



Jp2g No. 18-5109A

May 14, 2019

Otter Lake Residents, Landowners, and Stakeholders

**Reference: Notice of Consultation / Invitation to Consult
Otter Lake Outlet and Water Level Management
Consultation Period: May – June 14, 2019**

Jp2g has been contracted to assess the existing Otter Lake outlet and associated water level conditions, determine the full scope of stakeholder concerns and objectives, and develop a consensus on preferred solution. To that end, Jp2g has reviewed existing documentation of studies, discussion, and correspondence provided by the Township of Rideau Lake as this point regarding water level management on Otter Lake. The principal stakeholders and their resulting views (expressed within the initial documentation, but understood that the views are/will be more complex and are of a fluid nature) are summarized in the table below:

Stakeholder	Role	Concerns Understood at the Onset of the Project
Otter Lake Landowners And Concerned Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Represent the interests of lakeshore property owners• Ensure continued health of the Otter Lake ecosystem• Ensure continued recreational opportunities on Otter Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water levels during spring freshet are too high and pose risks to shoreline health and private property• Raising of private roads may not address risks to shoreline due to elevated water levels• The Otter Lake average water levels should be maintained as per existing condition

Stakeholder	Role	Concerns Understood at the Onset of the Project
<p>Township of Rideau Lakes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect public safety and property within Township jurisdiction • Ensure fair and equitable dispensation of public funds • Limit risk to Township liability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing outlet, despite creating loss of head during high flow events, is in reasonable condition and may not require replacement or alteration for hydraulic or public safety reasons • Any modification to existing outlet would open the Township to liability if any negative impact arises • Flooding of private roads is not within the Township's jurisdiction; therefore, using public funding to address this issue would not be fair dispensation of funds • All water management must be passive and resilient
<p>Regulatory Authorities (RVCA, MNRF, MECP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for furthering the "conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in the watershed." • Responsible for reducing risk to people and property from natural hazards like flooding and erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The physical condition and hydraulic performance of the outlet is in line with typical operating parameters • Any modification to the existing outlet must be studied and modeled appropriately to understand hydraulic and hydrologic impacts both upstream and downstream • Encroachment on or impacts to wetlands in vicinity of Otter Lake are to be avoided or minimized as much as possible

As shown in the above table, there is a difference of opinion regarding appropriate water levels on Otter Lake, specifically during the spring freshet – some lakeshore residents would prefer to increase the outlet capacity and thus reduce flooding on their properties, while the regulatory authorities are wary of altering the designated floodplain and impacting downstream stakeholders. To reconcile this difference and develop consensus on the appropriate solution, Jp2g will be engaging in consultation with as many stakeholders as possible.



The estimated schedule for this process is outlined below:

Task		Description	Timeline
1	Consultation	Solicit and compile stakeholder comments	May – June 14, 2019
2	Jp2g Site Investigation	Review site conditions during spring freshet	April 18, 2019
3	Public Presentation	Present summary of Jp2g investigation, consultant, and possible design solutions	Early June 2019
4	Conceptual Design	Perform hydrologic and hydraulic analysis for preferred solution	April – June 2019
Submit Conceptual Design Report – end of Phase 1 – June 2019			
5	Detailed Design	Create tender-ready design drawings and specifications for preferred option	TBD
6	Construction	Construction and commissioning of preferred solution	Spring - Summer 2020

This letter is an invitation to the above stakeholders to provide input on the process and ensure that each party's concerns are heard and addressed as part of the conceptual evaluation/design. Interested parties are invited to complete the attached survey and register to receive project updates and advance notice of the public presentation of alternatives. Note that communication by email or printed material will be accommodated depending on the stakeholder's preference.

Respectfully yours,

Stephen Arends, P.Eng.
Project Manager | Civil Engineer
Jp2g Consultants Inc.
613-828-7800 x 229
stephena@jp2g.com

Otter Lake Water Level Impact Survey. Feel free to select more than one option where applicable. You may complete as much or as little of the survey as you desire. Space is provided should you have further clarification or questions on a particular point.

