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ENGLISH AND WABIGOON RIVERS REMEDIATION PANEL

2021-2022 Annual Report

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Message from the Panel Chair

I am pleased to present the 2021-2022 Annual Report of the English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Panel, which documents the Panel's activities from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. The report fulfills the requirements of the *English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Funding Act, 2017* to report annually to the Minister and leadership of each participating Indigenous community.

Each represented government shares a commitment to advance remediation of mercury in the English and Wabigoon Rivers in a timely manner. The Panel is currently making positive strides towards remediation.

During this reporting period, the Panel continued to approve funding focused on filling in data gaps to enhance the current understanding of why mercury remains elevated in the English and Wabigoon Rivers system. This information is required to select appropriate remediation options and develop and implement a remediation plan for the river system.

The Panel also approved funding for Members and Participant First Nations to participate in the Panel, engage communities' members to increase their understanding about remediation, and provide opportunities for community member training and employment. The global pandemic continued to impact communities and highlighted challenges facing them. Members and Participants have adapted and developed new strategies for community engagement and participation in field work.

It is a privilege to work with individuals and communities who are strongly committed to this important project. I look forward to our ongoing collaboration.

Sincerely,



Indra R. Prashad, P.Eng.
Panel Chair

Background

English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Funding Act, 2017

The English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Funding Act, 2017 (“the Act”) came into effect December 14, 2017.

The purpose of the Act is to provide for:

- The funding of the remediation of contaminants in the English and Wabigoon Rivers;
- The co-operative management of that funding by Ontario, and the two First Nations that have been most directly and significantly affected by historic mercury contamination in the English and Wabigoon Rivers; and
- An opportunity for other Indigenous communities that have a historic relationship with the English and Wabigoon Rivers to be involved in discussions in respect of that funding.

The Act established the English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Trust (“Trust”) with \$85 million in dedicated funding to support the purposes of the Act. The Act also established the English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Panel, a decision-making structure that includes Members representing Grassy Narrows First Nation, Wabaseemoong Independent Nations, and Ontario. As Indigenous communities who have a historic relationship with the rivers and who have expressed interest in this project, Eagle Lake First Nation, Wabauskang First Nation and Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation also actively participate in supporting the work of the Panel.

The Panel is responsible for providing advice to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks on a series of items, including: the terms and conditions of the Trust, the Panel’s Practices and Procedures, criteria for making payments from the Trust, and remediation goals and objectives, among others. The Panel is also responsible for directing the expenditure of the Trust funds towards the remediation of mercury in the English and Wabigoon Rivers.

BMO Trust Company was appointed by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks as the Trustee. BMO Global Asset Management was retained by the Trustee to manage the Trust assets.

The Panel Annual Report

Section 11(1) of the Act includes a requirement for the Panel to prepare an annual report by June 1 of each year. This requires the Panel to report in respect of:

- The activities funded by the Trust for the annual period ending on March 31 in the year in which the Report is due;
- The balance of funds remaining in the Trust as of March 31 in the year in which the Report is due;
- A forecast of the expenditures from the Trust for the five-year period beginning April 1 in the year in which the Report is due;

- A recommendation of whether additional funds will be required to fund the Trust and in what amount; and
- A description of how the activities funded by the Trust have contributed to the remediation of the English and Wabigoon Rivers.

The Chair of the Panel is required to submit the Panel's Annual Report to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and to the leadership of the Indigenous communities that participated in the work of the Panel. The Minister is required to table the report in the Legislature.

The Trustee is also required to submit an annual report by June 1 of each year reporting on the financial affairs of the Trust and disbursement of trust assets. The Trustee is to provide this report to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the leadership of each Indigenous community that participated in the work of the Panel, and the Chair of the Panel. The Minister is also required to table this report in the Legislature.

The English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Panel

Panel Members are appointed by their represented governments. The Panel Chair and Vice-Chair are selected by the Members from amongst themselves.

Panel Participants are nominated by the leadership of their Indigenous community and authorized by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

The operation of the Panel is governed by the Act, the Panel's Practices and Procedures, and criteria for making payments from the Trust.

Panel Members

Ontario

- Mark Dunn, Director, Compliance Planning and Spills Action Centre, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (until April 30, 2021)
- Indra Prashad, Director, Indigenous Drinking Water Projects Office, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Panel Chair

Grassy Narrows First Nation

- Chief Randy Fobister
- David Sone

Wabaseemoong Independent Nations

- Chief Waylon Scott
- Councillor Rocky Bunting – Panel Vice-Chair

Panel Participants

Eagle Lake First Nation

- Jordan Gardner, Lands and Resources Manager

Wabauskang First Nation

- Councillor Jo-Anne Petiquan-Moore (until June 22, 2021)
- Councillor Della Van Wynen (from June 22, 2021)

Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation

- Robert Parenteau, Lands and Resources Director

The Technical Subcommittee

The Technical Subcommittee was established in February 2018. It meets on an as needed basis as determined by the Panel. The purpose of the Technical Subcommittee is to:

- support the Panel in making informed decisions about proposals for the funding of remediation activities;
- strive for a common understanding on research, science and data interpretation and provide a venue for information sharing; and
- support the Panel by providing advice on remediation goals and objectives.

