



WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Watershed and Subwatershed Planning

Development of Guidance Manual for Watershed Planning

Client: Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

Location: Province of Ontario, Canada

In 2017, GREENLAND® (in partnership with Skelton Brumwell and Associates Inc.) was retained by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) to develop a watershed planning guidance document to support the preparation of future watershed and subwatershed planning at the municipal level. The overarching purpose of this guidance will be to provide direction for the consistent and harmonized interpretation and application of existing policies and proposed policy changes, that will work together to manage growth, build complete communities, curb sprawl and protect the natural environment.

Work began with a complete jurisdictional scan of provincial, national and international approaches and practices to watershed planning. The findings were incorporated into a jurisdictional review study report to confirm the state, variability and best practices of watershed planning in the province to support land use and infrastructure decisions. Additionally, surveys and interviews were conducted with key individuals/stakeholders to: identify the current state of watershed planning in Ontario and other jurisdictions; ascertain examples of watershed planning, approaches and best practices; identify matters requiring guidance; and, further understand challenges and lessons learned in the development and implementation of watershed planning. A “round table” workshop was held with Province-wide watershed practitioners to present findings on guidance requirements and obtain feedback from internal and external experts regarding existing effective watershed planning guidance and gaps that must be addressed.

Upon completion of feedback incorporation from the initial workshop and written comments on the Initial Guidance Manual from the Steering Committee, a draft report was submitted for government review. The Guidance Document's final report was completed in the fall 2018.

