



WABIGOON LAKE OJIBWAY NATION

English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Panel
2022 Community Engagement Report

SCATLIFF + MILLER + MURRAY
— & —
KGS
GROUP





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Scatliff + Miller + Murray (SMM) and KGS Group developed a Community Involvement Plan that built upon previous engagement events and activities with Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON). Robert Parenteau guided the development of the Community Involvement Plan and supported planning for all engagement events, with assistance from English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Panel Coordinator Wade Wetelainen, once hired late-August 2022. Overall, the engagement program intended to build awareness and community knowledge about the English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Panel and the ongoing technical studies. The project website continued to be updated and received a full upgrade this year thanks to Matt Kereliuk, the new WLON I.T. Services Coordinator. Regular updates to promote and summarize engagement activities were available on the project website.

SMM and KGS Group coordinated two engagement events in 2022, the third annual Youth Day Camp in August, and an Information Session in Fall 2022. This year's Camp was designed to connect with youth 14 and older, many of whom were new to the Youth Day Camp this year. The 13 youth who participated in the day, learned about the English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Panel through presentations, videos, scavenger hunt, and orienteering geocache activity. Youth had a fun day and were able to earn draw tickets all day to win one of many prizes available.

On October 5, 2022, SMM and KGS Group hosted a dinner and evening information session for community members to learn more about the history of the panel and the ongoing technical studies that WLON and other First Nations are undertaking. The Information Session included a presentation from SMM and KGS Group project team, round table discussions, a prize draw, and an exit survey. Round table discussions were facilitated after the presentation to learn more about:

1. How to heal the river,
2. Safe fish consumption,
3. Future capacity building and next steps.

Overall, many WLON members expressed interest and eagerness to start remediating the rivers, lakes, and fish as soon as possible.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

OVERVIEW

The 2022 Community Involvement Plan (CIP) for the English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Panel (EWRRP) was developed and implemented by SMM and KGS Group for Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON). The CIP was built upon the previous engagement programs delivered since 2019 under previous EWRRP Participation Capacity Budgets.

The CIP provided a strategy and methods for the community engagement process and activities, and highlighted all engagement goals, objectives, methods, materials, and timelines. The CIP was developed together with the Project Team which included: Robert Parenteau, EWRRP Participant, WLON representative, and supervisor of the WLON Project Coordinator; WLON Chief and Council with Councilor Tyson Williams as the lead contact; Cheryl Dixon, Meaghan Pauls, Alex Man, and Sam Blatz from SMM; and Jason Mann, Annie Dietrich, and Dan Leitch from KGS Group.

1.1 OVERALL ENGAGEMENT GOALS

The overall 2022 engagement goals included:

- Increase understanding of the EWRRP in WLON and by its members
- Build capacity within WLON for future environmental activities
- Ensure an open and transparent process with clear communication
- Provide opportunities for ongoing involvement and meaningful engagement
- Understand local issues pertinent to this project
- Gather insight into historically significant information
- Create an iterative process that is flexible based on feedback, results, and evaluated targets.

1.2 TIMELINE OF 2022 ACTIVITIES



2.0

PROJECT WEBPAGE UPDATES




The WLON EWRRP project webpage was continually updated throughout 2022 to serve as a resource for current information and ongoing communication with the nation. SMM and KGS Group have worked with Ursula Chief as the WLON website administrator for the past two years. This year we started working with Matt Kereliuk, who took over Ursula's role as the WLON website administrator. SMM provided graphics and copy to Ursula and Matt to facilitate the website updates, which included project updates, 2021 reports, and updates on upcoming engagement activities, including registration for the 2022 Youth Day Camp.

2022 webpage updates included:

- 2022 Project Timeline
- 2021 activities and reports, including: 2021 Engagement Report and Youth Day Camp summary and photos
- Promotion of 2022 Youth Day Camp 3.0 and Information Session.

Page from project webpage updated in August 2022:

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

 You are invited to the English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Project
Youth Camp 3.0
When? Wednesday, August 24, 2022, 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Where? W.L.O.N Conference Centre (Breakfast, lunch & dinner included)

Draw Prizes!

