

Course Delivery Report

First Canadian Ramsar Site Managers

Training Course

Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area

October 5-8, 2009



Centre for Environmental Stewardship
and Conservation (CESC) Inc.

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Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

This report was prepared for the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority as the host of the First Canadian Ramsar Site Managers Training Course held in Creston, British Columbia, Canada from October 5-8, 2009.

Copies of this report may be obtained by contacting:

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Course Delivery Report
First Canadian Ramsar Site Managers
Training Course

Compiled by Clayton Rubec
and James McCuaig

October 2009

Introduction

Under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Centre for Environmental Stewardship and Conservation (CESC) and the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority (CVWMA), signed and dated March 16-17, 2009, a summary report on the course and its delivery is required. This document constitutes the fulfillment of that requirement.

Host and Sponsors

The Course was hosted at the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area, a Ramsar site in southeastern British Columbia, Canada. Sponsors included the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Environment Canada, the Columbia Basin Trust, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (in particular Mr. Garry Jackman – Regional Director Area A; Mr. John Kettle – Regional Director Area B; and Mr. Larry Binks – Regional Director Area C), Columbia Brewery, and the City of Creston.

Acknowledgements

A great deal of time and effort by CVWMA Staff and its Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Richard Dalon, must be credited with helping shape the design, logistics and hosting of this workshop with these efforts stretching over a six-month period in 2009. CVWMA staff who are directly thanked for their help include: Ms. Anne de Jager, Mr. Marc-André Beaucher, Ms. Carla Haegele, Ms. Angela Hoover and Ms. Gillian Cooper.

Venue

The Course was hosted by the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority, which has 7000 hectares of wetlands (see Annex 1) incorporated in one of Canada's most interesting Ramsar sites. The venue for the delivery of the course itself was the Wildlife Interpretation Centre of the CVWMA in Creston, British Columbia, with fieldwork and excursions that ranged over the whole property and examined and advised on several current issues facing the Authority. Further

information on the site-related aspects of the course is presented below in the day-by-day course report.

Instructors

The Course was designed and presented by Mr. Clayton Rubec and Mr. Jim McCuaig of the CESC Inc., of Ottawa, Canada with two guest instructors: Ms. Maria Rivera, Senior Advisor for the Americas, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Gland, Switzerland and Professor Royal Gardner, College of Law, Stetson University, Gulfport, Florida, USA.



Maria Rivera (centre) of the Ramsar Secretariat making a presentation at the Ramsar National Training Course in Canada

Background, Course Development and Delivery Roles

Canada has designated 37 sites as “Wetlands of International Importance” under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands since 1981. These are part of the global

network of over 1800 such Ramsar wetland sites. The *2007 Survey of Canadian Ramsar Site Managers*¹, sponsored and led by Environment Canada, identified many opportunities to improve the capacity of Canadian Ramsar site managers for the sustainable management of these sites. The development of Ramsar Site management plans and the management of Ramsar sites are aided by various *Guidelines* produced by the Convention.

Across Canada, approximately 30-50 individuals are tasked with responsibilities as Ramsar site managers. They may have responsibility for more than one site or share the task with other individuals and organizations outside their agency. Management of Ramsar sites is often a task that is shared with several property owners that may be federal, provincial, territorial and aboriginal government agencies, or non-government organizations, churches and private landowners. In the 2007 survey, these Canadian Ramsar site managers identified that they often lack sufficient resources, capacity, knowledge and/or training to understand and carry out their official responsibilities as managers of Wetlands of International Importance. They indicated a specific lack of resources to adequately undertake some required management actions such as enforcement, promoting awareness, and ensuring the “wise use” of these sites as defined in the Convention. In general, Canadian Ramsar site managers indicated that they do not fully have the tools to carry out their jobs.

In the Memorandum of Understanding, it was agreed that a **National Training Course for Canadian Ramsar Site Managers** would be timely and beneficial in addressing some of these capacity gaps, and provide for further opportunities to identify and begin to address other issues affecting their responsibilities, including resources questions. The training course was focused on helping Canadian Ramsar site managers to best fulfill their responsibilities within their present job constraints. Specifically, it focused on:

- (a) providing a training opportunity for these site managers that complements their ongoing needs and duties;
- (b) providing a means for making the most effective and efficient use of existing resources to better manage, in accordance with the Ramsar *Guidelines*, all 37 of Canada’s Ramsar sites;
- (c) exploring common needs and opportunities for advancing a network of Ramsar site managers where members could be of assistance and support to

¹ The 51-page report entitled *2007 Canadian Ramsar Site Managers Survey* is available at http://www.ramsar.org/wurc/wurc_canada_survey_2007.pdf

one another on an ongoing basis, enabling managers to share experiences and best practices; and

- (d) developing a “Canadian Ramsar Site Managers Network” that incorporates the site managers into a wider national network (including senior management and policy staff from federal, provincial, territorial, aboriginal, non-government and private organizations), for Ramsar and the conservation of designated wetland sites as well as other wetlands in Canada. This is one of the pillar commitments that Canada undertook in joining the Convention in 1982.

Accordingly, CESC:

- (a) Planned, organized and arranged for the effective delivery of the content for a training course for Canadian Ramsar site managers;
- (b) Facilitated the participation of two guest instructors: (i) Ms. Maria Rivera, Senior Officer for the Americas from the Ramsar Secretariat, Gland, Switzerland; and (ii) Professor Roy Gardner, Director of the Center for Environmental Law, Stetson University, St. Petersburg, Florida, USA and past-Chair of the USA National Ramsar Committee);
- (c) Presented lectures and practical examples supported by a reference set (provided on a thumb drive to all participants) of over 75 relevant documents regarding the regulatory and enforcement responsibilities of managers, recognizing the range of agencies they are drawn from;
- (d) Examined the context in which Ramsar sites in Canada are managed vis-à-vis other wetland, habitat and wildlife conservation programming in Canada and internationally;
- (e) Facilitated discussion and recommendations from the sessions with respect to both a site managers network and the larger Canadian Ramsar Network; and
- (f) Assisted in the design and delivery of logistics for the course.

