

## Advocacy at FOCA - 2011 Summary

### Provincial Initiatives

#### Provincial Election Support / Political action

2011 is a Provincial election year. FOCA will work with partners and our members on a communication strategy and to formulate policy suggestions for the use of our members in advance of the election.

Program area/strategic Fit	Lead/alternate	Status / Time commitment
Member Support	Terry / staff	2011 is a Provincial election year. FOCA will work with partners and our members to formulate policy suggestions for the use of our members in advance of the election.  <b>1 day / month</b>

#### Property Tax / WRAFT

FOCA delivers its property tax efforts within a tax committee formerly operating as separate corporate entity WRAFT. The FOCA ED acts as the ED for the property tax advocacy under both FOCA, and WRAFT, names.

Program area/strategic Fit	Lead/alternate	Status / Time commitment
Taxation	Terry, tax committee	2011 is a Provincial election year. FOCA will work with partners and government advisors to press for the elevation of property tax reform on the provincial political agenda.  <b>2 days / month</b>

#### Stewardship Network of Ontario

The Stewardship Network of Ontario collaborates with organizations in the province to enhance stewardship programs to benefit landowners. See "[About SNO](#)". SNO's work is funded through an annual allocation from the MNR Biodiversity Section – FOCA is the signatory to this agreement, and receives a modest administrative fee for this service.

Program area/strategic Fit	Lead/alternate	Status / Time commitment
Environment	Terry	FOCA re-signed a one-year agreement on behalf of SNO which runs through mid-2011.  <b>2 days / month</b>

#### Ontario Biodiversity Council (OBC)

The OBC was created to coordinate Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy. The Council is composed of members who are to guide the implementation of the Strategy and to: involve the public in biodiversity issues; collaborate to raise the profile and progress of biodiversity protection.

Program area/strategic Fit	Lead/alternate	Status / Time commitment
Environment	Terry	This is a high profile and strategic forum for FOCA with many partner organizations, and senior staff and politicians at MNR. FOCA is the OBC "Stewardship Liaison". Committee includes conservation, industry, First Nations and science interests  <b>0.5 days / month</b>

### **Mining Reforms**

FOCA is represented on the Minister's committee, and the Plans and Permits subcommittee. Regular meetings are held all over the Province, expenses paid by the MNDMF.

Program area/strategic Fit	Lead/alternate	Status / Time commitment
Environment	Ted Spence  Terry	FOCA has been on this committee since @2004. The regulations imbedding the changes to the Act into law are in the works in 2011. Committee includes ENGO Northwatch, major and minor prospecting and mining interests  FOCA collaborates with <a href="#">OREA</a> on this file.  <b>3 days / month</b>

### **Hydro One Customer Advisory Board**

The venue provides FOCA with profile with the rate regulators, and provides us (cottagers) one of the only consumer voices with the Ontario Energy Board.

Program area/strategic Fit	Lead/alternate	Status / Time commitment
Environment	John McGee	FOCA has represented here since @2005, with John McGee as our representative. Other regular members include: OFA (Ted Cowan), Consumers Council of Canada (Julie Girvan), Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (Bill Harper), Ass'n of Major Power Consumers of Ontario (Wayne Clark), Ass'n of Power Producers Ontario, Cdn Mfg'r's & Exporters Ass'n, Electricity Distributors Ass'n, Powerstream, Toronto Hydro, Ottawa Hydro, Sudbury Hydro, and a few large industrial users.  Hydro One is a corporate sponsor of FOCA.  <b>1 day / month</b>

### Water Guardians Network (WGN)

The Waterhole is a collaborative project of the [Canadian Environmental Law Association](#) and [Environmental Defence](#). This collaborative has been instrumental in providing FOCA with legal advice and political profile on water issues related to the Clean Water Act.