CAMP 3.0

THE ENGLISH AND WABIGOON RIVERS REMEDIATION STUDY **THE WABIGOON LAKE STUDY** **2019 ACTIVITIES** **2020 ACTIVITIES** **2021 ACTIVITIES** **2022 ACTIVITIES**

2022 Project Timeline

- Youth Day Camp 3.0 (August 24, 2022)
- Community Information Session (More to come!)

AUGUST 24, 2022 SEPTEMBER 2022

YOUTH DAY CAMP **COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION**

1 **2**

3.0

YOUTH DAY CAMP

August 24, 2022



Following two successful Youth Day Camp events in 2020 and 2021 with youth ages 5 - 15, this year's event was designed to connect with youth 14 and older from the community. The goal of the Camp was to ignite an excitement for science and the environment in youth and spark an interest in how their community is being impacted by mercury. The day camp this year took place on August 24, 2022, and was facilitated by SMM and KGS Group, together with the WLON Youth Coordinator, Destin Parenteau. In total, 13 youth participated in the day's activities between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm. Due to a recent passing in WLON, the Youth Day Camp programming was condensed and ended earlier than planned.

The day began with youth gathering at the conference centre for breakfast, an opening by Elder Bill Parenteau, and an introductory session, before moving outside to the pow wow arbor. Breakfast and lunch were provided by a local caterer and served in the conference centre. By participating in each activity over the course of the camp, youth earned draw tickets to enter into the final prize draw.



To start the day, SMM facilitated an ice breaker game to learn more about the youth, asking questions and sharing special talents, such as drawing, singing, and dancing.

Following, and to introduce the English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation project to youth, SMM and KGS Group shared a presentation and video about the history of mercury contamination in the rivers and what that means today. The team shared the video entitled "Uncovering the Truth of Grassy Narrows" and a second video that discusses all of the studies that have come out of this discovery, narrated by Nelson Walters and developed by Wood for Grassy Narrows First Nation.

The activities focused primarily on understanding the local food web, including what different animals, particularly fish, eat. Activities also included learning orienteering skills to help them explore the nearby land. Please see the following pages for a detailed description of each activity.

The day ended with all kids gathering for lunch at the conference centre. Following lunch, SMM led a trivia contest about what youth learned during the camp activities as the final opportunity for youth to earn draw tickets. Youth were highly engaged, eager to answer, and knew the answers to the questions. In closing, SMM facilitated the prize draw, ensuring all youth went home with a prize of their choosing from the prize table.



3.1 KEY OBJECTIVES

- Inspire youth from the community to pursue future studies in science and the environment.
- Inform youth of the current environmental situation and ongoing work toward remediation.
- Involve youth in sampling activities with KGS group field staff to learn about their work.
- Design fun, engaging, and specific activities for youth age 14 and older.

ACTIVITY 1: FOOD WEB SCAVENGER HUNT

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

To teach youth about different animals that live in the area, what they eat, and how they are interconnected through the food web and habitats.



ACTIVITY SUMMARY

- Facilitators hid animal and plant velcro cards around the pow wow arbor while youth were assembling in the picnic area and learning about the activity. The food web banner was hung up under the picnic shelter with coin cards velcro-ed to the banner.
- Clues were placed around the picnic area for them to read to help them find where animal and plant cards could be found around the grounds near their typical habitat.
- Youth worked in teams of three or four to race to find the animal and plant cards hidden nearby the water, up in the trees, under rocks, or hidden in the bushes.
- As teams found animal and plant cards, they placed it on the food web banner in the correct location and collected the coin card in its place.
- The team that found the most hidden animals and plants and collected the most coin cards won and received the most draw tickets.

ACTIVITY 2: GEOCACHING

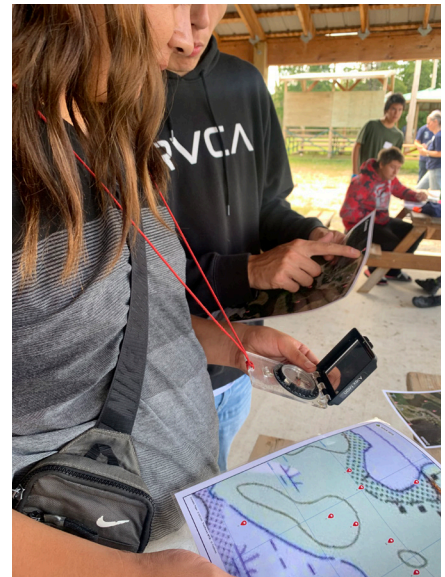
GOALS & OBJECTIVES

To teach youth about different orienteering skills to help them learn how to navigate and explore nearby bush and land.



