

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Matabitchuan River Water Management Plan is the result of the cooperation and contribution of a large number of individuals. This planning process involved the proponents, the regulator, the public and First Nations working together to identify issues, develop options and select operating regimes that provide the maximum net benefit to all users of the river system.

OPGI is the lead proponent for this plan. OPGI committed resources to co-chair the Steering Committee and Planning Team as well as to provide information to the Public Advisory Committee. These resources included Public Affairs Officer, Water Management Specialists, Biologist, Environmental Advisor, Hydrologist as well as technical and administrative resources. As the lead proponent, these resources co-ordinated the planning process, provided information to the various committees, prepared public information sessions and prepared documents.

MNR participated as both a proponent and as the regulator. MNR committed resources to co-chair the Steering Committee and Planning Team as well as to assist the Public Advisory Committee and First Nations. These resources included Planners, Biologists, Hydrologists as well as technical and administrative resources. These resources assisted in co-ordinating the planning process, provided information to the various committees, provided maps and habitat information, assisted in preparing public information sessions, and ensured regulatory compliance and that the planning process met the intent of the guidelines.

The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans participated on the Steering Committee to provide advice on legislation.

George Lefebvre represented the public as a member of both the Steering Committee and Planning Team.

A large component of this planning process was consultation with the public and First Nations. The Public Advisory Committee (PAC) is composed of the following volunteers or dedicated citizens, as outlined in Appendix G, representing a diversity of interests along the course of the river:

- Robert Godden
- Don Hueston
- Jim O'Brien
- Garfield Pinkerton
- Anthony Story
- Jim Grayston
- Dave Robson
- Fred Paoletti
- Dave McAlaster
- Wally Irvine

Another significant contribution was made by the following volunteers or dedicated representatives of First Nations and aboriginal communities:

- Chief Doug McKenzie – Teme-Augama Anishnabai First Nation
- Chief Lindsay Cote - Teme-Augama Anishnabai First Nation
- Wally Irvine - Teme-Augama Anishnabai First Nation
- Chief Alex Paul Sr. – Temagami First Nation
- Doug Friday – Temagami First Nation
- David Laronde – Temagami First Nation
- Jeanine Batise – Matachewan First Nation
- Bertha Cormier – Matachewan First Nation
- Lorne Flood – Matachewan First Nation
- Sue Prince – Mattagami First Nation
- Jason Batise – Wabun Tribal Council

Over the period of two years, the various committees met numerous times with meetings during the day and PAC meetings in the evening. A significant commitment of personal time was made by members of the PAC and representatives of First Nations to participate in these meetings which contributed to the success of the planning process. Each deserves an enormous amount of credit and gratitude from the power producers, MNR, local residents and First Nations for their effort, commitment and the many hours of their own time spent on this project.

A list of committee members for the Steering Committee, Planning Team and Public Advisory Committee is provided in Appendix G. Thank you to all for the effort and contribution made in the planning process that has resulted in improvements to the operating plans by managing levels and flows in a manner that will contribute to the environmental, social and economic well-being of the people of Ontario.