



**Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed**  
**February 23, 2022 - Minutes**

**Mission:** The stated mission of the Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed is to educate, influence, promote and support community-based stewardship of natural resources in the Porcupine River watershed, and to provide community-based guidance for the good management, enhancement, and utilization of healthy, sustainable, aquatic, and terrestrial ecosystems.

**Acknowledgement:** The Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed members recognize and acknowledge that the Porcupine River Watershed is situated on Treaty #9 territory and on the traditional territory of Indigenous Nations including the Mushkegowuk (Cree), Anishinabewaki and Métis.

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**Date:** Wednesday, February 23, 2022

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Location:** Video Conference (*Zoom - Link in email*)

**Attendance:**

**Board Members and Guest(s) Present:** Brenda Torresan, Rick Cecconi, Angie Corson, Michel Dupuis, Roxane Filion, Cristina Colantonio, Graham Campbell

**Board Members Regrets:** Karlie Maki, Meaghan Stringer

**Welcome members.**

- **Approval of Agenda:**  
Motion to approve agenda by Rick Cecconi. Seconded by Angie Corson. All in favour.
- **Approval of past minutes:**  
Motion to approve minutes from December 1st, 2021 by Cristina Colantonio, seconded by Rick Cecconi. All in favour.
- **Mail:** Incoming/Outgoing:
- **Treasurer's Report:** (Rick C) Current balance of 2664.81\$. Upcoming payment coming up for website of around 109\$.  
Motion to approve treasurer's report by Roxane Filion. Seconded by Angie Corson. All in favour.

**Board Reports:**

**1. The Submission Letter for the City Official Plan. (Approval)**

Letter to City of Timmins' planning committee read. One line was added and minor edits were made. Will update the links of supporting studies and RAP and send final copy for approval. (*See Appendix A below*)

**2. Submissions of recommendations for Official Plan:** Roxane/Angie.

Table of recommendation was circulated for additions and sent to FPRW Board for comments and input. Will format and send with letter. *(See Appendix B below)*

**3. Update from Graham on Strat Plan Project:** Connecting trail links.

Currently assisting the FPRW with planning a possible dedicated trail head area and connection link from Porcupine Lake trail to Ross Stringer's trail. Graham presented feasibility, opportunities, and challenges for this project, followed by board discussion on the next steps.

**4. New Business:** 2022 FPRW Board Meetings will be scheduled on 2nd Wednesdays at 7pm for now, but we will remain open to input regarding a suitable day/time to try to accommodate board members.

- **PLC discussion:** Dec 2021 meeting was cancelled. The minutes from the 25 Oct 2021 meeting can be viewed here: <https://timmins.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Id=1750>  
Agenda items for the PLC can be sent to Brenda T. until a week prior to the next PLC meeting.

**Next FPRW board meeting:** 9 March 2022 (videoconference)

**Next PLC meeting:** March 2022.

**Adjournment:** 8:42pm

**Appendix A - Letter regarding City of Timmins Official Plan.**

March 2, 2022

Re: Recommendations to City Official Plan regarding the Porcupine River Watershed

Dear City Council and Planning Committee,

The Friends of the Porcupine Watershed board members support the City Official Plan's stated vision to "realize a strong, safe and sustainable City" and welcome the opportunity to provide input on this planning tool.

As a non-profit group advocating for the health of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems within the Porcupine River watershed, we'd like to ensure some priorities are part of the city's plans. Various studies conducted over the last decade suggest the past century created concentrated pressure on the Porcupine River Watershed. The cumulative effects of mine and mineral processing operations, lack of wastewater infrastructure, and ongoing urban expansion adversely impacts watershed health. Such impacts include elevated heavy metal concentrations, nutrient overload, loss of habitat, and unsafe recreational water usage, to name a few.

Over the last three years, the collaborative work between the Porcupine Liaison Committee members has been a positive step forward. This partnership consists of levels of government, industry, health unit, conservation authority, and community members. Their work has yielded additional studies and enhanced water sampling programs, which indicated elevated heavy metal concentration in the fish population, elevated bacterial levels, increase of bedload and suspended solids, all while creating community partnerships, which have allowed the FPRW priorities to remain in the forefront of every discussion.

