

CONSTITUTION
ST. LAWRENCE RIVER RESTORATION COUNCIL
June 2023

Preamble

The St. Lawrence River at Cornwall/Akwesasne was designated an Area of Concern (AOC) in the late 1980s under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Two remedial action plans (RAPs) were developed to restore the AOC, one on the southern side and one on the northern side. The St. Lawrence River Restoration Council (SLRRC) is a local council that oversees progress on the northern RAP, otherwise known as the St. Lawrence River (Cornwall/Akwesasne) RAP.

There are three historic reports that the SLRRC references for the St. Lawrence River (Cornwall/Akwesasne) RAP, known as the [Stage 1](#), [Stage 2](#) and [Stage 2 Update](#) reports.

Article 1 Definitions

- 1.1 In this Constitution:
 “Council” shall mean the St. Lawrence River Restoration Council;
 “SLRRC” shall mean the St. Lawrence River Restoration Council;
 “RAP” shall mean the Remedial Action Plan for the St. Lawrence River (Cornwall) Stage 2 Report;
 “BUIs” shall mean the Beneficial Use Impairments which are defined by the International Joint Commission;
 “TWG” shall mean Technical Working Group; and
 “AOC” shall mean the Area of Concern called the St. Lawrence River at Cornwall/Akwesasne.

Article 2 Name

- 2.1 This organization shall be known as the St. Lawrence River Restoration Council.

Article 3 Goals and Objectives

- 3.1 The goals of the SLRRC shall be to:
 3.1.1 Encourage the protection, restoration and the sustainability of the environmental quality of the Upper St. Lawrence River ecosystem;
 and
 3.1.2 Work towards delisting the AOC.
3.2 The objectives of the SLRRC shall be to:
 3.2.1 Provide local oversight for RAP restoration and monitoring activities by:
 3.2.1.1 Reviewing integrated work plans, budgets and BUI progress; and linking and encouraging the implementation of environmental projects to achieve the goals, as described in Article 3.1.1;

- 3.2.1.2 Supporting the continuing implementation of the RAP by promoting and establishing partnerships, and combining skills, expertise and resources of the local community;
- 3.2.1.3 Sustaining RAP implementation by ensuring that the RAP remains a priority on the public and community agenda; and
- 3.2.1.4 Encouraging and supporting any environmental initiative that helps achieve the goals.

Article 4 Responsibilities

- 4.1 The responsibilities of the SLRRC shall be to:
 - 4.1.1 Implement the goals of the Council; and
 - 4.1.2 Implement the objectives of the Council.

Article 5 Ethics

- 5.1 The SLRRC shall maintain a:
 - 5.1.1 Mission statement and a statement of the principles under Bylaw 3;
 - 5.1.2 Set of goals under Article 3; and
 - 5.1.3 Bill of rights, privileges and duties for members under Bylaw 4.

Article 6 Membership

- 6.1 Members shall be designated in accordance with the Bylaws.

Article 7 Fees

- 7.1 The fee for members shall be as prescribed in the Bylaws.

Article 8 Organization

- 8.1 Council
 - 8.1.1 There shall be a Council consisting of voting and non-voting members.
 - 8.1.2 The non-voting members will be representative(s) appointed by:
 - 8.1.2.1 Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC);
 - 8.1.2.2 Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP);
 - 8.1.2.3 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF); and
 - 8.1.2.4 Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).
 - 8.1.3 The voting members will be one representative appointed by:
 - 8.1.2.5 Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) Environment Program;
 - 8.1.2.6 Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) Health Department;
 - 8.1.2.7 City of Cornwall;
 - 8.1.2.8 Township of South Glengarry;
 - 8.1.2.9 Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA);
 - 8.1.2.10 Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU);
 - 8.1.2.11 St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences (RI);