The group is comprised of Traditional Knowledge Holders from each First Nation and technical advisors from each represented government.

Technical Subcommittee Representatives

Grassy Narrows First Nation

- William Fobister Sr., Traditional Knowledge Holder
- Nelson Walter, Technical Advisor
- Reed Harris, Technical Advisor

Wabaseemoong Independent Nations

- George Land, Traditional Knowledge Holder (until January 17, 2022)
- Marvin McDonald, Traditional Knowledge Holder
- Ariel Lupu, Technical Advisor
- John Donetz, Technical Advisor

Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

- Margaret Neff, Technical Advisor (until April 30, 2021)
- Michelle Palmer, Technical Advisor (from April 30, 2021)
- Saloni Clerk, Technical Advisor

Eagle Lake First Nation

- Bob Kavanaugh, Traditional Knowledge Holder
- Levi Snook, Technical Advisor
- Alison Fraser, Technical Advisor – Panel Liaison

Wabauskang First Nation

- Betty Riffel, Traditional Knowledge Holder
- Alissa Van Wynen, Youth Advisor (from March 25, 2022)
- Seni Kokolic, Technical Advisor (until March 25, 2022)
- Ryan Haines, Technical Advisor

Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation

- Annie Dietrich, Technical Advisor
- Jason Mann, Technical Advisor
- Dan Leitch, Technical Advisor (from January 1, 2022)

The Panel Secretariat

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks provides Secretariat support to the Panel and the Technical Subcommittee. As directed by the Panel, the Secretariat is responsible for coordinating meetings, preparing Panel documents, drafting operational policy, maintaining records and reviewing funding proposals, among other tasks.

Achievements

Panel Achievements

Building on past years work, the Panel continued to assess and fund projects aimed at characterizing mercury in the English and Wabigoon Rivers. The Panel is prioritizing work that is required to complete the characterization stage and move forward with the selection of remediation options. The information collected as a result of these projects will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the current state of the environment and inform future remediation options. Training in aquatic field work was provided to First Nation community members. The Panel also provided capacity funding to the First Nation Panel Members and Participants to support their involvement in the work of the Panel and Technical Subcommittee and engage their communities and youth.

The Responsible Party Working Group held six teleconference meetings, facilitated by the ministry, during this reporting period. During these meetings, the appointees on the Responsible Party Working Group discussed their communities' perspectives on potential improvements to the Panel's practices and operational policies.

During this reporting period, the Panel held eleven teleconferences. Due to the global pandemic, no in-person meetings were held.

Technical Subcommittee Achievements

The Technical Subcommittee reviewed and discussed funding proposals as directed by the Panel. It interpreted scientific and technical information, worked to develop consistent methodologies for field work and assessed data gaps and priorities for studies to be undertaken in 2021-2022. In undertaking these tasks, the group shared information, and discussed the data and results acquired through data collection activities. After each meeting, the Panel Liaison reported back to the Panel on the group's discussions.

In the 2021-2022 reporting year, highlights of the Technical Subcommittee's accomplishments included:

- Development of an updated data priorities table that provided the following benefits:
 - A list of data types required for analyses to understand the current state of the English and Wabigoon River systems;
 - Re-evaluation of priorities to inform remediation; and
 - Extensive discussion and exchange of ideas regarding future direction for information gathering.
- Peer review of numerous technical reports by Members and Participant First Nations.
- Knowledge sharing through several high-level presentations (e.g., ANA Dated Core Analyses Project) to increase knowledge of system-wide issues related to remediation.

- Collaborative field program adjustments through Technical Subcommittee discussion on validity and/or necessary changes in order to ensure methodologies and associated data were in keeping with future planning of remediation activities (e.g., ANA discussion on porewater, WIN discussion on zooplankton collection methods, and WLON analytical laboratory comparisons).

During this reporting period, the Technical Subcommittee held twenty teleconferences.

Trust Update

Activities funded by the Trust between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022

1. Pre-Remediation Activities

At this stage of the project, funds are being directed to pre-remediation activities, which are intended to characterize mercury contamination in the English and Wabigoon River systems. The data collected and observations made during this work will inform future remediation and monitoring efforts. Where possible, these projects provided opportunities for participation, knowledge transfer, training and employment for First Nation community members. Traditional Knowledge Holders are actively engaged and play a critical role in the Panel process by informing pre-remediation activities and supporting training and community engagement programs.

Many of the activities described below span more than one reporting period and may have disbursements from previous years. Generally, for pre-remediation activities approved by the Panel, funds are disbursed in multiple installments following the approval of required project milestones and documentation. The final disbursement of funds is only released after the project's completion following receipt of any deliverables and approval of a final report and reconciled budget.

Activities included in the following section were either started, completed or ongoing during the 2021-2022 reporting period. For activities that have received funding in prior years, the total amount disbursed to date has also been included.

