

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Mississippi Valley Conservation Centre
Carleton Place

MINUTES

July 16, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

R. Kidd;
B. Sutcliffe.

INVITED MEMBER ABSENT:

L. Antonakos.

STAFF PRESENT:

P. Lehman, P. Eng., General Manager;
J. Sargeant, Secretary-Treasurer;
C. Craig, Project Manager;
M. Craig, Manager, Planning & Regulatory
Services;
R. Fergusson, Operations Supervisor;
S. McFarlane, Community Relations Coordinator;
G. Mountenay, Water Management Supervisor.

OTHERS PRESENT:

P. Browne, Boltwood Observatory;
H. Browne, Boltwood Observatory;
K. Inng, Boltwood Observatory;
M. Smith, Resident, Carleton Place.

Mr. Karau called the meeting to order at 1:41 p.m.

BUSINESS:

1. Minutes – Board of Directors Meeting – May 21, 2014

B07/16/14-1

MOVED BY: G. Code

SECONDED BY: D. Abbott

Resolved, That the Minutes of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors meeting held on May 21, 2014 be received and approved as printed.

“CARRIED”

2. Implementation and Continuation of Two Zone Policy Area along the Ottawa River (Armitage Ave.)

Mr. Craig commented on Staff Report #2773/14 outlining the implementation of a two-zone flood plain management policy in the Armitage Avenue and Baskins Beach areas. He noted that a technical report on extending the existing two zone area south along the Armitage Avenue reach was submitted to the City of Ottawa in May, 2014. The report outlined the merits of extending the Constance Bay Two-Zone from Constance Creek downstream to Vance’s Side Road.

Mr. Craig noted that the City of Ottawa has passed a zoning amendment to adopt a two-zone policy area based on the technical report prepared by MVCA. The zoning was approved in principle by the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on July 3, 2014 and is being presented to City Council for final approval. The MVCA approval of the two zone will support the zoning amendment and policy direction adopted by the City of Ottawa.

It was noted that MVCA has provided to the City of Ottawa the technical merits of adopting a two-zone policy for the Armitage reach of the Ottawa River. If adopted, the policy should be extended across all lands that are at or above the 59.9 metre elevation between Armitage Avenue and Vance’s Side Road.

B07/16/14-2

MOVED BY: E. El-Chantiry

SECONDED BY: A. Jones

**Resolved, That Staff Report #2773/14 be received, and further,
Resolved, That the MVCA support the City of Ottawa in implementing a two zone policy for the area from Armitage Avenue to Vance’s Side road pending final approval of the City zoning amendment, and further;
Resolved, That the report and associated maps be published on the MVCA web site for agency and public reference.**

“CARRIED”

3. Secured Loan Agreement

Mr. Lehman advised that staff are working with staff at the Town of Carleton Place to prepare a loan agreement that will be converted to a debenture. When the terms have been finalized, the secured loan agreement will be brought back to the Board of Directors for approval at the next meeting.

Mr. Sweetnam pointed out that the debenture should be finalized while interest rates are relatively low.

4. Property Donation

Staff Report #2774/14 regarding the donation of approximately 22 ha of land in the Appleton Wetland to MVCA was reviewed. Mr. Lehman pointed out that the situation has changed since the staff report was prepared. He noted that the Ontario Heritage Trust is interested in accepting the property. He noted that MVCA has partnered with the Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT) on two other parcels of property in the area, where the property is owned by the OHT and is monitored by MVCA under a custodian agreement. Information collected by MVCA will be handed over to the Ontario Heritage Trust.

5. Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation

Mrs. McFarlane commented on Staff Report #2775/14 regarding the Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) which came into effect on July 1, 2014. She noted that the intent of the legislation is to monitor commercial electronic messages sent by businesses and non-profit organizations. July 1, 2014 was the last date mass emails could be sent without express or implied consent for non-profit agencies. As a registered charity, MVCA and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Foundation do not need prior consent to send fundraising focused electronic messages. All consent must be express by January 2017. Express consent does not expire unless the addressee unsubscribes.

Mrs. McFarlane noted that MVCA has approximately 420 email addresses that information is sent to. During the next three years, staff will be obtaining consent from the email addresses. Members signed their consent to receive emails.

6. Sculpture Garden at the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area

Mrs. McFarlane commented on Staff Report #2776/14 and advised that in April, two representatives of the Peace Corridors of the Americas Inc., its Chair Shaukat Chaney and fellow sculptor Deborah Arnold, presented their ideas for a sculpture trail at the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area to the Museum Advisory Committee. The Peace Corridors of the Americas Inc. is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the distribution of outdoor, public sculptures on the themes of peace and tolerance.

The proposed two-phased project would be a collaboration between the Peace Corridors of the Americas Inc. and MVCA that would culminate in a sculpture trail themed, “A McKenzie Friendship Trail: A Monumental Journey of Harmony & Tolerance”.

Phase one is proposed to be the creation and initiation of donated sculpture pieces. Phase Two would encompass a sculpture symposium during which artists would create work on site and pieces would be chosen to remain at the conservation area based on a selective criteria process.

