

**MADAWASKA RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT REVIEW
STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)
Meeting #52, Thursday, September 15, 2011, 6:30 pm
OPG/OSPG Board Room, Renfrew Office**

Attendees:

SAC: George Newton, Steve Roy, Lucien Lacombe, Damian Hanel, Lyle Stewart, Brian Moran, Carole Workman

MNR: Joanna Samson, Al Hyde

OPG: Don Ferko, Jerry Lapierre, Jennifer Gardiner

Regrets: Brian Wright, Dan White, Kirby Punt

1. **Call to Order**.....Damian

Meeting #52 was called to order by Damian Hanel at 6:30 p.m.

2. **Review of Agenda**.....Chair

Damian Hanel (on behalf of Dan White) requested the removal of the White Lake Water Management Plan item because this issue will not be addressed until the group of concerned residents in White Lake coordinate and take the first steps.

3. **Delegations (if any)**

None.

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

- 4.1 Meeting #51, May 11, 2011.....All

Edits were requested, including:

Addition of page numbers

Addition of Jennifer Gardiner's email

Editorial revisions on 5.2.1

Jennifer Gardiner applied the changes to Meeting #51 notes and will submit notes to be posted on OPG.com

Motion: Steve Roy moved the approval of the minutes and George Newton seconded it.

5. **Business arising:**

- 5.1 **The Plan, Process for prioritizing Information Needs**.....Joanna Samson

- The Madawaska River Water Management Plan currently has a number of outstanding Information Needs. Joanna Samson suggested that the SAC participate in a prioritization exercise. This would help to identify Information Needs that OPG, MNR and the SAC feel should be given priority.

-Carole Workman wanted clarification on what “incomplete” and “ongoing” mean. Don Ferko provided the below explanation:

Incomplete -> the gathering of information has yet to be started

Ongoing -> indicates that there is an on-going commitment to provide or collect information.

-At the next meeting, January 12, 2012, the group will begin the process of prioritizing information needs. The first hour of the next meeting will be devoted to this task.

ACTION: The SAC will review and familiarize themselves with the existing information needs gaps in advance of the next meeting, January 12, 2012.

ACTION: OPG and MNR (Joanna Samson and Don Ferko) to provide a summary listing of the information needs, a brief statement relative to the scope of work involved (ex: high or medium effort) for each and a preliminary identification of the party (i.e. OPG, MNR, SAC, etc) that would be required to do the work; as well, a preliminary prioritization of the projects will be provided as a “straw dog” to facilitate an initial discussion. Prioritization will take into account the degree of difficulty, cost and need. This information will be circulated in advance of the next meeting and members will be expected to come prepared for a detailed discussion on January 12, 2012.

5.2 Levels and Flows

Stewartville Reach

5.2.1 A, Arnprior EMC article Discussion, Damian Hanel

“*Extreme Water Levels a Concern*”, Arnprior EMC, May 19, 2011. [Article Here.](#)

-Damian Hanel introduced the topic to the group, explained that the above mentioned article appeared in a Spring edition of the Arnprior EMC. The article highlights Steve Roy and his May 2011 visit to McNab/Braeside Council to endorse a request to change the Madawaska Water Management Plan, the Stewartville Draw Down Rule Curve.

-Damian Hanel indicated that he felt that Steve did not represent himself as a representative of the SAC, as the article suggested, but that the journalist misunderstood and, as a result, misrepresented Steve in print. OPG and MNR view this as working outside of the process of the SAC.

-Steve Roy feels that what was printed in the paper is accurate of his statements at the Council but does take disagreement with the implied representation of the SAC.

-Joanna Samson indicated that MNR felt the statement given by Steve Roy that MNR were “dragging their feet” was offensive. Steve Roy did extend an apology to Joanna.

-Steve stated his intention to appear before Council was to educate the Township, owners of property along the Madawaska River, about the Madawaska Water Management Plan and the proposed Stewartville Reach Draw Down Curve.

