

Lake Kipawa

Concerted Management Plan

ABSTRACT

by

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WHAT IS A CONCERTED MANAGEMENT PLAN?

A Concerted Management Plan is required in Areas of Wildlife Interest (*territoire à caractère faunique*). **Lake Kipawa** was designated as an Area of Wildlife Interest in the 1980's, amongst others to reduce the impact of human activities on fish populations. This moratorium imposed a freeze on outfitters' development and construction of cottages on public lands.

The Management Plan involves making a profile of the territory based on literature and consultations with experts to highlight the main issues regarding the lake. This process seeks to define actors' and stakeholders' concerns for the territory through public consultations and meetings with a balanced Consultative Committee (municipal, economic, environmental and community sectors). The long term management of the lake is thus planned with a view to maintaining its natural characteristics. This document provides recommendations that will be analysed by the Témiscamingue Regional County Municipality (MRCT) and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MRN) for its actual implementation.

LAKE KIPAWA CONCERTED MANAGEMENT PLAN, THE WORK OF MANY ACTORS

Steering Committee

The role of the Steering Committee, made up of the project's instigators and funders, was to ensure compliance with the budgets and deadlines. These various actors took part in it:

- MRCT, project instigator, with a contribution of 25% of the project, which totals \$100,000
- CRÉAT (Conférence régionale des élus de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue, regional board of elected officials, contributing 75% of the project)
- MNR, instigator of Areas of Wildlife Interest
- Organisme de bassin versant du Témiscamingue (OBVT, Témiscamingue watershed organization in charge of consulting arrangements and writing the Management Plan)

Population and Stakeholders

The population and Stakeholders took part in the process from the beginning with a public bilingual consultation meeting where many means were put in place to gather concerns.

Afterwards, continuous information was shared throughout the process through medias.

Consultative Committee

The Consultative Committee was formed on a voluntary basis during the public consultation meeting at the beginning of the process. Its mission was to ensure a close follow-up of the project and to work on proposals for the management of Lake Kipawa. It was responsible for the content of the Concerted Management Plan.

The Committee was made up of 18 representatives from various backgrounds such as municipalities, citizens, shoreline owners associations, outfitters, tourism, industries, companies, environmental groups, fishers and users.

Aboriginal communities

The process involved Eagle Village and Wolf Lake First Nations. Several meetings were held with these two communities to discuss their concerns and proposals for actions to be put in place. A document on their position was produced and transmitted to concerned stakeholders. The MRN is still required to officially and specifically consult them on the Lake Kipawa Concerted Management Plan.



TASKS PERFORMED DURING THE PREPARATION OF LAKE KIPAWA MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Consultation as large as possible (public consultation meetings, concerns' survey, petition taken into account, Consultative Committee, specific meetings)
- Regular Steering Committee meetings to organise and have follow-up the project.
- Frequent media releases (Press release, radio broadcast, OBVT's web site regularly updated with project's documents, etc)
- Drafting of territory profile based on consultation with experts and a complete literature review on existing data. Land allocation and use, state of fish populations, wildlife or water quality data are examples of information that was integrated.
- Work on concerns, vocation, objectives and actions by the Consultative Committee (4 meetings and many calls and emails).
- Meetings with Eagle Village and Wolf Lake First Nations.
- Technical sheets drafting on the following subjects to give tools to land managers, decision-makers and citizens and to facilitate the implementation of certain actions on Lake Kipawa:
 - ▮ Awareness campaign on several aspects;
 - ▮ Permanent committee to monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Concerted Management Plan;
 - ▮ Reflection on the implementation of a Community Wildlife Area (*aire faunique communautaire*);
 - ▮ Possibility of low-impact cottage development;
 - ▮ Exotic invasive species and boat washing station;
 - ▮ Marina and boat launching ramps.

PROCESS RESULTS

A total of **284 concerns, 130 reasons** for refusing development, **74 types** of development were considered and problems to be resolved were proposed during the process.

The active participation of the Consultative Committee members during four meetings made it possible to determine concerns for represented groups, the lake's vocation and objectives (**25 objectives**), and an action plan (**24 actions**).

The key message resulting from these joint efforts can be summarised by the lake's vocation, as defined by the Consultative Committee:

"Lake Kipawa is a body of water with exceptional characteristics that should be preserved. No development on the Lake should affect the integrity, quality and long term preservation of this body of water. Actions should be put forward to adequately know and manage present and future problems."

A broad diversity of themes such as permanent and seasonal residency, fishing and fish populations, pleasure boating and lake use, commercial and industrial activities were reflected. These themes are related to different propositions for action that were integrated into the final Management Plan.

EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS



Here is a sample of the **24 proposed actions**:

- Establishment of a permanent management committee for the lake;
- Temporary maintenance of the moratorium;
- Establishment of a monitoring and compliance strategy for septic tanks and shoreline buffer strips for all buildings around the lake (private and commercial cottages);
- Implementation of boat washing stations;
- Continued documentation on water quality, drawdown and exotic invasive species;
- Awareness campaign for users and residents;
- Enforcement of regulations upon occupants without permit or title;
- Feasibility study on possible Community Wildlife Area implementation;
- Many other actions were also proposed.

Establishment of these actions is conditional to necessary funding.

Different documents produced during the process, including the Management Plan, are available at the following address:

<http://www.obvt.ca/activites/concertation>

PRODUCTION TEAM

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