

Mid-Summer Newsletter

State of the Basin Report Nears Completion

Report provide benchmark for the future

The State of the Basin Report for the Lake of the Woods and Rainy River Basin is in final review with the partners who collaborated on this very large undertaking. The report should be finalized by the end of August and will be posted on our website, www.lowwsf.com for download.

The State of the Basin report is a synthesis of what we know about the water quality and ecology of the Lake of the Woods based on data gathered by the many agencies working on the lake in Canada and the United States. This report provides a snapshot of the water quality and will serve as a benchmark against which future water quality and the effectiveness of management strategies can be compared. The report also identifies gaps in our current understanding, identifies potential future threats to the lake and provides a prioritization of management needs.

The report covers many aspects of the lake and its watershed, including climate, geology, hydrology, water chemistry, nutrient status and the status of biological communities.

Work on report was led by Anna DeSellas of the Foundation with assistance and collaboration from Dr. Andrew Paterson and Bev Clark of the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Nolan Baratono of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Many other researchers and resource managers generously provided assistance and data to this huge international undertaking.

Lake of the Woods Nutrient Budget Study Is Underway!

Foundation initiates international partnership with universities and governments

This spring, the Foundation launched its next research project, to develop a preliminary nutrient budget and water quality models for Lake of the Woods.

Development of management plans to address nutrient pollution is currently limited by lack of information about where the nutrients

are coming from. This research will address this by developing a nutrient budget for Lake of the Woods. This will identify all sources and amounts of nutrient pollution entering (and leaving) the lake,

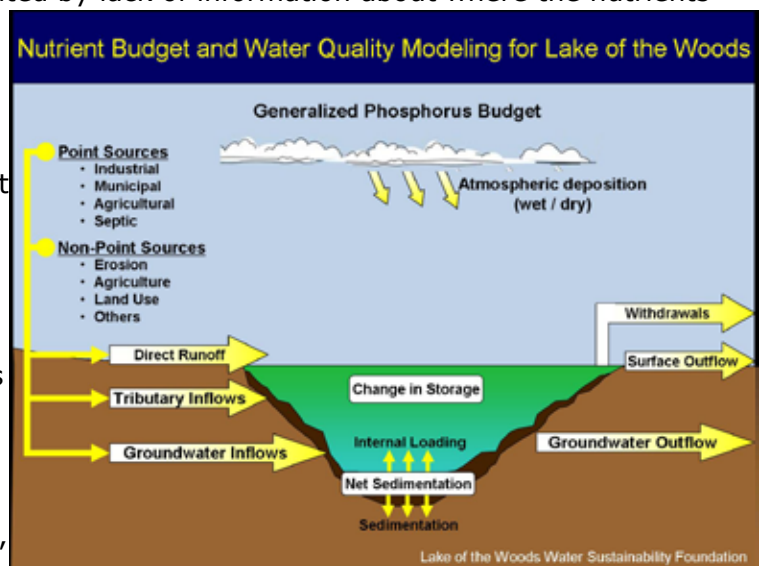
much like a financial budget accounts for income and expenses. Water quality models for the Big Traverse Bay and also for several regions of the lake in Ontario will be developed to test the sensitivity of the lake to each source, and evaluate the effects of specific nutrient reduction scenarios on the lake's water quality.

This information will help inform the development of management plans for the lake in Ontario and Minnesota and help set a preliminary phosphorus reduction target for the lake.

Partnering with the Foundation on this study are: Trent University, Minnesota St. Cloud State University, Ontario Ministry of Environment, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Environment Canada and Manitoba Water Stewardship.

Research teams at Trent University, led by Dr. Peter Dillon and at St. Cloud State University, led by Dr. Matt Julius will be developing the nutrient budget and recommendations for nutrient management in collaboration with scientists at the Ontario Ministry of Environment and the Minnesota Pollution Control agency.

This research is important for Lake of the Woods in its own right. It also has more broad relevance to solving the problems of Lake Winnipeg because the international waters of Lake of the Woods flow to Lake Winnipeg, providing a source of nutrients to Lake Winnipeg.



Tax Deduction Now Available To American Donors

American donors can now claim a US tax deduction for gifts to the Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation by directing a gift to the Foundation through the newly-established American arm of the Winnipeg Foundation, The Winnipeg Foundation USA.

Please contact Todd Sellers, Executive Director of LOWWSF for information on making a directed gift to LOWWSF from the United States 1-866-370-8891 or tsellers@lowwsf.com.

Foundation Holds Information Session in Sioux Narrows

Minnesota and Ontario officials attend and answer questions from 70



Nolan Baratonno, MPCA, presents research on historical changes in water quality

The Foundation held a public information session in Sioux Narrows Ontario on August 7th at the White Birch Lodge. Approximately 70 attended to meet and ask questions of some of the American and Canadian Scientists working on Lake of the Woods water quality. The Foundation presented a brief progress update followed by presentations about Lake of the Woods water quality research and policy initiatives underway from:

- Nolan Baratonno, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency — Lake of the Woods and Rainy Basin Planner
- Franca Dignem, Ontario Ministry of Environment — Director for Northern Region
- Kelli Saunders, Ontario Ministry of Environment — Lake of the Woods Coordinator

Thanks to the Sioux Narrows - Whitefish Bay area folks who demonstrated their commitment to our lake by taking time out from a sunny day at the lake to attend. Also, a special thank you to our speakers and in particular to Nolan and Franca who travelled a long way to meet the Sioux Narrows lake people.

Environment Canada Now Involved on Lake

Federal scientists begin to focus on Lake of the Woods

The Foundation is beginning to see results of its efforts to raise the profile of Lake of the Woods with our federal policy makers. Environment Canada is in the final stages of developing an "Action Plan" for Lake of the Woods, as part of the broader initiative for the Lake Winnipeg Basin announced by federal Minister Baird last November. This research plan builds on work that the Foundation initiated in partnership with Environment Canada over the past two years, including the:

- State of the Basin Report for Lake of the Woods and Rainy River
- The Lake of the Woods Baseline Nutrient Compilation and Guidance Document

Environment Canada will be deploying a team of scientists on the lake this summer to begin a preliminary research and monitoring program at approximately 20 locations around the lake in late August and September.

International Ad hoc Working Group To Be Established This Fall

Minnesota and Ontario collaborating on basin-wide approach

Now that Minnesota has listed the lake as an Impaired water because of excess phosphorus, the state will develop a nutrient reduction plan within its jurisdiction. For many months, the Foundation and officials at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency have been promoting a collaborative, basin-wide response to the Impaired listing, with a nutrient management plan for the entire lake.

Ontario and Minnesota are now collaborating to establish an ad hoc working group to focus on nutrient science and policy issues basin-wide. This working group will be established this fall to bring together the Foundation and all of the provincial, state and federal agencies working on this issue.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Please invest in our lake's future.

Donations are tax deductible in Canada directly and in the USA by making a directed gift to LOWWSF via The Winnipeg Foundation USA.



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