We would like to see included in the Official Plan:

- A commitment to maintain the Public Liaison Committee: Maintaining an active PLC committee and partnering with industry, government, and community members is important, not only for supporting a healthier Porcupine River Watershed, but can also provide a model of multi-level cooperation for community development in Northern Ontario.
- A series of recommendations (see attached PDF) to support science-based remediation and protection efforts within the impacted Porcupine River Watershed.
- A proactive approach to develop new remediation and protection goals for the Porcupine River Watershed based on extensive historical and current studies and remedial action plans.

We believe land-use planning must support socioeconomics and environmental sustainability, respectively. Unfortunately, our fragile watershed cannot continue to support the existing land-use Plan, as it disregards the ecological health of the watershed. We want to ensure proper land-use planning within the Porcupine River Watershed for current and future residents' well-being and support biodiversity and traditional Indigenous land use.

Please find attached a list of recommendations accompanied by the applicable section of the Official Plan. We are also providing links to the studies which support our recommendations; we would like these added in the Appendices of the Official Plan as they constitute an essential tool for development.

## FPRW- Minutes - 23 February 2022

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require additional information,

Sincerely,

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Brenda Torresan  
President  
Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed

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Angie Corson  
Vice President  
Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed

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### Attachments:

FPRW Recommendations (Attached PDF document: FPRW\_Recommendations\_COT\_Official Plan\_Feb2022)

### Supporting Documents:

[The Porcupine River Remedial Action - Plan Stage One Report \(RAP1\) – Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed \(PDF\)](#)

[The Porcupine River Watershed Remedial Action Plan – Stage 2 Report \(RAP2\)– Friends of The Porcupine River Watershed \(PDF\)](#)

RAP recommendations summary - status of some of the goals and objectives (see attached PDF)

[Porcupine River Study \(1998 - 2000\) Effluent Sources and Nutrient Monitoring – Ministry of Environment](#)

[Porcupine Lake and River Study – Mattagami Region Conservation Authority – 1978](#)

[August 2020. Porcupine Lake Enhanced Sampling Program and Sewage Impact Report. Hutchinson Environmental Services Ltd.](#) PLC Minutes of September 28, 2020, item #4.a)

2020 Porcupine Lake Annual Water Quality Monitoring Report. Pinchin Ltd. (Retrieved from [PLC Minutes of February 22, 2021- item #5a\)](#))

[Fish contaminant levels and consumption advisories for Porcupine Lake](#), Satyendra Bhavsar, Ph.D., P.Eng (October 26, 2020)

