

Aguasabon River System Water Management Plan

Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting

June 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes

MNRF office boardroom Geraldton ON

Attendees:

Brian Desrochers (Chair)	Greenstone District Trappers' Council
Paul Malashewski	Mayor of Terrace Bay (joined at 12:30pm)
Jody Davis	Terrace Bay Residents
Christine Rajala	Superior North CFDC – Industry/Business (virtual)
Tania Lalande	Tourist Outfitter – Lower end of Long Lake
Cameron Biggar	Tourist Outfitter – Lowe end of Long Lake
Evan Armstrong	Kenogamisis Lake/Long Lake
Natalie Cormier	MNRF Geraldton
Leal Strain	MNRF Geraldton
Matt Heerschap	MNRF Nipigon
Eric Kahkonen	MNRF Nipigon
Tom Aaltomaa	OPG, Environment
Eric Hansen	OPG, Water Management
Zach Wood-Seems	OPG, Water Management
Tracy Apperly	OPG (recording secretary)

Regrets: Chad Tanner OPG, OPG Stakeholders Relations
Dan Galick, OPG NW Operations, Senior Manager Hydro Operations
Patti Westerman, MNRF Nipigon
Mayor Jamie McPherson, Municipality of Greenstone,
Jeff MacDonald, North of Superior Trappers' Council

Handouts: June 18, 2024, Agenda
Aguasabon SAC June 7, 2023, Meeting minutes
Aguasabon River Water Management 2023 Annual Report May 31, 2024
Aguasabon River System Water Management Plan Terms of Reference (TOR) -
current

1. Meeting called to order at 11:10 am
2. The adoption of the June 18, 2024, meeting agenda

1st Brian Desrochers

2nd Jody Davis

3. Introductions
4. 2023 Minutes

4.1 Review of Action Items

Actions from June 7, 2022, meeting.

2022-1 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.

June 18, 2024 - Leal Strain is signed on to account and receiving statement via Canada Post. Leal Strain suggested changing to electronic statement to avoid the service fees for printed/mailed statements. Brian Desrochers, elected by the Committee to be the Committee's Treasurer with the rotating Chairperson schedule. Brian Desrochers to contact Leal Strain regarding meeting at the Caisse Populaire Alliance, Longlac to add himself as the 2nd signature on the account.

2022-2 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.

June 7, 2023 reported – the Implementation Report has been reviewed by MNRF and returned to OPG to finalize.

2023-1 Chad Tanner, Stakeholders Relations, 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(s). Chad Tanner to approach Geraldton, Greenstone, Long Lake 58 First Nation, and Ginoogaming First Nation (also know as Long Lake Reserve #77) for a representative on the SAC.

June 18, 2024 - Chad Tanner, Stakeholders Relations, OPG advertised for new members and approached municipalities and First Nations. The advertising was successful. New members - Mayor Jamie MacPherson, Municipality of Greenstone, Evan Armstrong, Kenogami-Long Lake,

Jeff MacDonald, North of Superior Trappers Council, Tania Lalande & Cameron Biggar, Tourist Outfitter - Lower end of Long Lake, and Christine Rajala, Superior North CFDC - Industry/Business. – **Completed**

2023-2 - Tracy Apperly, OPG to send a copy of the Aguasabon River System Water Management Plan to Paul Malashewski, Mayor of Terrace Bay – **Completed**

2023-3 – Dave Pacholczak, Water Manager, **OPG**- To speak with OPG 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 policies in place.

June 18, 2024 - Eric Hansen, OPG Water Manager has started to investigate replenishing the funds in the Casisee Populaire, Longlac. He is reviewing the OPG's policies and processes. Leal Strain reported that the balance in the account is around \$1,000.00 at the time June 18, 2024 SAC meeting, the balance will be reduced by any mileage claims from this meeting and paper account statements fees. Eric Hansen, OPG suggested that there should be a standing agenda item to outline the bank account activity and balance each year.

4.2 Approval of June 7, 2023, Meeting minutes

1st Jody Davis

2nd Brian Desrochers

6. Review of Terms of Reference

Eric Hansen, OPG Water Manager

The Term of Reference expiry date January 20, 2025. Eric Hansen explained the items of the Term of Reference. The plan proponents are OPG (Ontario Power Generation) and MNRF (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry).

Denise Hardy, Sr Advisor Indigenous Relations OPG has approved the Chiefs and Councils of the First Nations in the Aguasabon River System regarding joining the Aguasabon River System SAC meetings.

The yearly rotating chairperson idea was presented by Eric Hansen and adopted by the committee – the agenda shows the rotation of the chairperson. Brian Desrochers was elected by the committee as the Treasurer of the committee and 2nd signing authority of the bank account.

The committee agreed to change the annual meeting from the first Tuesday in May each year to the third Tuesday in June, the third Tuesday in June must be after June 15th, to take in consideration of the end of bear season, June 15th, and to cover the current year's freshet concerns.

