

Aguasabon River System Water Management Plan

Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting

June 7, 2023 DRAFT Minutes

OPG Premier Way Office

1269 Premier Way, Thunder Bay ON

Attendees:

Brian Desrochers (Chair)	Greenstone District Trappers' Council
Paul Malashewski	Mayor of Terrace Bay
Jody Davis	Terrace Bay Residents
Philip Wilson	MNRF Geraldton
Natalie Cormier	MNRF Geraldton
Ray Tyhuis	MNRF Nipigon
Patti Westerman	MNRF Nipigon
Adrienne Igo	OPG
Eric Hansen	OPG
Zach Wood-Seems	OPG
Dave Pacholczak	OPG
Derek Brissette	OPG
Keith Williams	OPG
Tracy Apperly	OPG (recording secretary)

Regrets: Chad Tanner OPG, OPG, Regan Lord OPG, OPG, Tom Aaltomaa OPG,
Leal Strain MNRF Geraldton

Meeting commenced at 1:00 pm

1. Introductions

Handouts: June 7, 2023, Agenda
Aguasabon SAC Meeting November 3, 2023, minutes
Aguasabon River Water Management 2022 Annual Report June 2023

A discussion took place on the electing a new Chair. Brian Desrochers was elected interim Chair in his absence at the November 3, 2022, meeting when Richard Mannisto resigned from the SAC. Brian Desrochers is okay staying as Chair if there was a process for appointing an alternate in his absence. Dave Pacholczak, OPG confirmed that another SAC member has been appointed as an alternate chair at other SAC meetings or OPG has chaired the meeting.

1. The meeting agenda was approved.

1st Brian Desrochers

2nd Jody Davis

2. Review of the Aguasabon SAC meeting minutes for November 3, 2022 were approved.

1st Paul Malashewski

2nd Jody Davis

Actions from November 3, 2023, meeting.

1. Signing authority on the Caisse Populaire Longlac account. Leal Strain is signing authority, and a second signing authority needs to be added.

2023 ACTION: Brian Desrochers to contact Leal Strain about meeting with Caisse Populaire Alliance to be added as second signing authority on account.

2. Vacant SACs member.

Chad Tanner, PR OPG to advertise for new members, asking for resumes and letter on why they interested in being on the SAC. The SAC members will review and select the new member.

2023 ACTION: Chad Tanner to approach Geraldton, Greenstone, Long Lake 58 First Nation, and Ginoogaming First Nation (also known as Long Lake Reserve #77) for a representative on the SAC.

3. Dave Pacholczak, OPG Water Manager to provide the location of the OPG Geraldton snow survey site. Dave emailed the snow survey site location to Philip Wilson MNRF Geraldton.

4. Dave Pacholczak, OPG Water Manager to complete the Draft Implementation Report. The Draft Implementation Report was sent to MNRF for review and is waiting for response.

The SAC to review the Implementation Report and decide what they want to focus on in the next 5 years.

Presentation – 2022 Report

a. Water Levels and Flows

2022 Water Levels and Flows review based on the Aguasabon River Water Management 2022 Annual Report was presented by Dave Pacholczak, OPG and Kenogamisis Lake section was presented by Natalie Cormier, MNRF.

The following discussion occurred.

Reviewed the purpose of the Water Management Plan.

ACTION: OPG to send a copy of the Aguasabon River System Water Management Plan to Paul Malashewski.

Regional Weather Review for 2022 was presented.

b. 2022 Compliance

Dave Pacholczak, OPG reviewed the 2022 non-compliances as reported to MNRF.

Non-Compliances from the 2022 Annual Report

The annual compliance report was sent by OPG to MNRF on March 1, 2023, as required by the Water Management Plan.

During 2022, there was one period of non-compliance for Ontario Power Generation (OPG) facilities on the Aguasabon River system. It was discussed with, and reported to, the MNRF at the time of occurrence and added below for your reference.

Hayes Lake Low Water Level – Out of Compliance

On the week of May 16th, the elevation on Hayes Lake went out of compliance; the elevation trended below the lower compliance limit on May 21st, 2022.

Due to the above average Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) received over the winter, delayed spring melt and record precipitation received in the month of April, and continued precipitation in May, the elevation on Hayes Lake was intentionally held low to allow to accept elevated inflows.