Program area/strategic Fit	Lead/alternate	Status / Time commitment
Environment	Terry	FOCA has been involved since 2005. Continues as an ad hoc network with regular mailings, semi-regular teleconferences and an annual meeting in Toronto. Network consists of environmental and social justice groups.  <b>0.5 day / month</b>

### MNR Southern Region Advisory Committee (RAC)

The RAC is established as a condition of the [Forest Class EA Approval for Crown lands](#). The RAC advises the MNR Regional Director on regional level policy and planning matters.

Program area/strategic Fit	Lead/alternate	Status / Time commitment
Environment	Ron Higgins	Continues as formal committee and useful network with 2-day meetings roughly 2x/year. Committee includes forest companies operating in the South, hunting, fishing and tourist interests, environmental groups.  <b>0.5 day / month</b>

### Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement Advisory Panel

Since 1985, the premiers and governors of the 10 provinces and states have followed a set of principles set out in an agreement, the Great Lakes Charter, intended to protect and conserve the waters of the basin. Renewed concerns about proposals to export water in bulk led the provinces and states to sign a supplementary agreement known as the [Great Lakes Charter Annex](#) in 2001. It committed the 10 parties to develop agreements that would provide better protections for Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin waters. Two provinces and eight states negotiated the [Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement](#) – and a binding compact among the eight states. The Agreement bans diversions and strengthens conservation measures.

A related agreement, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement [GLWQA](#) is subject to periodic review every six years. Participating in the public review allows FOCA to support stronger measures to address toxic hotspots, raw sewage overflows, invasive species, emerging chemical concerns as well as climate change, all of which threaten water quality in the Great Lakes and ultimately Ontario's inland lakes. Negotiations between the Governments of Canada and the United States to amend the Agreement are currently underway.

Program area/strategic Fit	Lead/alternate	Status / Time commitment
Environment	Terry	FOCA largely takes our lead from partners (CELA) on this file.  Recommend we stay engaged but limit our physical

		<p>involvement, barring adequate volunteer capacity. The AAP was established as the Ontario advisory panel. FOCA (and the GBA) sit as panel members. Also on the committee other “water ENGOS”, municipal federal and provincial government staff and politicians, First Nations, industry.</p> <p>Continues as formal committee through 2011 with a number of important matters at hand.</p> <p><b>1 day / month</b></p>
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**Building Code Amendments / Septic systems**

Environment	Karl / Terry	<p>The Building Code has been recently amended by <a href="#">Ontario Regulation 315/10</a>, which establishes and governs mandatory on-site sewage system maintenance inspection programs to be administered by principal authorities. The regulation also governs discretionary on-site sewage system maintenance inspection programs established by principal authorities.</p> <p>Specifics and implementation details are TBC.</p> <p><b>1 day / month</b></p>
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**Provincial Policy Statement renewal / Land use planning reform**

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, is undertaking a review of the [Provincial Policy Statement](#), 2005 (PPS), as required under the Planning Act. The PPS is the integrated, consolidated statement of all ministries’ policies concerning land use for Ontario and it provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. Municipal councils, planning boards and any other decision makers including the Ontario Municipal Board must ensure their decisions that affect planning matters are consistent with the PPS. The PPS provides direction on key issues such as: the efficient use and management of land and resources; long-term protection of the natural environment and water resources; the conservation of cultural heritage and archaeological resources; and the protection of public health and safety.

Program area/strategic Fit	Lead/alternate	Status / Time commitment
Environment	Anne McCauley, Ted Spence, Bill Cheshire, Terry	<p>FOCA is a regular contributor to this 5- year review process, and submitted an official comment in late 2010. In 2011 there will be public consultations regarding the update of the PPS revision.</p> <p>FOCA has technical and policy support from a collaborative that includes <a href="#">Ontario Nature</a>, <a href="#">CELA</a>, <a href="#">Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy</a>, <a href="#">Ducks Unlimited Canada</a>, and the <a href="#">Pembina Institute</a> .</p> <p><b>2 days / month</b></p>

### Water Conservation Alliance

This collaborative has been instrumental in providing a forum and venue for supporting and strengthening Ontario Bill 72, the [Water Opportunities and Water Conservation Act](#), passed late in 2010. FOCA is a partner in this Alliance and will benefit from future alignment and technical support garnered through the regulatory phase of this process.

