


**SNO FORUM 2011**  
**APPENDIX E – PARTICIPANT SURVEY AND RESULTS**

 <p style="margin: 0;">Stewardship Network of Ontario</p>	<p style="margin: 0;"><b>SNO Stewardship Forum</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>June 7<sup>th</sup> 2011 – Participant Survey</b></p>				
<b>FORUM FEEDBACK</b>					
Forum format	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 (poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 (excellent)
OBS session (speakers)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
OBS session (discussion)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Species at Risk session (speakers)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Species at Risk session (discussion)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Indicators session (speakers)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Indicators session (discussion)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Green Energy session (speakers)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Green Energy session (discussion)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Reflections and Suggestions session	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Poster Display	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
<b>FORUM LOGISTICS</b>					
Would you be prepared to pay a small registration fee for the Forum in future to cover the costs of refreshments?				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is June the best month for the Stewardship Forum?				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If not, what month would you prefer and why?					
<b>SNO WEBSITE &amp; E-BULLETIN</b>					

What are the key features you would like to see in a re-vamped SNO website?				
Is the SNO Squall e-bulletin meeting your needs?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have suggestions for improving SNO Squall?				
Do you have stories to submit over the coming year?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If so, what topics would you like to write about?				
<b>SNO PRIORITIES</b>				
What are your priorities for SNO's work plan over the next year? Below are some potential topics, please rate them 1 (low priority), 2 (moderate priority) or 3 (high priority). Please elaborate on specific activities that you would like SNO to undertake for each topic.				
Barriers to Stewardship – species at risk	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 (low)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 (mod)	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 (high)	Suggested Activity:
Green Energy	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Suggested Activity:
Indicators of Progress	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Suggested Activity:
Targets and Thresholds	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Suggested Activity:
Community-based Sustainable Landscape Planning – case studies and best practices	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Suggested Activity:

Stewardship and Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Suggested Activity:
Are there any other topics that you feel should be a priority for SNO?				
Do you have any other suggestions or comments?				
Your name and affiliation (optional) so we can follow up with you if necessary:				

## SURVEY RESULTS

### Priorities for SNO

30 participants expressed their opinions about the six potential themes by filling out the survey. Based on rating the themes 1 (low priority), 2 (moderate priority) or 3 (high priority), the results were as follows:

1. **Species at Risk** was a high priority for 21 people and a moderate priority for 12 people, resulting in a combined total of **33** moderate and high ratings.
2. **Indicators of Progress** was a high priority for 14 people and a moderate priority for 13 people, resulting in a combined total of **27** moderate and high ratings.
3. **Stewardship and Agriculture** was a high priority for 12 people and a moderate priority for 13 people, resulting in a combined total of **25** moderate and high ratings.
4. **Community-based Sustainable Landscape Planning** was a high priority for 17 people and a moderate priority for 7 people, resulting in a combined total of **24** moderate and high ratings.
5. **Green Energy** was a high priority for 7 people and a moderate priority for 14 people, resulting in a combined total of **21** moderate and high ratings.
6. **Targets and Thresholds** was a high priority for 6 people and a moderate priority for 11 people, resulting in a combined total of **17** moderate and high ratings.

Participants also provided detailed comments on the themes:

#### 1. **Species at Risk**

- Shouldn't be considered a barrier but opportunity
- Need deliberate and dedicated funding from government for stewardship activities related to SAR
- Important to recognize that stewardship is proactive by nature, not reactive and that it transcends legislative requirements
- Need to collaborate with stakeholders & MNR to find a less adversarial approach to implementing the Act
- This is a "hot topic" that urgently needs resolution of equity issues for farmers and other private landowners

- Suggest a working group to brainstorm an effective incentive package for ecosystem recovery
- Need to help MNR policy branch to focus less on enforcement and more on stewardship and incentives
- Emphasize the importance of relationship-building with landowners. Must understand the real factors that influence landowner decisions to get involved in stewardship
- How can we include food production in the equation for SAR targets?
- Need to influence a change in direction from managing individual species to managing for a multi-species ecosystem

## **2. Indicators of Stewardship Progress**

- It can be difficult to prove the relevance of stewardship
- Need to address qualitative measures such as social accounting for the networking and community capacity developed by stewardship
- Story telling is an important tool
- We need a big picture stewardship map
- Develop a base set of indicators for Ontario so everyone's working with same template. This will help to align efforts and increase coordination between all partners
- Reconcile difference between stewardship and ecological accomplishments
- Set defined targets

## **3. Stewardship and Agriculture**

- Always topical; need to go beyond EFP and focus on appropriate engagement
- Link to SAR working group to brainstorm an effective incentive package for ecosystem recovery
- Provide new information to farmers
- Challenges faced in agriculture to accommodate society's interests in protecting SAR
- Need to reconcile the general provision of wildlife habitat with ways to cope with rising predation issues affecting crops and livestock

## **4. Community-based Sustainable Landscape Planning**

- Need BMPs in rural and near north
- Host regional workshops (like EOMF has done)
- Use social media to "market" best practices
- Host a place-based land use planning conference (could partner with Carolinian Canada)
- Build effective social framework to engage landowners
- Case studies & profiles would be a great next step, highlighting success stories and including lessons learned
- Influence investment of public/private resources for stewardship in local communities and organizations providing direct benefits to private land
- Solutions to environmental problems will be rectified most efficiently and effectively at local level – people ahead of policy!