- 8.1.2.12 Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association (SD&G OWA);
- 8.1.2.13 Glengarry Federation of Agriculture;
- 8.1.2.14 Ontario Power Generation (OPG);
- 8.1.2.15 Cornwall Lunker Club;
- 8.1.2.16 Great River Network (GRN);
- 8.1.2.17 ALUS Ontario East;
- 8.1.2.18 Transition Cornwall +;
- 8.1.2.19 Seaway Valley Divers;
- 8.1.2.20 Citizens for Marshland Conservation; and
- 8.1.2.21 Glengarry Fish & Game Club.
- 8.1.3 There will be a maximum of 7 citizens who do not represent any agency or organization, that are voting members elected to Council.
- 8.2 Coordinating Committee
 - 8.2.1 Representatives from ECCC, MECP, MNRF, RRCA, MCA, RI, as well as the SLRRC Chair and RAP Coordinator will meet monthly to:
 - 8.2.1.1 Provide oversight for RAP Coordination and reporting on the status of BUIs in the AOC;
 - 8.2.1.2 Ensure linkage between the RAP's goals and to the commitments under the Guiding Agreements (i.e., GLWQA and COA);
 - 8.2.1.3 Lead the development and implementation of the annual work plan and an overarching plan towards delisting the AOC; and
 - 8.2.1.4 Coordinate the implementation of the Remedial Action Plan.
- 8.3 Technical Working Groups
 - 8.3.1 The Council may set up Technical Working Groups as needed.
 - 8.3.1.1 These groups shall work to combine skills, expertise and resources of the community;
 - 8.3.1.2 Each group will have a Terms of Reference; and
 - 8.3.1.3 The formation or dissolution of groups may be made at Council meetings.

Article 9 Bylaws

- 9.1 The SLRRC may pass Bylaws not inconsistent with the Constitution or existing Bylaws concerning:
 - 9.1.1 The procedure for the election of its various office holders;
 - 9.1.2 Its internal organization and administration;
 - 9.1.3 The time, place and conduct of the Annual General and other meetings;
 - 9.1.4 The establishment, amendment or rescission of SLRRC Policy; and
 - 9.1.5 All other matters as are deemed necessary or convenient for the conduct of the business of the SLRRC.

9.2 All new or amended Bylaws will be ratified or nullified at the Annual General Meeting.

Article 10 Amendments

10.1 Amendments to this Constitution may be made;

10.1.1 At the Annual General Meeting:

10.1.1.1 By a two-thirds vote of the members qualified to vote, provided that notice of the proposed amendment was given in writing to each member on or before two weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting; or

10.1.1.2 By a nine-tenths vote of the members qualified to vote, if previous notice as in Article 10.1.1.1 has not been given.

BYLAWS
ST. LAWRENCE RIVER RESTORATION COUNCIL

Bylaw 1 Fiscal Year

1.1 The fiscal year shall be from April 1 to the following March 31.

Bylaw 2 Membership

2.1 There are two types of members:

2.1.1 Citizens who do not represent any group or agency, and

2.1.2 Representatives of groups or agencies that are listed in Article 8.

2.2 Agencies can withhold from voting as needed.

Bylaw 3 Ethics

3.1 The SLRRC shall maintain a mission statement, a statement of principles, a statement of goals, and a bill of rights for members.

3.1.1 The Mission Statement

The Council believes that we are responsible to our Earth, not only for ourselves and not only for today, but for our children, and for our children's children, hence seven generations.

3.1.2 The Statement of Principles

The Council will conduct its business in accordance with the following principles:

3.1.2.1.1 Consensus building processes. Since the Council is a large and diverse organization with different points of view, using consensus to come to decisions results in the greatest amount of agreement;

3.1.2.1.2 Organizational respect. Everybody has a responsibility to learn about the others on the Council using the tools of communication, knowledge and understanding of each other. We must also build respect in the community for the Council;

3.1.2.1.3 Transparent equity. Each person, as the representative of their organization, brings financial resources, social, intellectual or political power to the table. This representative must state his/her equity so that all others can see what it is worth;

3.1.2.1.4 Community empowerment. Whatever we do must help our community first. If we bring technology or knowledge in from outside, we must learn from that and thus incorporate new knowledge into our community; and

3.1.2.1.5 Organizational responsibility. The Council is committed to the goals and objectives within the RAP. As the RAP is implemented, the Council will increase in knowledge and improve its decision-making skills.