Further, CESC:

- (a) Developed the course proposal and facilitated funding partnerships to support the course;
- (b) Developed lectures, prepared and invited suitable presentations and practical exercises;
- (c) Distributed course materials in advance and on-site as appropriate;
- (d) Undertook delivery of the content of the agenda and an on-site course evaluation;
- (e) Prepared this summary report on the course and its delivery;
- (f) Recorded and will assist in:
- conveying recommendations to appropriate senior managers in all appropriate agencies responsible for Canada’s Ramsar sites,

- promoting the filling of gaps identified in Canadian Ramsar site management, and
- facilitating further development of the Canadian Ramsar Committee established during the Course.

The training course included presentations and group discussions, and a hands-on field exercise focused on:

- The Ramsar Convention and the management of Wetlands of International Importance;
- How the Ramsar Convention works and the specific roles and history of the various bodies of the Convention;
- The roles and responsibilities of Canada as a Contracting Party to the Convention, the provinces, territories and other agencies engaged in the Convention;
- The importance of Canadian Ramsar sites with respect to other similar sites in the United States, Mexico, the Americas and the World;
- The nature and history of Canada's Ramsar sites network;
- The range of responsibilities of management agencies as currently represented by land ownership of Ramsar sites (divided across federal, provincial, territorial, environmental non-government organizations, aboriginal governments and others including churches);
- Management responsibilities defined by the Convention;
- The site management guidance documents provided by the Convention and other sources;
- Results of the *2007 Canadian Ramsar Sites Managers Survey* and a similar survey conducted in the United States;
- The range of regulatory and enforcement challenges at Ramsar sites in Canada; and
- Discussion and recommendations on filling site managers' capacity gaps, a Canadian Ramsar Sites Managers' Network and a Canadian Ramsar Committee.

All the documentation referred to above and all of the presentations (all sources) made at the sessions from October 5-8, 2009, were given to all participants on a thumb drive, a complete example of which accompanies this Report (Annex 4 includes the list of those documents). A limited number of these thumb drives are available on request by mail at a nominal cost of \$25.00 (in Canadian or US dollars at par), postage included. Requests should be directed to the CESC Inc., P.O. Box 114, Kars, Ontario, Canada, K0A 2E0. Only those request that include a bank draft or cheque in Canadian or US funds payable to "CESC Inc." will be processed.

Participation

The course was made available to known managers and organizations involved in all aspects of the use and conservation of Ramsar sites and wetlands in general, Canada-wide. This included all individuals who responded to the 2007 survey of Canadian Ramsar site managers. A total of 27 participants attended, with a significant number of additional potential participants unable to attend due to recent budgetary restrictions imposed by their agencies.

Organizations Invited to the Course:

Alberta Department of Environment

British Columbia Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation

British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Regional District of Central Kootenay

Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada

- Atlantic Region
- Ontario Region
- Pacific Region
- Prairie and Northern Region
- Quebec Region
- Headquarters, Wetlands Office and Protected Areas Division

Columbia Basin Trust

Columbia Valley Wildlife Management Authority

Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners

Delta Waterfowl Foundation

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation

Manitoba Wildlife Branch

National Capital Commission

New Brunswick Wildlife Division

Newfoundland and Labrador Dept of Environment, Eastern Habitat Joint Venture and the Wildlife Branch

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, Ontario

Nova Scotia Dept. of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division

Old Crow Flats Ramsar Site Committee, Yukon

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Parks Canada (Wood Buffalo and Point Pelee National Parks)

Prince Edward Island Dept. of Environment, Energy and Forestry

Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources

Saskatchewan Department of Environment and Resources Management

Wildsight Program, British Columbia

Wye Marsh Wildlife Management Area, Ontario

Day-by-day Content and Activities

The Agenda for the Course (as presented on site) is attached as Annex 2.

All of the referenced presentations and papers below are found in full on the thumb drive. Following is a brief expansion on the agenda, indicating the coverage of the various presentations and activities, discussion around the topics and aspects that were raised in the course of the discussions and activities that added to the formal content.

The course opened on the evening of Monday October 5, 2009 with a welcome reception hosted by the CVWMA, with introductions and remarks by Richard Dalon.

The following morning (Tuesday, October 6) saw introductions of all the course leaders, presenters and host staff, as well as a round of introduction by all participants that indicated not only where they were from and who they represented, but also why they had come to the course and what they expected the course to do for them. Clayton Rubec presented the rationale for the course

based on the findings of the 2007 Survey of Ramsar Site Managers. Jim McCuaig provided an overview of the course agenda, the objectives and the expected outcomes. The specified objectives were to:

- Assist site managers to best fulfill their responsibilities
- Address capacity gaps identified in the 2007 Survey
- To facilitate further opportunities to identify and address management issues
- Identify the most effective and efficient use of existing resources to better manage Canada's Ramsar sites
- Explore common needs and opportunities for advancing a network of Ramsar site managers
- Develop a Ramsar National Committee.

Outcomes included the transmission of recommendations to senior managers in all appropriate agencies and internationally to all Contracting Parties, the identification of means to fill gaps in resources and capacity for site managers and the establishing of both a Canadian Site Managers Network and a National Ramsar Committee.

The findings and recommendations of the 2007 Survey of Canadian Ramsar Site Managers were presented by Clayton Rubec, followed by a similar presentation by Roy Gardner on the Survey of Sites Listed as Wetlands of International Importance in the United States (2006). The survey results were compared and contrasted, with conclusions being drawn regarding Canadian needs and requirements.

Three presentations were given by Maria Rivera of the Ramsar Secretariat (Switzerland) about the Convention itself, the roles of the Secretariat, Conferences of the Parties and the scientific and technical bodies of the Convention. The current and adopted Ramsar Strategic Plan (2009-2015) was presented, with emphasis on the expected actions and roles of Ramsar site managers. Roy Gardner and Randy Milton (North American representative on the STRP) presented in more detail the roles and assistance provided, particularly to site managers, by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention.

