16 Plan Implementation

The Muskoka River Water Management Plan (WMP) has been prepared by and will be implemented by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ontario Power Generation Corporation, Bracebridge Generation Ltd., the operator of the Burgess Facility and Swift River Energy Ltd. . The plan describes a new operating strategy for lakes and river reaches on the Muskoka River which attempts to balance environmental, social and economic interests on the river system through the management of water flows and levels. This section describes the manner in which the plan will be implemented.

16.1 Plan Implementation Team

The Plan Implementation Team (PIT) will be comprised of the management and technical staff of MNRF and the waterpower companies that will undertake the day-to-day operations required to achieve the flows and water levels established within this plan. The PIT will meet on a regular basis throughout the year to discuss operational matters, and will utilize a proactive, adaptive management approach to communication, issue identification and resolution. An annual meeting will be scheduled in early February of each year to review the previous year's operations, identify operational strategies that worked well or caused problems, and will develop solutions/new approaches to flow and water level management as required.

The PIT is responsible for reporting on compliance, enforcement and effectiveness monitoring.

16.2 Standing Advisory Committee

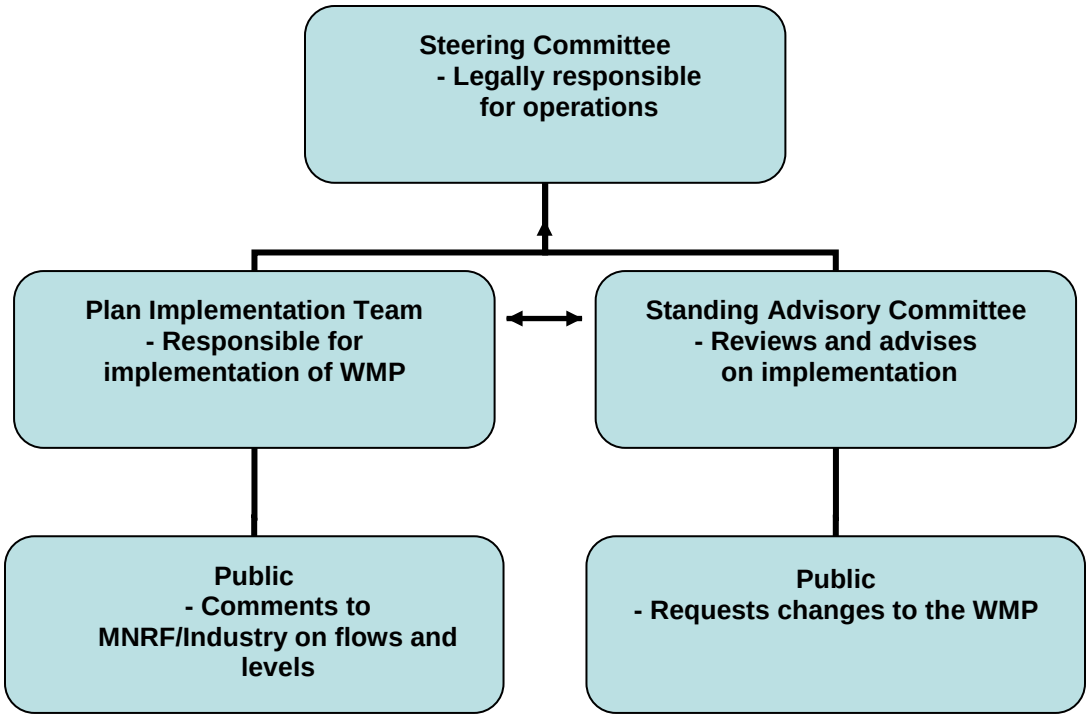
A SAC is not a mandatory requirement. SACs are recommended as a best management practice to provide plan proponent(s) with a mechanism for engaging First Nation and Métis communities and the public. Any proposal to discontinue an established SAC should be informed by advice from the MNRF, advice from the SAC and consideration of the level of public, stakeholder and First Nation and Métis community interest in dam operations. Where a plan proponent(s) makes this recommendation, an amendment to the WMP with appropriate rationale will be required to remove the provision for a SAC from this WMP.

Plan proponent(s) are responsible for administering the SAC (if applicable), and SACs will work directly with the plan proponent(s). Proponents are required to report on the status of the SAC (if applicable) every five years as a component of ongoing Implementation Reports as outlined in Section 16.3.

The role of the SAC (if applicable) is to serve as an advisory group, as defined through a terms of reference. The terms of reference will outline the membership, scope, duration and roles and responsibilities of the SAC and its relationship with the plan proponents. MNRF will define what role it will have, if any, in the SAC.

A SAC (if applicable) should include representatives with a broad range of interests on the river such as First Nation and Métis communities, riparian land owners, municipalities and interested groups.

The SAC will be composed of a number of citizens (up to 5) that represent a diversity of interests and knowledge bases along the course of the river. The SAC will report to the Steering Committee (SC), will provide a conduit for the transfer of public comments related to plan implementation to the operating partners (MNRF and waterpower companies), and will provide advice on the implementation of the plan. The organizational relationship between the SC, the PIT, the SAC, and the general public is provided in the following organizational flowchart.



16.3 Implementation Reporting

Plan proponents for the Muskoka River WMP shall submit an Implementation Report to the MNRF every five years. This report shall be a collective submission from all plan proponents.

The Implementation Report will provide status updates, transparency of dam operations and inform adaptive management considerations. The Implementation Report is not intended to initiate a fundamental review of the WMP.

The Implementation Report will include:

- Summary of all amendment requests received, including the rationale for completed amendments and how proposed amendments that did not proceed were addressed;
- Status of the Standing Advisory Committee, where applicable;
- Report on the results of the effectiveness monitoring program (EMP), if applicable, including a summary of monitoring conducted and findings, a determination of whether operations are having a negative or unintended

impact, and an assessment of whether revisions to the facility operations, or the EMP, are required; and

- Status and results of any data or information collection outlined in the WMP's data collection program, if applicable, and a determination of whether revisions to the program are required.

The MNRF will review the report for completeness but will not formally approve the report. If the report is not complete, the MNRF will request that additional information be provided. The MNRF may also audit records used by the proponent(s) to prepare the Implementation Report and may request any additional information to verify the information presented.

Upon confirmation from the MNRF that the Implementation Report is complete, plan proponents will make the report publicly available. The report will be provided to the SAC (if applicable), key stakeholders, and Wahta Mohawks, and made available to the public on request. The SAC will review this information, and may request that actions are taken to address issues or concerns as appropriate. The SC will determine whether the issues/concerns merit an amendment to the plan, maintenance of the status quo, or an early review of the WMP.

In accordance with the Technical Bulletin, the first Implementation Report to cover the initial term of the Muskoka River WMP should be submitted to MNRF no later than December 31, 2021, as outlined in the OWA schedule. Also, in accordance with the Technical Bulletin, Implementation Reports must be submitted every five year thereafter.

The report will be provided to the SAC, key stakeholders, the Wahta Mohawks, and made available to the public on request.