

MADAWASKA RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT REVIEW
STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting #9, Wednesday April 3, 2002
OSPG Renfrew Administration Office

Participant List:

SAC: Barry Martin (Chair), Steve Roy, Kevin Barclay, Ernie Coulas, Mary-Ann McRae

OPG: Jim Whyte, Linda Halliday, Greg Pope, Don Ferko, Chris Tonkin, Leo Kwan

MNR: Ron Spurr

Regrets:

Brian Wright, Bob Braden, Brian Vermeersch (MNR), Henry Checko (MNR), Joff Cote (MNR)

1. **Call to Order, Introductions, Review of Agenda:**

Barry Martin, SAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

2. **Delegations, Presentations:** None this meeting.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of January 30, 2002:**

Moved by Steve Roy, seconded by Kevin Barclay that the Minutes be approved as read.

4. **Business arising from the Minutes of January 30, 2002:**

1. **Erosion workshop**, Eganville, Royal Canadian Legion Branch #353, May 11: 1-4pm. Advertisement in local papers in late April/early May, first 50 participants. Up to 10 individuals who have expressed interest in participating will also be invited to attend by OPG and MNR. If there is more interest, we will host a second workshop. SAC members are welcome, MNR participants from the Bonnechere River area (these make up part of the 10), OPG erosion experts, etc. A resource list will be prepared for participants interested in pursuing erosion issues.
2. **"Cherry Beach – Exposure of the Walleye Spawning Shoal"** by Greg Pope – an Action item from the January 30th. meeting.

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2.6.7 (continued) Cherry Beach - Exposure of the Walleye Spawning Shoal

In April 1999, walleye were observed to spawn in the upper part of the Cherry Beach rapids (Rosien 1999). During low flow springs such as 1999 and 2001, the shoal associated with the rock crib may become exposed during either spawning and/or incubation. Some observations by Rosien (1999) and MNR (Boos personal communication) suggest that walleye spawn between the shoal and the north bank where eggs are unlikely to be exposed. However, the Standing Advisory Committee wishes to confirm that there is no egg exposure problem at this location, and to determine if this area can be protected by the backwater from Stewartville GS if higher elevations are maintained during the spawning/incubation period. The following tasks should provide the information to address this issue.

Scope of Work

Continue to make annual observations of the distribution of spawning walleye at Cherry Beach when flows permit (Walleye Watch, MNR, OPG).

Make observations of shoal exposure at various flows through direct observation and flow tests. (first flow test, 68 cms, conducted Jan 30, 2002)(OPG).

During egg incubation during low spring flows, inspect shoal for exposed eggs (OPG, MNR).

At low flows, determine how far upriver the backwater from the Stewartville GS extends relative to the Cherry Beach Rapids at elevations 144.48 to 144.78 (OPG).

At low summer flows, inspect the shoal to determine if the elevation of the shoal can be easily lowered to prevent dewatering (OPG).

References:

Rosien, D. 1999. An assessment of hydroelectric operating effects on northern pike, muskellunge and walleye reproduction in the Madawaska River basin, spring 1999. Report #990302 Sustainable Resources for OMNR/OPG Madawaska River Water Management Review Working Group, Pembroke and Toronto.

Steve Roy and Barry Martin noted that Greg's efforts were appreciated.

3. Draft Annual Report

Circulated draft annual report as presented.

Ron's Summary of "Action Items" will be included

Barry volunteered to prepare a summary of "Information Needs" to be included

Copies will be forwarded to Brian Wright and Bob Braden for comments back to Barry as soon as possible.

Publication anticipated by end May 2002.

4. Summary of public issues:

MNR – none received

OPG – issue of fish kill at Camel Chute near Centennial Lake. Concerns about low water when ice melts and fish become stranded.

- issue of adequate water for pike and pickerel event at Madawaska on the May long weekend.

5. Update on River Levels and Flows:

Don Ferko – Bark Lake at 310m and rising 8-10 cm/day. About 4m higher than in other years at this time. Inflows are not as high as usual due to lower temperatures and less snow in bush.

Elevations in other forebays are normal to higher than usual and inflows are generally lower. Need to ascertain that inflows are not too high when fish spawning starts – otherwise we will have to maintain outflows of 25 cms and risk lowering the lake again.

Ernie Coulas – water content and snow depth in past years are not necessarily indicators of wet or dry years and predictions on filling cannot be made on those readings. Spring rains are still needed this year. We have to fill Bark Lake cautiously to make sure we don't have flooding.

5. New Business:

1. 2002 Annual Lower Madawaska Stakeholder Meeting -

Steve Roy requested that future such meetings be advertised and open to the public.

Barry Martin and other members of the SAC recommended that we hold an Upper Madawaska stakeholder meeting at the end of May. Date chosen for consideration was May 25th. 1-4 pm at a location to be recommended by Ernie Coulas. The Paddlers' group will be included in this. The format would be similar to the Lower Madawaska stakeholder meeting. The SAC requested that this be advertised public involvement, and invitation by mail to stakeholder group. John Tammadge's agreement will be requested before plans finalized.

2. Madawaska Paddler Portage Routes - MNR offered the Ontario Ranger program staff to work on the paddler portage routes this summer.

Linda announced that the paddler portage route will be studied in depth on April 23rd ..by a group of OPG and MNR people prior to commencement of work to

clear and sign routes. The Paddler Portage Route is expected to be ready for use in July.

6. **Announcements:** None this meeting.

7. **Next Meeting** – June 11th. Renfrew office.

8. **Adjournment** - On motion from Ernie Coulas, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.