

**MADAWASKA RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT REVIEW
STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting #47, Wednesday, February 24, 2010, 6:30 PM
OPG-OSPG Headquarters, Renfrew**

Attendees:

SAC: Steve Roy, Lucien Lacombe, Damian Hanel, Brian Moran, Brian Wright

MNR: Joanna Samson, Karen Handford

OPG: Don Ferko, Jennifer Gardiner, Chris Tonkin

Regrets: Dan White, Marc Bisson, Lyle Stewart, George Newton

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Brian Wright.

2. Review of Agenda

No additions.

3. Delegations:

4. Approval of Minutes of Madawaska SAC meeting #46, October 14, 2009

Steve Roy would like an addition on 5.1:

- Statement will now read: The intention of Public Consultation Summary document is to become part of the Madawaska Water Management Plan.

Steve Roy would like an addition made to 5.1.1, discussion #2:

- Statement will now read: The plan should include a section describing the gauge calibration and verification system that is used to ensure gauges are accurate.

Steve Roy would like an amendment to Section 5.1.1, discussion #3:

- The three bullets will be rearranged to be under two headings: Fish Populations (bullet one) and Erosion (bullet two and three).

Steve Roy questioned 7.1, if the action was taken by Chris Tonkin to discuss the matter with The Township of McNab/Braeside

- Chris Tonkin met with Mayor Mary Campbell to discuss dry hydrants. She stated that they (dry hydrants) are the responsibility of the Township.

Motion: Proposed by Steve Roy and seconded by Lucien Lacombe, the Minutes of meeting #46 of the Madawaska SAC, October 14, 2009 were approved as amended.

Carried unanimously.

5. Business arising from the Minutes:

5.1 The Planning Process

Final Review of Public Consultation Summary – Joanna Samson

- Joanna Samson stated that:
 - All submissions (comments from the public) did receive a letter from the MNR.
 - Not everyone who had signed the submission from the Stewartville Reach had provided a legible address as 65 were sent out and 20 were returned.
 - **ACTION:** Joanna Samson to send the 20 improperly addressed letters to Steve Roy for distribution.
- Joanna explained that:
 - April 2010 is the target date for completion of the WMP.
 - A proof reader has been hired to edit the document.
 - First Nations have been offered a position on the SAC
 - MNR and OPG will be briefing the MNR Regional Director on Friday, February 26 in Pembroke on the WMP.
 - **ACTION:** Joanna will brief the group at the next SAC meeting re: the meeting with the MNR Regional Director.

Update: Stewartville Reach drawdown curve info needed – Chris Tonkin

- Information need included in the WMP.

Group discussion on this issue:

- Steve Roy wanted the group to know that:
 - He doesn't believe the Water Management Planning Guidelines were followed for the Stewartville Reach for this revision of the WMP.
 - Has concerns that the Steering Committee will be signing off on something that didn't address the issue that he feels the Stewartville Reach has.
- Joanna Samson explained that:
 - The current plan is what essentially "wrote the guidelines". Legally, the current plan is not enforceable and as such it needed to be updated to reflect missing sections, most importantly a compliance and enforcement section.
 - The challenge presented to the planning team was to review/update a five year old plan in accordance with a set of guidelines; however, it was never prepared with them initially.
 - At the time it was agreed that this was an update of the existing plan and not a rewrite. In essence the update is technically the first legal Madawaska River WMP. A decision was made at the beginning of the review process that a full re-evaluation of all operating regimes would not be undertaken. This was communicated to the SAC and the terms of reference for the update of the WMP include the components that were being addressed in the update.
 - The Water Management Planning Guidelines for Waterpower were approved in 2002. They are guideline for the general preparation of a water management plan. They are not a piece of legislation, nor are they a regulation. As such, there is some flexibility in the preparation of plans.

- Steve Roy stated that he felt options were never developed for the Stewartville Reach, Don Ferko responded by saying that:
 - Tweaks have been made for years in an attempt to come up with options
 - Steve Roy stated that he disagrees that options for the Stewartville Reach were given and doesn't think the process (for the Water Management Plan) was fully followed.
 - **ACTION:** OPG to review the Stewartville Reach (currently an action item in the WMP).
- Joanna Samson and Chris Tonkin stated that an information need was added to the WMP to address the Stewartville Reach.
 - Steve Roy doesn't believe an information need is enough
 - Steve Roy stated that he thinks "The spirit of the WMP guidelines may not have been followed when it comes to concerns of property owners on the Stewartville Reach."
- Steve Roy gave the group a document he prepared (with a few Water Management writing guidelines) to illustrate his point. Please see attachment: Water Management Plan Approval Steve Roy Document.doc)
- Brian Wright suggested that the following three options be given in regards to Steve Roy's document (above bullet):
 - 1) The document be submitted from the SAC as a group
 - 2) Steve Roy submits the document as an individual
 - 3) Give the opportunity to SAC members to learn more about Steve Roy's concerns before deciding if they'd like to be a part of the submission (of the above mentioned document)
 - Steve Roy has submitted the document but both Lucian Lacombe and Brian Wright would like more information on both sides of the issue before deciding to be or not be a part of the submission.

Update: Kaminskeg Lake/Palmer Rapids reach info-need to "get science behind response" to flow rate increase response – Chris Tonkin

- Information need included in the WMP

Other additions/corrections to the WMP:

- Don Ferko has clarified wording in the document re: summer minimum (adding that there are conditions when levels could go below the summer minimum). This wording will be reflected in the WMP.
 - Copies of this document can be obtained by emailing Jennifer Gardiner, Jennifer.gardiner@opg.com
- Joanna Samson has received additional minor edits, including:
 - A graph for White Lake wasn't correct (an operation tweak was made, but was never reflected in the graph).
 - The new and correct graph will be included in the final WMP.
- Lucian Lacombe asked why past SAC members are listed in the WMP.
 - Don Ferko explained that the names are those that were part of the committee when the review began.

5.2 Levels and Flows – Don Ferko

- October, November and December (2009) were above average, wet conditions with flows that dropped off and then picked up again.
- Bark Lake was drawn down to assist with construction being done at the facility.
 - Steve Roy asked if there were any public concerns. There were no concerns that Don is aware of.

6 Summary of Public Issues since the last meeting:

6.1 MNR

No public issues recorded.

6.2 OPG

No public issues recorded

Don passed out OPG Public Contact Summary for the Madawaska River. This document is tabled as part of the minutes (see attached).

6.3 SAC

No public issues recorded

7 New Business:

7.1 Lucien Lacombe:

- Shared with the group that new MNR Forest Management Guidelines allow people to run equipment within three metres of the water's edge.
- He encouraged everyone to attend the next public consultation meeting and look at the areas of concern.
- Karen Handford suggested he contact Alison Luke, contact person for MNR Pembroke Forest Management Issues.

7.2 Announcement

No Announcements.

8. Date of next meeting:

The next SAC Meeting will take place:
May 26, 2010 at OPG's Renfrew office.
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Start time: 6:30 p.m.

9. Adjournment

On motion proposed by Lucien Lacombe, seconded by Chris Tonkin, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm, there being no further business.

Sent to Lucien Lacombe by mail.