

## **UPDATE REPORT FOR THE OTC GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

### **RE: OTC Trails Strategy Implementation Plan**

Arising from committee discussion, and then the recent input at the OTC Board meeting of January 21, 2006 I have modified the Board input to the OTS from the October 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

I have re-positioned the Goals of the OTS relative to how I think the members of the OTC would have like to have seen them prioritized.

I have also reflected on the Co-ordinating Committee and Working Group processes. To this end, while there is declaration of the Coordinating Committee I see that as a stand alone Committee. For this I have crafted a Terms of Reference. Overall the only strategy should be the completion of all the goals.

There is, in my opinion no need for a working group per goal for the rest of the strategy. So I have lumped like goals with like goals, this lessens the need for many committees and rationalizes the work of each Working Group, such that many goals can be processed through the work of one group as opposed to trying to coordinate many different groups on many different goals.

In addition rather than write a 'terms of reference' for each working group, I think the outcomes for these are best arranged through the representation to the working group. Much of what is called a strategy, per goal, is actually a scope of work in relation to accomplishing the goal, each of these strategy sections is in fact a solid terms of reference for each working group. I used this information in coming up with the terms.

This results in one Coordinating Committee and 3 Working Groups looking at a selection of goals per group. I have also put in a section for Resourcing in the end it makes more sense to resource the TTN.

There are then:

- 1) A Coordinating Committee
- 2) A Trails Sustainability Working Group (TSWG)
- 3) A Trails Rationalization Working Group (TRWG)
- 4) A Multi-Use and Access Working Group (MUAWG)

I would like to know what time slots folks have tomorrow and Wednesday to discuss this, and then how we anticipate presenting it to MHP.

Regards,

Patrick

**OTC GOAL 1) Improving collaboration among stakeholders – MHP GOAL 1): New coordinating mechanisms to improve trail stakeholders' ability to work together.**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Whereas the OTS declares a Coordinating Committee to aid in the functioning and monitoring of the OTS, the Coordinating Committee shall be made up of representatives from the Ontario Trails Community, with a declared understanding and capability in assessing and representing trail issues in relation to ***all*** the sections of the OTS.

Also responsible for the specific monitoring and completion of related Goal 1A below.

**SCOPE OF WORK**

Review the impact of new provincial policies and programs on trails.

**RESOURCING**

\$60,000 a year for Coordinating committee meetings, travel and ODOE

**OTC EXPECTATION OF OUTCOME**

The Coordinating Committee should focus on the areas where it can monitor change and develop plans and actions around the \$770,000 for projects each year.

**OTC GOAL 1a) MHP 3) GOAL: Support for the development of an environment that is conducive to the development and operation of trails.**

**SCOPE OF WORK**

Nurture the development of standards to guide trail development and management, giving Ontarians access to high quality, diversified trail experiences.

**RESOURCING**

\$60,000 in year one (from diverse sources) for completion of the TTN Business Plan, and The TTN Business Plan will determine future year requirements.

**OTC EXPECTATION OF OUTCOME**

The OTC Board views that OTC as the collaborative framework providing the environment conducive to the development and operation of trails- especially the TTN.

**OTC GOAL 2) - Stabilizing resources for trail organizations, MHP 5) GOAL: A diversified, enlarged and stable financial and volunteer base for trails.**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Whereas the Coordinating Committee shall have regard for the Ontario Trails Strategy in all government funding decisions on trails, The Trails Sustainability Working Group shall form a working group representing public, not-for-profit, Aboriginal and private-sector trail stakeholders to increase collaboration and encourage the development of a framework for collaboration among trail coordinating bodies at the regional and local levels.

This working group also has specific responsibilities to Nurture the development of trails promotion and marketing plans to expand branding of trails and identify consistent messaging and signage, and the completion of goals 2a and 2B below.

