and Officers at the meeting held on the above date are hereby adopted, ratified and confirmed. Carried.

11. Adjournment and Date of Next Meeting

Motion - Moved by _____ Seconded by _____, that we adjourn the Environmental Sustainability Committee at ___:____am to meet again on _____, 2022 at ____:_____ or at the call of the Chair. Carried.

Environmental Sustainability Committee

Plan First Draft - December 3, 2021

Councillor M. Mercer

Township of Melancthon

Understanding Environmental Sustainability

1. Encouraging biodiversity
2. Recognizing and dealing with invasive species
3. Mitigating climate change
4. Pursing strategies for sustainability that work in harmony with the environment and nature

Background

Environmental Sustainability Committee was established and has undertaken learning by inviting delegations to present on various topics of concern:

- NVCA - invasive species
- Phragfighters - Ernie Lynch on Phragmites
- Dufferin County Forest - Caroline Mach on Invasive Species in Forests
- Dufferin Climate Change - Sarah Wicks
- GRCA - Louse Heyming
- Pollinator Gardens
- NVCA - living snow fence

Environmental Sustainability Day – Declared June 5, 2021

- Held on the zoom platform as an online public event with various speakers:
  - Brian Horner: solar energy
  - NVCA: outdoor education
  - The New Farm: sustainable farming
  - Batwatch: bat colonies

Four Areas of Focus for Melancthon

- Invasive species
- Climate Change Initiatives
- Protection of Water
- Sustainability

Background: Invasive Species

Threaten the survival of wild animals and plant life

Arrive and establish due to lack of predators

Kill, crowd out, and devastate native species and ecosystems

Threaten wildlife, woodlands, and waterways

Cost Canada billions of dollars in losses to forestry, agriculture, fisheries, and other industries

(invasivespeciescentre.ca)

Types of Invasive Species

Plants

Animals

Insects

Pathogens

Fish and Invertebrates

Insects

Aquatic Plants

Invasive Species

Some issues are at a high level of concern such as phragmites and gypsy moth at various times

Some issues are of a medium concern in the township currently such as purple loosestrife and giant hogweed

Some issues are starting to appear in Melancthon such as dying Balsam Firs due to climate change

Some issues are not in Melancthon now such as zebra mussels

Invasive Species

On trees and forests: gypsy moth, emerald ash borer

In fields and grasses: phragmites, garlic mustard, giant hogweed

In wetlands: purple loosestrife

In water: water soldier, fanwort

These are a few examples of the hundreds of invasive species in Ontario

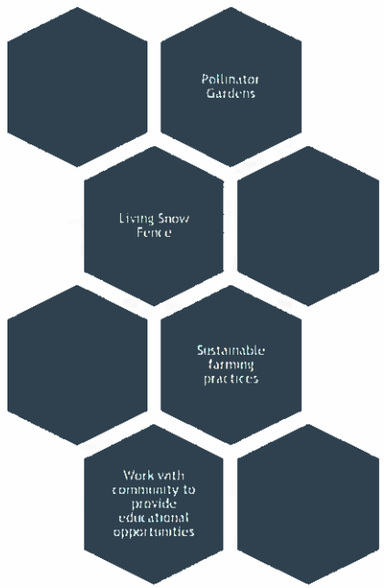
Invasive Species Solutions

- Investigate and apply for available grants
- Clean ups by roads staff for phragmites
- Work with Phragfighters
- Eradicate gypsy moth through public education

Climate Change Initiatives

- Electric vehicles
- Charging stations
- Asphalt versus gravel
- Clean ups of environment

Sustainability



Opportunities - 2022

- Environmental Sustainability Day – early June of each year
- Invasive Species - awareness and clean ups: Phragfighters, Roads Crew
- Cedar Tree Fundraiser
- Tree Planting Opportunities - through NVCA, Forests Ontario, Tree Canada
- Climate Initiatives - clean ups, charging stations, electric vehicles, asphalt
- Sustainability - pollinator gardens, farming practices
- Generation Green - educating youth through schools, library and NVCA
- Wildlife, Nature, and Healthy Environment - bat houses, mosquito control
- Alternative Sources of Energy - solar, wind