Clayton Rubec presented the current state of Ramsar in Canada, including both who and what is supposed to be done and what Canada has committed to doing

under the international Convention. He followed with a detailed present status of Canadian Ramsar sites in terms of the commitments and requirements, the relationship of Ramsar to other wetland initiatives in Canada (particularly the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the North American Wetlands Conservation Council), and highlighted the Canadian gaps. The following discussion had excellent input from several participants that served to clarify relationships within Canada, and highlight several issues with respect to Ramsar implementation.

The session following lunch shifted the focus from the requirements to the barriers to accomplishing those requirements. The emphasis was less, however, on barriers, and more on solutions that were appropriate for site managers. Jim McCuaig led off with a presentation titled "Is New Money the Only Solution?" that looked in detail at the economic and bureaucratic systems that needed to be considered if action was to take place. While new money is not the only solution, it was concluded that resources (time, money, expertise, etc.) would be required to fully address the Ramsar commitments. Some time was spent on advice regarding the means of acquiring resources, starting with having something specific to sell, rather than simply asking for money. There was a lively discussion that followed. A conclusion reached was that managers should aggressively and optimistically approach the money questions with, if nothing else, the object of formally attempting to fulfill the obligations imposed by their position as Ramsar site managers (and documenting the attempt). If unsuccessful, the attempt would at least be on record so that concerns raised from whatever quarter about Ramsar obligations could be responded to in such a way as to have responsibility rest at the appropriate levels.

A breakout group exercise was carried out, with each team focusing on a specific area of Ramsar site management, as well as being free to address and particular concern or idea each group had. The specific subject areas were:

- Maintenance of ecological integrity
- Data and information gathering
- Management planning
- Real community participation
- External effects.

Each group reported on their findings with respect to barriers and solutions, and that information was captured either in PowerPoint presentations or in Word documents that are all found on the thumb drive.

Briefly, Clayton Rubec reviewed the history of Ramsar site designation in Canada and identified several of the barriers that had caused the Ramsar network in Canada to be essentially static for many years. Associated with the discussions on data and information gathering, Pat MacGregor of the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) presented WetKit (www.wetkit.net), its current status and the results of a recent survey on the future of the wetlands planning tool. Also discussed was the Conservation Management System tool from the United Kingdom. Interest in this tool as a potential common tool for Canada was expressed, with CVWMA and CWS committing to further examine and evaluate the tool for potential Canada-wide application.

A formal dinner was held at the West Creston Hall, with remarks by Creston Mayor Ron Toyota and Creston Valley's Richard Dalon. As preliminary background for the field trip scheduled for the following day, an excellent presentation was given on the history, current state and current issues of the CVWMA by Marc-André Beaucher. Six management issues at the Creston Valley Ramsar site that the course participants were to examine and advise on were presented so that participants could identify those that were of particular interest.

The following day (Wednesday October 7) was spent reviewing help available for site managers from Ramsar itself and from elsewhere. After an overview of help available from Ramsar and the most recent Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance, Jim McCuaig reviewed the Core Principles for Management Planning from the Conservation Management System Consortium from the UK. After the principles had been presented, Maria Rivera reviewed in detail the following guidance documents available from Ramsar:

- New Management Planning Guidelines
- Communications, Education and Public Awareness Guidelines
- Local Communities and Indigenous People's Participation Guidelines

During discussion, other technical help and documents were also identified that could be of direct assistance to site managers facing specific situations in and around their wetlands.

Prior to departing on the local field trips to assess six local management issues presented by the CVWMA (see Annex 6), discussion of the role and functions of the USA National Ramsar Committee were presented by Roy Gardner. Maria Rivera also presented the situation of other National Ramsar Committees throughout the Americas Region of Ramsar. Clayton Rubec followed with a draft written resolution for consideration of the course, establishing a Canadian National Ramsar Committee. The resolution was to be discussed in contact committee form the following morning.

The last morning (Thursday October 8) focused on a set of presentations from each of the field excursion groups that were designed to provide direct advice to CVWMA from the “visiting experts”. Then the participants analyzed the draft resolution (see below) which was adopted directing the drafting group to complete it based on the focus of the discussions of this morning. The meeting ending with final comments by Clayton Rubec, Maria Rivera and Richard Dalon and thanks to the CVWMA Staff who helped so much in the logistics of this workshop.

The resolution and its key points are discussed in the next section, with the full resolution presented in Annex 3.

Resolution and Commitments to Action

The Course participants discussed the creation of a Canadian Ramsar Site Managers Network and a Canadian Ramsar Committee. A Resolution with recommended actions was adopted at the conclusion of the Course. It is attached as Annex 3 reflecting the discussions on the draft that was presented at the meeting and additional comments received after the meeting.

Key points raised in this Resolution:

- (1) The Canadian Ramsar Site Managers Network will operate informally using technology such as ListServe.
- (2) The Canadian Ramsar Committee is thus established but will need time to evolve. It is important that it sit outside of a government body at arm’s length, be inclusive and ensure all participants have an equal (non-veto) voice. Government agencies will be welcome to participate and provide advice and assistance.

- (3) The USA National Ramsar Committee based on an association of organizations versus individuals is a relevant model for Canada that is more appropriate than other examples from Contracting Parties in the Americas.
- (4) Participants at the Course and those that could not attend need to be kept directly informed as this Committee and the Network get started up.
- (5) Such a Network and Committee should encourage participation by sites that currently lie outside the existing list of Canadian sites, should assist in promoting the interests of these sites and encourage establishment of additional sites in Canada.
- (6) The Network and Committee are meant to assist, not compete, with existing mechanisms promoting wetland conservation in Canada (such as the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and Canada's four NAWMP Joint Ventures). Stronger links between all of these interests are meant to be encouraged.

Evaluation

A summary of participants' evaluation and reactions to the course is attached in Annex 5. Additional feedback was delivered orally throughout the course, as well as afterwards. The majority of comments were generally appreciative of the effort that was demonstrated in course design and of the content of the Course with specific suggestions for future versions of such courses and for operation of a national committee.

Next Steps

- The main organizers of the Course: Richard Dalon, Chief Executive Officer of the CVWMA and Clayton Rubec, Vice-President of CESC Inc. offered to act as interim coordinators in fostering the development of the National Network and the Canadian Ramsar Committee.
- All documents provided on the thumb drive and additional documents and presentations given at the Course were gathered and are being posted on the web site of the CVWMA (www.crestonwildlife.ca).