The project description and benefits were noted in the staff report. The Museum Advisory Committee expressed their support conceptually, however, agreed there were many factors to be taken into account before a commitment could be made. It was determined that a formal process would have to be initiated and that staff meet to determine the feasibility of the proposed project. Staff met in May to discuss the proposal. It was agreed that more concrete details were needed to confirm the financial implications to the Authority and the staff time involved in the procurement, installation and maintenance of the sculptures.

Mrs. McFarlane advised that further information will be brought back to the Board of Directors. Mrs. Yanch noted that there is a similar garden in Madoch that has become very popular for visitors to the area. Mr. Karau stressed the importance of having a clear understanding of the criteria for compatibility prior to proceeding.

B07/16/14-3

MOVED BY: H. Yanch

SECONDED BY: A. Gillis

**Resolved, That Staff Report #2776/14 be received, and furthermore,
Resolved That staff be authorized to investigate similar sites participating in
the project and determine the financial obligations and site implications with
moving forward with the proposal.**

“CARRIED”

7. **Boltwood Observatory**

Mrs. McFarlane commented on Staff Report #2777/14 regarding the potential for repurposing an existing observatory and moving it to the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area. She noted that Boltwood Observatory is a private observatory designed by Paul Boltwood of Stittsville. Mr. Boltwood has expressed an interest in donating the building and equipment to an organization that would manage and maintain it for public use. The observatory consists of two areas: an observation room and a room that houses the telescope, mount, CCD camera, focuser and motorized roof.

In October 2013, the authority was approached by Hilderic Browne and Brian McCullough both of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) Ottawa Chapter and volunteers with the Fred Lossing Observatory (FLO) located on site at the Mill of Kintail. In a subsequent site visit to the observatory and meeting with Mr. Boltwood, it was agreed that while the project would enhance the Night Sky Conservation Program, a proposal to the

MVCA Board of Directors would better determine the viability of moving the observatory to the conservation area.

In the following months, Mr. Browne and Mr. McCullough have generated interest in supporting the project through RASC and Sustainable Eastern Ontario. This project could potentially enhance the existing Night Sky Conservation program by providing:

- 1) accessible equipment for public education in astronomy and night sky conservation;
- 2) an example of solar powered facility;
- 3) opportunity for data acquisition and research activities.

Mr. Browne provided a presentation on the Boltwood Observatory currently located in Stittsville.

Factors involved in moving forward with the project would include short term moving and re-commissioning; long term operations and succession planning; public education facilitators; timelines; funding and budget. Mr. Browne noted that he has already started looking for donations and has in excess of \$20,000.00 committed to date.

Mrs. Yanch and Mr. Martin commented on night sky programs that have been implemented in the western watershed.

It was the general consensus that the relocation to the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area would enhance the night sky programs already in place at the site.

B07/16/14-4

MOVED BY: M. Burnham

SECONDED BY: G. Code

**Resolved, That staff Report #2777/14 be received and furthermore,
Resolved, That staff are authorized to work with volunteers and potential donors to create a work plan and budget for the project.**

“CARRIED”

8. Ontario Regulation 153/06 Permits

Permits issued up to July 8, 2014 were reviewed and discussed briefly.

9. Watershed Conditions Report

Mr. Mountenay provided an update on watershed conditions. He commented on complaints about high water levels during the past month but noted that levels have returned to normal.

10. Trail Development – Roy Brown Park

Mr. Lehman commented on Staff Report #2779/14. He pointed out that staff have been having discussions regarding the development of a trail system in the natural area of Roy Brown Park and are in the process of completing a concept plan and costing. It was intended that the route for extension of the gas line to the MVCA office would be used as the connecting trail to the Town's Riverside Park, however, with delays in the gas line extension the option did not appear possible. Recent discussions with Enbridge Gas indicate that the option may still exist subject to further details.

A sketch of conceptual plans for Roy Brown Park are being prepared and presented to the Town's Recreation Committee on September 8th. In order to obtain public feedback on the concept, staff propose to hold a joint public open house at MVCA on September 15th, 2014. A report will be brought back to the Board of Directors meeting on September 17, 2014.

11. Other Business

Mr. Lehman commented on funding received by MVCA from Natural Resources Canada to look at the implications of climate change on water power along the Mississippi River system. Mr. Karau questioned whether the current water management plan needs to be updated. Mr. Lehman noted that there was a meeting in March 2014 and a discussion around operating regimes particularly with respect to Enerdu. The Province has not acted on a recommendation to conduct a review of the water management plan. Mr. Lehman pointed out that the results of climate change analysis should be considered as part of the water management plan.

It was agreed that a Policy and Priorities Advisory Committee meeting be held on August 22, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Carleton Place Office.

B07/16/14-5

MOVED BY: G. McEvoy

SECONDED BY: M. Burnham

Resolved, That the Committee move to closed session to address a matter pertaining to personal matters about an identifiable individual including authority employees and further,

Resolved, That Paul Lehman and Joan Sargeant remain in the room.

“CARRIED”

B07/16/14-6

MOVED BY: M. Burnham

SECONDED BY: W. Millar

Resolved, That the Committee move out of closed session.

“CARRIED”

It was noted that John Price will be returning to work for MVCA in the position of Director of Water Resources Engineering to replace the vacancy left by Doug Nuttall.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

B07/16/14-7

MOVED BY: H. Yanch

SECONDED BY: M. Burnham

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

“CARRIED”

“J. Sargeant, Recording Secretary

J. Karau, Chairman”