

Kaministiquia River



Standing Advisory
Committee

2024 Meeting Minutes
Kakabeka Visitor's Centre
May 7, 2024

1.0 Meeting Attendees

Mayor Lucy Kloosterhuis	Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge
Chris Bowles	Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge
Tyler Meloche	Thunder Bay Pulp and Paper
Shawn Waino	Fort William Historical Park
Tammy Cook	Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
Melissa Hughson	Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
Hank Syposz	Lower Kaministiquia / Recreationalists
Rebecca Dickson	Upper Kaministiquia
Jim Moshonsky	Shebandowan / Greenwater / Kashabowie
Simone Laatu	Dog Lake Area
Derek Papineau	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
Erin Hudson	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
Scott Parker	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
Christian Carl	Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (MNRF)
Marek Klich	Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (MNRF)
Mike Holm	Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park
Tom Aaltomaa	OPG
Eric Hansen	OPG
Zach Wood-Seems	OPG
Krysta Alexander	OPG
Tom Kurtz	OPG

1.1 Regrets

Kristen Braun	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
Jacinth Gilliam-Price	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
Chris Mahon	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
Chad Tanner	OPG
Tracy Apperly	OPG
Dan Galick	OPG

2.0 Call to Order

Tammy Cook called the meeting to order at 5:46 pm.

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

2024 Agenda was adopted

1st Lucy Kloosterhuis

2nd Simone Laatu

2.2 New SAC Members

Hank Syposz

2.3 Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes

Tammy Cook has amendments to the previous 2023 minutes.

- An employee of the LRCA is preparing information related to fish consumption advisories.
- The Neebing-McIntyre Floodway diverted for sixteen consecutive days in the spring of 2022 and six days in the spring of 2023.
- DFO is installing a permanent concrete sea lamprey trap on the Neebing weir.
- The LRCA may be preparing an ice management plan which would include frazzle ice on the Kam River, which impacts Fort William Historical Park.

2023 minutes were adopted with above amendments

1st Lucy Kloosterhuis

2nd Simone Laatu

3.0 Action Items

3.1 2023 Actions

Action Confirm with Fort William First Nation if there is a current member appointed to the S.A.C. Committee

Update Complete: Niall Scarr (OPG - Sr Advisor, Indigenous relations) reached out to FWFN, there is no response or representative at this time, but this may change in the future due to the work that will be happening at Kakabeka GS.

Action OPG to send SAC meeting minutes and Terms of reference to Tammy Cook for posting on the LRCA web site.

Update Carried over to 2024 Actions

3.2 2024 Actions

Action OPG's responsibility to have draft meeting minutes circulated and final minutes and TOR posted to LRCA website by June 15th (This was also updated in the Terms of Reference for future SAC meetings)

Action Send weekly updates to the SAC about Kam watershed lakes percent full if inflows remain low

Action Ellis Road bridge - flow restriction conundrum – consider inviting the SAC Committee members to part take in meeting with the local roads board, MTO, and MNRF.

Action Review of the scenic flow at Kakabeka falls to be evaluated and possibly move to one week earlier in the season.

4.0 Presentations

4.1 Kakabeka Generating Station Redevelopment Project

Presented by Tom Kurts, OPG, Project Manager & Thomas Klemens, OPG, Project Leader

- Station 117 years old
- Rehabilitation project will Increase capacity to 27 MW.
 - New surge building
 - New Double buried penstocks
 - Old powerhouse is considered a historic/heritage building.
 - Estimate at least 70-million-dollar savings with keeping the old powerhouse.
 - Moving from 4 turbines to 2
 - More efficient and cost effective.
 - New bulkhead cofferdam
 - Beneficial for fish habitat
 - Made from steel.
 - Less expense and less risk
- Environmental summary
 - Does not trigger an environmental assessment.
 - Flows during spring spawning will be maintained for sturgeon.
 - Soil contaminants will be isolated and disposed of properly.
- Public engagement
 - Developed public consultation plan.
 - <http://www.Kakabekags.com>
- Indigenous Engagement
 - 3 local indigenous groups:
 - Contractors: Baird/ Stewart Olsen
- Redevelopment schedule
 - 2024: Complete Engineering and Final Design
 - March 2025: Construction begins.
 - March 2027: Construction complete.