- Additional opportunities for adapting the course to other venues inside or outside Canada will be considered.
- The Report on the meeting will be circulated to all individuals who attended, to those expressing interest in the course and to all relevant organizations in Canada. It will also be posted on the Ramsar Convention web site (www.ramsar.org) as soon as feasible.

Recommendations Regarding Similar Courses in Canada and Elsewhere

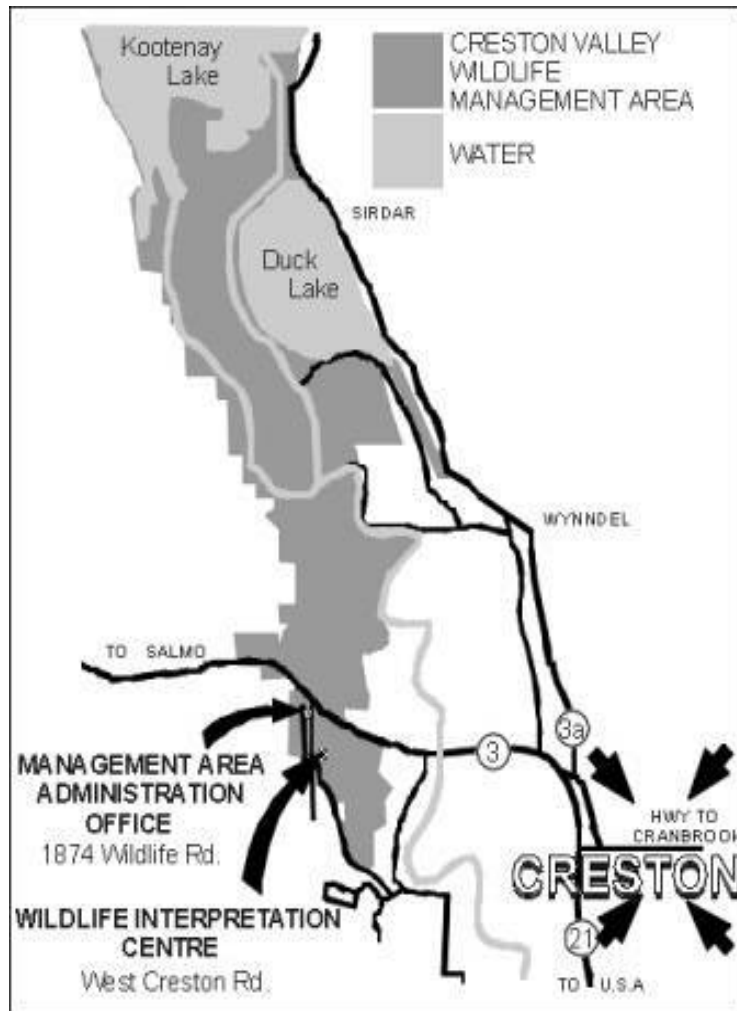
Two recommendations are made:

1. It is recommended that consideration be given to running this course a second time in Canada to engage the remaining site managers and more senior personnel responsible for Canadian Ramsar sites. A second course could focus more at senior levels, emphasizing Canada's commitments, the conservation benefits of Ramsar designation and the many other positive benefits that can be realized through full and proper use of the international designation. A secondary focus could be on the advancement of agency wetlands conservation objectives through the use of Ramsar designation and through the commitments for wise use and management of all wetlands made by Canada in ratifying the Ramsar Convention.
2. It is further recommended that this type of course be made available to other Ramsar site managers and other senior managers of agencies responsible for Ramsar and wetlands conservation in other countries, particularly in the Americas, especially in North America (e.g. the United States and Mexico). It is clear that such detailed information about Ramsar, the significance and advantages of Ramsar designation and the extensive and specific help available to Ramsar site managers is not well enough known or appreciated. Thus, it is underutilized to the detriment of wetlands management in general and to the purposes of Ramsar designations in the first place. Such courses can also be instrumental in establishing and strengthening networks of Ramsar site managers both within a specific country and internationally. They could also help strengthen National Ramsar Committees in their coordination functions and enable such committees to impart specific values to member agencies and site managers that will help them in their day-to-day responsibilities and obligations under the Convention.

Annex 1:

Meeting Location

The meeting location was the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area's Wildlife Interpretation Centre on Wildlife Rd./West Creston Rd., on the west side of Creston, British Columbia on provincial Highway No. 3.



Annex 2:
AGENDA
NATIONAL TRAINING COURSE FOR
CANADIAN RAMSAR SITE MANAGERS
Creston, B.C.
October 5-8, 2009

Monday October 5

19:00-21:00 Welcome Remarks and Reception (Wildlife Interpretation Building)

- Welcome (Richard Dalon, Creston Valley WMA, Host)
- Introduction of course facilitators and guest instructors
- Reception

Tuesday October 6

9:00-10:30 Opening Session: Objectives and the Problems

- Introduction of Participants with brief statements of why each person has come to this course
- Course Agenda (Jim McCuaig, CESC)
- Ramsar Training Course Rationale (Clayton Rubec CESC)
- Course Objectives, Overview and Expected Outcomes (Jim McCuaig CESC)
- 2007 Survey of Canadian Ramsar Site Managers (Clayton Rubec)
 - The Findings
 - Recommendations based on Survey
- Survey of U.S. Sites Listed as Wetlands of International Importance, 2006: Related findings to Canada (Roy Gardner, U.S. National Ramsar Committee)

10:30-10:45 Break

1045-1215 Ramsar, Canada and Site Managers

- The Ramsar Convention and Ramsar Site Managers (Maria Rivera, Americas Officer, Ramsar Secretariat, Switzerland)
- The Ramsar Convention
- The role of the Secretariat, COPs and STRP to support site managers
- The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015: action items for site managers
- What does the STRP do for Site Managers? (Roy Gardner, Randy Milton)
- Canada's Ramsar Sites and Their Management (Clayton Rubec) Management responsibilities (both who and what is supposed to be done, what Canada has said in past it is committed to do for our sites)
- Ramsar sites management status (ecological integrity, management plans, information, significant issues, etc.)
 - Relationship of Ramsar to other wetland sites and initiatives
 - Canadian gaps in Convention requirements (open discussion)

