

February 3, 2022

Mary-Rose Walden  
Chief Administration Officer  
Township of Huron-Kinloss  
21 Queen St,  
Ripley, ON  
N0G 2R0

Opportunity to participate in the Environmental Baseline Data Collection Program

This letter is an invitation from the NWMO to the organizations within the Municipality, and residents of the municipality to participate in the Environmental Baseline Data Collection program.

The program covers many different aspects of the natural environment – the atmosphere, the soil, the terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Our intent is to continue to support community participation in the implementation of the program, including building local capacity. The program also identifies the information that would be needed in the future to support the potential regulatory reviews and reflects best practices at the time the program was developed.

The program does not yet reflect insights from the participation of the Saugeen Ojibway Nations. We are hopeful that we will gain their insights in the future and will update the program at that time.

Included in our program is the desire to involve the members of the community in the data collection efforts. This can take many forms. We are open to entering into agreements with the organizations within the area should they wish to take on any of the data collection directly or through joint arrangements they may wish to make with neighbouring communities, consultant firms, or universities and colleges. We encourage consideration of the involvement of youth interested in science in the data collection efforts as well as the involvement of existing community groups such as field naturalist organizations. Any agreement we reach will require that data collection process satisfies our health and safety requirements, and the quality expectations and sampling procedures that are established through the program. The program has committed to create open-source data, subject to privacy considerations and agreements respecting third-party information. We can arrange support and training on any of these items.

As part of the biodiversity study component of the Environmental Baseline Data Collection program, letters will be sent out to property owners in the Saugeen watershed inviting them to express interest in participating in the program. A copy of the letter is attached and outlines the participation opportunity. Please direct any questions you may receive on this letter or program to [sbenvironment@nwmo.ca](mailto:sbenvironment@nwmo.ca) or to the NWMO South Bruce office.

As you are aware, the NWMO has already established an agreement with the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for their participation in the surface water data collection program. This is an example of the type of participatory arrangement we would be interested in reaching. We have also implemented this approach in the Ignace siting area.

Please let us know if you wish to have more information as we would be glad to present to Council if desired.

Thank you,

Tareq Al-Zabet, Site Director