4.2 2023 Review / 2024 Water Level Update

Presented by Zach Wood-Seems, OPG, NW Operations, Water Manager

- Dec 2023 to March 2024 was warmer than normal in the winter/temps.
 - Resulted in the snow melting quickly and reduced frost in the ground. Trending closer to normal in April.
- Below normal precipitation from May until December 2023
- Normal precipitation for March and April 2024
- Freshet kicked off mid April 2023
- Spring 2023 inflows were well above normal due to the fast melt.
- Silver Falls had 2 outages in 2023.
 - No flow through the generating station during the outages

4.3 Upper Kam Flow Restriction

Presented by Eric Hansen, OPG, NW Operations, Water Manager

- Upper Kam must be able to pass water to safely manage Dog Lake
- The Ellis Road bridge is across the part of the river that narrows and has flow restrictions.
 - Max Outflow Capacity from Dog Lake = 756cms
 - Upper Kam Flows>125cms result in overland flooding onto private property.
 - Upper Kam Flows>200cms result in overtopping the Silver Falls Rd
 - Dog Lake inflows regularly > 125cms and 200cms in the spring
 - Restriction in Upper Kam River is area under the Ellis Rd Bridge
 - Dog Lake Rate of Rise
 - Average 7-9cm/day after a large rain event which is equivalent to 6-8 days of storage (from 421.00m)
 - Can increase upwards of 20cm/day when inflows are at a max and outflow is reduced.
 - 2 near misses in 2022 & 2023

4.4 Effectiveness Monitoring

Biological monitoring was undertaken by Northern BioScience on behalf of OPG in 2023. This work consisted of using driftnets to detect evidence of lake sturgeon spawning. Nets were deployed between June 10 and June 22, 2023, for a total of 108 net-sets. A total of 3043 larval lake sturgeon were caught, all above the Kakabeka GS. This represents a catch-per-unit-effort (CUE) of approximately 28.2 sturgeon per net-set which is much higher than the 7.1 and 0.7 sturgeon/net observed in 2021 and 2016 respectively using a similar array. The 2023 results are similar to the highest CPUEs observed by MNRF.

5.0 Representative Reports

Fort William First Nation

No representation

No Update

Thunder Bay Pulp & Paper

Tyler Meloche

- 17 cms is required.
- Going to be dealing with nature and may run below those numbers but takes away wiggle room and how TBPP operates.
- If we do get into conditions – daily reports from OPG are critical for how they run their operations.
- Occasionally, will get a report from members of the public – foam upstream from our facility.
- MECP – foam upstream from Thunder Bay Pulp and Paper from natural turbulence of the water – organic matter

Oliver Pipogone

Mayor Lucy Kloosterhuis

River is low and creeks are starting to flow.

Shebandowan/Kashabowie/Greenwater

Jim Moshonsky

Shebandowan lake mgmt. plan is up for review – flows and levels are not part of this discussion.

Dog Lake

Simone Laatu

No Update

Upper Kam

Rebecca Dickson

River is low.

Lower Kam

Hank Syposz

Water level on lower kam is low - mitigates bank erosion.

LRCA

Tammy Cook

The LRCA upgraded the Level I Low Condition to Level II Low Water condition in January as received precipitation was recorded between 40-60% of average. Due to recent near average precipitation in March and April, the condition will likely be upgraded to a Level I Low Water Condition (received precipitation between 60-80% of average).

The LRCA is celebrating 70th anniversary this year. A celebration will be held on July 18th at the LRCA office.

Staff of the LRCA are monitoring and treating the invasive species Phragmites and narrow leaved cattail in the watershed. Facts sheets related to the species were distributed. Sightings can be reported to the LRCA.

MECP

Scott Parker

No Update

Fort William Historical Park

Shawn Waino

River is low.

Kakabeka Provincial Park

Mike Holm

Season at Kakabeka has been extended. Review if the scenic flow time frame could be adjusted to 1 week earlier.

Next Meeting: Tuesday May 6, 2025

2025 Chair: MECP

Meeting Adjournment: 8:27 pm

1st Lucy Kloosterhuis

2nd Jim Moshonsky