

MADAWASKA RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT REVIEW
STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING #19, FEBRUARY 25, 2004
OPG OFFICE, RENFREW

Present:

SAC: Barry Martin, Steve Roy, Ernie Coulas, Kevin Barclay

MNR: Mike Bohm

OPG: Chris Tonkin, Don Ferko, Ambie Burchat, Linda Halliday

Regrets:

MaryAnn McRae, Brian Wright, Bob Braden

1. Call to Order, Introductions, Review of Agenda

Barry Martin (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:50 pm.

2. Delegations, Presentations

None.

3. Approval of Minutes of meeting #18, November 24, 2003

Motion: Proposed by Steve Roy, seconded by Kevin Barclay, that the Minutes of the meeting #18, November 24, 2003 be approved as read. Carried unanimously.

4. Business arising

4.1 2003 Annual Report

4.1.1 **Summary reports** for inclusion in 2003 Annual Report, review by reach:
(realign reference numbers as in Final Report January 2000 and 2001 Annual Report)

Discussion took place on how to track action items accomplished, in progress or as yet untouched.

It was decided to send out an Executive Summary with annual accomplishments and reference to the larger document posted on the website.

Issues eg .2.9.5, Final Report and action taken to date.

4.1.1.3 **Paddler portage routes** – Ambie Burchat. Portage routes and signage at Bark and Kamanisseg Lakes completed and opened in 2003. Mountain Chute route established and signage to be installed in April 2004. Barrett Chute route prepared and cleared, to be opened and signed in April. Calabogie route is 90% on Township of Greater Madawaska property but the Township would like OPG to assume the liability. Stewartville route final route also established – put-in downstream of the bridge. Portages should be open for Spring boating

season. Brochure already drafted and will be ready for the 2004 Victoria Day weekend.

The unofficial boat launch at Stewartville near the bridge is on OPG property, and it will be closed and fenced. The Township of McNab-Braeside agrees with this action.

A “no overnight camping” restriction at Mountain Chute will be enforced by contract security personnel.

Steve Roy expressed that he was very pleased with the progress made on the paddler portage routes.

Calabogie GS North Channel dam work will be carried out in Spring before spawning season. Work on Kamaniskeg Lake dam will take place in July.

Discussion took place about the review of the Madawaska Plan in 2005 and the new format required by legislation.

Annual report – to include an executive summary, reach update graphs, portage routes, public safety updates, meeting dates, boating restriction activities, generic issue updates and reach updates. Reference to Minutes posted on website. (Reporting on what was accomplished – completions or significant accomplishments).

Action: Reach by reach issues/solutions to be brought to next SAC meeting or mailed to Chris Tonkin.

Action: Linda Halliday to prepare draft of generic issues updates from analysis of 2003 SAC meeting Minutes.

4.1.1.4 **Boating Restrictions:** these applications have been put on hold pending review of the effectiveness of the booms that are already in place.

4.1.1.5 **Public Meetings**

Lower Madawaska River annual stakeholder meeting – April 7, 7pm at Renfrew office

Upper Madawaska River annual stakeholder meeting - May 15, 1:00 pm at the Barry’s Bay Legion Hall

Proposed meeting for the Centennial Lake stakeholder group in July/tbd

Proposed public meeting of Madawaska SAC in August/tbd

4.2 **FWIN survey – Mike Bohm – see table.**

A FWIN/Fall Walleye Index Netting Survey is a snapshot in time. Stewartville improvements took place in 1995 and Cherry Beach spawning beds were lowered in 2003. Fisheries regulations (size and daily catch limits) are likely to be changed in the future, after development of species-specific “tool kits” by MNR. These could be ready in about one

year, starting with walleye. In the meantime, local Fish & Game Clubs might be able to exert pressure for improvements in lake-based fisheries. Public support will be solicited to implement these changes.

4.3 Public issues

Chris Tonkin related a complaint from an individual on the Stewartville reach who has a frozen water line. He draws water from the river in a line and, without frost cover, it has frozen.

Barry's Bay – frost heaving along a shore line was an issue.

Barry Martin – Brian Hunt, new owner at Jocko's on Calabogie Lake complained about the levels of the lake in the winter time.

4.4 Update levels and flows – Don Ferko

Bark Lake down to 308.5m and flows have reduced in February. In holding pattern now waiting for Spring conditions.

Kamanisseg Lake – inflows increased as Bark Lake drawdown was carried out. Now levelled off as a result of changes in flows. In January some increased generation was required. Allowances have been made for the muskrat population in Conroy's Marsh.

Mountain Chute higher than normal in January and mid-February, and now declining. Now at lowest point for time of year we've been on that reach.

Barrett Chute and Calabogie – inflows fluctuating and are lower than normal in late February.

Stewartville being cycled more – upper 40 cms of storage range not currently used to allow for inflows from Calabogie. Public safety issue – buffer allowed in case station goes down and spillways must be inspected before spills occur.

5. New Business

- Chris Tonkin – Steering Committee met and considered the Centennial Lake proposal. Needs more time to analyse the issue and needs to consider legal aspects. Also need to consult Ottawa River Regulating Control Board re: changes in storage for potential flood storage. Legally, because motion refers to a hazardous condition, response must go through legal process to ensure no liability. Work is ongoing.
- Chris Tonkin – Steering Committee wished to review Terms of Reference in terms of succession planning for SAC and what SAC has planned for sustainable continuity of membership of the Committee.
- Steve Roy suggested a committee review explaining succession planning and volunteered to contact all SAC members re: their future plans. Departure times of current members could also be staggered. Current terms began in January 2001.

- Steve Roy – work on crib removal at Cherry Beach has shown an improvement. Downriver from park rubble is showing and Steve would like OPG to determine levels and flow criteria to make sure spawning bed is underwater – upstream and downstream effects. Testing needs to be done before start of spawn in Spring 2004. ACTION ITEM. Determine flow elevations in previous years at that point when spawning beds were covered.
- Boating Restriction applications in last two weeks – have been placed in abeyance pending a review by OPG of the effectiveness of the existing safety booms.
- Terms of Reference of SAC membership term need to be finalized.
- Barry Martin has decided to resign from the SAC in Spring 2004.
- The established selection process for new members will be followed.
- Additional orientation will be required for new SAC members.

6. **Announcements**

None.

7. **Next meeting**

Wednesday May 5, 2004, 6:00 pm at the OPG Renfrew office.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 pm.