-Jerry Lapierre stated that the article read as though Steve Roy was present at Council to voice his concern about the process and his lack of confidence and belief in the committee. Jerry stressed that members of the SAC can't be critical of the process because the Plan was prepared in accordance with a process that was agreed to by SAC. He felt that criticizing the process is tantamount to disparaging the work of the committee. He felt that SAC members, like any stakeholder, can disagree with the Plan but should not disparage either the process or the SAC. Al Hyde added that it appeared as though Steve went before Council to circumvent the process because he was unhappy with the progress and because he was pursuing a personal agenda rather than the broader interests.

-Damian Hanel stated that he felt that Steve may have demonstrated bad judgement but because the outcome of this incident was minimal, repercussions should be minimal. Damian acknowledged Jerry's point of view but believes the group should move forward, with Steve, and focus on the next tasks that the SAC has before them.

-George Newton summarized that information can be made public as long as it's factual but that SAC members should be diligent to ensure that they're not criticizing the process and or the SAC. Carole Workman added, “speak to the issues but not to disparage the process”.

-As a result of this particular incident, MNR and OPG would like to add a “Code of Conduct” to the Terms of Reference to set expectations of SAC members. Al Hyde verbally shared a draft of points to be included in the “Code of Conduct” and indicated that it requires further massaging and is not ready for formal presentation at the meeting. Joanna Samson stated that other SAC groups have similar wording in their Terms of References. The proposed changes to the Terms of Reference will not impact the ability to speak to constituents about water concerns, but will provide guidance on expectations about behaviour and conduct both at and after SAC meetings about topics related to the Madawaska Water Management Plan.

ACTION: Wording about expectations both at and after SAC meetings will be added to the Terms of Reference and will be presented at an upcoming SAC meeting. Joanna Samson and Al Hyde will prepare a draft and share with OPG before the next meeting.

ACTION: Jennifer Gardiner will send out SAC meeting notes within 10 business days of all SAC meetings. The group will then have five business days to comment on notes before notes become final and available to the public (on OPG.com). Members can then make use of the minutes for sharing with their networks.

5.2.1 B, Analysis of draw-down rule curve impact, Don Ferko

The full presentation can be obtained by contacting Jennifer.gardiner@opg.com

Highlights/points taken from the presentation:

- The proposed change will have impact at all of the sites along the Madawaska River.
- There is a false perception that OPG can generate whenever they'd like to but in reality OPG is restricted by environmental, recreational and market needs.
- Don Ferko presented numbers to demonstrate the many millions of ways that the Madawaska River can be used for power generation. Of those possibilities, only 3.2% (at Stewartville) are viable because of Madawaska River Water Management Plan restrictions.
- With the proposed Stewartville Reach Rule Curve change, that flexibility would decrease by 37% (to only 2%).
- The proposed change would result in a significant reduction in OPG's flexibility to generate and would translate into an annual revenue loss during the summer period ranging from \$22,000.00 to \$242,000.00 (based on higher term average), with an expected average annual loss of \$154,000.
- Jerry Lapierre made the point that this financial loss does not include the additional cost to the Province of Ontario. Without the ability to produce energy when needed, the grid will have to get the required energy from Coal or Thermal at a cost nearly six times the cost of hydro.
- George Newton asked for clarification on the approval process (of the proposed change). Don Ferko indicated that the report is not the end process. The next step is for OPG to determine if they support this proposed change or not. MNR will also be a part of reviewing the final report. Al Hyde clarified that when Don Ferko has the final report, Jerry Lapierre (for OPG) will review from a business perspective while Al Hyde and Joanna Samson (for MNR) will review from the ecological side. The report will then go to the SAC for review and recommendations, not approval.

ACTION: Jerry Lapierre to present Market Rules Presentation to SAC at next meeting (January 2011), time permitting.

