

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

49th ANNUAL MEETING

Mississippi Valley Conservation Centre
Carleton Place

MINUTES

February 15, 2017

2017 MEMBERS PRESENT:

J. Karau, Chair;
M. Burnham;
B. Doucett;
E. El-Chantiry;
G. Code;
J. Flynn;
A. Gillis;
J. Hall;
R. Kidd;
G. Martin;
B. MacDonald;
J. Mason;
G. McEvoy;
P. Sweetnam;
M. Wilkinson.

2017 MEMBERS ABSENT:

D. Abbott, Vice-Chair;
K. Thompson.

INVITED MEMBERS PRESENT:

L. Antonakos.

STAFF PRESENT:

P. Lehman, P. Eng., General Manager;
J. Sargeant, Secretary-Treasurer;
A. Broadbent, GIS Supervisor;
M. Craig, Manager, Planning and Regualtions;
R. Fergusson, Operations Supervisor;
S. Gutoskie, Community Relations Coordinator;
J. North, Water Resources Technologist;
A. Playfair, Recording Secretary;
J. Price, Director, Water Resource Engineering;

OTHERS PRESENT:

D. Black, Carleton Place Resident;
B. Gallagher, Practac;
T. Henry, Mississippi Mills Resident;
V. Katsoulis, Carleton Place Resident;
J. Kelso, Lanark Highlands Resident;
D. Munro, Mississippi Mills Resident;
G. Street, Cross Street and Company.

BUSINESS:

1. Minutes – Board of Directors Meeting – December 7, 2016

MOVED BY: G. Code

SECONDED BY: M. Burnham

**Resolved, That the Minutes of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors meeting held on December 7, 2016 be received and approved as printed.
“CARRIED”**

2. Minutes – Finance and Administration Advisory Committee Meeting – February 9, 2017

B02/15/17- 2

MOVED BY: P. Sweetnam

SECONDED BY: J. Flynn

Resolved, That the Minutes of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Finance and Administration Advisory Committee meeting held on February 9, 2017 be received.

“CARRIED”

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

B02/15/17- 3

MOVED BY: P. Sweetnam

SECONDED BY: A. Gillis

Be it Resolved, That the per diem allowance for members of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority be increased to reflect a 1.5% cost of living allowance as follows:

- 1. A per diem allowance of \$69.00 for attendance at meetings of the Authority or Special Purposes Committees;**
- 2. A per diem allowance of \$138.00 for time spent on business of the Authority when such time is spent on the said business under the direction of the Board of Directors or when more than one meeting of the Authority or Special Purpose Committees is held on the same day;**
- 3. A travelling allowance in the amount of \$0.55/km for the round trip for necessary travelling in conducting business of the Authority under the direction of the Board of Directors;**
- 4. Actual cost of meals, lodging, public transportation and conference fees when such costs are necessarily incurred in the conduct of business of the Authority under the direction of the Board of Directors; and further,**

Resolved, That an annual honorarium of \$1,592.00 be paid to the Chair of the Authority; and further,

Resolved, That staff be authorized and directed to request Ontario Municipal Board approval for the above amounts.

“CARRIED”

4. Presentation 2016 Financial Statements

Mr. Street presented the 2016 audited financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2016.

In response to a question, Mr. Lehman explained any reserve funds used would still need approval by the Board of Directors.

Mr. Street reviewed the 2016 audit findings letter from Cross Street and Company dated February 2, 2017. He noted the audit went well and the only matter of concern was regarding the vacation and overtime balances of some staff. Staff will be looking into this matter.

B02/15/17- 4

MOVED BY: E. El-Chantiry

SECONDED BY: G. Code

Resolved, That the audit review letter dated February 2, 2017 be received and further,

Resolved, That the Chairman sign the letter on behalf of the Board of Directors.

“CARRIED”

B02/15/17- 5

MOVED BY: M. Burnham

SECONDED BY: A. Gillis

Resolved, That the audited Financial Statements for the period ended December 31, 2016 be received, and further,

Resolved, That the Financial Statements for the period ended December 31, 2016 be adopted.

“CARRIED”

5. Elections of Officers for 2017

B02/15/17- 6

MOVED BY: J. Hall

SECONDED BY: B. Doucett

Resolved, That Glenn Street be appointed as Chairman for the Election of Chairman for 2017.

“CARRIED”

B02/15/17- 7

MOVED BY: E. El-Chantiry

SECONDED BY: B. MacDonald

Resolved, That Shannon Gutoskie, John Price and Matt Craig be appointed to serve as Scrutineers in the event of an election.

“CARRIED”

Mr. Burnham nominated John Karau for the position of Chairman of the Conservation Authority for 2017. Mr. Street asked three times for further nominations.

B02/15/17- 8

MOVED BY: M. Burnham

SECONDED BY: M. Wilkinson

Resolved, That nominations for the position of Chairman be closed.

“CARRIED”

Mr. Karau agreed to let his name stand for the position of Chairman. He was duly elected by acclamation. Mr. Gillis nominated Duncan Abbott for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Conservation Authority. Mr. Karau asked three times for any further nominations.

B02/15/17- 9

MOVED BY: M. Burnham

SECONDED BY: G. McEvoy

Resolved, That nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman be closed.

“CARRIED”

Mr. Karau noted he was Mr. Abbott’s proxy and Mr. Abbott did agree to stand for the position of Vice-Chairman. Duncan Abbott was duly elected by acclamation.

6. Appointment of Auditors for 2017

B02/15/17- 10

MOVED BY: J. Hall

SECONDED BY: B. Doucett

Resolved, That the firm of Cross Street & Company be engaged as the Authority’s Auditor for the year 2017.