Program area/strategic Fit	Lead/alternate	Status / Time commitment
Environment	Terry	FOCA has been involved since 2010. This coalition is a collaborative project of the <a href="#">Rideau Institute</a> , <a href="#">Great Lakes United</a> , <a href="#">Conservation Ontario</a> , <a href="#">Canadian Environmental Law Association</a> and <a href="#">Environmental Defence</a> . Continues as an ad hoc network with regular mailings, semi-regular teleconferences.  <b>0.5 day / month</b>

### Regional Initiatives

#### Lake Simcoe Protection Act implementation

This Act was passed in June 2009. A new phosphorus reduction strategy is a key part of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, and is the first of its kind in Ontario to address environmental protection of a watershed, providing a roadmap to help restore and protect the health of the lake and its watershed. The development and implementation of this Plan will likely be a significant precedent for future lake-based approaches in the Province. FOCA has traditionally been under-represented in this highly populated waterfront area.

Program area/strategic Fit	Lead/alternate	Status / Time commitment
Environment	Tracy, Terry	FOCA has been involved as commentators on the Lake Simcoe Act and at Provincial Committee supporting a strong Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, since @2007. We will work with FOCA members and partners (including <a href="#">Durham Land Stewardship Council</a> , <a href="#">Campaign Lake Simcoe</a> .  <b>1 day / month</b>

#### Sturgeon Lake Management Plan

The 4-year process, initiated by [Kawartha Conservation Authority](#) (KCA) in 2010, involves research and consultation for the identification of issues, priority concerns and an action plan to address those concerns. This project follows a similar initiative by KCA on [Lake Scugog](#), and precedes 2 future KCA initiatives on Pigeon Lake, and Balsam Lake planned for 2011, and 2012.

This plan is a significant investment of technical and community input that will yield science-based planning for an important and prominent water body in the core of FOCA's geographic area of interest.

Program area/strategic Fit	Lead/alternate	Status / Time commitment
Environment	Tracy	FOCA has been involved on this committee since it formed in 2010. Other committee members include cottage reps

		from Sturgeon, and Balsam lakes, staff of <a href="#">City of Kawartha Lakes</a> , <a href="#">Fleming College</a> , <a href="#">Trent Severn Waterway</a> .  <b>1 day / month</b>
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### **Trent Conservation Coalition (TCC)**

The TCC is the implementation body for the Clean Water Act in south-central Ontario, developing policies and programs on land use, septic systems etc as relates to protecting water sources. Through this forum we also tap into other committees developing water policies across Ontario, plus liaison officers from MOE that support our interests in clean water policy, and possibly funding.

Program area/strategic Fit	Lead/alternate	Status / Time commitment
Environment	Terry	FOCA has been involved on this committee since it formed in 2008. Other committee members include representatives from farm, industrial, municipal interests, geotechnical experts, and cottage reps from Haliburton, <a href="#">Trent Severn Waterway</a> .  <b>1 day / month</b>

### **Fisheries Management Zone 17, 10**

In January 2008, 20 Fisheries Management Zones (FMZs) replaced the former 37 Fishing Divisions. These zones are now the unit of management for most lakes in Ontario. Fishing regulations, such as catch limits and seasons, are based on these zones. Fish will also be monitored and assessed at the zone level. FMZ's identifies management challenges associated with the recreational fishery. The intent is to balance the demands placed on the resource with the biological capacity of the systems based on analysis of fisheries data and collaborative discussions with members of the public, and NGO's.

Program area/strategic Fit	Lead/alternate	Status / Time commitment
Environment	John Platt (Zone 17) Jim Hamilton (Zone 10) Terry	FMZ 17 covers the Kawartha Lakes and was the pilot for this new approach. FMZ 10 covers Sault Ste. Marie to Sudbury, plus Manitoulin Island  <b>0.5 day / month</b>