A summary table of all pre-remediation funds disbursed during the 2021-2022 reporting period is provided on page 17. A summary table of cumulative disbursements for all pre-remediation activities funded to March 31, 2022 is provided on page 20. These financial summaries were developed by the Panel to provide information regarding the activities funded by the Trust for this reporting period. Audited financial statements for the Trust can be found in the Annual Report of the Trustee for the corresponding reporting period.

Panel Members

Grassy Narrows First Nation – 2018 Field Sampling Program

The purpose of this project was to further characterize mercury levels in sediment and fish in under-sampled areas of the Grassy Narrows traditional territory. It also improved current

understanding of mercury transport, storage, bioavailability and remobilization. Samples were taken in the 90-kilometre section of the English and Wabigoon Rivers between the Clay Lake outfall and Lount Lake.

Approved: May 2018

Total approved budget: \$1,811,736.00

Funds returned in 2021/2022: \$(6,575.01)*

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$1,630,397.70

Status: Completed

*Funds were in transit at the end of fiscal and were deposited on April 14, 2022.

Grassy Narrows First Nation – Nearshore Riverbank Sediment and Porewater Sampling Near the Dryden Mill Project

The purpose of this project was to contribute to the evaluation of whether mercury is continuing to be released from the Dryden Mill Site into the Wabigoon River. This was accomplished by sampling riverbank sediment, Wabigoon River water, and porewater adjacent to and downstream from the Dryden Mill Site.

Approved: February 2019

Total approved budget: \$444,545.00

Funds returned in 2021/2022: \$(85,682.17)*

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$400,089.50

Status: Completed

*Funds were in transit at the end of fiscal and were deposited on April 14, 2022.

Grassy Narrows First Nation – Dated Core Analyses Project

The purpose of this project is to contribute to the evaluation as to whether there are ongoing sources of mercury, how much mercury is stored in different parts of the river system, the role of riparian wetlands in mercury storage and recovery, and how long it will take the river to recover naturally after any ongoing mercury sources have been controlled. Funds were provided for completion of analysis (a portion of the core analyses were completed previously using Transfer Payment Agreement funding from the ministry) of sediment cores that were collected in the Wabigoon River between Dryden and Clay Lake in 2018 for this purpose.

Approved: May 2019

Total approved budget: \$1,206,338.83

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$82,300.78

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$1,124,038.16

Status: Ongoing

Grassy Narrows First Nation – 2019-21 Sediment, Water and Biota Sampling Program

The purpose of this project is to contribute to the evaluation of where mercury is located, how it moves through the river system, where it is being deposited and how it gets into fish and edible

plants. The project is focused on areas of known elevated mercury, and areas which are currently under-characterized. This work includes sediment, water and biota sampling.

Approved: August 2019 (Initial Scoped Proposal)/ September 2020 (Revised Proposal)

Total approved budget: \$5,230,237.79

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$2,819,850.02

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$4,358,214.45

Status: Ongoing

Grassy Narrows First Nation – Mercury Modelling Proposal for the English-Wabigoon River System

The purpose of this project is to develop and apply a numerical model framework to better understand mercury in the existing system and help design and predict the response of the English and Wabigoon Rivers to potential remediation actions to reduce mercury contamination in the rivers. The project will provide the Panel with scientifically sound and defensible information to support the identification of data gaps and needs, evaluate proposed remediation options, employ adaptive management in implementation of remediation plans, and design pre and post remediation monitoring programs.

Approved: November 2020

Total approved budget: \$1,321,098.64

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$264,219.73

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$792,659.19

Status: Ongoing

Wabaseemoong Independent Nations – 2020 Field Program

This project is a continuation of previous work undertaken by Wabaseemoong within the Wabaseemoong Independent Nations TLUA. The 2019 program marked the end of work to establish initial baseline conditions and the beginning of monitoring for the Wabaseemoong TLUA. The 2020 project aims to further our understanding of the effects and distribution of mercury in the aquatic environment of that area. It includes water quality, sediment, fish, aquatic vegetation, and benthic invertebrates sampling, as well as completing the final year of the multi-year fish movement study.

Approved: August 2020

Total approved budget: \$916,358.76

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$0.00

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$824,722.88

Status: Ongoing

Wabaseemoong Independent Nations – 2021 Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Study

The purpose of this project is to sample phytoplankton and zooplankton within the English and Wabigoon River system to further understand current and legacy effects and distribution of mercury within the aquatic environment.

Approved: May 2021

Total approved budget: \$1,270,193.33

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$1,076,079.28

Status: Ongoing

Panel Participants

Eagle Lake First Nation – Wetland Mercury Characterization in Eagle Lake First Nation's Traditional Territories

The purpose of this project was to characterize mercury contamination in wetlands along the Wabigoon River from Dryden to Clay Lake. It includes sampling and analysis of sediment, water and biota from wetlands potentially impacted by mercury. The resulting observations helped to better understand the role of wetlands in mercury transport and cycling.

