

# Sault area fresh water collaboration meeting

**Facilitator:** Elaine Ho-Tassone ([www.e-h2o.ca](http://www.e-h2o.ca))  
**Date:** Wednesday February 16, 2022  
**Time:** 13:00-15:30 (optional mingling until 16:00)  
**To join:** [Click here](#)  
Or call in: +1 647-374-4685  
ID: 883 3571 0320#

## About the meeting

Over the last year, the Lands and Resources Department at Garden River First Nation has collaborated with postdoctoral researcher Elaine Ho-Tassone (Algoma University) to develop a community-led, water quality monitoring pilot program in the St. Marys River and contributing streams. This meeting is convened to increase collaboration across the region towards coordinated freshwater monitoring/science, management, and stewardship.

The purpose of this meeting is threefold:

1. Make others aware of the Garden River First Nation pilot project and its outcomes.
2. Explore how water quality monitoring (and benthos survey) activities across the St. Marys River and Lake Huron's North Channel may be coordinated.
3. Identify possible collaborations on freshwater activities moving forward.

This event is organized so that everyone in the area may be updated on freshwater initiatives across the region. Ideally, we identify next steps to coordinate local action, achieve regional objectives, and to open opportunities for new/stronger relationships between persons and organizations who live and work in/on/with the area's fresh water.

## Before the meeting

Please complete this [3-question survey](#) prior to the meeting. Your responses will help identify themes of common interest for creating breakout rooms that will permit in-depth discussion in smaller groups. As of February 15, the following breakout groups are planned:

1. Community monitoring/citizen science
2. Fisheries
3. Modelling
4. Technology use in water science
5. Open groups x2 (including monitoring indicators, connecting monitoring to management, local project coordination, discussing wild rice/manoomin)

Don't forget about our [jamboard](#)! If you have any projects or resources you would like to share, please add a sticky note with the information on it.

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## Draft meeting agenda

Please note, this agenda is subject to change. **Please be advised this meeting will be recorded (except breakout rooms).** The recording will be made available to registrants after the event. We will not publish the recording publicly, although it will be viewable by anyone who has the link, pending objection from attendees.

13:00	Welcome, logistics, water ceremony
13:15	Presentation about the Garden River First Nation community-led water quality monitoring pilot (and Q&A)
13:40	Dedicated time for adding to the group's Jamboard (linked on page 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please add any sticky notes (via left side toolbar) to any of the sections, even if you are not able to attend. This is meant to help all of us keep up to date on the kinds of projects and opportunities for collaboration in the region. This is a living document.</li></ul>
13:50	Go through the Jamboard, inquire about any of the projects shared
14:10	Group discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regardless of your own scope or capacity, what project(s) have you identified as most important to implement in the next 5 years?</li><li>• What is on your list of 'dream'/priority projects/outcomes?</li></ul>
14:30	Break
14:40	Breakout discussions to explore collaboration (themes TBD per the survey linked on page 1; breakout rooms will not be recorded) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Which of our current or intended activities can be (better) coordinated between us?</li><li>• Which projects – existing or on the 'dream' list – might we collaborate on?</li><li>• What next steps will we take?</li></ul>
15:00	Reconvene, highlight discussions, and compile next steps
15:20	Closing remarks, closing ceremony
15:30	Meeting and recording ends, but the meeting space (including breakout rooms) remains open for those who wish to mingle past the meeting time
16:00	Meeting space closes

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## Registered representation

As of noon on February 15, there are **52 registrants** who are affiliated with:

### First Peoples (6)

- Garden River First Nation
- Missanabie Cree First Nation
- Métis Nation of Ontario
- Bay Mills Indian Community
- Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- Chiefs of Ontario

### Government(-related) (10)

- Environment Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- United States Geological Survey
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- Government of Ontario
- State of Michigan
- City of Sault Ste. Marie (Ontario)
- Algoma Public Health
- Chippewa County Health Department
- Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority

### Non-governmental organizations (6)

- Rural Agri-Innovation Network (Lake Huron North member)
- The Kensington Conservancy (Lake Huron North member)
- Lake Superior Conservancy
- Swim Drink Fish
- The Gordon Foundation
- Water Wise
- Bi-National Public Advisory Council for the St. Marys River Area of Concern

### Academia (2)

- Algoma University
- Lake Superior State University

**Also:** Engaged/active members of the public.