

MADAWASKA RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT REVIEW
STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting #46, Wednesday, October 14, 2009, 6:30 PM
OPG-OSPG Headquarters, Renfrew

Attendees:

SAC: Steve Roy, Lucien Lacombe, Dan White, Damian Hanel, Brian Moran, George Newton

MNR: Joanna Samson, Al Hyde, Kirby Punt, George Oram

OPG: Don Ferko, Jennifer Gardiner, Chris Tonkin, Marc Bisson

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Damian Hanel.

2. Review of Agenda

No additions.

3. Delegations:

4. Approval of Minutes of Madawaska SAC meeting #45, July 20, 2009

Steve Roy wanted clarification on 5.2:

- Don Ferko clarified his statement about water flows by explaining that water levels were normal despite a small spike caused by rain events. Chris Tonkin suggested that the first bullet be removed. Group agreed.

Steve Roy wanted to address a mistype in 6.3, last paragraph, second last sentence:

- Change “in Cameron Woods area” to “of Cameron Woods area”.

Steve Roy wanted to address the content of 6.3, last paragraph:

- Group decided to remove the sentence about bass signs (attributed to Dan White).

Motion: Proposed by Lucien Lacombe and seconded by Steve Roy, the Minutes of meeting #45 of the Madawaska SAC, July 20, 2009 were approved as amended.

Carried unanimously.

5. Business arising from the Minutes:

5.1 The Planning Process

Opening by Joanna Samson:

- o The intention of this Public Consultation Summary document is to become part of the Madawaska River Water Management Plan. Any comments put forward during the consultation period will receive a response by mail (minus editorial edits).
- o The consultation period was extended by one week until September 18, 2009.

Joanna Samson submitted to the group the “Public Consultation Documentation Form” and explained that MNR has used the format of this document in other consultation processes.

- This document will help to form the response letter.
- 4.1 outlines the EBR posting and the newspapers ads.
- Two open houses held, Aug. 11 in Barry’s Bay and Aug. 12 in Arnprior.
- Five submissions were received.

5.1.1 Review of Public Consultation Summary

Comments received:

Stewartville Reach:

- Two comments came from the Stewartville reach, including one that was submitted before the public open houses.
- One document had 91 signatures.
- Comments included:

Comment:

1) The water level vs flow plan needs to be revised as the single flow trigger point of 53.6cms does not adequately manage the issue of water drawdown from 30cm to 78cm of the Stewartville Reach.

Discussion about the planning process and the Water Management Planning Guidelines took place. Joanna Samson indicated that the update to the 2009 WMP cannot follow every aspect of the guidelines because the plan was in place prior to the existence of the guidelines. The 2000 plan does not conform to the guidelines and to rectify this the 2009 plan includes new reaches, compliance & enforcement, and effectiveness monitoring. Future plan reviews will follow the guidelines more closely.

Discussion:

Chris Tonkin has agreed to add a new information need to the Madawaska River Water Management Plan to address the draw down curve in the Stewartville Reach.

2) The plan should include a section describing the gauge calibration and verification system that is used to ensure gauges are accurate.

Discussion:

Chris Tonkin explains that OPG gauges comply with industry standards to ensure gauges are working to standards. OPG uses “Best utility practices”. Don Ferko adds that there is a process that is followed to capture and spot check to make sure the gauges are consistent.

The decision is to add the following wording to the document: OPG adheres to accepted industry standards for gauge calibration. However, the process changes with time.

3) Current plan does not support spawning needs of Bass and bait fish.

Discussion:

Fish Populations:

- Group would like to response from MNR to say: Available data suggests that bass populations have adapted (to the 78 cm range over the last 30 years).

Erosion:

- Group would like response to be in easy-to-understand language. The part of the sentence in question (“The spatial and temporal variability of the change in the channel perimeter along the Stewartville ...”) should be removed. Will now say: The Stewartville reach does not appear any different than one would expect from any other section of the shoreline.
- Section 5.1.3 of the Madawaska Water Management Plan addresses this very question.

4) The plan should include a requirement for OPG to table a written report at each SAC meeting.

Discussion:

No issues taken. OPG will provide a written summary of the number and nature of all issues raised by the Public for presentation at the SAC meetings as outlined in the terms of reference for the committee.

5) The plan should require OPG to make more detailed forecasting of water levels.

Discussion:

No issues taken. OPG has agreed to provide regular updates to the flow and level information. Issue 5.1.7 outlines that regular water level and flow updates can be obtained on the OPG Website. The WMP will not be changed to specify a period for updates and a precise time.

Kaminskeg Lake/ Palmer Rapids

1) Commenter would like the minimum flow requirement increased from 10 cms to 15 cms.

Discussion:

Chris Tonkin would like to add a new information need to the WMP to “get science behind the response”. Don Ferko adds that increasing the flow could have an impact on Barry’s Bay.

5.1.2 Review units of measure in Ch. 4 for consistency

Don Ferko has addressed this issue (going from metric to imperial). This is reflected in Chapter 4 of the printed version of the draft.