Approved: February 2019

Total approved budget: \$565,111.31

Funds returned in 2021/2022: \$(14,363.23)

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$528,866.24

Status: Completed

Eagle Lake First Nation – 2020 Surface Water Sampling Program

The purpose of this project is to build on the results of previous surface water sampling studies completed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks in 2018, and Grassy Narrows First Nation and Eagle Lake First Nation in 2019. The proposed field program aims to further our understanding of the spatial extent and fate of mercury in surface water along the Wabigoon River.

Approved: May 2020

Total approved budget: \$444,441.03

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$0.00

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$334,011.84

Status: Ongoing

Eagle Lake First Nation – 2021 Water Level Program and Clay Lake Surface Water Sampling

The purpose of this project is to monitor water levels and flows in the Wabigoon River system to support the model being developed by Grassy Narrows First Nation, and sample surface water

in Clay Lake to capture the extent of methylation near the lake bottom and the significance of lake turnover events in the transport of mercury in the system.

Approved: April 2021

Total approved budget: \$349,461.49

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$251,811.57

Status: Ongoing

Wabauskang First Nation – Project Management and Support for Database Development

Following consideration of the Terms of Reference, the Panel requested that Wabauskang First Nation develop a proposal to manage and support the preparation, distribution and review of the Request for Proposals process to develop a database for the Panel.

Approved: August 2020

Total approved budget: \$43,837.50

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$17,535.00

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$39,453.75

Status: Ongoing

Wabauskang First Nation – Scientific Database Development

Following the Request for Proposals process, the Panel requested that Wabauskang First Nation provide the professional and technical support required for the issuance and management of a contract for the development of a database of results of Member and Participant monitoring activities in the English and Wabigoon Rivers system.

Approved: February 2021 (Initial Proposal)/December 2021 (Revised Proposal)

Total approved budget: \$155,332.50

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$62,694.80

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$121,680.05

Status: Ongoing

Wabauskang First Nation – Long-Term Database Management

Following the development of the database, the Panel requested that Wabauskang First Nation provide the professional and technical support required to oversee a contract for management and maintenance of the scientific database between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2024.

Approved: March 2022

Total approved budget: \$215,920.25

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$0.00

Status: Ongoing

Wabauskang First Nation – Wabigoon River and English River Bathymetry and LiDAR Mapping Project

The purpose of this project is to provide detailed mapping of the rivers and surrounding lands to support the development of remedial options.

Approved: April 2020

Total approved budget: \$730,907.73

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$142,577.83

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$654,213.24

Status: Ongoing

Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation – 2020 Field Program

The purpose of this project is to further our understanding of current environmental conditions in Wabigoon Lake and its tributaries located within the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation traditional territory. The project will also assess aquatic biota in the Wabigoon River from Dryden to Clay Lake to fill an identified data gap. The project includes sampling and analysis of sediment and large-bodied (sport) fish to characterize mercury concentrations in the area, and fish diet analysis to further understand study area specific food web dynamics.

Approved: July 2020

Total approved budget: \$528,209.00

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$0.00

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$403,049.09

Status: Ongoing

Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation – Reference Sites Sampling Program

The purpose of this project is to identify suitable reference lakes to provide a better estimate of background mercury levels, not subject to Dryden Mill Site effluent impacts, and set appropriate expectations for future remediation targets of the English-Wabigoon River system.

Approved: December 2021

Total approved budget: \$222,670.67

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$73,189.60

Status: Ongoing

2. Capacity Funding

The Panel provided funds to the Member and Participant First Nations to participate in the work of the Panel in an informed way. These funds were used for purposes including governance, community and youth engagement, advisory and support services, remuneration of Members and Participants who were otherwise not already remunerated for their participation on the Panel, and travel expenses to attend meetings.

Capacity funding is based on a calendar year. Funds are released in three installments following the approval of required documentation: at the beginning of the year following approval of the proposed budget, mid-year following approval of an interim report, and after the year's end following approval of a final report and reconciled budget. Budgets included in the following section span more than one reporting period and were either started, completed or ongoing during the 2021-2022 reporting period. For budgets that have received funding in prior years, the total amount disbursed to date has also been included.

A summary table of all capacity funding disbursed during the 2021-2022 reporting period is provided on page 18. A summary table of cumulative disbursements for all capacity funding disbursed to March 31, 2022 is provided on page 21. These financial summaries were developed by the Panel to provide information regarding the activities funded by the Trust for this reporting period. Audited financial statements for the Trust can be found in the Annual Report of the Trustee for the corresponding reporting period.

Panel Members

Grassy Narrows First Nation – 2019 Capacity Funding

Approved: November 2018

Total approved budget: \$881,993.00

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$249,153.87

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$866,548.87

Status: Completed

Grassy Narrows First Nation – 2020 Capacity Funding

Approved: December 2019

Total approved budget: \$968,642.05

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$71,660.68

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$749,710.12

Status: Completed

Grassy Narrows First Nation – 2021 Capacity Funding

Approved: December 2020

Total approved budget: \$819,147.00

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$0.00

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$573,403.00

Status: Ongoing

Grassy Narrows First Nation – 2022 Capacity Funding

Approved: December 2021

Total approved budget: \$793,863.00

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$555,704.00

Status: Ongoing

Wabaseemoong Independent Nations – 2020 Capacity Funding

Approved: December 2019

Total approved budget: \$976,466.15

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$47,883.44

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$796,102.18

Status: Completed

Wabaseemoong Independent Nations – 2021 Capacity Funding

Approved: December 2020

Total approved budget: \$793,455.85

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$108,112.44*

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$663,531.54

Status: Completed

*Return of unspent funds in the amount of \$18,797.33 is pending.