**SCOPE OF WORK – The Trails Sustainability Working Group shall**

- Ø Explore innovative funding and investment models for the support of trails and trail related organizations
- Ø Explore opportunities to increase private support of trails, working with the manufacturing and tourism industries
- Ø Plan innovative volunteer programs and develop new strategies for recruiting, training, supervising, motivating and recognizing volunteers
- Ø Develop volunteer opportunities for women, new Canadians, youth and people with disabilities.
- Ø Stabilizing trail routes

**OTC EXPECTATION OF OUTCOME**

The OTC Board recommended the continued support of the Protect our Volunteers Program. Ask for core dollar support for OTC and will continue to pursue Board development and the OTC should develop a Board support Program for community based volunteers. Joint grant writing or application of dollars to spread the messages of the OFSC Volunteer program deemed a worthwhile project to undertake.

**OTC GOAL 2a) Removing roadblocks to sustainability MHP 4) GOAL: Support for the development of an environment that is conducive to the development and operation of trails.**

**SCOPE OF WORK**

The Trail Sustainability Working Group will review legislation to determine whether opportunities exist to better support the trail environment. The Working Group will also review best practices and risk management tools related to liability issues, such that they can make put forward education and awareness opportunities that address liability and insurance.

**OTC EXPECTATION OF OUTCOME**

The OTC Board encourages the continued push for adoption of the OTC legislative change for trails platform. The OTC is firm that the TTN offers an opportunity to review and co-ordinate with provincial employees who affect trail management – i.e. Ontario Parks, MNR, to make joint statements for change. The OTC also has the representative function to other Insurance/Other management processes i.e. OTC – OFSC-IBC-NS- Provincial Risk Managers etc. providing a broader range of impact.

**OTC GOAL 2b) MHP 6) GOAL: Trails are recognized as key economic and tourism assets for Ontario communities.**

**SCOPE OF WORK**

The Trails Sustainability Working Group will identify and assess market specific, high-quality, day tip and overnight trails tourism opportunities. The TTN Working Group will greatly assist in the building of partnerships with local and regional tourism industries and identify hospitality and service providers in trail literature.

**OTC EXPECTATION OF OUTCOME**

That the TTN is the Trails Tourism Branding for trails in Ontario and that its existing linkages to the OTMPC, TIAC, TIAO and the Ministry of Tourism ensures existing promotional materials, as well as a developmental pathway using both provincial or regional level information can be functioning for individual users, local area offices and kiosks through the promotion of the OTC map, digital maps and the Advermap series.

**OTC GOAL 3) Rationalizing trails MHP 2) GOAL: Toward a coherent, rational trail system for Ontario.**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE -**

The Trails Rationalization Working Group will develop an Ontario Trails System framework (TTN) to guide the development of new trails and management of existing trails to meet the diverse needs of Ontarians. Further the TRWG (TTN) will develop standards to guide trail development and management, giving Ontarians access to high quality, diversified trail experiences.

**SCOPE OF WORK**

The Trails Rationalization Working Group will seek opportunities to develop the TTN, the framework for trail categories, a trails rating system, allowed uses, amenities, and access in Ontario.

Importantly this group has responsibility for the implementation of other significant goals:

**OTC GOAL 3a) MHP 13) GOAL: ensure ready access to information on trail management.**

**OTC GOAL 3b) MHP 5) GOAL: ensure ready access to trails near Ontarians' homes, schools and places of work.**

**OTC GOAL 3c) MHP 6) GOAL: provide a toolkit of reliable methods for stabilizing trail rights-of-way.**

The Trails Rationalization Working Group (TTN) will encourage a series of linkages:

- Ø Stronger linkages between college and university research on trails to the trails community
- Ø Enhanced relations with municipalities to provide an adequate supply of trails for current and future populations
- Ø Enhanced relations with Landowners ensuring long term use arrangements can be secured through all landowners and management bodies.
- Ø Improve access and use of municipalities and conservation authorities to engage trail organizations in their planning processes.
- Ø Support long-term planning to identify properties needed for future trails
- Ø Encourage the long-term retention of utility and transportation corridors on public lands, in public jurisdiction.
- Ø Focus trails education on infrequent users including women, youth, new Canadians and people with disabilities
- Ø Providing easy access to information about trails

Include trails in the Land Information Ontario electronic database and mapping system  
Give potential trail users web-based access to information about, and maps of, all rated trails in Ontario.