12:15-13:30 Lunch Break

13:30-15:00 Barriers and Solutions

- Is new money the only barrier/solution? (Jim McCuaig)
- Breakout Group exercise: Introduction, Objectives and the Assignment
- *Breakout Group Exercise*. Barriers and Solutions to successful Ramsar site management for:
 - Maintenance of ecological integrity
 - Data and information
 - Management planning
 - Real community participation
 - External (to wetland site) effects (positive and negative)

15:00-15:15 Break

15:15-16:35 Breakout Exercise continued

- Report preparation
- Group Reports on barriers and solutions

16:35-17:00 New Ramsar Sites and a New/Old Tool

- Why is there a static Canadian Network? (Clayton Rubec)
- WetKit Status and 2009 Survey Results (Pat MacGregor, Environment Canada)

18:00-19:30 Dinner (hosted by CVWMA) at West Creston Hall

19:30-20:10 Introduction and thanks to sponsors (Richard Dalon)

- Greetings from the City of Creston (Ron Toyota, Mayor)
- Presentation on the Ramsar Site Management Issues of the CVWMA and discussion (Richard Dalon)

20:10-20:30 Introduction to Creston Ramsar site and walkabout on Wednesday afternoon (Marc-André Beaucher)

Wednesday October 7

09:00-10:30 Help from Ramsar and Elsewhere

- Criteria and Guidance (Maria Rivera)
 - Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance (what's old, new and being considered)
 - Overview of available material/guidance from the Convention
- *Management Planning for Nature Conservation Sites — Core Principles* (Conservation Management System Consortium, UK) (Jim McCuaig)
- *New Guidelines for Management Planning for Ramsar Sites and Other Wetlands* (Maria Rivera)
- Discussion: Use/applicability to Canada and what further planning help is needed by Canadian managers

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-12:00 Additional Help from Ramsar

- Ramsar Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Guidelines (Maria Rivera)
- Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands (Jim McCuaig)
- Discussion: Further needs or details required

12:00-13:30 Lunch Break

13:30-15:30 Ramsar National Committees and Site Manager Networks

- The Role, Value and Functioning of the USA National Ramsar Committee (Roy Gardner, USA National Ramsar Committee Past Chair, and member STRP Ramsar Convention)
- Additional Examples of Ramsar National Committees in the Americas (Maria Rivera)
- The need for and proposals for a National Ramsar Committee and a Canadian Ramsar Site Managers Network (Clayton Rubec) (*Draft Resolution for discussion*)
 - Breakout Group Discussion and Reports
 - National Network structure and composition, Terms of Reference/responsibilities, relationships, actions to take, timing, etc. (Group 1)
 - Site Managers' Committee structure and composition, Terms of Reference/responsibilities, relationships, actions to take, timing, etc. (Group 2)
 - Reports

15:30-17:30 Creston Valley Ramsar Site Walkabout (teams will go to different areas in small groups)

18:30-20:00 Informal Dinner (Wildlife Interpretation Building)

20:00-21:30 Open Forum: Ideas for CVWMA, brief presentations by Site Managers: Success Stories, Current Issues on Specific Sites and Requests for Advice.

Thursday October 8

09:00-10:30 Actions and Connections

Connections:

- Linkages to NAWMP Joint Ventures and NAWCC, DUC, WHC etc. (Pat MacGregor, Environment Canada)
- Wetlands Link International Connections (Richard Dalon)

Actions:

- Completion of Course Resolution and Recommendations for a Canadian National Ramsar Committee (conclusions from earlier discussion)
- Design and functions of a Canadian Ramsar Site Managers Network (conclusions from earlier discussion)

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-12:00 Growth, Progress and Next Steps

- Help with management plan creation, updating and revisions, data and information, resource acquisition (Clayton Rubec)
- Next steps and commitments: Round table discussion

12:00-12:30 Course Evaluation

12:30-14:30 Lunch

14:30-15:00 Wrap Up Comments

15:00 Conclusion

Annex 3

**RESOLUTION OF THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE FIRST NATIONAL
RAMSAR SITE MANAGERS TRAINING COURSE**

ON

**A CANADIAN RAMSAR COMMITTEE AND
A RAMSAR SITE MANAGERS NETWORK**

Creston, British Columbia

October 5-8, 2009

WHEREAS the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties have recommended, through Recommendation 5.7 adopted in 1993 at the Convention's Meeting of the Parties held in Kushiro, Japan, that countries should foster the implementation of the Convention through a National Ramsar Committee and have included specific actions towards this objective in the Ramsar Strategic Plan on three occasions since 1997;

ACKNOWLEDGING that Canadian Delegations have officially supported and committed to implement the adopted recommendations and resolutions as well as the rolling six-year Strategic Plans of the Convention over the past 28 years;

RECOGNIZING that no National Ramsar Committee exists in Canada to facilitate Ramsar activities in Canada;

FURTHER NOTING that facilitation of all mechanisms to foster the improved conservation and wise use of wetlands and the economic effectiveness of programs for endangered wildlife and threatened ecosystems, particularly for wetlands, is a stated goal of all governments in Canada;

NOTING that the successful and positive experience of National Ramsar Committees in many other nations has established better communications and more effective use of existing resources, assisted in finding new resources, and fostered improved management of Ramsar sites among site managers, stakeholders and property owners involved in the conservation and stewardship of wetlands in general and, in particular, Wetlands of International Importance;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the desirability of increasing the capacity of the National Authority Office for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in Canada to implement Ramsar activities in Canada; and

WISHING to foster the effective implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in Canada and internationally;

We the participants in the First National Ramsar Site Managers Training Course held at Creston, British Columbia, Canada from October 5-8, 2009,

RESOLVE THAT:

1. The managers of existing and future Ramsar sites in Canada hereby establish the *Canadian Ramsar Site Managers Network*.
2. This Network will promote the interests of stakeholders involved in the use of Canadian Ramsar sites and other important wetlands in Canada through effective communication mechanisms such as ListServe.
3. *Proposed* objectives, participation and work tasks for this network are outlined in Appendix 1 (*to be further developed*).