Wabaseemoong Independent Nations – 2021 Youth Summer Camp

Approved: June 2021

Total approved budget: \$85,660.70

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$84,475.70

Status: Completed

Wabaseemoong Independent Nations – 2022 Capacity Funding

Approved: November 2021

Total approved budget: \$772,047.10

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$540,432.97

Status: Ongoing

Panel Participants

Eagle Lake First Nation – 2020 Capacity Funding

Approved: December 2019

Total approved budget: \$443,966.38

Funds returned in 2021/2022: \$(71,140.88)

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$239,635.58

Status: Completed

Eagle Lake First Nation – 2021 Capacity Funding

Approved: December 2020

Total approved budget: \$297,505.42

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$42,128.62*

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$250,382.41

Status: Completed

*Final disbursement in the amount of \$28,010.12 was deposited on April 4, 2022.

Eagle Lake First Nation – 2022 Capacity Funding

Approved: November 2021

Total approved budget: \$280,742.48

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$196,519.73

Status: Ongoing

Wabauskang First Nation – 2020 Capacity Funding

Approved: December 2019

Total approved budget: \$284,004.44

Funds returned in 2021/2022: \$(74,213.71)

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$124,589.39

Status: Completed

Wabauskang First Nation – 2021 Capacity Funding

Approved: December 2020

Total approved budget: \$181,060.00

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$6,519.70*

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$133,261.70

Status: Completed

*Return of unspent funds in the amount of \$29,692.30 is pending.

Wabauskang First Nation – 2022 Capacity Funding

Approved: November 2021

Total approved budget: \$177,252.06

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$124,076.44

Status: Ongoing

Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation – 2020 Capacity Funding

Approved: December 2019

Total approved budget: \$465,600.30

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$11,886.46

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$337,806.67

Status: Completed

Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation – 2021 Capacity Funding

Approved: December 2020

Total approved budget: \$328,992.40

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$53,317.66*

Total funds disbursed to March 31, 2022: \$283,612.34

Status: Completed

*Return of unspent funds in the amount of \$5,333.02 is pending.

Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation – 2022 Capacity Funding

Approved: November 2021

Total approved budget: \$316,149.76

Funds disbursed in 2021/2022: \$221,304.83

Status: Ongoing

3. Summary of 2021-2022 EWRRP Disbursements - April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022

Pre-remediation Activities - Members

Members	Project Name	Approved Budget	Funds Disbursed	Status
Grassy Narrows First Nation	2018 Field Sampling	\$1,811,736.00	\$0.00	Completed
Grassy Narrows First Nation	2019 Nearshore Riverbank Sediment and Porewater	\$444,545.00	\$0.00	Completed
Grassy Narrows First Nation	2019 Dated Core Analyses	\$1,206,338.83	\$82,300.78	Ongoing
Grassy Narrows First Nation	2019-21 Sediment, Water and Biota Sampling	\$5,230,237.79	\$2,819,850.02	Ongoing
Grassy Narrows First Nation	Mercury Modelling for English-Wabigoon River System	\$1,321,098.64	\$264,219.73	Ongoing
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	2020 Field Program	\$916,358.76	\$0.00	Ongoing
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	2021 Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Study	\$1,270,193.33	\$1,076,079.28	Ongoing
		Members Total Funding	\$4,242,449.81	

Pre-remediation Activities - Participants

Participants	Project Name	Approved Budget	Funds Disbursed	Status
Eagle Lake First Nation	Wetland Mercury Characterization	\$565,111.31	\$(14,363.23)	Completed
Eagle Lake First Nation	2020 Surface Water Sampling Program	\$444,441.03	\$0.00	Ongoing
Eagle Lake First Nation	2021 Water Level Program and Clay Lake Surface Water Sampling	\$349,461.49	\$251,811.57	Ongoing
Wabauskang First Nation	Project Management and Support for Database Development	\$43,837.50	\$17,535.00	Ongoing
Wabauskang First Nation	Scientific Database Development	\$155,332.50	\$62,694.80	Ongoing
Wabauskang First Nation	Long-Term Database Management	\$215,920.25	\$0.00	Ongoing
Wabauskang First Nation	Wabigoon River and English River Bathymetry and LiDAR Mapping	\$730,907.73	\$142,577.83	Ongoing
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation	2020 Field Program	\$528,209.00	\$0.00	Ongoing
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation	Reference Sites Sampling Program	\$222,670.67	\$73,189.60	Ongoing
		Participants Total Funding	\$533,445.57	