## Appendix B - Table of FPRW recommendations and RAP applicability - City Official Plan

Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed - List of Recommendations - City of Timmins Official Plan					
Section of City Official Plan	OP Page #	Description of RAP Applicability	RAP Recommendation	RAP page #	RAP description Applicability
2.1 Embracing Community Development	11	14. (20 in new draft) Ensuring the conservation and/or enhancement of the environmental attributes and natural heritage features and areas of the community.	Restoration of natural flow via removal of woody debris jams and nuisance beavers. Reduce average algal and duck weed density (this would enable canoe/kayaks on Porcupine River, etc.)	RAP 2 p.29	
2.1 Embracing Community Development	12	22. (29 in new draft) Planning so that major facilities and sensitive land uses and other competing land uses are appropriately designed, buffered and/or separated from each other to prevent land use conflicts.	37. The Porcupine River Watershed municipality should provide protection of the shoreline and stream-banks within its jurisdiction by designating a buffer zone of 15 meters or greater in their Official Plan to be maintained undisturbed as a natural protection zone.	RAP 2,p.15	
2.1 Embracing Community Development	12	23.(30 in new draft) Creating a 'city beautiful' on a four-seasons basis through integrating the natural rugged beauty with 'green spaces', quality urban design and architecture, a coordinated colour theme, landscaped streetscapes, investments in arts and culture, the conservation of heritage sites and providing for well-maintained, clean and safe streets and properties.	Invest in native revegetation around lakes and waterbodies in the Porcupine River Watershed.		Applicability at the old Ratcliff property, the city's property on Evan street near the creek, and Pearl Lake.
2.1 Embracing Community Development	8 (new draft)	23) Ensuring equitable access to clean and healthy water. Ensuring that the Mattagami River, the primary source of drinking water, is protected from development and activities that may affect the health, safety, and sustainability of this natural drinking water resource.  24) Supporting sustainable forestry management practices and the protection and sound use of our finite natural resources.  ADD here (*) .  25) Maintaining, strengthen, and where possible, enhancing the vitality and viability of the downtowns in the City. Innovative approaches to encourage the broadest range of commercial and residential uses shall be encouraged. The City will consider appropriate	(*) Add the following item: Support science based remediation and protection efforts within the Porcupine River Watershed.  <i>RAP rec for reference: RAP 2: Table 4. (3). The federal, provincial and municipal governments, as well as the MRCA and all other Porcupine River Watershed stakeholders, should endorse the Porcupine River Watershed RAP implementation structure as presented in Chapter 8 of Phase 1 Report, and should participate fully as partners.</i>	RAP 2, p. 9 Table 4 (3)	Maintaining an active PLC committee and partnering with industry, government, and community members will be key to supporting a healthy Porcupine River Watershed and making it a model of best practices for community development in Northern Ontario.
2.2 Promoting Efficient, Cost Effective Development and Land Use Patterns	13	Land use patterns will be based on densities that efficiently use land, infrastructure and public service facilities, avoid the need for unnecessary and/or uneconomical expansion of infrastructure, support the use of public transit, and are appropriate to the type of sewage and water systems which are planned or available.	Rap 2: Table 4. (2) The ecosystem approach which includes concepts such as sustainable development, should be integrated into future land use and economic planning processes within the watershed	RAP 2 pg 9	
2.2 Promoting Efficient, Cost Effective Development and Land Use Patterns	13	Any proposed development and land use patterns that will hinder the efficient expansion of settlement areas or which may cause environmental or public health and safety concerns will be discouraged.	RAP1-RAP2: Cumulative impacts from all sources will be considered in the case of proposed development in the Porcupine River Watershed.	Rap 1 and 2 and other studies.	
2.7 Providing Parks, Recreation Facilities & Open Space Areas	26	discouraging the sale or disposal of publicly owned lands in or near the green space system and on the waterfront  encouraging landscaping and 'green' design in the development of private and public developments.			
2.8 Providing Waste Management Systems and Services	26	Providing waste management systems and service	Table 4. (24) The watershed's municipality and other jurisdictions should cooperatively develop permanent programs, facilities and schedules for the collection and safe disposal of household hazardous wastes.	RAP 2, table 4, pg 13	Provide additional opportunities for the public to dispose of hazardous waste would be beneficial for reduction and prevention of persistent toxic contaminants waste in the environment including in the already impacted PRW.
2.9 Protecting and Managing Natural Resources	27	The community's natural resources provide vital environmental, economic and social benefits to our residents, business people and visitors.	Table 4. (32) The city should enforce any development in the watershed to develop a wetland/ shoreline restoration plan to ensure that native vegetation is maintained	RAP 2, Table 4, page 15	prevent overland water run off from hard surfaces into our waterbodies and storm drains.
2.9.6 - Natural Heritage Resources	33	Development and site alteration may be permitted in significant wildlife habitat, in significant areas of natural and scientific interest (ANSI) or on adjacent lands to, fish habitat, significant wetlands, significant wildlife habitat and significant areas of natural and scientific interest if it is demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or their ecological functions. Site specific evaluations may be undertaken by a qualified professional to confirm or determine an alternative adjacent land width. Adjacent lands will be determined through reference to the Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide, MNR. Applications for development and/or site alteration on or within natural heritage features and areas or on adjacent lands will be subject to an Impact Assessment. This assessment shall be prepared by a qualified professional	add that in addition to the Significant Wildlife Technical Guide, that all development will include a no net loss development plan to ensure that any habitat loss is restored.	Table 4. (34) Page 15	To protect and conserve remaining aquatic habitats by applying the 'no net loss of habitat principle' to all urban, rural, and shoreline development or redevelopment.
2.9.7 Water Resources	34	These water bodies contribute significantly to the City's high quality of life, as they provide valuable opportunities for sources of drinking water, recreation, shoreline development and fish and wildlife habitat. Addressing water related issues from a watershed-based planning approach is a critical first step in protecting the City's water resource.	time of their next cyclical review to include a strategy to prevent increased phosphorous		
2.9.7 Water Resources	35	The quality and quantity of ground water and surface water will be protected, improved or restored by: -- considering impacts of a development proposal at a watershed scale -- identifying surface water features, ground water features, hydrologic functions and natural heritage features and areas integral to the ecological and hydrological integrity of the watershed -- promoting efficient and sustainable use of water resources, including practices for water conservation and sustaining water quality -- ensuring best stormwater management practices to minimize stormwater volumes and contaminated loads from entering the Mattagami River, and maintain or increase the extent of vegetative and pervious surfaces.	can we consider that some of the protection that apply for the Mattagami River should also apply to the Porcupine river watershed.	RAP 2 Pg 10	
2.9.7 Water Resources	37	Stormwater management plans shall be considered as an opportunity to rectify existing nutrient, contaminant, erosion or hydraulic flow issues. Stormwater management planning should include water quality targets.	loading to the watershed associated with the jurisdiction planned growth and development.	RAP 2 pg 10	
2.9.7 Water Resources	37	iv) In the design and construction of stormwater management infrastructure best management practices shall be used to ensure:  b. That post-development flows, particularly in receiving streams, are maintained at pre-development levels and that the cumulative impacts of development (within the sub-watershed) are considered as part of stormwater infrastructure design.	Consider that development be planned to the capacity of the treatment plant.		