5.1.3 “Precision disclaimer”

Damian Hanel has provided “wording” to Joanna Samson to address this issue. This is a follow up to an Action Item from the July 20, 2009 SAC meeting. The wording was read to the group and the group decided it sounded appropriate.

The following wording will be added to Page 2. section II:

A note on the presentation of data in the document: Numerical data relating to levels and flows is presented to one or two decimal places. The apparent discrepancy is a result of three factors:

- 1. The different measurement precisions of the various gauges and recording instruments used since readings were first taken on the river system.**
- 2. Inaccuracies accrued, including round off error, in the conversion of imperial units of measure to metric units of measure.**
- 3. Variances in the number of decimal points of readings actually recorded (often manually recorded) since readings were first taken on the river system.**

5.1.4 Next steps

- Joanna Samson will update the template (revised) and it will be distributed to SAC for final comment.
- Letters will go out to those who commented.
- Jennifer Gardiner and Joanna Samson to compile edits/comments and prepare the document for the publisher.
- Before printing of the final version the SAC will be given another opportunity to review.

5.2 Levels and Flows

5.2.1 Quick Update

Flows for July/Aug/Sept period:

- Through June flows were average
- Flows in July were higher than average
- August was significantly higher than average
- September flows were below average
- October is shaping up to be a littler higher than average

Notes:

- Bark Lake is in the summer range. Exception is week before Thanksgiving when things were a little low but OPG continued to provide 15 cms to assist with construction efforts (barges needed to removed, etc.). This resulted in a week of higher flows.
- Kaminskeg Lake was in the summer range. In July and September it went above because of rain events (5 cm above traditional range)
- Mountain Chute: The flows bounced around because of rain events and we went in and out of the 40/60 cm range

- Steve Roy commented that flows look irregular. Chris Tonkin responded by stating that on September 18 there was a fire at Mountain Chute which resulted in the spilling of water.
- Steve Roy commented that flows also look irregular for July and August. Don Ferko stated that this was because of a lot of rain events that happened during this time. He also added that you see the same spike in Kaminskeg Lake.

5.2.2 Send levels and flows to SAC

- Don Ferko covered levels and flows for July to October.
- Don Ferko added that he hopes to have guaranteed weekly levels and flow updates on the OPG Web site. The addition of Marc Bisson, water management engineer, OPG, may help to reach this goal.
- Steve Roy would like the Web site data change to reflect current conditions. Chris Tonkin said that this would require further discussion because it would have to be determined what type of event is important enough to trigger a change to the levels and flow information.
- Steve Roy acknowledged and thanked work done by Don Ferko to provide data to the Cameron Woods Home Owners Association.

5.3 Bark Lake “Trailer Park”

- This is a follow-up item from the July 20, 2009 SAC meeting.
- George Oram, MNR, did look into it and has concluded that it is Crown land.
- Joanna Samson added that this was not a public health issue. George Oram echoed this statement stating that he has seen sites in worse conditions.

6 Summary of Public Issues since the last meeting:

6.1 MNR

No public issues recorded.

6.2 OPG

No public issues recorded

6.3 SAC

- Dan White received a phone call for a gentleman in his area who wanted to know why the water levels were so low. Dan explained that the levels were not low. Gentleman was satisfied with the response from Dan.
- George Newton mentioned a new hydroelectric dam that is being proposed to be built between Kaminskeg Lake and Bark Lake. George Oram indicated that an application has yet to be submitted.

7 New Business:

7.1 Dry Fire Hydrants

- Steve Roy raised the issue of Dry Hydrants being installed McNab-Braeside township (the volunteer fire dept.) and wants the WMP to be a source for those installing them (to ensure they put the pipes deep enough to always be able to access water).
- Damian Hanel added that they have to be installed below freezing level and a lot of fire chiefs have endorsed them.
- Chris Tonkin indicated that OPG has been involved in some installations (in McNab-Braeside) when approached to discuss water levels.
- Steve Roy stated that the volunteer fire dept. had indicated that they had contacted MNR and OPG. Neither the MNR nor OPG had any recollection of speaking to anyone about this location (Burnstown Beach area).
- Kirby Punt, MNR, explained that typically applications for this type of thing will go through his office for review and no such document has been seen (by him). He added that if the land is on OPG land, the application will go to OPG. If the land is on MNR land, it will go to MNR.
- Don Ferko added that the graphs (available on the Web site) do not tell the whole story and planning shouldn't be based only on these graphs.
- Chris Tonkin stated that this is a concern to that should be raised with the township. He will raise the issue with Mayor Mary Campbell.

7.2 New Business Item 2

- Jennifer Gardiner mentioned that a former SAC member would like to rejoin the group. Jennifer to send request to Chris Tonkin, Joanna Samson and Karen Handford.

7.3 Announcements (if any)

8. Date of next meeting:

The next SAC Meeting will take place:
Dec. 16, 2009 at OPG's Renfrew office.
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.
Start time: 6:30 p.m.

9. Adjournment

On motion proposed by Dan White, seconded by Steve Roy, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm, there being no further business.

Sent to Lucien Lacombe by mail.

