

## Working With Government and Municipalities Breakout Group Discussion Points

### Celebrating our Advances Survey Summary

<b>Who are your key partners in lake-related activities? Please check all that apply.</b>		
<b>Answer Options / Answers Given</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Ministry of Natural Resources	75.8%	25
Municipality	72.7%	24
Conservation Authority	69.7%	23
Lake group volunteers	66.7%	22
Ministry of the Environment	45.5%	15
Stewardship Council	45.5%	15
Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations	36.4%	12
Health Unit	21.2%	7
Consultant	18.2%	6
Environmental non-government organization	18.2%	6
Other	15.2%	5
Parks Canada	9.1%	3
Environment Canada	6.1%	2
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	3.0%	1
Other (please specify) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Napanee &amp; District Community Foundation</li> <li>• Community donations for lake events</li> <li>• County Consent Review Authority</li> <li>• Friends of Salmon River</li> <li>• Several Members are Environmental consultants</li> <li>• Mississippi-Rideau Septic Office, Greater Bob's and Crow Lake Association, Pike Lake Association, Lake Networking Group</li> </ul>	6	
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>33</b>

### Who have you been working with?

- Government is good!
- Town/Municipality/County
- Central/North Frontenac
- Provincial government – MNR, MOE, Member of Parliament
- Federal government – Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)
- Conservation Authorities
- Stewardship Councils
- Ontario Municipal Board

## How can you engage them?

- If there is a common interest – it works well
- Conservation Authority – environmental
- Municipalities – many interests
- Lots of pressure for growth
- Works better if you have one spokesperson dealing with Municipality
- Municipal Clerk is a very important initial contact
- Need to engage/inform the committee of adjustment and Council
- Be prepared – have a good plan
- Experiences with MNR and Municipality have been positive and negative
- Need involvement and takes time to groom relationships
- Involve staff – provide good information/get good information but remember that staff change over time – keep in contact for continuity with new staff
- When you go to a meeting a councilor needs to be there
- Know political chair of your issue
- Official Plan
  - try to be proactive – look to the future direction
  - don't appear to only be complaint driven
  - invite council members/municipal staff to your meetings

## Most beneficial outcomes?

- Build relationships
- Know your municipal documents
  - Official Plan (OP)
  - By-laws
- Know the process
- Political Process – competing interests
- Sometimes political outcomes are economic outcomes (increased tax base)
- Able to get Lake Plans into OP
- Good relationships – Annual Meetings with Lake Associations
- Seasonal increased stress on Municipalities
- Root cause is money
- Be honest in your dealings
- Represent your group – not single or self interest and no hidden agendas
- RESOURCE: [www.communityassociations.net](http://www.communityassociations.net)
- Get MNR to put a monetary value to the environment
- Groom long-term relationships
- Transparency between Lake Associations and Municipalities

## Summary

*Who have you been working with?*

- Work with a diversity of groups at many levels

*What has been your experience working with government agencies / municipalities?*

- General has been good but takes time

*What started that relationship?*

- First it was Issue based, not more proactive
- Look to the future through the OP

*How can you engage them?*

- Involve staff – Involve politicians – they change over time

*Obstacles / outcomes?*

- Build Relationships
- Know the OP and By-laws
- Know Process – political – economic – competing interests

*Most beneficial outcomes?*

- Get Lake Plan recognized in the OP
- Develop good relationships with government
- Know the politics of the area
- Be honest and transparent in intentions
- Need to have the \$ value of the environment factored in – environmental goods and services