“CARRIED”

7. 2017 Budget & Work Plan

Mr. Lehman advised that the 2017 draft budget was circulated to all watershed municipalities with no comments received to date. Mr. Lehman presented the proposed 2017 Budget and Work Plan for the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority. The 2017 Budget includes an Administration Levy of \$2,348,583 and a Capital Project levy of \$360,570 amounting to a total municipal levy to be assessed on a general benefitting basis of \$2,709,153.

Mr. Lehman noted that there is no special levy in the budget for the coming year.

B02/15/17- 11

MOVED BY: E. El-Chantiry

SECONDED BY: M. Burnham

Resolved, That the total 2017 Operating and Capital expenditure in the amount of \$3,804,509 be approved; and furthermore,

Resolved, That the 2017 Administration levy to be apportioned on a general benefitting basis be in the amount of \$2,348,583; and furthermore,

Resolved, That 2017 Capital Project levy to be apportioned on a general benefitting basis be in the amount of \$360,570.

“CARRIED”

8. 2017 Committee Appointments

Mrs. Sargeant presented Staff report # 2898/17. Mrs. Sargeant advised there were no new members appointed to the Conservation Authority in 2017. It was proposed that the 2016 committee list be used again in 2017 unless any member would prefer to change to a different committee. She noted that every member was required to sit on either the Finance and Administration Advisory Committee or the Policy and Priorities Advisory Committee. She informed the members that if they wished to change to a different committee they can do so by emailing her after the meeting.

Mrs. Sargeant also mentioned that members, have the option to sit on other Committees including the Mill of Kintail Museum Advisory Committee or the Regulations Committee. Terms of Reference for these Committees were also attached to the staff report.

B02/15/17- 12

MOVED BY: E. El-Chantiry

SECONDED BY: P. Sweetnam

Resolved, That the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority hereby appoints the Chair, Vice-Chair, Eli El-Chantiry, Phil Sweetnam, Alex Gillis, Gail Code, Mark Burnham and Kirby Thompson to the Regulations Committee to hear applications pursuant to Ontario Regulation 153/06, and furthermore;

Resolved, That the members of the Regulations Committee deliberate on the evidence presented at the hearing, and grant or deny such permission on behalf of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority and provide the applicant with reasons, in writing, thereof.

“CARRIED”

B02/15/17- 13

MOVED BY: M. Wilkinson

SECONDED BY: G. Martin

Resolved, That the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority hereby appoints Mark Burnham as the Voting Delegate, John Karau as the first alternate and Paul Lehman as the second alternate to Conservation Ontario for 2017.

“CARRIED”

9. Update on Wetland Policy Consultations

A discussion was held regarding the feedback from residents and municipalities about the proposed wetland policies. The Chair noted that there still was considerable misunderstanding surrounding the proposed MVCA Wetlands Policy. As such, he highlighted the importance of developing consensus on the MVCA roles and responsibilities, the impacts of the proposed Wetland Policy, the connection to the Provincial Wetlands Conservation Strategy and how best to proceed.

Mr. Lehman confirmed that Ontario Regulation 153/06 was approved by the Minister in 2006, however MVCA has only applied the Regulation to provincially significant wetlands due to a lack of available mapping and uncertainty in the cost of full implementation of the Regulation. When asked why there appeared to be flexibility in 2006 and not in 2017, Mr. Lehman commented that the Regulation has always applied to all wetlands, however in 2006 the Board decided to phase-in full implementation due to concerns with the lack of resources. He further commented that the Authority has both the mandate and responsibility to administer the Regulation, as it is currently written, which includes non-provincially significant wetlands.

Staff provided an overview on the environmental benefits of the Policy and clarified that existing uses such as agriculture, recreation, hunting or harvesting firewood would not be affected. It was noted that the greatest loss of wetlands is in urban areas but also observed that meeting the objective for protecting 8% of wetlands in the watershed needed attention in rural areas as well. It was agreed that there should be a stronger link established between municipal and MVCA wetland conservation efforts.

Mr. Lehman updated the meeting on the draft Provincial Wetland Conservation Strategy. All agreed that the pending Provincial Strategy could offer additional guidance and clarity regarding the proposed MVCA Wetland Policy.

In response to a question, Mr. Craig explained that the wetland maps sent out to the municipalities were for screening proposes. He advised that if landowners question if a wetland is on their property, staff will do a site visit to determine if the mapping is correct.

In response to a question, Mr. Craig advised that he has never had a landowner approach the Authority to have their wetland classified as a Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW). He noted the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry have criteria to determine what a PSW is, and Species at Risk plays a big part. The MVCA can help landowners with environmental studies but classifying a PSW is a provincial responsibility.

Board members acknowledged that staff had spent considerable time and effort to communicate and consult on the proposed MVCA Wetland Policy. It was however felt that additional communication products and public outreach would be valuable.

A motion was put forward to defer the decision and discussion of the wetland policy to a future meeting. The Chair noted that a special meeting could also be called if deemed necessary.

B02/15/17- 14

MOVED BY: B. Doucett

SECONDED BY: R. Kidd

Resolved, That a discussion on the wetland policy will continue and a decision on the wetland policy is scheduled for the September meeting of the Board of Directors.

“CARRIED”

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14p.m.

B02/15/17- 15

MOVED BY: B. Doucett

SECONDED BY: M. Burnham

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

“CARRIED”

“A. Playfair, Recording Secretary

J. Karau, Chairman”