Financials

- Treasurer presented information on available grants/funds
- Treasurer attends FCM's Sustainable Communities Conference 2021
- FCM offers various opportunities related to climate change, energy, sustainability, water, Green Municipal Fund

- Recommendation:
- Continue to investigate, and pursue available grants and funds
- Request $5,000 from Council for 2022 initiatives

Denise Holmes

From: Jennifer Neill <jennifer.neill@insightenvironmental.ca>
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 2:40 PM
To: Denise Holmes
Cc: Nicole Wajmer
Subject: Request for Data to Improve Ontario's Tallgrass Geospatial Database
Attachments: IES_Data Request Form_2021.xlsx; IES_TGO_CWS_Tallgrass GIS Data Aquistion Letter_November 2021.pdf

Dear Town of Melancthon,

Environment and Climate Change Canada/Canadian Wildlife Services (ECCC-CWS) has retained Tallgrass Ontario (TGO) and Insight Environmental Solutions Inc. (IES) to expand and improve Ontario's existing Tallgrass Geospatial Database. The goal of the project is to collect information to update the existing database for Tallgrass ecosystems and to develop matrices to support prioritization of Tallgrass conservation, restoration, and creation in relation to climate change in Ontario.

We are emailing you today to request your partnership in enhancing the existing database by providing any spatial data regarding Tallgrass community distribution in Ontario. This data will be used to enhance or update the existing database.

This email includes the following attachments for your review:

1) The Data Acquisition Request: Outlines the project history and objectives and provides a description of the types of Tallgrass data we are requesting.

2) The Data Request Form: The form that will be used to collect data on each Tallgrass site should your organization choose to participate in this project. The form has been formatted to utilize drop-down menus where possible to emphasize the essential information we are looking for and to reduce data entry time.

Please feel free to contact the undersigned if you have any questions regarding this project.

We thank you for your consideration of partnership in this important project.

Kind regards,

Insight Environmental Solutions Inc.

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November 15, 2021

Dear Potential Conservation Partner:

Attn: ***Request for data to expand and improve Ontario's existing Tallgrass Geospatial Database to inform future conservation efforts.***

Introduction

Environment and Climate Change Canada/Canadian Wildlife Services (ECCC-CWS) has retained Tallgrass Ontario (TGO) and Insight Environmental Solutions Inc. (IES) to expand and improve Ontario's existing Tallgrass Geospatial Database. The goal of the project is to collect information to update the existing database for Tallgrass ecosystems and to develop matrices to support prioritization of Tallgrass conservation, restoration, and creation in relation to climate change in Ontario.

We acknowledge that the lands in which we wish to gather information from (southern Ontario) are on the treaty lands and territory of many First Nations groups. We respect the longstanding relationships of all First Nations groups of southern Ontario and pay tribute to their legacy and the legacy of all First Peoples of Canada.

Project History

In 2007 the project was initiated by TGO and Nature Conservancy Canada (NCC) with the aim to assemble a comprehensive spatial layer of Tallgrass ecosystem mapping for Ontario recovery efforts. In 2011, TGO and NCC partnered with the Natural Heritage Information Center (NHIC) to further enhance the database. In 2015, Sage Earth and Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) combined efforts to collect additional information and to consolidate all available data into one Tallgrass Geospatial Database.

Project Objectives

Agency review (TGO, NCC, IES) of the existing database, determined that further data additions and analysis of the dataset is required to provide a database that is capable of informing land use and environmental planning activities and future project funding decisions. The goals of the project include:

1. Update and expand the existing database with new information on Tallgrass community distribution from conservation partner organizations across Ontario.
2. Establish a series of metrics for Tallgrass sites that will permit the prioritization of sites for conservation actions.
3. Standardize and refine data using remote sensing to ensure alignment with the updated schema.

tallgrass ontario

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4. Refine Tallgrass Prairie type definitions including (A) Tallgrass Prairie 'Remnants', (B) Tallgrass Prairie 'Occurrences', (C) Tallgrass Prairie 'Creations', (D) Tallgrass prairie 'Unknowns' (see definitions below).
5. Incorporate new Ecological Land Classification (ELC) communities on the Tallgrass – Dune/Barren - Savannah spectrum.
6. Identify high priority restoration opportunities specifically based on site quality and the ability to mitigate/adapt to the effects of climate change.