Question		Answer	Comment
1	Contact Information		
2	Role	<input type="checkbox"/> Resident <input type="checkbox"/> OLLA Member <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory Agency <input type="checkbox"/> General interest <input type="checkbox"/> _____	

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Question		Answer	Comment
3	How are you impacted by lake water levels?	<input type="checkbox"/> Private road access <input type="checkbox"/> Public road access <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational use <input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline flooding or erosion <input type="checkbox"/> _____	
4	Have you experienced negative impacts from high water levels?	<input type="checkbox"/> Private road flooding <input type="checkbox"/> Public road flooding <input type="checkbox"/> Water encroachment on private property <input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline erosion <input type="checkbox"/> _____	

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Question		Answer	Comment
5	Have you experienced negative impacts from low water levels?	<input type="checkbox"/> Boating/swimming access and safety <input type="checkbox"/> Water Intake Issues <input type="checkbox"/> Weeds <input type="checkbox"/> Dock Damage <input type="checkbox"/> _____	
6	How do you feel about the average water level in Otter Lake?	<input type="checkbox"/> Should be lower <input type="checkbox"/> Should be higher <input type="checkbox"/> Should be maintained to match existing condition	
7	How do you feel about the seasonal high water level in Otter Lake?	<input type="checkbox"/> Should be lowered to protect private property <input type="checkbox"/> Should be lowered to protect private road access <input type="checkbox"/> Should be lowered to protect public road access <input type="checkbox"/> Should be lowered to prevent shoreline erosion <input type="checkbox"/> Should be maintained to match existing condition	

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Question		Answer	Comment
8	Please rank these methods for managing peak lake water levels and mitigating negative impacts such as flooding and shoreline erosion.	<input type="checkbox"/> Raising of private roads <input type="checkbox"/> Private shoreline management e.g. naturalization and revegetation efforts at the lot level <input type="checkbox"/> Public Shoreline management e.g. public awareness campaigns <input type="checkbox"/> Alteration to existing outlet culvert <input type="checkbox"/> Install additional outlets <input type="checkbox"/> Alteration to downstream channels as necessary <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

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Question		Answer	Comment
9	What would be a reasonable budget to improve the lake outlet (including engineering, construction, and permitting costs)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000 – \$300,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$300,000 – \$600,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$600,000 – \$1,000,000 <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$1 Million	
10	Please assign a relative weight to the following evaluation factors: <i>(assign a share of 100 points to each factor, with the most important factors assigned the largest share)</i>	<input type="text"/> Cost effective <input type="text"/> Assessment of risk to the Township and safety of public (including property) <input type="text"/> Significance of impacts to the existing ecosystem and natural conditions <input type="text"/> Addressing stakeholder concerns <input type="text"/> Timely	

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Question		Answer	Comment
11	When should final construction (if any) be complete?	<input type="checkbox"/> No construction <input type="checkbox"/> Fall 2019 <input type="checkbox"/> Spring 2020 <input type="checkbox"/> Summer 2020 <input type="checkbox"/> Fall 2020 <input type="checkbox"/> Further study required	
12	Please rate, on a scale of 1-5 (1 being very concerned, 5 being not at all concerned), your comfort level with the following possible interventions	<hr/> Significant downstream channel alterations (e.g. rock blasting to increase flow capacity) <hr/> Public road reconstruction for culvert alterations (i.e. making bigger or smaller) or outlet augmentations (adding supplemental culverts) [temporary partial or full closing of Otter Lake Road during construction] <hr/> Consolidation of Private Roads O10, O9 and consolidation with O8	

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Question		Answer	Comment
12 (cont'd)	Please rate, on a scale of 1-5 (1 being very concerned, 5 being not at all concerned), your comfort level with the following possible interventions	<input type="checkbox"/> Encroachment on protected* wetlands <input type="checkbox"/> Encroachment on unprotected** wetlands <input type="checkbox"/> Protection of private road access <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain a minimum water level elevation with a weir <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<p><i>* a protected wetland is designated by the Province and carries certain restrictions by law</i></p> <p><i>** an unprotected wetland is not provincially designated, and while serving similar ecological function as a designated wetland, is not protected by the same regulation.</i></p>

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Question		Answer	Comment
13	Further question, comments, or concerns?		