

**NEW WATER MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS IN BROME-MISSISQUOI:
THE COUNCIL PUTS FORTH ITS PLANS**

Cowansville, Tuesday, April 16, 2013 – At a public meeting tonight, the MRC’s Council of Mayors presented the guiding principles of the regulatory framework for better surface water management and erosion control in Brome-Missisquoi.

With the help of the environmental consultant, Biofilia, the mayors discussed measures that need to be taken to significantly improve the water quality of lakes and waterways by reducing sediment input. The principles involve the application of the “net-zero” concept, which includes absorption of rainwater in the soil, having plant covering in rivers and along ditches, mitigation measures for construction sites and road work and additional measures in the agriculture area.

The MRC Brome-Missisquoi council adopted a water management action plan last fall to address the many surface-water problems. These issues included: blue-green algae, lake, waterway and ditch sediments, major damage caused by heavy rainfall, considerable future expenditures for storm drainage systems and filtration of drinking water, etc. One aspect of the action plan is the development and establishing of new regulatory framework standards on erosion and surface water management (RÉGES). In 2012, the Biofilia Inc. firm was given the mandate to develop the regulatory framework with a technical committee comprised of MRC professionals, several representatives of municipalities within the MRC territory, and representatives of river basin organizations.

The next step will be the tabling of a policy in May to introduce the standards governing the regulatory framework. This will include a timetable for completion of the project, including the targeted groups and organizations in the consultation process (population, municipal councils, UPA, entrepreneurs, environmental groups, etc.) Once this is done, the MRC will determine the regulatory provisions that should be adopted by every municipality.

For further information, please contact Simon Lajeunesse, Regional Water Courses Management Coordinator, by e-mail at slajeunesse@mrcbm.qc.ca.

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Source: Cynthia Langevin
Communications Consultant
Tel.: 450-266-4928, extension 243
clangevin@cldbmqc.ca