

Kaministiquia River Water Management Plan
Standing Advisory Committee
Annual Meeting
LRCA Boardroom
May 9, 2023

Attendees:

Tammy Cook	LRCA CAO
Melisaa Hughson	LRCA Watershed Manager
Shawn Waino	Fort William Historical Park, Manager of Maintenance and Facility Services
Rebecca Dickson	Upper Kaministiquia
Simone Laatu	Dog Lake Area
Gary McMillan on behalf of Jim Moshonsky	Shebandowan, Kashabowie, Greenwater
Rebecca Dickson	Upper Kaministiquia
Alex Hiiback	Resolute Forest Products
Marek Klich	MNRF
Tom Aaltomaa	OPG
Adrienne Igo	OPG
Regan Lord	OPG
Dave Pacholczak	OPG
Zach Wood-Seems	OPG
Tracy Apperly	OPG Recording Secretary

Regrets:

Ed Collins	Fort William First Nation
Mayor Lucy Kloosterhuis	Oliver Paipoonge
Jim Moshonsky	Shebandowan, Kashabowie, Greenwater
Hank Syposz	Lower Kaministiquia
Kristen Braun	MECP
Chris Mahon	MECP
Erin Hudson	MECP
Jacinth Gilliam Price	MECP
Chad Tanner	OPG

Meeting Introductions

Dave Pacholczak, OPG welcomed everyone to the first face to face meeting since the beginning of COVID-19. Introductions of all attending meeting were completed. Dave Pacholczak introduced Alex Hiiback, Resolute Forest Products as the chair of the meeting.

Land Acknowledgement

Presented by Dave Pacholczak, Water Management Officer OPG

Call to Order

Alex Hiiback called the meeting to order at 6.05 pm.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

1st by Rebecca Dixon, 2nd Tammy Cook

2022 Minutes

4.1 2021 minutes were approved with the following amendment.

Tammy Cook

Lakehead Region Conversation Authority was incorrectly recorded as Lakehead Regional Conversation Authority in a few places within the minutes.

Motion to approved:

1st by Rebecca Dixon 2nd by Alex Hiiback

4.2 Action Items

2022 Actions

2021 ACTION:

Rebecca Dixon, Upper Kam - Signage and barriers for public access to Crooked Rapids - to contact OPG Real Estate and Legal

Tana-Leigh Harty, OPG Corporate Relations Officer is working with Real Estate and Legal.

2023 - Dave Pacholczak and Regan Lord, OPG provided a background on the signage being placed on OPG property at Crooked Rapids. Rebecca Dixon expressed that the area has been used from years by residents to gain access for swimming and recreation.

2022 ACTION

Dave Bulter, Dog Lake - wanting to know if there is any work being done to the Dog Lake Dam in the next 12-18 months.

Dave Pacholczak, OPG not working being done on the Dog Lake Dam there is outages at Silver Falls GS in 2023.

Presentation and Reports

5.1 Kam Implementation Report

Presented by Dave Pacholczak, Water Manager, NW Operations

Background

The original Kaministiquia River System Water Management Plan (KRSWMP) was prepared according to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' 2002 Water Management Planning Guidelines for Hydropower and approved for an initial period of July 2005 to March 31, 2015.

The process of renewing the KRSWMP began in 2010 resulting in a extension of the KRSWMP for a two year period of April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2017. The KRSWMP was extended with minor amendments rather than renewal as it was known there was an upcoming change being the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (MNRF) 2016. Maintaining Water Management Plans Technical Bulletin.

5.2 2022 Review / 2023 Water Level update

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

Temperature and Precipitation of Kaministiquia River Watershed for 2022 and 2023 were presented with the review of flows and levels graphs.

The Environment Canada forecast vs actual of temperature and precipitation for April/May /June 2022 called for a normal spring however above normal precipitation for the three months.

April 2022 precipitation was above normal, there was a snow fall every Wednesday. Tammy Cook, LRCA commented that the LRCA recorded that April/May 2022 high, broke a 1996 record.

The 2023 snow survey data as of May 1, 2023, was reviewed. Two ad hoc snow surveys were done at Kashabowie and Shedbandowan in 2023 to understand the snowpack, the surveys found more snow near the dams than in Atikokan.

A satellite Imagery from Sentinel Hub Playground of the Kam River as of January 31, 2023, was presented and reviewed. The Lower Kam River Ice Cover as of January 16, 2023 at Highway 130 Bridge – Downstream and Harstone Road – Midway pictures were presented and discussed.

The Environment Canada Weather Outlook for 2023 as of April 30, 2023, calling for below normal temperatures. Normal precipitation for May /June/July 2023.

MNRF forecast suggest normal temperatures for May and above normal precipitation.

5.3 Effectiveness Monitoring

Presented by Adrienne Igo, Site Environmental Advisor

2022 Lake Sturgeon Mitigation Plan Update

OPG has a Lake Sturgeon Mitigation Plan for the Kakabeka Falls GS on the Kaministiquia River. This plan commits to minimum flows to support lake sturgeon migration, spawn, and drift.

