

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Mill of Kintail Gatehouse

**MINUTES**

March 21, 2012

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

M. Burnham, Chair;  
J. Karau, Vice-Chair;  
D. Abbott;  
D. Black;  
G. Code;  
E. El-Chantiry;  
A. Jones;  
G. Martin;  
G. McEvoy;  
W. Millar;  
A. Snider;  
P. Sweetnam.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

A. Gillis;  
R. Kidd;  
B. Sutcliffe;

**INVITED MEMBER PRESENT:**

L. Antonakos;  
E. Preston.

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Services;

P. Lehman, P. Eng., General Manager;  
J. Sargeant, Secretary-Treasurer;  
C. Craig, Project Manager;  
M. Craig, Manager, Planning & Regulatory  
  
R. Fergusson, Operations Supervisor;  
E. Levi, Administrative Assistant;  
S. McFarlane, Community Relations Coordinator;  
A. Moore, Regulations Officer;  
G. Mountenay, Water Management Supervisor.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**BUSINESS:**

1. Approval of Minutes – 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting - February 22, 2012

**B03/21/12-1**

**MOVED BY: W. Millar**

**SECONDED BY: D. Abbott**

**Resolved, That the Minutes of the Mississippi Valley Conservation 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held February 22, 2012 be received and approved as printed.**

**“CARRIED”**

2. Minutes – Regulations Committee Hearing – March 6, 2012

**B03/21/12-2**

**MOVED BY: P. Sweetnam**

**SECONDED BY: G. Code**

**Resolved, That the Minutes of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Regulations Committee Hearing held March 6, 2012 be received.**

**“CARRIED”**

3. Minutes – Office Building Committee Meeting – March 14, 2012

**B03/21/12-3**

**MOVED BY: G. Code**

**SECONDED BY: P. Sweetnam**

**Resolved, That the Minutes of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Office Building Committee meeting held March 14, 2012 be received.**

**“CARRIED”**

4. Ontario Regulation 153/06 Permits

**B03/21/12-4**

**MOVED BY: A. Jones**

**SECONDED BY: G. Martin**

**Resolved, That the Board of Directors approve Permit Nos. W12/08, W12/12, W12/14, W12/16.**

**“CARRIED”**

5. Royal Astronomical Society Lease Renewal

Mr. Lehman explained that since the mid-1970's the Authority has leased approximately two acres at the back of the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area to the Ottawa Chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC). The RASC has constructed the Fred Lossing Observatory on the property. The observatory has a retractable roof that houses a 16" Newtonian telescope, a heated club house with chart table and a small library of astronomical reference material. Mr. Lehman noted that the observatory is a significant addition to the site and it allows joint programs between MVC and RASC to be offered at the site. The Authority has developed a strong relationship with RASC and he recommended that the present lease be renewed for the nominal fee of \$10.00 per year.

Mr. Sweetnam suggested that future lease agreements be increased by the consumer price index.

**B03/21/12-5**

**MOVED BY: D. Abbott**

**SECONDED BY: G. Martin**

**Resolved, That staff be authorized to execute the lease agreement for the RASC - Fred Lossing Observatory site at the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area for a period of five years.**

**“CARRIED”**

6. Strategic Planning

Mr. Lehman advised that there is a line item in the 2012 Administration Budget for \$10,000.00 to undertake a review of the MVC Strategic Plan which was originally completed in 2002. He noted that the Plan established the Authority's Vision, Mission and Strategic Priorities. The Strategy allowed the Board and staff to focus on a series of priority business functions which were considered important to achieving MVC's mandate. Mr. Lehman pointed out that the strategy remains relevant; however, it has not been reviewed over the past ten years. He pointed out that given the changes in both the Board and staff membership, it is an appropriate time to conduct a review and affirm MVC's future directions.

Mr. Lehman provided a presentation and commented on the business functions undertaken by the Authority during the past 10 years. He also commented on the work completed with regard to climate change issues in the watershed. He outlined the questions that will be addressed with an updated strategic review and the proposed scope of the review. He noted that he will be meeting with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman during the next month to discuss issues that need to be addressed in the next five years and how to proceed with the Strategic Plan review/update.

There was a brief discussion on how to proceed with the Strategic Plan and it was the general consensus that the watershed municipalities be an integral part of the process. It was noted that a Strategic Plan is a living document that needs to be updated on a regular basis and it is an excellent communication tool that will describe what the Authority is, and what services it provides. There was a lengthy discussion on the Authority's role in water quality monitoring as compared to other Conservation Authorities.

In response to a request, Mr. Lehman agreed to forward his presentation to the board members by email. He noted that a definitive work program for the Strategic Plan will be brought back to the Board of Directors during the next few months.

7. Watershed Conditions Report

Mr. Mountenay provided a watershed conditions report. He noted that the snow pack in the western watershed did not allow the lakes to be filled. As a result, all logs are in the dams and staff are trying to capture as much water as possible since there is no guarantee that rainfall will provide the levels normally required for spring and summer.

