

6. Appendices

Appendix 1: Future of Farm Stewardship Social Network Analysis Survey

Introduction

The Lake Simcoe Protection Plan will come up for its first 10-year public review in 2019. This review will explore the effectiveness of existing policies in reaching the objectives under the Plan, including how well environmental stewardship policies and actions have achieved various goals.

The farming community, including commodity organizations, agricultural businesses, and farmers, along with environmental and conservation organizations, have done a great deal over the past ten years to restore and protect Lake Simcoe. What role can and should farm and environmental organizations play in the next ten years of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan?

With funding from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and guidance from a number of agricultural and environmental organizations, the Sustainability Network is conducting a study to examine the strength of relationships amongst such organizations working in the Lake Simcoe watershed. The results of this research will form not only a snapshot of the current strength and capacity of organizations to continue and/or expand their stewardship network and activities, but can also serve to strengthen and build relationships within the Lake Simcoe stewardship network over the coming years.

By completing this survey, you and your organization will contribute to a better understanding of how organizations characterize agri-environmental stewardship needs and opportunities, and what can be done to improve effectiveness of stewardship in Lake Simcoe and more broadly across the province. The results of this survey can be used by all stakeholders to share ideas and experiences, and to create opportunities for improved coordination and collaboration amongst organizations and individuals working to contribute to the stewardship of Lake Simcoe.

You have been identified as a valued survey respondent because of your connection to stewardship activities in the Lake Simcoe area. We ask that you take 20-30 minutes to respond to the 18 survey questions. Thank you for your time! We look forward to sharing the project results with you in the spring of 2018.

Should you have any technical difficulties with the survey, please contact April Wepler at april@freshwaterfuture.org

(p.s. As a "thank-you" for completing the survey, give us your address at the end and we'll mail you a \$5 Tim Horton's gift certificate!)

Section One

Please check the ONE answer that is the best choice for your organization. (There may be more than one correct answer, but choosing one answer that is the best fit will allow for a clearer understanding of the common ground among organizations in the network.)

Q1 What is your name?

Q2 What is the name of the organization you are representing?

Q3 Which of the following best describes the organization for whom you are completing the survey?

- Registered charity or non-profit organization
- Unincorporated organization (e.g. volunteer community group)
- Agricultural commodity organization
- Agricultural business
- None of the above

Q4 Indicate the number of paid staff within your organization:

- 0-5
- 6-10
- 11-20
- more than 21

Q5 Indicate the number of volunteers within your organization who help deliver and/or promote farm environmental stewardship work from time-to-time (includes staffing booths at fairs, helping to host meetings and events, helping with communications and marketing, etc...)

- 1-10
- 11-25
- 26-50
- More than 50
- We do not have any volunteers working on farm stewardship

Q6 In your opinion, how involved has your organization been in helping to deliver stewardship projects in the Lake Simcoe watershed over the past ten years?

- Very involved in stewardship in the Lake Simcoe watershed
- Somewhat involved in stewardship in the Lake Simcoe watershed
- Involved in other places in the province, but not in the Lake Simcoe watershed
- Not involved in stewardship projects at all
- Don't know

Q7 Please rate the degree of impact you feel your organization has had over the years on agri-environmental stewardship in the Lake Simcoe watershed?

- High
- Moderate
- Low
- None (not involved to date in any significant way)

Q8 In your opinion, should a coalition of organizations involved or interested in Lake Simcoe agri-environmental stewardship be formed?

- Yes
- No

- Don't know

Q9 If a coalition of organizations involved or interested in Lake Simcoe agri-environmental stewardship were formed, should it be focused on:

- A single voice to the government on Lake Simcoe policies
- A coordination body for prioritizing projects for government funding
- Both of the above
- Other

Q10 If funding were made available for groups, which of the following would be most effective in helping your organization engage in environmental stewardship in the Lake Simcoe watershed?