In order to enable the distribution and use of the work of this group the Trails Rationalization Working Group implements two additional Goals of the MHP Strategy

**OTC GOAL 3d) Developing a Trails Education Plan –MHP 11) GOAL: Ontarians understand the benefits of trails and know how to use them properly and safely.**

**SCOPE OF WORK**

The TRWG will develop a Trails Education Plan incorporating the health and economic benefits of trails, the diversity of trail types, landowners' rights and the proper use of trails. In addition they will widely promote an Ontario code for the responsible use of trails and develop a framework for advancing environmental education and interpreting natural and cultural heritage features along trails.

**OTC GOAL 3e) MHP 2) GOAL: Internet-based, one-window trail user access to maps and information about trails in Ontario.**

**SCOPE OF WORK**

The TRWG (TTN) will establish a website to provide one window access to trails information and linkages to websites

**RESOURCING**

\$330,000 a year for policy, research, evaluation and related projects

**OTC EXPECTATION OF OUTCOME**

TTN Program meets these goals and objectives. Also the OTC would like to see \$110,000 a year for the Ontario trails website and have a fuller understanding of the \$200,000 a year for mapping trails on LIO. What links to this database will be provided?

**OTC GOAL 4) Accommodating multiple uses, MHP 7) GOAL: The needs of varied users are managed, and met by a comprehensive system of single-use, multiple-use, single-season and four-season trails.**

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Multi-Use Access Working Group supports the development of a framework, tools and strategies for addressing the needs of multiple users and resolving the conflicts that arise among competing uses. The MUAWG develops tools and strategies for enforcement.

#### **SCOPE OF WORK**

- Ø Undertake a study of needs and issues related to the recreational use of off- road vehicles
- Ø Develop a province-wide code for the responsible use of trails that respects other users, landowners and adjacent land uses, including those of the agricultural sector, resource industries and Aboriginal communities
- Ø Research and share best practices for environmental protection and natural and cultural heritage preservation on trails

**OTC GOAL 4a) Improving accessibility and safety MHP 8) GOAL: impacts, and maintain close relationships with landowners to resolve issues arising from trail use.**

#### **SCOPE OF WORK**

The MUAWG facilitates internet access to information on best practices in environmental and natural and cultural heritage conservation. In addition this Working group ensures internet access to information on best practices in landowner relations and encourages the development of a trail planning process that considers social, environmental, cultural, economic and cumulative impacts of trail use.

One important area of work will be ensuring the values of non-trail users of the landscape (e.g. agriculture, forestry, trapping, and remote tourism) are inherent in trails development and planning processes throughout Ontario.

**OTC GOAL 4b) - MHP 9) GOAL: Ontario trails welcome non-traditional users and accommodates special needs safely.**

#### **SCOPE OF WORK**

The MUAWG nurtures the development of an overall approach to trail design that accommodates the widest range of user abilities. The MUAWG ensures that a mechanism exists that includes Trail clubs protect ecosystems and natural and cultural heritage features from adverse user impacts, and maintain close relationships with landowners to resolve issues arising from trail use

**OTC GOAL 4C MHP14) GOAL: Ontarians embrace the active lifestyle choices offered by trails of all types.**

#### **SCOPE OF WORK**

The MUAWG proclaims a “Trails Day” to be celebrated annually. Furthermore, the MUAWG seeks out a diverse range of other trails stakeholders in order to encourage community design for active living, and Promotes trails as low cost, readily available