Capacity Funding - Members

Members	Project Name	Approved Budget	Funds Disbursed	Status
Grassy Narrows First Nation	2019	\$881,993.00	\$249,153.87	Completed
Grassy Narrows First Nation	2020	\$968,642.05	\$71,660.68	Completed
Grassy Narrows First Nation	2021	\$819,147.00	\$0.00	Ongoing
Grassy Narrows First Nation	2022	\$793,863.00	\$555,704.00	Ongoing
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	2020	\$976,466.15	\$47,883.44	Completed
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	2021	\$793,455.85	\$126,909.77	Completed
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	2021 Youth Summer Camp	\$85,660.70	\$84,475.70	Completed
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	2022	\$772,047.10	\$540,432.97	Ongoing
Members Total Funding			\$1,676,220.43	

Capacity Funding - Participants

Participants	Project Name	Approved Budget	Funds Disbursed	Status
Eagle Lake First Nation	2020	\$443,966.38	\$(71,140.88)	Completed
Eagle Lake First Nation	2021	\$297,505.42	\$14,118.50	Completed
Eagle Lake First Nation	2022	\$280,742.48	\$196,519.73	Ongoing
Wabauskang First Nation	2020	\$284,004.44	\$(74,213.71)	Completed
Wabauskang First Nation	2021	\$181,060.00	\$36,212.00	Completed
Wabauskang First Nation	2022	\$177,252.06	\$124,076.44	Ongoing
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation	2020	\$465,600.30	\$11,886.46	Completed
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation	2021	\$328,992.40	\$58,650.68	Completed
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation	2022	\$316,149.76	\$221,304.83	Ongoing
Participants Total Funding			\$517,414.05	

Other Administrative Fees

Category	Funds Disbursed
Audit/Consulting Fees	\$19,884.64
Asset Management Fees	\$135,682.41
Total Other Administrative Fees	\$155,567.05

Administrative Expenses

Category	Funds Disbursed
Trustee Fees	\$45,909.58
HST	\$5,968.25
Total Administrative Expenses	\$51,877.83

Total Funding

Category	Funds Disbursed
Total Pre-remediation Funding	\$4,775,895.38
Total Capacity Funding	\$2,193,634.48
Total Other Administrative Fees	\$155,567.05
Total Administrative Expenses	\$51,877.83
Total Funding	\$7,176,974.74

4. Summary of EWRRP Cumulative Disbursements to March 31, 2022

Pre-remediation Activities - Members

Members	Project Name	Funds Disbursed 2018-2019	Funds Disbursed 2019-2020	Funds Disbursed 2020-2021	Funds Disbursed 2021-2022	Funds Disbursed to March 31, 2022
Grassy Narrows First Nation	2018 Field Sampling	\$1,630,397.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$-	\$1,630,397.70
Grassy Narrows First Nation	2019 Nearshore Riverbank Sediment and Porewater	\$311,181.50	\$44,454.00	\$44,454.00	\$-	\$400,089.50
Grassy Narrows First Nation	2019 Dated Core Analyses	\$ -	\$877,135.82	\$164,601.56	\$82,300.78	\$1,124,038.16
Grassy Narrows First Nation	2019-21 Sediment, Water and Biota Sampling	\$ -	\$850,000.00	\$688,364.43	\$2,819,850.02	\$4,358,214.45
Grassy Narrows First Nation	Mercury Modelling for English-Wabigoon River System	\$ -	\$ -	\$528,439.46	\$264,219.73	\$792,659.19
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	2019 Field Program	\$ -	\$1,109,861.86	\$435,707.14	\$ -	\$1,545,569.00
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	2020 Field Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$824,722.88	\$ -	\$824,722.88
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	2021 Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Study	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,076,079.28	\$1,076,079.28
Members Total Funding		\$1,941,579.20	\$2,881,451.68	\$2,686,289.47	\$4,242,449.81	\$11,751,770.16

Pre-remediation Activities - Participants

Participants	Project Name	Funds Disbursed 2018-2019	Funds Disbursed 2019-2020	Funds Disbursed 2020-2021	Funds Disbursed 2021-2022	Funds Disbursed to March 31, 2022
Eagle Lake First Nation	Wetland Mercury Characterization	\$243,186.83	\$230,890.84	\$69,151.80	\$(14,363.23)	\$528,866.24
Eagle Lake First Nation	2020 Surface Water Sampling Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$334,011.84	\$ -	\$334,011.84
Eagle Lake First Nation	2021 Water Level Program and Clay Lake Surface Water Sampling	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$251,811.57	\$251,811.57
Wabauskang First Nation	2018 GIS, Database Management and Research Capacity Building	\$371,983.55	\$(84,499.39)	\$ -	\$ -	\$287,484.16
Wabauskang First Nation	2019 GIS, Database Management and Research Capacity Building	\$274,774.63	\$219,819.72	\$(121,593.32)	\$ -	\$373,001.03
Wabauskang First Nation	2019 Data Management Strategy Assessment	\$ -	\$18,077.09	\$ -	\$ -	\$18,077.09
Wabauskang First Nation	2019 Data Management Strategy Assessment – Addendum	\$ -	\$6,750.00	\$6,750.00	\$ -	\$13,500
Wabauskang First Nation	Project Management and Support for Database Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$21,918.75	\$17,535.00	\$39,453.75
Wabauskang First Nation	Scientific Database Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$58,985.25	\$62,694.80	\$121,680.05
Wabauskang First Nation	Long-Term Database Management	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Wabauskang First Nation	Wabigoon River and English River Bathymetry and LiDAR Mapping	\$ -	\$ -	\$511,635.41	\$142,577.83	\$654,213.24
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation	2019 Wabigoon Lake Background Environmental and Water Regime Study	\$ -	\$163,688.92	\$18,183.68	\$ -	\$181,872.60
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation	2020 Field Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$403,049.09	\$ -	\$403,049.09
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation	Reference Sites Sampling Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$73,189.60	\$73,189.60
Participants Total Funding		\$889,945.01	\$554,727.18	\$1,302,092.50	\$533,445.57	\$3,280,210.26