Data Request

The data that we are requesting includes: ELC shapefiles, coordinate locations, undigitized maps, plant species lists, and additional corresponding ecological information. The ELC community data we are interested in obtaining, follow below. The additional corresponding ecological information that we wish to receive is a stand-alone excel document (attached) that can be easily filled out by the conservation organization partner (text and drop-down menus).

ELC First Approximation, 1998 (old codes). Any code beginning with the letters:

- **SBO / SDO** (Open Sand Barren or Dune)
- **TPO** (Tallgrass Prairie)
- **TPS** (Tallgrass Prairie Savanna)
- **TPW** (Tallgrass Prairie Woodland)

ELC 2008 (new codes). Any code beginning with:

- **SBOD1** (Open Sand Dune Ecosite)
- **SBOB1** (Open Sand Barren Ecosite)
- **MEGM1** (Dry - Fresh Graminoid Tallgrass Prairie Ecosite)
- **MEGM2** (Fresh - Moist Graminoid Tallgrass Prairie Ecosite)
- **MEFM2** (Dry - Fresh Forb Tallgrass Prairie Ecosite)
- **MEFM3** (Fresh - Moist Forb Tallgrass Prairie Ecosite)
- **SVMM1** (Dry - Fresh Tallgrass Mixed Savanna Ecosite)
- **SVDM1** (Dry - Fresh Tallgrass Bedrock Deciduous Savanna Ecosite)
- **SVDM2** (Fresh - Moist Tallgrass Deciduous Savanna Ecosite)
- **SVDM3** (Dry - Fresh Deciduous Savanna Ecosite)
- **SVDM4** (Fresh - Moist Deciduous Savanna Ecosite)
- **WOMM1** (Dry Pine - Oak Tallgrass Deciduous Woodland Ecosite)
- **WOMM2** (Dry Pine - Hardwood Tallgrass Deciduous Woodland Ecosite)
- **WODM1** (Dry - Fresh Oak Tallgrass Deciduous Woodland Ecosite)
- **WODM2** (Dry Hardwood Deciduous Tallgrass Woodland Ecosite)
- **WODM6** (Fresh - Moist Tallgrass Deciduous Woodland Ecosite)

Definitions: Tallgrass Prairie Types

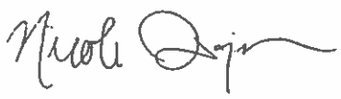
A. Tallgrass Prairie 'Remnants': Three or more indicator species, the size of the tallgrass community does not matter.
B. Tallgrass Prairie 'Occurrences': A solid stand of one species.
C. Tallgrass Prairie 'Created': A created community.
D. Tallgrass prairie 'Unknowns': Needs further investigation (remote sensing and/or ground truthing).

If your organization can contribute to this important project, a formal data sharing agreement can be prepared.

We understand that providing this amount of data is a timely request. Any information you can share with us is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions or concerns.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,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Former President, Tallgrass Ontario
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Site Information			Cor	
Tallgrass Site Number	Site Name (if applicable)	Date Site was last Confirmed	Name of Organization Providing Data	Name of Individual Providing Data
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tact Information

Contact Email	Name of Individual or Organization Who Owns the Site	Name of File Provided	ELC Code	ELC Community Name	Dominant Soil Texture Class	Tallgrass Type

Tallgrass Ecological Information

Dominant Grass Species Indicator 1	Dominant Grass Species Indicator 2	Dominant Grass Species Indicator 3	Dominant Forb Species Indicator 1

Dominant Forb Species Indicator 2	Dominant Forb Species Indicator 3	Relative Cover of Invasive Species (%)	Presence of SAR Plants	Presence of SAR Animals

		Tallgrass Management Activities				
Year Site was Lost or became Historic	Notes or Important Information	Has Management Occurred at the Site?	Last Year Management Occurred	Has the Site been Burned?	Last Year the Site was Burned	Notes Regarding Management Activities