5.2.2, Bark Lake

5.2.2A, Arrange Bancroft MNR review of oxbow erosion, Kirby Punt

Joanna gave Lucien Lacombe a map from Kirby Punt for Lucien to identify areas of entrapment and areas of erosion. Lucien indicated that the presented map doesn't show far enough south. Joanna Samson is to get a new map and send to Lucien by mail.

Oxbox = figure 8s, channel will cut itself off, abandoned lake

ACTION: Joanna Samson to ensure that Kirby Punt contacts Erin McDonald, Bancroft MNR

ACTION: Joanna Samson to send Damian Hanel a PDF of map of area to confirm the map highlights the correct area in question. The map will then be sent by mail to Lucien.

ACTION: Joanna Samson to send Lucien Lacombe a new map (by mail).

5.2.2B, “Who owns the land?”, provide concession information to Jerry Lapierre and Ron Threader, Lucien Lacombe

This information has been provided. No further actions.

5.2.2 C, Ron Threader erosion assessment

No further information.

5.2.3, Levels and flows update, Don Ferko

The full presentation for Discharge and Elevation Update can be obtained by contacting jennifer.gardiner@opg.com

5.2.4, Waba Creek update, Lyle

The current situation in Waba Creek is dry, but enough to generate at Misty Rapids Power. Dave Fraser, Fraser Power, has been shut since May or June 2011. George Barrie, Barrie Small Hydro Limited, is still running.

ACTION: Lyle Stewart to present a ‘what’s going on out there” at each meeting going forward.

5.2 SAC going forward:

- **member training and orientation, Joanna Samson & Jennifer Gardiner**

OPG, MNR and SAC are still interested in having a Madawaska River Tour. The whole system tour will provide a visual and allow for more context for the group.

Proposed schedule:

January meeting – start considering what people want to see and what they want to show on their particular reach.

May meeting – establish where/what everyone wants to see and establish a schedule

July – proceed with tour.

ACTION: SAC members to start considering what properties/highlights they’d like to share with group. Have this prepared for spring meeting, May 17, 2012.

- **Update on Terms of Reference, Joanna Samson & Jennifer Gardiner**

This issue was discussed in 5.2., Arnprior EMC article.

ACTION: Joanna Samson, MNR, and Jennifer Gardiner, OPG, to continue to work on the language for the Terms of Reference and the inclusion of messaging around the expectations of the SAC members. Note: Jerry and Al will review drafts before bringing to the SAC.

6. Summary of Public Issues Since Last Meeting.....All

6.1 MNR

One concern about low water levels at Palmer Rapids. Damian Hanel spoke with him. No further action required.

Al Hyde received a complaint about low levels at Conroy's Marsh. Don Ferko had responded to the complaint by the time of the call.

6.2 OPG

OPG received a concern from the downstream side of Kaminiskeg Lake. Flows were 15cms and resident was concerned that level was too high and too close to his newly built home. Jerry Lapierre spoke with him and advised him to speak with his Municipality.

6.3 SAC Members

Damian Hanel has had some comments from residents that the lake is lower. Damian has been telling them that the lake has been lower and that lake has been consistently close to the minimum but not as low as it's been (like last year).

George Newton stated that the Kaminiskeg Area Property Owners Association have a growing concern about a build up of silt at lower end of lake. George doesn't know if an Information Need is required but will obtain more information before he presents it as an Information Need. George does require some assistance on next steps and would like this added to the Spring agenda.

ACTION: Add Kaminiskeg Lake Area Property Members and their concerns regarding silt built up to May 2012 Meeting.

7. New Business

7.1 Arnprior Reach Erosion, Millridge Road, Brian Wright.

Not present. Did not discuss.

7.2 Announcements (if any)

No announcements.

8. Date of next meeting

Thursday, January 12, 2012

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Adjournment

At 9:15 p.m. Lucien Lacombe moved to adjourn the meeting and Steve Roy seconded it.