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Notes for Canadian Water Network – Theresa McClenaghan

PART 1: COMPARISON OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT CHARACTERISTICS TO CURRENT PROVINCIAL STATUS:

Provincial Policy Framework (Ontario) for water planning

Isobel's list: To be successful, a watershed management plan must have the following characteristics:	Theresa's assessment (provincial)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">. A single lead agency to act as an advocate and facilitator for the plan with the community and with political representatives	<p>On a watershed scale, we have Conservation Authorities; they do take and should continue this role (Conservation Authorities Act) across a range of water issues</p> <p>However, there may be issues with the scope of their jurisdiction which could be expanded</p> <p>There are also concerns with scale; often the integration of water management issues should be across a larger geographic entity than the river basin scale</p>
Strong linkages to existing programs, including local and	Conservation authorities as currently structured often play

<p>regional land use planning processes, water quality and flow monitoring programs, and similar programs, to optimize use of available information and minimize duplication of effort</p>	<p>this role</p> <p>There are tensions of roles between CA's and municipalities</p> <p>There are also various data sharing issues</p>
<p>Clear designation of responsibilities, timetables, and anticipated costs for project actions</p>	<p>Some elements are clear for some specific initiatives; and others are not yet determined – for example future costs for source protection planning are less clear; future integration of conservation measures and other water management on regional scale is quite murky at present; provincial law and policy are partly in place eg the Annex and related amendments to the Ontario Water Resources Act</p>
<p>Effective laws, regulations, and policies to provide a framework for the tasks identified in item 3</p>	<p>Many of the needed laws are in place but not all regulation; much of the integration remains to be worked out; and in any event no over-arching strategy tying them all together nor mandating broader watershed planning and implementation beyond drinking water under the Clean Water Act; this broader thinking and embodiment in a strategy is needed</p>
<p>Ongoing tracking of the degree of implementation of management actions and of the success of those actions once</p>	<p>Tracking is very limited and not in place across all initiatives</p> <p>Some tracking is expected for Clean Water Act; in other areas there is a limited amount of empirical monitoring but not presented in a framework to assess success</p>

implemented	
Ongoing monitoring and reporting of progress, both to assess the effectiveness of individual actions and to sustain public and political interest in and enthusiasm for the plan	<p>At the provincial level, some of this is expected for source protection plans</p> <p>Otherwise it depends on the municipality / conservation authority and where it is done its not under a mandatory program required by the province</p>
Ongoing public education and communication programs to consolidate and enhance the social consensus achieved in the planning process	<p>Some amount of this under Clean Water Act; very little under Charter Annex or other water initiatives other than very specific issues,</p> <p>Safe Drinking Water Act requires Chief Drinking Water Inspector and Minister's reports; first annual Minister's report addressed a broad range of water issues and initiatives in the province</p>
Periodic review and revision of the plan	<p>This is required for Clean Water Act; some amount of review is also built into the Charter Annex amendments as empirical data is obtained eg for climate change</p>
Adequate funding for these activities	<p>A Safe Drinking Water Fund was built into the Clean Water Act; Financial Plans regulations were passed and the plans should include costs such as for source water protection as well as harder costs of the systems</p>

PART II - What are the recent water legislation, regulation, policy initiatives in Ontario and how do they affect water planning on a regional scale:

- **Prohibition on large-scale diversions of water from the Great Lakes through the Great Lakes Charter Annex agreement with US states**
 - **Safeguarding and Sustaining Ontario's Water Act**
 - **Conservation standard for basin**
 - **Ontario conservation policy beyond Annex**
- **Water Taking Charges – a regulatory charge to manage quantity programs**
 - **Phase in**
 - **High, medium low consumptive uses**
 - **Commercial**
 - **Exemptions for agriculture, conservation, fire fighting**
 - **Includes users on municipal supply (ie over 50,000 litres per day and commercial)**
- **The Clean Water Act**
 - **Both quantity and quality**
 - **Watershed based**
 - **Water budgets underway in tiers**
 - **New tools to respond to identified threats**
 - **EG risk management plans; official plan response; water conservation by-laws**
 - **Provides for Great Lakes specific drinking water targets**
- **Investment in water infrastructure**

- **Example Com-Rif federal provincial funding**
- **New small systems fund**
- **Rural funds**
- **New financial plans regulations under Safe Drinking Water Act – mandatory; guidelines strongly encourage sewage as well as drinking water; include source protection costs for example as well; identify system costs and revenue sources**
 - **Minimum assessment period 6 years; much longer encouraged – iterative process**
- **Municipal Authorities**
 - **Building Code, (limited application to pre-existing construction)**
 - **Municipal Act and City of Toronto Act revisions (new powers including environmental; continuation of general health and welfare and other specific powers)**
 - **Planning Act, Official Plans, Zoning, Agreements, PPS – set of changes to strengthen municipal authority; stronger requirements to abide by PPS**
 - **New Clean Water Act tools for existing threats ie Risk Management Plans (negotiated or if need be, imposed, and enforceable)**
- **Larger scale plans and provincial interest**
 - **Oak Ridges Moraine**
 - **Niagara Escarpment Plan**

- **Greenbelt**
 - **Places to Grow**
 - **Ministry of Environment reviews under EBR of Waterloo and Paris-Galt Moraines**
- **Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem**
 - **Included climate change adaptation research within Great Lakes**
 - **Included watershed based drinking water (also a quantity issue) in Lakes**
- **Permits to take water under Ontario Water Resources Act – revised regulation and manual re ecosystem based decisions; water stressed areas outlined in regulation and limits on water taking permits in areas of high use or stress**
- **Promised review of integration of Permits To Take Water with Drinking Water Works Permits, Sewage Works Permits, and Class Environmental Assessments in context of Great Lakes Charter Annex and SSOWA, especially re intra-basin transfers in the Great Lakes basin.**