## **5. Green Energy**

- Need greater community engagement & education; BMPs would help
- Hot topic; needs resolution

- Can renewable energy projects give back to communities through stewardship projects? Either on their own land or nearby (see e.g. of sw Ontario tall grass prairie on lands outside the solar panels)
- Include biomass & biofibre in the discussion
- Provide information only, including research results
- Find common ground
- Influence development of programs that reduce consumption rather than invest in industrial green energy

## **6. Targets and Thresholds**

- Collaborate with land managers and conservation authorities to set targets for ecological restoration and management planning purposes
- Link to indicators discussion and sustainable landscape planning

## **7. Other Priorities**

In response to the question “Are there any other topics that you feel should be a priority for SNO?”, participants made a number of suggestions. Many of these can be integrated into the six themes above.

- Move the stewardship agenda forward, remove legislative barriers and reduce the impacts of regulation
- Facilitate better understanding of rural values and cultures
- SNO needs to visualize a provincial perspective around stewardship. Include northern perspective which is ripe for innovative stewardship strategies. Resource users are the key, not land tenure.
- Facilitate technology and knowledge transfer at the practitioner level (training, showcase demonstration sites, local/provincial/national/international case studies)
- Encourage decision analysis and adaptive management to resolve uncertainties that threaten to undermine conservation; multi-stakeholder workshop is first step of the DA/AM process; use bobolink as case study of focal species for ecosystem approach
- Address the Great Lakes (big part of Ontario)
- Address stewardship as a major response to climate change (need natural cover to survive climate change)
- Address perceived urban-rural conflict before it gets bigger (urban-rural exchanges?)
- Address the urban environment: by 2030 half of Ontario’s population is forecast to be in the GTA. How are we going to engage these people in stewardship of Ontario’s resources?
- Conservation incentives are a recurring theme but need better characterization (EG&S, recognition etc., not only grants) for collaboration and implementation

## **Forum Feedback and Logistics**

35 participants provided feedback on the Forum. The results are as follows, and will be used by the Leadership Committee to help plan the 2012 Forum.

<b>FORUM FEEDBACK</b>					
	<b>1 – poor</b>	<b>2 – fair</b>	<b>3 – good</b>	<b>4 – very good</b>	<b>5 – excellent</b>
Forum format			2	22	7
OBS session (speakers)			8	24	6
OBS session (discussion)			11	14	2
Species at Risk session (speakers)			4	12	4
Species at Risk session (discussion)	1	1	9	5	2
Indicators session (speakers)			2	11	1
Indicators session (discussion)			2	11	3
Green Energy session (speakers)			5	15	7
Green Energy session (discussion)	1	4	1	13	3
Poster Display		3	9	6	
<b>FORUM LOGISTICS</b>					
				<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Would you be prepared to pay a small registration fee for the Forum in future to cover the costs of refreshments?				26	6
Is June the best month for the Stewardship Forum?				22	6
If not, what month would you prefer and why?					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June is fine but November is also good</li> <li>• Prefer a date in winter (June is peak field season)</li> <li>• April would be better (not working on farm yet but back from winter break)</li> <li>• March/April</li> <li>• June may not be the best time to engage farmers but suitable for everyone else</li> <li>• Jan/Feb are less busy</li> <li>• Feb/March also good</li> <li>• June is too busy; prefer Nov - Feb</li> </ul>					

In response to the question: “Do you have any other suggestions or comments?”, participants responded:

- Keep speakers on schedule to allow for more discussion
- Excellent forum....well done!
- Great presentations and good learning opportunity
- Very ambitious agenda; giving speakers 10 mins is not appropriate; when you invite people from a distance, give them an opportunity to speak
- Should have focused green energy discussion to natural heritage and stewardship BMPs, rather than a pro- versus anti- green energy debate
- Discussion time was too short
- Thanks for the opportunity!
- Do something outside Toronto e.g. outdoor workshops (walk and talk; cruise Lake Ontario)
- Include more brainstorming sessions – use the knowledge around the table
- Discussion of urban versus rural divides was repetitive of last year’s session; maybe find fresh topic for next year?
- Don’t have concurrent sessions
- Need better sound system
- Your efforts to bring together varied opinions on topics that are current and sometimes contentious are appreciated
- It was informative, enjoyable and very stimulating
- Commitment to close at 3pm was appreciated for those who need to get out of the GTA!

## **SNO Communications**

The participant survey also included questions about SNO’s website and the SNO Squall e-bulletin.

In response to the question “What are the key features you would like to see in a re-vamped SNO website?”, participants responded that they would like to see:

- Member profiles: each month highlight a different member organization’s key projects on the website home page
- Make the site more geared to member groups
- Mapping that informs local projects
- Information on BMPs
- Links to partner organizations or sections for partners to provide updates
- Links to project stories, innovative partnerships etc., including lessons learned
- More related events
- Research news

In response to the question “is the SNO Squall e-bulletin meeting your needs?”, ten people responded that it is. A number of people noted that they aren’t on the distribution list yet. Seven participants indicated that they would like to submit articles over the coming year and suggested some topics:

- Water quality
- Shorelines and community action for environmental benefits (FOCA)
- Coastal zone stewardship: threats and opportunities (Carolinean Canada)

- Article about whether to dedicate stewardship resources to individual target species, or to habitats
- Ecosystem recovery (Carolinean Canada)
- Heritage trees (Ontario Urban Forest Council)
- New guide by Ontario Invasive Plant Council “Plant Me Instead” (TRCA)