The lower compliance limit as defined in the Water Management Plan (WMP) on May 20th is 272.20m and increases on May 21st to 273.40m. The elevation on May 21st, 2022, was 273.34m, just below the lower compliance limit. The elevation increased to above the lower compliance on May 25th where it was maintained back in compliance for the remainder of the year.

Kenogamisis Lake 2022 compliance was presented by Natalie Cormier, MNRF.

2022 Spring freshet brought the water level to 330.33 metres because of the snow, rain and run-off causing an out of compliance event.

c. Effectiveness Monitoring

Fisheries /Wildlife Monitoring programs are performed by MNRF.

Ray Tynuis, MNRF presented on the 2022 annual reports of the Brook Trout Surveys, Walleye Spawning Surveys, Benthic and Small Fish survey, and Loon surveys.

2023 Update

a. Water Levels and Flows

Dave Pacholczak, OPG went over the 2023 graphs.

Kenogamisis Lake inflows in 2023 are at a 10 year high, 2 times the normal. Now, that we are in the month of June, the water levels are coming back to normal.

Natalie Cormier, MNRF stated that the logs started to go back in June 6th. Water level is high.

Long Lake water levels were flat, draw down was below the preferred, this was delayed reaction from the water from the north. Increase water flow from Kenogamisis resulting from the snow melt. The riverbed profile has changed since the mill stop passing logs to the mill.

Hays Lake had a dry winter. There was an outage at Aguasabon GS with an early refill that OPG announced to the public with public announcements.

b. 2023 Effectiveness Monitoring

The 2023 Effectiveness Monitoring update was given by Philip Wilson and Ray Tyhius of the MNRF.

The MNRF have plans to perform the Loon survey, Drifting and the Brook Trout survey. Broad scaling at Long Lake, Chipman Lake and Lake Nipigon with some netting, looking at walleye similarities between lakes.

c. Implementation Report

Dave Pacholczak, OPG presented the April 1, 2013, to December 31, 2019, Implementation Report.

There is no expiry date, but 5-year Implementation Report is required to be prepared. The Water Management Plan is to be reviewed every 5 years and a plan prepared for the next 5 years.

In 2023, the Implementation Report is almost done. Currently, OPG sent the Implantation Report to MNRF a couple months ago.

The SAC members were asked if there was anything they wanted to look at.

Water Management Plans are permanent. Intent Implementation Reports every 5 years that go to the MNRF. To amend the Water Management Plan, the SAC review and accepts or rejects the amendments. The SAC must be active.

Philip Wilson stated that the MNRF has changed. Ray Tyhuis Ontario Government/MNRF wants less words and more graphs/pictures in reporting,

Jody Davis commented that the Implementation Report is to be posted to the Public by OPG.

Jody Davis suggested that the Implementation Report – Draft copy be sent out with bullet point summary with the draft copy.

Jody Davis brought up item to be included in the Implementation Report plan for the next 5 years. Climate Change, will it help the area, temperatures changes, snow – more or less, and rainstorm. Do We need a study.

Other Business

- a. Vote on a new Chair

New Chair – Brian Desrochers

1st – Jody Davis

2nd – Paul Malashewski

- b. Discuss adding new members to the SAC – to be reviewed.

Chad Tanner, OPG Senior Communications Advisor to advertise in the Greenstone, Terrace Bay, Ginoogaming First Nation (formerly known as Long Lake Reserve #77), and Long Lake #58.

- c. Bank account / signing authority for the SAC member and MNRF.

Signing authority should be 1st – Brian Desrochers, SAC Chair and 2nd Leal Strain, MNRF representative.

ACTION: OPG to speak to Senior Management about how the SAC administration will be managed when there is no longer any funds in the Caisse Populaire Alliance account. Example: expense reports submitted to OPG with travel expense policy in place.

- d. Patti Westerman, MNRF reported that the mileage rate is 0.41 cents per kilometre.

- e. Next meeting – 2nd Tuesday in June, or more if needed as per the Terms of Reference

2024 meeting – Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Meeting adjournment, 3:30pm

1st Brian Desrochers

2nd Paul Makashewski