WE FURTHER RESOLVE THAT:

4. A *Canadian Ramsar Committee* is hereby established to link organizations involved in the conservation of wetlands in Canada particularly at Ramsar sites.
5. The Canadian Ramsar Site Managers Network will work closely with the Canadian Ramsar Committee.
6. *Proposed* objectives, participation and work tasks for this Canadian National Ramsar Committee are outlined in Appendix 2 (*to be further developed*).
7. The Canadian Ramsar Committee will have a formative meeting as soon as possible. This should include representatives meeting in person and/or through electronic means to establish, as it sees fit, its means of operation, officers, subgroups and a Work Plan for 2009-2012 (*suggested content is included in Appendix 2*).
8. A respected national environmental non-government organization that is directly involved in wetland conservation work will be asked to facilitate this first formative meeting of the Committee.
9. On an interim basis, a representative of the Centre for Environmental Stewardship and Conservation (CESC Inc.) and a representative of the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area (CVWMA) are invited to jointly facilitate start up actions until such time as the Committee designates its operating processes.

Appendix 1: Proposed Canadian Ramsar Site Managers Network

Objectives:

The *proposed* objectives of the Canadian Ramsar Site Managers Network are:

- (a) Provide a forum where Ramsar site managers can directly interact amongst themselves on management issues relating to Ramsar sites.
- (b) Provide a mechanism for more direct interaction between site managers and the National Authority Office (CWS, Environment Canada)

Who Should Participate:

This Network should include representatives of existing and any future Ramsar sites in Canada.

Potential Tasks:

- Updating Ramsar Information Sheets every three years and ensuring the availability of updated site maps for all Canadian sites to the Ramsar Secretariat;
- Assisting Environment Canada in the drafting of a National Report for each Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COPs) every three years;
- Providing advice on the management issues and threats to the ecological integrity of Ramsar sites in Canada; and
- Facilitating interaction between Canadian Ramsar interests and other Contracting Parties and wetland programs in North America.

Appendix 2: Proposed Canadian National Ramsar Committee**Objectives:**

The *proposed* objectives of the Canadian Ramsar Committee are:

- to promote awareness of Canada's Ramsar sites and their wise use and management;
- to support the interaction and cooperation of site managers, stakeholders and property owners in actions related to Canada's Ramsar sites;
- to facilitate information exchange, improved and expanded availability of resources for site management, more effective communication, and peer-to-peer interaction among site managers and their organizations;
- to assist and give advice to the National Authority Office of the Convention (the Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada) in its undertaking of duties and responsibilities regarding the Ramsar Convention; and
- to facilitate the national and international activities of Canada's involvement in the Ramsar Convention.

Who Should Participate:

- Organizations and representatives of the stakeholders of Ramsar and other important wetland sites in Canada
- Federal, provincial and territorial governments
- Managers of Ramsar sites
- Interested environmental non-government organizations
- Academics and others interested in wetland conservation issues
- Other stakeholders

Potential Tasks for a 2009-2012 Work Plan of the Canadian Ramsar Committee:

The following actions could be considered by the Committee:

- Organize meetings of representatives of Canada's Ramsar sites through their personal attendance or by electronic conferencing means.
- Appoint officers and subgroups as needed to run its affairs.
- Facilitate creation of Ramsar site management plans for new sites, and establish or regularly update such plans for all existing sites in Canada.
- Facilitate mechanisms to generate new resources and more effective use of existing resources for Ramsar sites management.
- Identify and foster training opportunities.
- Share experience about the site management issues faced in Canada with other site managers outside Canada, particularly in the United States and Mexico, through such mechanisms as the *Canada-USA-Mexico Trilateral Committee on Wildlife and Ecosystem Management* (and its respective Working Tables) that meets annually.
- Assist the National Authority Office of the Convention in Canada (the Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada Headquarters) in its mission.
- Promote the stability and potential expansion of the existing network of Canadian Ramsar sites.
- Facilitate exchanges of information, expertise and staff with other Ramsar sites if opportunities arise.

Annex 4

Updated October 10, 2009

Documents Distributed on Thumb Drive and at the Course

	Title	Doc. Format	Paper Copy in Your Kit
General			
--	<i>Documents on the Thumb Drive</i>	<i>Word</i>	X
1	<i>Training Course Agenda October 5-8, 2009</i>	<i>Word</i>	X
2	<i>List of Participants</i>	<i>pdf</i>	X
3	<i>Biographies of Facilitators and Instructors</i>	<i>Word</i>	
4	<i>Participants Kit</i>	<i>Word</i>	X
5	<i>Course Evaluation Form</i>	<i>Word</i>	X
The Surveys			
6	<i>Survey of Canadian Ramsar Site Managers 2007 (Lynch-Stewart and Associates)</i>	<i>pdf</i>	
7	<i>Canada 2007 Survey: Conclusions and Recommendations (Action Items) (extract from Doc # 6)</i>	<i>Word</i>	X
8	<i>Environmental Law Review article on the 2006 USA National Ramsar Sites Survey</i>	<i>pdf</i>	
9	<i>Environmental Law Review article on the 2008 Africa Wetland Sites Survey</i>	<i>pdf</i>	
Presentations			