- 3.1.3 A Statement of the Goals
 - 3.1.3.1 The Council will encourage implementation of the St. Lawrence River (Cornwall) RAP by:
 - 3.1.3.1.1 Coordinating;
 - 3.1.3.1.2 Supporting;
 - 3.1.3.1.3 Sustaining; and
 - 3.1.3.1.4 Acting.

Bylaw 4 Rights

- 4.1 Members have the right to receive information regularly as to the business of the SLRRC.
- 4.2 Members have the right to attend Council Meetings.
- 4.3 Meetings of the Council will be chaired by the Chair, or in their absence, the Vice-Chair. In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, the Council will choose a member to chair the meeting.

Bylaw 5 Fees

- 5.1 The fee for the members shall be the time and energy donated by the volunteers as recognized by the Council at the Annual General Meeting.

Bylaw 6 Meetings

- 6.1 The Annual General Meeting of the SLRRC shall take place no later than June 30 of each year.
 - 6.1.1 At least 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting, notice of the meeting, agenda, minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, and a copy of all proposed amendments to the Constitution and/or Bylaws must be sent to all members.
 - 6.1.2 The agenda will include:
 - 6.1.2.1 Review of the minutes of previous Annual General Meeting;
 - 6.1.2.2 Election/appointment of members of the Council;
 - 6.1.2.3 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair;
 - 6.1.2.4 Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws;
 - 6.1.2.5 Report on actions undertaken by the Council in previous years;
 - 6.1.2.6 Determination of fees; and
 - 6.1.2.7 Other Business as determined by the Council.
- 6.2 Regular meetings of the Council
 - 6.2.1 There will be at least 3 meetings annually to run the business of the Council.
 - 6.2.1.1 Unless otherwise determined by the Council the meetings may take place in person, with opportunities for virtual participation.
 - 6.2.1.2 Besides the agenda items of a meeting, the meetings will include:

- 6.2.1.2.1 Reporting on the current status of each Beneficial Use Impairment, including monitoring results (when applicable); and
- 6.2.1.2.2 Outlining next steps towards redesignation for each BUI.
- 6.3 Other meetings may be called by the Chair or upon request by five or more members of the Council.
 - 6.3.1 All members must receive notification of such meetings at least forty-eight hours in advance.
- 6.4 Observer(s) may attend meetings.
 - 6.4.1 Any observer who wishes to speak on a matter to be considered by the Council must request permission to do so from the Chair in advance of the meeting.
 - 6.4.1.1 The Chair will seek approval of the participation of such observer(s) from the Council by consensus.
- 6.5 Decision Making
 - 6.5.1 Most decisions will be by consensus.
 - 6.5.2 A majority vote may be held if consensus cannot be reached.

Bylaw 7 Elections

- 7.1 Members of the Council are either appointed by the agencies and organizations as specified in the Constitution and Bylaws or elected from the community.
- 7.2 Voting may be by secret ballot.

Bylaw 8 Quorum

- 8.1 Providing that due notice has been given to all meetings, the quorum shall be those present and voting.
- 8.2 If due notice has not been given, the quorum shall be at least 50% of the members of the Council.

Bylaw 9 Rules of Order and Procedures

- 9.1 Meetings of the SLRRC shall be conducted using the Scott Foresman Roberts Rules of Order – Newly Revised, copyright 1981.

Bylaw 10 Conflict of Interest

- 10.1 Council members shall avoid involvement in situations of conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest.

Bylaw 11 Amendments

- 11.1 Interim amendments to these Bylaws may be made at any meeting of the Council.
 - 11.1.1 A notice of the proposed amendment to the bylaw must be given in writing to each member on or before two weeks prior to the meeting.

- 11.1.2 The amendment can be made with the support of a two-thirds vote of the members qualified to vote.
- 11.3 Interim amendments must be ratified or nullified at the following Annual Meeting