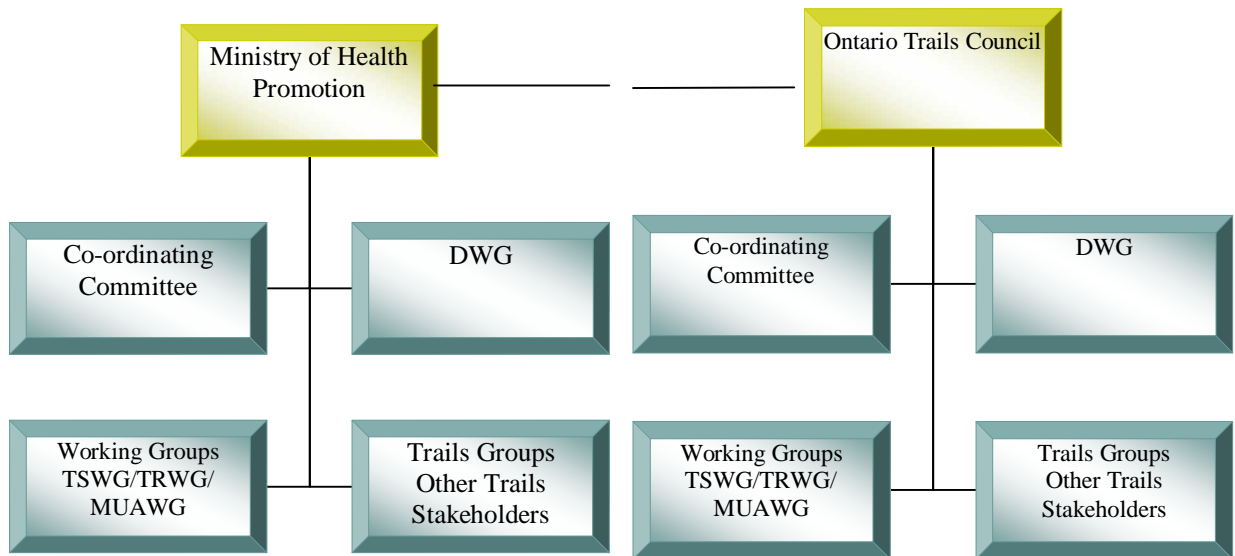
opportunities to adopt a healthy, active lifestyle, while at the same time undertaking pilot projects to increase trail use by children and youth, women, new Canadians, low-income groups, and persons with a disability. Importantly this working group studies and incorporates Active 2010 programs while promoting human powered transportation (E.g. walking, hiking, cycling, jogging, inline skating and cross-country skiing)

**OTC EXPECTATION OF OUTCOME**

TTN fits plus - The OTC currently pursuing through CIAF grants via its Halton program – and we provide a lateral spread through municipal infrastructure elsewhere- PRO/OPA and Go for Green support – Greenbelt work.



## ORGANIZATION CHART



## **Working Group Self-alignment Sheet**

### **1) Coordinating Committee -**

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#### **SCOPE OF WORK**

Review the impact of new provincial policies and programs on trails.

#### **ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS AFFILIATED WITH THE WORK OF THIS GROUP:**

### **2) Trails Sustainability Working Group (TSWG)**

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Trails Sustainability Working Group shall form a working group representing public, not-for-profit, Aboriginal and private-sector trail stakeholders to increase collaboration and encourage the development of a framework for collaboration among trail coordinating bodies at the regional and local levels. This working group also has specific responsibilities to Nurture the development of trails promotion and marketing plans to expand branding of trails and identify consistent messaging and signage, and the completion of goals 2a and 2B below.

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#### **ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS AFFILIATED WITH THE WORK OF THIS GROUP:**

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#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

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#### **SCOPE OF WORK**

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#### **ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS AFFILIATED WITH THE WORK OF THIS GROUP:**

### **4) Multi-Use and Access Working Group (MUAWG)**

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Multi-Use Access Working Group supports the development of a framework, tools and strategies for addressing the needs of multiple users and resolving the conflicts that arise among competing uses. The MUAWG develops tools and strategies for enforcement.

#### **SCOPE OF WORK**

- Ø Undertake a study of needs and issues related to the recreational use of off-road vehicles
- Ø Develop a province-wide code for the responsible use of trails that respects other users, landowners and adjacent land uses, including those of the agricultural sector, resource industries and Aboriginal communities
- Ø Research and share best practices for environmental protection and natural and cultural heritage preservation on trails

#### **ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS AFFILIATED WITH THE WORK OF THIS GROUP:**

**OVERALL BUDGET FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OTS**

<b>Year of Funds</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>
MHP	770,000	770,000	770,000	770,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$770,000</b>	<b>\$770,000</b>	<b>\$770,000</b>	<b>\$770,000</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Co-ordinating Committee	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
TSWG	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000
TRWG	120,000	80,000	60,000	0
MUAWG	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000
OTC/Collaboration Processes	122,000	122,000	122,000	122,000
Active 2010 Projects	220,000	260,000	280,000	340,000
Promotion	56,000	56,000	56,000	56,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>770,000</b>	<b>770,000</b>	<b>770,000</b>	<b>770,000</b>