To ensure OPG can meet the flow commitments, a team meets weekly starting in early April to discuss watershed conditions and ability to meet minimum flow requirements.

There was plenty of water in 2022. This allowed OPG to meet the minimum continuous flow commitments for the 6-week period without exception. The plan calls for a 3-day flow reduction at the end of the larval drift period, this was completed on July 15. No biological monitoring occurred in 2022.

Based on historic understanding OPG is confident the flow provided, and facility operations did not pose a risk to migration, spawn, and drift of lake sturgeon in 2022.

2023 Update

MECP conducted an audit of OPG's Lake Sturgeon Mitigation Plan, no non-conformances identified.

Biological monitoring will occur in 2023. A larval drift netting survey is set to start in the coming weeks.

OPG is also looking to host a joint workshop with MNRF, MECP and local interested stakeholders to gather knowledge and information for the ongoing assessment of impacts and establishment of an effective mitigation strategy.

6.0 Representative Reports

Fort William First Nations- no representative at meeting to report.

Resolute Forest Products – Alex Hiiback

No change from 2022. Summer 17 cms flow.

Smooth and gentle flows is good for Resolute Forest Products.

Resolute Forest Products wants to ensure the oxygen level for the fish based on the water flows and temperatures.

The Daily reporting between OPG NWCC and Resolute Forest Products is good.

Oliver-Paipogone – no representative at meeting to report.

Shebandowan/Kashabowie/Greenwater – Gary McMillan

Water levels were nice and easy. Currently, the ice is ready to break up.

Dog Lake – Simone Laahu

The Campers would like to see the water levels up until the fall. Campers are still using their camps September up to Thanksgiving weekend. The Campers would like the water level to be the preferred water level line for the spring to the fall.

Upper Kam – Rebecca Dixon

Nothing to report.

Lower Kaministiquia Resident – no representative at the meeting to report.

LRCA (Lakehead Region Conversation Authority) –Tammy Cook

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.

The smelts in the Thunder Bay District seem to be okay.

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.

MECP – no representative at the meeting to report.

Fort William Historical Park – Shawn Waino, Manager Maintenance and Facilities Services

A review of the 2003, 2008, 2012 high water events and how the Park prepares and deal with damage was presented. The Park is nervous about the 2023 highwater if it is going to be like 2022.

Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park – no representative at meeting to report.

7.0 Member Renewal Process/TOR (Term of Reference) Review

Dave Pacholczak stated that the current Terms of Reference (TOR) was commenced in 2018, with a 5-year term with the expiry of June 15, 2023.

Under 3.0 of the Terms of Reference, Rebecca Dixon asked about the First Nations representation on the committee. Fort William First Nation's representative has not attended a meeting recently. Dave Pacholczak, OPG will contact Dennis Hardy, Sr Advisor Indigenous Relations to reach out to First William First Nation to confirm if the representative on the Kam SAC we have list is current.

2023 ACTION – Dave Pacholczak to ask Denise Hardy, Sr Advisor Indigenous Relations to contact Fort William First Nation to confirm if the representative we have on the Kamimistiquia SAC committee is current.

Under 4.0 Composition, new SAC member selection. Dave Pacholczak responded to Simone Laahu's question on how the selection process is done. Advertisement is done in local

newspapers. Applicants are then endorsed by least five existing members based on criteria provided in the 4.0 Composition of the Terms of Reference (TOR).

Simone Laatu asked if the minutes, Water Management Plan, Terms of Reference (TOR) and Implementation Report can be shared with residents of her interest group, Dog Lake Campers Association. She also asked Gary McMillan, representing Shebandowan / Greenwater / Kashabowie, if they share on a website. Gary McMillan information is sent out by email and the annual newsletter is posted. Dave Pacholczak mentioned that Eric Hansen in the past has been asked to write an article for the newsletter.

Action – Tracy Apperly to send Tammy Cook, LRCA the minutes, etc. to post on their site, as referenced in the Term of Reference (TOR). Posting on LRCA website to be added to the Terms of Reference (TOR).

Additional SAC Meetings are required in Low/High water years.

The Endorsement Signature needs to be updated.

The Water Management Plans was established in 2002, they have been in place since 2005. The Water Management plans can be amended but must be approved by MNRF, the regulator.

Terms of Reference (TOR) to be updated every 5 years, current expires June 15, 2023. The Terms of Reference (TOR) to updated with discussed changes with an expiry date of June 15, 2028.

Motioned by 1st Alex Hiback

2nd Simone Laahu

Alex Hiback mentioned that Resolute Forest Products has announced a pending sale in 2023.

Other Business

Dave Pacholczak announced his departure from the Water Management Officer position, he is returning to previous position of Senior Protection and Control Officer. Eric Hansen is returning from Kenora Work Centre to take the Water Management Officer position.

Rebecca Dixon thanked Dave for all his efforts in supporting the Kaministiquia SAC.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

2024 Chair to be Fort William First Nation

Alternate chair, if needed, LRCA, Tammy Cook.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm

1st – Rebecca Dixon

2nd – Jason Boesche