

**MADAWASKA RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT REVIEW
STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting #1, December 13, 2000**

Meeting commenced at 6:30 pm

Present:

Standing Advisory Committee/SAC members:

Mary Anne McRae, Steve Roy, Barry Martin, Ernie Coulas, Bob Braden, Kevin Barkley, Brian Wright

MNR staff: Ron Spurr, Mike Bohm

OPG staff: Jim Whyte, Linda Halliday

The meeting was chaired by Ron Spurr. The following activities were carried out or explanations made:

- General Introduction of all SAC members, MNR and OPG staff.
- Explanation by SAC members about why they wish to be part of the process
- Brief bio of each SAC member requested by Ron Spurr for January 2001 press release
- Organization of SAC process and education/training needs
- Brief chronology of how and why the original Madawaska Review process unfolded
- Explanation of "housekeeping items" for this voluntary process – MNR pays expenses and meals, OPG provides meeting space.
- SAC member "job" description forthcoming at next meeting.
- Role of SAC members in this process
- Information Needs on the Madawaska River being undertaken – list provides priorities for business/work program planning. All depends on funding. Advisory Committee work assisted with prioritizing projects. Regulatory changes regarding eg. catch sizes have also been made as a result of the process.

Comments:

From Steve Roy, concern that the word "final" was used in the Madawaska Review's Final Report, when there is still much work to be done. It is acknowledged that this is a work in process, a dynamic document that will be subject to change. There will be other documents in the future and changes will be made as new issues arise. Among other things, the published document

established processes that are now in place to deal with issues that may arise in the future.

Suggestion was made that meetings will be held on 2nd. and 4th. Wednesdays. SAC will need assistance in reserving rooms for meetings. Staff members from OPG and/or MNR will also attend. January meeting will be to choose officials and start training process.

SAC members decided to choose Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.

Barry Martin agreed to chair the first three meetings.
Brian Wright agreed to be Vice Chair
Kevin Barclay agreed to act as Secretary
This will be reviewed after three meetings.
Carried unanimously.

Training needs were discussed – water management, dam operations and aquatic biology need to be addressed.
Erosion and paddlers' workshops will be organized.
The role of Algonquin Park in the Madawaska River system should also be considered.

New map of Madawaska River watershed was distributed by MNR.

Tentative meeting set for January 16, 2001. Information training session with Don Ferko, OPG or John Boos, MNR. 6:00 pm at Renfrew Admin. Office.

Next meetings – March 28th., and April 25th. Erosion and paddlers' workshops will also be held in this time period. The erosion workshop is very general for the public, while the paddlers' workshop is specific to paddlers using the section of the Madawaska River below the Palmer Rapids Dam.

Ron Spurr would like to take the SAC members on a flight of the Madawaska River watershed by helicopter before the end of March. The flight would likely be on a Friday in February.

Mary Anne mentioned that the warning boom in front of the Bark Lake dam was not installed last summer. Jim Whyte investigated this and found that the boom was in place in the summer 2000 but not in 1999, due to the unusual conditions. It will be installed in future summers.

Confidentiality – volunteers are not subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, but SAC members should use discretion in case confidential information is shared among the SAC.

Steve Roy re: Madawaska River website. He'd like to see it highlighted on the website home page all the time but this is not possible from a corporate perspective. He stressed the importance of having access to the information, and of publicizing it. The address is:

www.ontariopowergeneration.com/Environmental/Madawaska/MadRiverTOC.asp

*** A hyperlink from the Madawaska River internet page to the Levels and Flows page has now been added at Steve's request, to facilitate access.

The meeting concluded at 8:40 pm.

Next meeting confirmed for: January 16, 2001, 6:00 pm, Conference Room at the Renfrew Administrative Office of Ottawa/St. Lawrence Plant Group, OPG.