11	<i>Survey of Canadian Site Managers (C. Rubec)</i>	PP	
12	<i>Status of Management Planning for Canadian Ramsar Sites (C. Rubec)</i>	PP	
13	<i>Why is Canada's Ramsar Sites Network Static? (C. Rubec)</i>	PP	
14	<i>Expansion of the Canadian List of Ramsar Sites (C. Rubec)</i>	PP	
15	<i>WetKit – Canada's Internet Destination for Wetland Conservation Resources (P. MacGregor)</i>	PP	
16	<i>Ramsar Guidelines for Management Planning (M. Rivera)</i>	PP	
17	<i>A Canadian Ramsar Network and National Ramsar Committee: Rationale and Objectives (C. Rubec)</i>	PP	
18	<i>Canadian Ramsar Managers Training Course: Objectives and Outcomes (J. McCuaig)</i>	PP	
19	<i>Management Planning for Nature Conservation Sites: Core Principles (J. McCuaig)</i>	PP	
20	<i>Local Communities and indigenous People (Participation in Wetland Management) (J. McCuaig)</i>	PP	
21	<i>Centre for Environmental Stewardship and Conservation (CESC) (Overview) (C. Rubec)</i>	PP	
22	<i>Ramsar's CEPA Programmme (M. Rivera)</i>	PP	
22A	<i>Overview of the Ramsar Convention (M. Rivera)</i>	PP	
22B	<i>The STRP and Ramsar Site Managers (R. Gardner)</i>	PP	
22C	<i>Wetlands of International Importance – A Network of Protected Areas (M. Rivera)</i>	PP	
23	<i>U.S. Ramsar Sites Survey: Observations for Canada (R. Gardner)</i>	PP	

24	<i>The Role, Value and Functioning of the USA National Ramsar Committee (R. Gardner)</i>	PP	
25	<i>WetLink International (C. Rostron)</i>	PP	
26	<i>Ramsar and Canada After COP10 (C. Rubec)</i>	PP	
Ramsar Documents and Guidelines			
27	<i>The Ramsar Convention and Its Mission</i>	Word	
27A	<i>List of the Convention's Guidance Documents</i>	Word	
28	<i>The Bodies of the Convention</i>	Word	
29	<i>What are the Parties' Commitments Under the Convention?</i>	Word	
30	<i>Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance (Annex 2 to Ramsar Information Sheet Guidelines – see Doc #45)</i>	Word	X
30A	<i>Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance</i>	pdf	
30B	<i>Strategic framework for the List of Wetlands of International Importance (edition 2009)</i>	pdf	
31	<i>The Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance: Information.</i>	Word	
32	<i>The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015</i>	pdf	
33	<i>New Guidelines for Management Planning for Ramsar Sites and Other Wetlands</i>	pdf	
34	<i>A Conceptual Framework for the Wise Use of Wetlands and the Maintenance of Ecological Character</i>	pdf	
35	<i>Guidelines for the Implementation of the Wise Use Concept</i>	Word	
36	<i>Additional Guidance for the Implementation of the</i>	Word	

	<i>Wise Use Concept</i>		
37	<i>Program on Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) 2009-2015 of the Convention</i>	<i>pdf</i>	
38	<i>Roles and Responsibilities of CEPA National Focal Points (Outreach CEPA nfp...)</i>	<i>pdf</i>	
39	<i>The Convention's CEPA Program</i>	<i>Word</i>	
40	<i>Guidelines for Establishing and Strengthening Local Communities' and Indigenous People's Participation in the Management of Wetlands</i>	<i>pdf</i>	
41	<i>General Guidance for Interpreting "Urgent National Interest" Under Article 2.5 of the Convention and Considering Compensation under Article 4.2</i>	<i>pdf</i>	
42	<i>Guidance for the Consideration of the Deletion or Restriction of the Boundaries of a Listed Ramsar Site</i>	<i>pdf</i>	
43	<i>Ramsar Classification System for Wetland Type (Annex 1 to Ramsar Information Sheet Guidelines – see Doc #45)</i>	<i>Word</i>	
44	<i>Additional Guidelines for Provision of Maps and Other Spatial Data for Ramsar Sites (Annex 3 to Ramsar Information Sheet Guidelines – see Doc #45)</i>	<i>Word</i>	
45	<i>Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) 2009-2012 Version: Guidelines</i>	<i>pdf</i>	<i>X</i>
46	<i>RIS for Creston Valley Ramsar Site</i>	<i>Word</i>	<i>X</i>
Other Documents			
47	<i>Ramsar Planning Guidelines – fit for purpose? (M. Alexander)</i>	<i>pdf</i>	
48	<i>CMS Management Planning for Nature Conservation Sites — Core Principles (Conservation Management</i>	<i>pdf</i>	

	<i>System Consortium, UK)</i>		
49	<i>List of Rejected Proposals for Canadian Ramsar Sites 1982-2009</i>	<i>Word</i>	
50	<i>Canada and the Ramsar Convention. 1999. Booklet. Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Gatineau, Quebec.</i>	<i>pdf</i>	
51	<i>National Report for Canada to 10th Meeting of the Contracting Parties. 2008. Changwon, South Korea. English version.</i>	<i>pdf</i>	
52	<i>Daily Summaries of the 10th Meeting of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. October 28-November 4, 2008. Changwon, South Korea. Extract from the Earth Resources Bulletin.</i>	<i>Word</i>	
53	<i>Procedures for Nomination and List on Wetlands of International Importance in Canada</i>	<i>pdf</i>	
54	<i>Strategic Overview of the Canadian Ramsar Program. 1996. C.D.A. Rubec and M. Kerr-Upal. North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada) and Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada. Ottawa, Ontario.</i>	<i>pdf</i>	
55	<i>Management of Canadian Ramsar Sites. 1994. Compiled by C.D.A. Rubec. North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada) and Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada. Ottawa, Ontario.</i>	<i>pdf</i>	
56	<i>The Canadian System of Wetland Classification, 2nd ed. 1997.</i>	<i>pdf</i>	
57	<i>Barriers and Solutions: Breakout Group Instructions</i>	<i>Word</i>	<i>X</i>
57-2	<i>Ramsar Sites Management Planning</i>	<i>PP</i>	
57-3	<i>Maintenance of Ecological Integrity</i>	<i>Word</i>	
57-4	<i>Getting Real Community Action</i>	<i>Word</i>	

57-5	<i>External Effects</i>	<i>PP</i>	
58	<i>About WetKit: information: www.wetkit.net/about_wetkit.php</i>	<i>pdf</i>	
59	<i>WetKit: Ramsar information: www.wetkit.net/modules/2/index.php</i>	<i>pdf</i>	
60	<i>(Draft) Resolution on a Canadian National Ramsar Committee and Site Managers' Network (for discussion at Course)</i>	<i>Word</i>	<i>X</i>
61	<i>About Wetlands Link International: www.wwt.org.uk/text/396/about_wli.html</i>	<i>Word</i>	
62	<i>Mission, History and How We Do Business of CESC: www.ceschabitat.ca/mission.htm</i>	<i>Word</i>	

Annex 5

National Ramsar Managers Training Course

Evaluation Questionnaire

Do you agree?