Capacity Funding - Members

Members	Project Name	Funds Disbursed 2018-2019	Funds Disbursed 2019-2020	Funds Disbursed 2020-2021	Funds Disbursed 2021-2022	Funds Disbursed to March 31, 2022
Grassy Narrows First Nation	2018	\$612,040.37	\$38,924.40	\$ -	\$ -	\$650,964.77
Grassy Narrows First Nation	2019	\$617,395.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$249,153.87	\$866,548.87
Grassy Narrows First Nation	2020	\$ -	\$678,049.44	\$ -	\$71,660.68	\$749,710.12
Grassy Narrows First Nation	2021	\$ -	\$ -	\$573,403.00	\$ -	\$573,403.00
Grassy Narrows First Nation	2022	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$555,704.00	\$555,704.00
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	2018	\$504,185.90	\$53,764.86	\$ -	\$ -	\$557,950.76
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	2018 Youth Summer Camp	\$107,322.75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$107,322.75
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	2019	\$659,999.00	\$188,586.00	\$93,008.53	\$ -	\$941,593.53
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	2019 Youth Summer Camp	\$ -	\$116,011.98	\$ -	\$ -	\$116,011.98
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	2020	\$ -	\$683,526.30	\$64,692.44	\$47,883.44	\$796,102.18
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	2020 Youth Summer Camp	\$ -	\$ -	\$88,506.45	\$ -	\$88,506.45
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	2021	\$ -	\$ -	\$555,419.10	\$126,909.77	\$682,328.87
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	2021 Youth Summer Camp	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$84,475.70	\$84,475.70
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	2022	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$540,432.97	\$540,432.97
Members Total Funding		\$2,500,943.02	\$1,758,862.98	\$1,375,029.52	\$1,676,220.43	\$7,311,055.95

Capacity Funding - Participants

Participants	Project Name	Funds Disbursed 2018-2019	Funds Disbursed 2019-2020	Funds Disbursed 2020-2021	Funds Disbursed 2021-2022	Funds Disbursed to March 31, 2022
Eagle Lake First Nation	2018	\$265,835.17	\$20,766.77	\$ -	\$ -	\$286,601.94
Eagle Lake First Nation	2019	\$417,962.28	\$119,417.79	\$(58,999.19)	\$ -	\$478,380.88
Eagle Lake First Nation	2020	\$ -	\$310,776.46	\$ -	\$(71,140.88)	\$239,635.58
Eagle Lake First Nation	2021	\$ -	\$ -	\$208,253.79	\$14,118.50	\$222,372.29
Eagle Lake First Nation	2022	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$196,519.73	\$196,519.73
Wabauskang First Nation	2018	\$223,939.95	\$18,633.58	\$ -	\$ -	\$242,573.53
Wabauskang First Nation	2018 Addendum	\$13,800.00	\$3,450.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$17,250.00
Wabauskang First Nation	2019	\$266,888.30	\$76,253.80	\$24,307.80	\$ -	\$367,449.90
Wabauskang First Nation	2020	\$ -	\$198,803.10	\$ -	\$(74,213.71)	\$124,589.39
Wabauskang First Nation	2021	\$ -	\$ -	\$126,742.00	\$36,212.00	\$162,954.00
Wabauskang First Nation	2022	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$124,076.44	\$124,076.44
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation	2019	\$ -	\$338,307.51	\$(63,156.09)	\$ -	\$275,151.42
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation	2020	\$ -	\$325,920.21	\$ -	\$11,886.46	\$337,806.67
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation	2021	\$ -	\$ -	\$230,294.68	\$58,650.68	\$288,945.36
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation	2022	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$221,304.83	\$221,304.83
Participants Total Funding		\$1,188,425.70	\$1,412,329.22	\$467,442.99	\$517,414.05	\$3,585,611.96

Other Administrative Fees

Category	Funds Disbursed 2018-2019	Funds Disbursed 2019-2020	Funds Disbursed 2020-2021	Funds Disbursed 2021-2022	Funds Disbursed to March 31, 2022
Audit/Consulting Fees	\$6,299.75	\$21,334.13	\$12,562.50	\$19,884.64	\$60,081.02
Asset Management Fees	\$96,162.29	\$137,996.65	\$144,712.12	\$135,682.41	\$514,553.47
Total Other Administrative Fees	\$102,462.04	\$159,330.78	\$157,274.62	\$155,567.05	\$574,634.49