- Funding for implementation and on-the-ground projects
- Funding to increase staff and volunteer capacity
- Training and education workshops designed to enhance collaboration between environmental and agricultural organizations
- Training on fundraising, leveraging funding, and securing in-kind resources
- None of the above - we don't anticipate increasing our work in the Lake Simcoe watershed

Q11 Please rank the following priority issues for your organization's work over the next 5 years (with 1 being the highest priority, and 5 being the lowest):

- Increased farm sustainability
- Improved water quality
- Improved soil health
- Protecting fish and wildlife habitat
- Improved pollinator health

Q12 Which two (2) of the following best characterize how your organization engages in stewardship issues in the Lake Simcoe area? Please choose up to 2 options.

- Guest presentations at meetings
- Writing articles for trade magazines/newsletters
- Educational workshops including farm tours and demonstrations
- Training on new technology or farm equipment
- Social media including tweets/blogs

Q13 Please rate the following strengths of your organization as they relate to stewardship in the Lake Simcoe area:

- Financial support / incentives to implement best management practices
- Expertise on effective implementation of best management practices
- Effective public or community engagement strategies
- Tools to demonstrate effectiveness of implementation of best management practices
- Bringing people together to share information
- Collaborating toward shared objectives

Q14 How willing and able would your organization be to help others in the Lake Simcoe watershed to gain skills on the organizational strengths you identified in question #13? Helping others could involve: engaging in dialogue, partnering on projects, mentoring, sharing experiences and expertise, making presentations and participating in webinars, etc.

- Very willing and able
- Somewhat willing and able

- Willing but not able at this time
- Not willing at this time
- Not sure

Q15 Which of the following would be the highest priorities for increasing your organization’s impact on Lake Simcoe stewardship? Please rank in order, with 1 being the highest priority, and 5 being the lowest.

- Financial support / incentives to implement best management practices
- Expertise on effective implementation of best management practices
- Effective public or community engagement strategies
- Tools to demonstrate effectiveness of implementation of best management practices
- Bringing people together to share information
- Collaborating toward shared objectives

Q16 Is there anything else you would like to share about your organization’s ideas, priorities and programs for future Lake Simcoe stewardship?

Section Two

Responses to the following questions will help develop an understanding of existing networks of organizations and individuals working on Lake Simcoe stewardship issues. This section of the survey may be different from other surveys you’ve participated in; it asks that you identify your connections to organizations and individuals in response to three questions. The data will provide a picture of how those working in Lake Simcoe watershed are connected. This can be graphed as network maps. These maps, along with data from part 1 of the survey, will help to identify areas of strength, gaps in network capacity, and opportunities to build connections in ways that grow and strengthen networks and advance the objectives of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.

When responding to the questions, we ask that you take a close look at the lists and consider the organizations as well as the key individuals, with whom you communicate, and those with whom you would like to communicate in the future, in Lake Simcoe.

You will have the opportunity to add additional names in question 18.

Following are the three types of relationships we are inquiring about in the following questions:

Advice or idea seeking: Please select the organizations from this list that your organization turns to for advice or useful new ideas when you have faced challenging questions or are looking for new approaches to your work. You may add additional names.

Past or current collaborations: Please select the organizations from this list that your organization has formally or informally collaborated with in the past few years. Collaboration can refer to joint projects, collaborative funding proposals, coordinated responses to government policy, coalitions or working groups, etc. Include organizations that you will continue to work with in the future, as well as those that you probably may not collaborate with again. You may add additional names.

Future collaborations: Please select the organizations from this list that your organization hasn’t worked with before, but with which you see overlap or potential for future collaboration

that would make a positive difference for Lake Simcoe. You may add additional names.

Q17 Please make selections below **only for those organizations and individuals with which you have a relationship** or wish to connect with in the future about Lake Simcoe stewardship. **All others may remain blank.**

Note that you will have an opportunity to add any organizations that are not listed but with whom you have a connection in the next question.

For future collaborations, you can select 'yes' for those groups with whom you wish to collaborate - for other groups, no selection needs to be made.

Q18 If you are connected to, or wish to be connected with organizations or individuals other than those listed above in relation to stewardship of Lake Simcoe, please add them here and indicate how frequently you currently connect (past or current collaborations), or the frequency with which you would like to connect (future collaborations).

For future collaborations, you can select 'yes' for those groups with whom you wish to collaborate - for other groups, no selection needs to be made.

Should you wish to add more than 10 individuals or organizations, please send an email with the list to april@freshwaterfuture.org