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Not Applicable
1. Overall, I was satisfied with this course.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 4	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 6	<input type="radio"/>
2. This course achieved the stated objectives.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 5	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/>
3. The methods used in this course (lectures, presentations, discussions, exercises, reading materials, field work/visits, etc.) were effective in helping me to learn.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 1	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 6	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/>
4. The resource persons (lecturers, guest speakers, facilitators, moderators) were professional and effective.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 3	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 7	<input type="radio"/>
5. This course will help me in my professional and/or personal development.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 6	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/>
6. This course will help me in my present work and responsibilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 5	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/>

Please use the space below to share with us other comments or views on this course.

Overall comments/views (from nine respondents, R1-9):

R1: Great program, well thought out and executed. Need more geography, information on participants' location – not just affiliations. Do not assume participants know all the acronyms, so either don't use acronyms or please provide a glossary in the handouts. Great facility for future meetings (versus airport hotels!).

R2: I greatly appreciate the effort and thought that the organizers expended to put forward and implement the Course. It brought together a vibrant and dedicated group committed to the ideals of the Ramsar Convention. It is my hope there will be future meetings at other sites across Canada. Future workshops will benefit from more time being allowed for discussion, and allowing that discussion to evolve. The sharing of knowledge and experience is the most important outcome of these meetings which will continue through the personal contacts and discussions.

R3: Thanks!. Perhaps a little more interaction but otherwise great effort!. I learned a lot.

R4: Good overview, information could have been provided in one and a half days. Much of the information did not need to be presented in PowerPoint. Much of it was not overly beneficial. Good to have the international and USA information.

R5: Thanks to all the lecturers and Creston Valley staff for all your efforts.

R6: I really appreciate the initiative of the Course organizers to develop a National Ramsar Committee and Site Managers Network for Canada. Great job.

R7: Hosting was superb. Great job Creston! I learned a lot about Ramsar and look forward to using this information in the future.

R8: Allocate more time for group discussions in future meetings so it does not impact presentations. Maybe suggest that people read the documentation before the meeting.

R9: Generally, the concept of a Canadian Ramsar Network is supported but it needs to be effective and make a difference on the ground.

Annex 6

CVWMA – Ramsar Site Management Issues for Discussion in Field Excursions

1. **Corn Creek Marsh:** Hunting on the CVWMA is permitted in all areas, except in the vicinity the Interpretation Centre, e.g. between Highway 3 (south of) and dike 3 (north of). The areas immediately north of Highway 3 and south of dike 3 are within 900 meters and 1.5 kilometer of the interpretation centre, respectively, well within the dangerous range of any rifle ammunition (.22 LR dangerous up to 1.75 km). No accident has been reported in 40 years, but this situation has been noted as a significant risk in a recent assessment conducted by the BC Provincial Government. What would be the best approach(es) to reduce/eliminate the risk?
2. **Summit Creek:** The CVWMA was recently approached by an entrepreneur/developer who would like to invest some money in re-storing and running a campground that was closed in 2001 after a hazard tree assessment deemed it was unsafe for public use. Forty-one of the 50 campsites had one or more dangerous trees around it. The professional consultants who conducted the assessment in 2001 recommended a permanent closure of the campground as removing dangerous trees would significantly reduce the high ecological values present at the site. The site is located in a rare and disappearing type of habitat (Interior Cedar-Hemlock with large riparian cottonwoods), and is habitat to the endangered subspecies of Western Screech-owl (COSEWIC 2003). Should the land be restored to a natural state or should the considerations for a campground be pursued?
3. **Leach Lake:** Through a leasing process, the CVWMA voluntarily maintains two lure crops (total area approx. 40 ha) in an attempt to mitigate ungulate damage caused to crops on adjacent agricultural land. The Creston Valley supports a healthy population of resident elk. Some farmers would like to see more CVWMA land turned into lure crops to further reduce ungulate presence on farmland. Until this year, hunting was permitted in the Leach Lake lure crop, but concerns have been raised that such practice may defeat the purpose of the lure crop. Would there be any benefits to expanding lure crops on the CVWMA and what are the risks and benefits of hunting in lure crops?
4. **Duck Lake:** Among many of its duties, the CVWMA acts as a diking district and is responsible for the maintenance and operation of flood protection works (dikes and pumps) in the Duck Lake area. The CVWMA has operated pumps annually (over a 40-year period) to prevent flooding of the farmland upstream from Duck Lake. The CVWMA does not collect any taxes nor does it receive any funding from the provincial government to provide such

services. In the lack and absence of funding, should the CVWMA continue pumping to prevent flooding of adjacent land? Pumping may provide certain benefits to some wildlife species such as the Western Grebe by reducing sudden rise in water levels during the freshet.

5. **Duck Lake Nesting Area:** The CVWMA is continued for wildlife conservation, management and development and must be maintained and developed for the purposes for which it is established and, in particular, as a waterfowl management area. While waterfowl surveys were conducted prior to 1994, the extent of the Area and its very large ponds make it very challenging to collect suitable on-the-ground data to accurately estimate breeding duck population numbers. Beside expensive aerial surveys, what survey methods may be acceptable and suitable to gather credible data on waterfowl numbers? Should the layout of the wetland compartments be look at and redesigned to facilitate wildlife surveys (e.g. making ponds smaller)?

6. **Wishes of User Groups:** Over the years, the CVWMA has attempted to cater to a wide variety of user groups (anglers, hunters, farmers, wildlife enthusiasts, tourists, etc.). At the best of times, it has been very challenging to accommodate everyone. In current economic time when funding is a precious commodity, should the CVWMA refine and/or align its activities with user groups that can “show the money” and support its operation and maintenance costs?