Administrative Expenses

Category	Funds Disbursed 2018-2019	Funds Disbursed 2019-2020	Funds Disbursed 2020-2021	Funds Disbursed 2021-2022	Funds Disbursed to March 31, 2022
Audit/Consulting Fees	\$6,299.75	\$21,334.13	\$12,562.50	\$19,884.64	\$60,081.02
HST	\$5,302.65	\$6,689.20	\$6,409.84	\$5,968.25	\$24,369.94
Total Administrative Expenses	\$46,845.66	\$58,144.53	\$55,716.35	\$51,877.83	\$212,584.37

Total Funding

Category	Funds Disbursed 2018-2019	Funds Disbursed 2019-2020	Funds Disbursed 2020-2021	Funds Disbursed 2021-2022	Funds Disbursed to March 31, 2022
Total Pre-remediation Funding	\$2,831,524.21	\$3,436,178.86	\$3,988,381.97	\$4,775,895.38	\$15,031,980.42
Total Capacity Funding	\$3,689,368.72	\$3,171,192.20	\$1,842,472.51	\$2,193,634.48	\$10,896,667.91
Total Other Administrative Fees	\$102,462.04	\$159,330.78	\$157,274.62	\$155,567.05	\$574,634.49
Total Administrative Expenses	\$46,845.66	\$58,144.53	\$55,716.35	\$51,877.83	\$212,584.37
Total Funding	\$6,670,200.63	\$6,824,846.37	\$6,043,845.45	\$7,176,974.74	\$26,715,867.19

Balance of funds remaining in the Trust as of March 31, 2022

The balance of funds in the Trust as of March 31, 2022 was \$62,055,769.65 (compared to \$69,279,932.88 on March 31, 2021). As of March 31, 2022, the Panel approved, but has not yet disbursed, funding for ongoing pre-remediation activities totalling \$2,581,884.42 and for capacity funding totalling \$975,770.55.

Forecast of the expenditures from the Trust for the five-year period beginning April 1, 2022

During this reporting period, the Panel continued funding pre-remediation projects aimed at characterizing mercury contamination in the English and Wabigoon Rivers system. Given that remediation options have not been selected, it is not possible to provide an accurate forecast of expenditures from the Trust for the following five-year period at this time.

The Panel does, however, forecast that a range of \$25-\$40 million will be required in the next three years to continue the characterization of mercury in the river system and to assess options. This forecast also reflects the funds required for Panel operations. It is anticipated that significant additional funds will be required if remediation activities are commenced in the next five years. The Panel expects that it will be better able to forecast future expenditures once characterization efforts are complete and remediation planning is underway.

Recommendation of whether additional funds will be required to fund the Trust and in what amount

Based on the advice of remediation professionals and others, the Panel recommends that significant additional funds beyond the current Trust balance will be required to complete the remediation of the English and Wabigoon Rivers including long term monitoring. Given the remediation options have not been selected, the Panel does not have a recommendation on the specific amount of additional funds that will be required at this time.

Description of how the activities funded by the Trust have contributed to the remediation of the English and Wabigoon Rivers

The activities funded by the Panel during this reporting period focused largely on continued assessment and characterization of mercury levels in water, sediment, fish and other biota, wetlands and plants in the river system. There are over 200 km of the river system that are impacted by mercury contamination and a large amount of sampling is required to locate mercury deposits, identify how mercury is moving in the system, understand how and where mercury is being changed to the more toxic methyl mercury form, and understand how the mercury is getting into fish and plants. These efforts are filling in data gaps and enhancing the current understanding of why mercury remains elevated in the English and Wabigoon Rivers system. The resulting information will be required to develop remediation goals and objectives, select appropriate remediation options, and in the development and implementation of a remediation plan.

Each of the First Nation communities performed sampling/assessment work in 2021 and reported on their work completed in 2020. In addition to sampling and assessment of sediment, water and biota, other work was undertaken including land topographic and bathymetric surveys; hydrodynamic and mercury transport modelling; evaluation of mercury depositional history and river recovery projections; and creation of a consolidated database. A shoreline seep evaluation near the Dryden Mill was also completed.

Considerable progress has been made in identifying concentrations of mercury in sediment, water and fish, but more work will be needed to fill in data gaps. Additional work is also needed to understand mercury transport, mercury methylation dynamics and whether other contaminants should be considered for remediation.

Funding was also provided to each Member and Participant First Nation to meaningfully participate in the work of the Panel, as well as for their governance and for the engagement of their communities and youth.

Vetting proposals, prioritizing funds and involving the participating First Nation communities are key components of the Panel's work and of remediating the river system. Thanks to the important contributions of each represented government, the Panel is currently making progress towards remediation of the English and Wabigoon Rivers.

English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Panel
2021-2022 Annual Report
Email: Panel.Secretariat@ontario.ca