ACTIVITY SUMMARY

- Prior to start of the activity, Alex Man from SMM hid nine water bottles with a sign in sheet inside.
- At the start of the activity, Alex taught youth basic orienteering skills, including using a map and compass.
- With these skills, youth broke into teams to find nine geocache locations identified on the printed maps. One team was able to find all nine locations!



4.0

INFORMATION SESSION

October 5, 2022, 5:00pm - 7:30pm

The purpose of the in-person information session with WLON members was to provide a technical project update and showcase past engagement activities. On October 5, 2022, SMM, KGS Group, and the WLON Coordinator, Wade Wetelainen, hosted a dinner at the WLON Conference Centre for all WLON members. To open the dinner, Elder Bill Parenteau gave a blessing. The meeting included a verbal and powerpoint presentation, followed by round table discussions, draw prize, and an exit survey.

To kick off the session, SMM and KGS Group provided a presentation, including the history of the English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Panel and shared videos about the work being done in Grassy Narrows First Nation. KGS Group shared information about all of the studies being completed by all First Nations on the panel, as well as the specific studies WLON has undertaken. This included the Reference Sites Sampling Program and Erosion Potential Pilot Study along Wabigoon River.

Following the presentation, participants broke into round table discussions to learn more about:

1. How to heal the river
2. Safe fish consumption
3. Future capacity building and next steps.

4.1 KEY OBJECTIVES

- Provide technical project update including WLON technical field programs and all technical studies completed to date.
- Share information about the work Grassy Narrows First Nation has completed.
- Showcase all engagement completed in WLON to date.
- Demonstrate and distribute the Fish Consumption Guidebook and tools.
- Respond to questions about the technical studies and panel.

4.2 EVENT PROMOTION

The in-person dinner and information session was promoted throughout the community on the WLON website via the home page as well as the project webpage, by word-of-mouth by the WLON Coordinator, and a poster campaign around community. A promotional poster used both for print and digital consumption was developed to be shared throughout WLON.

English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Project

Information Session

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

- Learn about the work of the English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Panel, studies by other communities, and options to heal the river
- Learn about studies by W.L.O.N. that are ongoing and coming up this year
- Pick up your Fish Consumption Guide and Tool Kit

Join us for dinner and learn more about the English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Project

Wednesday, October 5, 2022
W.L.O.N. Conference Centre
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Doors open at 4:30 PM
Dinner: 5:00 PM
Session: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

4.3 MEETING RESULTS

Meeting Participation

Approximately 15 people attended the information session and participated in the round table discussions. At the round table discussions, many participants expressed that they want to learn more about how to remediate the rivers, lakes, and fish and are eager for the work to happen as soon as possible.



Online Exit Survey

Participants were invited to complete an exit survey following the information session. A total of 14 participants completed the online survey and provided feedback on the meeting and answered the seven questions.

Comment Form Response:

1. How did you hear about this Information Session? (check all that apply)

Email	Poster	Word of Mouth	Wade Wetelainen	Facebook	WLON Website	Other
0	2	3	10	1	0	0

2. Are you?

Under 18	18-40	41-59	60+
0 (0%)	5 (38%)	4 (31%)	4 (31%)

3. Do you understand the reasons for this project?

Yes	No	Not Sure
12 (92%)	0 (100%)	1 (8%)

4. Did you pick up your safe fish consumption guide book and tool kit?

Yes	No	Another household member picked it up	Not Sure
9 (69%)	4 (31%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

5. Was the information shared today about remediation helpful?

Yes	No	Not Sure
12 (92%)	0 (0%)	1 (8%)

6. What other information would you like to learn about for this project?

Respondents had several questions that they wanted to continue to learn about as the project develops. Respondents want to better understand how nearby lakes are affected by mercury contamination and which lakes are safe to fish in. One respondent even suggested a community trip to contaminated lakes may be interesting. Respondents also wanted to learn more about possible remediation strategies to clean up the rivers and lakes.

7. Please share any additional comments, concerns, or questions about this project.

Overall, respondents were please with the session, but want more WLON members to be present and to continue to build awareness about this problem.