Appendix B - Table of FPRW recommendations and RAP applicability - City Official Plan  
(Continued)

2.9.7 Water Resources	38	v) The Municipality, in co-ordination with the conservation authority, should develop a strategy for stormwater management that incorporates a consistent series of best management practices, river/stream corridor improvement, point and non-point source contaminant controls and infrastructure improvements on a watershed and subwatershed basis.			
2.9.7 Water Resources	34-35	(...)The quality and quantity of ground water and surface water will be protected, improved or restored by: B considering impacts of a development proposal at a watershed scale (...)	Add a line to the following to highlight the significant status of PRW (i.e.: - considering impacts of a development proposal at a watershed scale, <b>while keeping in mind the data regarding the cumulative adverse findings in Porcupine River Watershed...</b> )	Rap 1 and 2 and other studies.	
2.12 Protecting Public Health and Safety (2.12 is the new designation in 3rd OP draft)	46 to 51 (in the new draft)	2.12 PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY 2.12.1 Changing Climate 47 2.12.2 Flood Hazards 47 2.12.3 Other Natural Hazards 48 2.12.4 Mine Hazards 48 2.12.5 Contaminated Sites and Brownfields 50 2.12.6 Wildland Fire Hazards and Assessment 51	<b>Add: 2.12.7 Water-related public health issues</b> - Preventing health issues related to fish consumption and swimming advisories in Porcupine Lake and other impacted lakes within the City of Timmins.	RAP2, pp. 10-11	<i>RAP2 - Table 4, Recommendations 9 to 13 regarding "Excessive nutrients"- Recommend an item regarding this: The City of Timmins should develop a progressive plan for reduction/elimination of lift stations bypasses (...)"</i>
3.4.3 - Waterfront development	65	Waterfront development in the Resource Development Area, including seasonal and permanent residential uses and commercial uses, will only be permitted where there is demonstrated capacity of the water body to accommodate the intended development and in compliance with Section 3.4.5 – Planning Principles.	Consider site plan control to ensure that development is completed in compliance with protections to the environment (buffer area, restoration using native species, proper materials used on shoreline developments).		
3.4 Resource Development Area	69	3.4.3 A lake capacity plan, where prepared, shall use provincially acceptable modeling techniques for determining lake capacity. Lake capacity plans may be prepared by the proponent of the development, by the municipality or through a partnership i.e. lake association, municipality, private interest. Priority will be given to preparing lake capacity plans for lakes facing development pressures in the municipality. (*)	Within the Porcupine River Watershed, lake capacity plans will take in consideration the existing cumulative pressure and adverse environmental effects and recommendations from the Remedial Action Plans and relevant studies.		
?		compatible land use? mining and residential?	Table 4 (25 and 26) efforts should be directed toward source control at mine sites both opened and closed and the quality of the water that is discharged into the watershed.	RAP 2 pg 13	