The approved meeting minutes should be available for the public to review.

2025 meeting – Tuesday, June 17, 2025

The Terms of Reference to be updated with the in person or virtual attendance options.

ACTION: 2024-1 – Eric Hansen, OPG to update the Terms of Reference to state that the meeting minutes will be sent out by email for approval by the SAC members. The members have two (2) weeks to respond. Meeting minutes will be ratified at the next SAC meeting.

ACTION: 2024-2 - Eric Hansen, OPG to approach the Municipalities of Greenstone and Town of Terrace Bay to ask them if they would post the approved Aguasabon River System SAC Meeting minutes on their website. Tourist Outfitter - Lower end of Long Lake offered to put the approved SAC minutes on their "Facebook" page.

ACTION: 2024-3 – Eric Hansen, OPG to update the TOR Terms of Reference for reviewed and adopted at the next SAC meeting in 2025.

5. Lunch

7. Presentation and Reports

7.1 -2023 Water Level and Flow Review

2023 Aguasabon River Water Levels and Flows update were reviewed based on the Aguasabon River System Water Management 2023 Annual Report along with annual compliance report was presented by Eric Hansen, OPG and Kenogamisis Lake section was presented by Natalie Cormier, MNRF.

7.2 - 2024 Water Level and Flow Update

2024 Aguasabon River Water Levels and Flows update was reviewed along with the 2024 spring freshet conditions presented by Eric Hansen, OPG and Kenogamisis Lake section was presented by Natalie Cormier, MNRF.

During the presentation by Natalie Cormier, MNRF of the Kenogamisis Lake 2023 Water Level and Flows and compliance report, Brian Desrochers asked about the cause of the dead fish a few years ago at Kenogamisis Lake/River. Brian mentioned that he spoke with Philip Wilson, MNRF Geraldton at the time about the dead fish.

ACTION: 2024-4 - Matt Heerschap, MNRF to follow up with the SAC at the next meeting about the issue of dead fish in the Kenogamisis Lake/River a few years ago brought up by Brian Desrochers at the 2024 SAC meeting. Brian Desrochers spoke to Philip Wilson at the time about the dead fish. Matt Heerschap to contact Eric Hansen for the Flows/Levels for the period.

Prior to the 2023 Effectiveness Monitoring Report was presented, Leal Strain, MNRF Geraldton reported on his previous action items and Bank Account balance and activities.

Caisse Populaire Alliance, Longlac account balance is roughly \$1,000.00 activities in the account during the last year were the mileage expense reports from the June 2023 meeting and service fees for paper statement to be mailed out.

ACTION: 2021-1 - Two signing authorities, one from MNRF and one SAC member. The SAC Chair holds the position as Treasurer.

June 18, 2024 - Leal Strain is signed on to the account and is receiving monthly statements via Canada Post. Leal Strain suggested changing to electronic statements to avoid the service fees for printed/mailed statements. Brian Desrochers, elected by the Committee to be the Committee's Treasurer. Brian Desrochers to contact Leal Strain regarding meeting at the Caisse Populaire Alliance, Longlac to add himself as the 2nd signature on the account.

Leal Strain commented that in the fall of 2022 MNRF Districts had some program changes. Water Management including Effectiveness Monitoring now falls under Patti Westerman, MNRF Nipigon and Leal is responsible for the interest of Greenstone and Kenogamisis Lake dam log operations.

7.3 2023 Effectiveness Monitoring Report

7.4 2024 Effectiveness Monitoring Update

Matt Heerschap, MNRF Nipigon presented both the 2023 report and the 2024 update for Effectiveness Monitoring which included the Brock Trout Surveys, Walleye Spawning surveys, Benthic and Small fish surveys, and Loon surveys.

Tom Aaltomaa, OPG Environment asked about the fall draw down and the population change of the fish.

ACTION: 2024-5 – Matt Heerschap, MNRF to provide update of Long Lake 2023 SPIN.

ACTION: 2024-6 – Eric Hansen, OPG to send out to the SAC Members all the names, email addresses of the SAC members, OPG contacts, and MNRF contacts.

ACTION: 2024-7 – Eric Hansen, OPG to send the Long Lake draw down spreadsheet to Matt Heerschap, MNRF.

ACTION: 2024-8 – Matt Heerschap, OPG to bring back to the SAC, the recent history and future of Mercury Testing of Kenogamisis Lake.

Other Business

a. A discussion of the Aguasabon River System Water Management Plan purpose and it was brought up that the new members should have copies of the Water Management Plan. The question was asked if a paper copy or electronic copy was preferred. Paper was the preference.

ACTION: 2024-9 – OPG to send a copy of the Aguasabon River System Water Management Plan to new members.

b. Next meeting – 3rd Tuesday in June 2025 meeting – Tuesday, June 17, 2025.

Meeting adjournment, 2:24 pm

1st Jody Davis

2nd Brian Desrochers