8. Carp River Restoration Plan

Mr. Lehman advised that Kanata West has been receiving media attention recently since the City of Ottawa has issued a notification of official plan amendment which is part of the implementation phase of the Carp River Restoration Plan. Mr. Lehman provided an overview on the project. In response to a question, Mr. El-Chantiry noted that the Kanata West owners group has been working closely with the City of Ottawa and they are very aware of the restoration plan which conforms to provincial policies. He noted that the restoration plan will improve the Carp River and make a bad situation better.

9. R.T. McKenzie Museum Development

Mr. Fergusson provided a presentation on a new fire escape required on the R. Tait McKenzie Memorial Museum. He advised that the current fire escape has been inspected by the Chief Building Official in Mississippi Mills and he has advised that it must be replaced with a steel structure. He noted that the Building Code requires a continuous hand rail that has been designed by an architect. As well, the window openings adjacent to the fire escape must be fire rated so an interior storm window will be installed into the existing window with fire rated glass. The door will also be upgraded to current fire rated standards. Mr. Fergusson advised that the cost of the project will be in the \$26,000 to \$30,000 range.

10. Section 28 Regulation Compliance Report

Andy Moore, Regulations Officer commented on Staff Report #2672/12 and provided a presentation on Section 28 Regulation compliance. He noted that in 2011, compliance inspections were completed for 57 permits issued from 2009 to 2011. Compliance monitoring was completed for 6 permits issued in 2009, 50 issued in 2010, and 1 from 2011. In 2011, 45 complaints/potential violations were investigated, and 12 notices of violations were sent out to landowners/contractors. Five violations are still being resolved.

In response to a question, Mr. Lehman noted that staff would normally make the decision on which violations to take to court. Mr. El-Chantiry suggested that perhaps some decisions regarding violations should be brought to the Board of Directors for a decision on whether to proceed with court action.

**B03/21/12-6**

**MOVED BY: A. Jones**

**SECONDED BY: D. Black**

**Resolved, That the committee move into closed session to discuss legal issues with staff and invited members present at 3:25 p.m.**

**“CARRIED”**

**B03/21/12-7**

**MOVED BY: A. Jones**

**SECONDED BY: G. Martin**

**Resolved, That the committee move out of closed session at 3:40 p.m.**

**“CARRIED”**

Mr. Antonakos suggested that staff provide a report at some point in the future comparing the number of violations in 2012 to past years.

Mr. Martin suggested that the Fill Construction and Alteration to Waterways Permit issued by MVC be posted on the work site so that it is visible to neighbors and the general public.

11. Correspondence

A letter from the Friends of the Carp River was reviewed. The letter was received in response to a meeting between staff and the Friends of the Carp River to establish a strong partnership aimed at rehabilitating and protecting the Carp River. The letter recognizes that collaboration between the Friends and MVC would be important in developing an effective stewardship program. Initial opportunities are focused on small scale stewardship activities such as tree planting and stream bank restoration, enhanced monitoring and education. These activities are considered to be an extension of current activities planned on Poole Creek and aligned with on-going discussions between the City of Ottawa and Conservation Authorities on a Water Environment Strategy. Mr. Lehman noted that staff will continue to work with the Friends of the Carp River in exploring further opportunities at enhancing stewardship activities in the Carp River watershed. It was agreed that Mr. Lehman should respond to the letter.

A letter received from the Ottawa Stewardship Council in response to recent directives received from the Ministry of Natural Resources was reviewed and discussed. It was noted that the Stewardship Councils were formed in the late 1990's to provide the Ministry of Natural Resources with a continued opportunity to promote stewardship activities in rural areas. Mr. Lehman advised that MVC has worked closely with the Ottawa and Lanark County Councils on a variety of projects and have found the collaboration to be beneficial.

**B03/20/12-8**

**MOVED BY: G. McEvoy**

**SECONDED BY: D. Abbott**

**Whereas, the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority has worked closely with local community Stewardship Councils on many successful stewardship projects to further environmental stewardship and protection, and,**

**Whereas, recent directives by the Ministry of Natural Resources requiring the Stewardship Councils become incorporated may have negative implications to the Councils ability to continue delivering a successful stewardship program,**

**Therefore be it Resolved, That the correspondence from the Ottawa Stewardship Council be received and further,**

**Resolved, That the General Manager be directed to forward a letter to the Honorable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Natural Resources expressing the support of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority for the existing Ontario Stewardship program and recommending that the Ontario Government work with Council Chairs to strike a binding partnership agreement between the Ontario Government and the network of 45 Councils to continue an effective Ontario Stewardship program.**

**“CARRIED”**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

**B03/20/12-9**

**MOVED BY: D. Abbott**

**SECONDED BY: A. Snider**

**Resolved, That the Mississippi Valley Conservation Board of Directors meeting be adjourned.**

**“CARRIED”**

“J. Sargeant, Recording Secretary

M. Burnham, Chairman”