

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mississippi Valley Conservation Centre
Carleton Place

MINUTES

October 16, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

J. Mason, Chair;
J. Hall, Vice-Chair;
J. Atkinson;
E. Burke;
F. Campbell;
R. Darling;
E. El-Chantiry;
T. Fritz;
G. Gower;
B. Holmes;
J. Inglis;
J. Karau;
P. Kehoe;
C. Lowry;
G. McEvoy;
P. Sweetnam;
K. Thompson.

STAFF PRESENT:

S. McIntyre, General Manager;
A. Millar, Treasurer;
A. Broadbent, Information Technology Supervisor;
M. Craig, Manager, Planning and Regulations;
R. Fergusson, Operations Supervisor;
S. Gutoskie, Community relations Coordinator;
A. Moore, Regulations Officer;
G. Mountenay, Water Management Supervisor;
C. McGuire, Water Management Intern;
J. Price, Director, Water Resource Engineering;
S. O'Grady, Education Coordinator;
E. Levi, Administrative Assistant;
S. Lickley, Recording Secretary.

J. Mason called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

B10/16/19-1

MOVED BY: P. Sweetnam

SECONDED BY: P. Kehoe

Resolved, That the agenda for the October 16, 2019 meeting of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors be adopted as presented.

“CARRIED”

BUSINESS:

1. Minutes – Board of Directors Meeting – September 18, 2019

B10/16/19-2

MOVED BY: R. Darling

SECONDED BY: J. Karau

Resolved, That the Minutes of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors meeting held on September 18, 2019 be received and approved as printed.

“CARRIED”

2. Summary from Conservation Ontario Council Meeting - September 30, 2019

J. Mason reviewed the attached summary providing an update from the Conservation Ontario Council Meeting held September 30, 2019.

J. Atkinson noted that MPPs are receiving false information and it may be valuable to have the general manager speak to MPPs or find other methods to connect with politicians to correct false information.

R. Darling remarked that in the past the Board of Directors has discussed assembling a delegation to hold informational meetings and that it may be time to consider this again.

S. McIntyre noted that all Conservation Authorities received an invitation to meet with the Minister's staff. Her scheduled meeting is November 4th, 2019 with C. Lowry attending. She noted that other general managers who have attended meetings have received varied outcomes.

E. El-Chantiry remarked that he believed that there is an organized effort to undermine Conservation Authorities and that Conservation Authorities need to be more aggressive when dealing with the provincial government.

3. MVCA Education Program

S. O'Grady presented an overview of the educational programs and events hosted by MVCA. O'Grady stressed the focus of the educational programming is to increase conservation awareness. Programming includes: school visits to the Mill of Kintail, Water Awareness Program, Envirothon and Day Camps.

J. Karau stated that continuing education is important and asked how the MVCA could get adults more involved in educational programs. J. Karau also asked if the Board of Directors could be exposed to a half-day educational program.

S. O'Grady welcomed the idea of inviting the Board of Directors for an educational program and

stated she would be open to looking into integrating adult education possibilities. She noted that most adults involved in current educational programming are teachers and parents.

C. Lowry remarked on her vivid memories of the Water Awareness Program and asked how we can get adults involved more in stewardship.

4. Regulatory Compliance Program Report – October 9, 2019

S. McIntyre and A. Moore gave a presentation regarding staff report #3030/19 (see attached).

R. Darling asked for clarification on what other Conservation Authorities are regulating and stated that Rideau Valley Conservation Authority has yet to regulate all wetlands.

S. McIntyre clarified that in 2006 all Conservation Authorities were given authority to regulate all wetlands, however Rideau Valley Conservation Authority has not yet assumed that responsibility. She further clarified that there aren't huge differences in how Conservation Authorities regulate different watersheds, however she is concerned about the provincial government's plan to 'harmonize' regulations and how that will change the definitions that may provide more constraints, including timelines, that will be difficult for a small organization to adapt to.

G. Gower asked for clarification on how investigation of non-compliance leads to legal action.

A. Moore stated that some work done without a permit may have been approved as it was completed and other work may not have been approved and will need remediation. Most often, owners agree to permit fees and remediation when required. Very few cases are taken to court.

5. Budget Control Report

A. Millar gave a presentation on the Budget Control Report #3031/19 (see attached).

B10/16/19-3

MOVED BY: E. El-Chantiry

SECONDED BY: G. Gower

Resolved, That: The Board

- 1. Receive the Budget Control Report – up to September 30, 2019 for information purposes,**
- 2. Approve the following allocations to reserves: \$58,500 to the Vehicles and Equipment Reserve for unspent 2019 capital purchases; \$8,000 to the Information Management Reserve for unspent data acquisitions; Any 2019 Water Control Structure capital levy dollars unspent by year-end into the Water Control Structures Reserve for future Capital projects.**

“CARRIED”

6. Draft 2020 Budget

S. McIntyre gave a presentation on the Draft Approach to 2020 Budget #3032/19 (see attached).

E. El-Chantiry commented that the Ottawa City Council is not happy that the Provincial Government is off-loading costs for more than 1 million dollars of services. He stated that he believed that this is only the beginning of the cuts. He stated he could not support part 3 of the proposed recommendation.

J. Mason noted that the current cut of 128k with a potential additional cut of 128k is over 9% of the total budget which may be fairly hard to recover.

T. Fritz suggested the board vote on recommendations 1 and 2 only. E. El-Chantiry, P. Sweetnam, J. Inglis and F.Campbell also stated the board vote on recommendations 1 and 2 only because recommendation 3 required each member to go back to their council and discuss.

J. Mason amended recommendation to include 1 and 2 only.

B10/16/19-5

MOVED BY: E. El-Chantiry

SECONDED BY: T. Fritz

Resolved, That: The Board of Directors direct staff to develop the 2020 Budget in accordance with the following parameters:

- 1. Apply a 1.5% increase to accommodate growth pressures.**
- 2. Apply a 2.0% increase to address cost of living pressures.**

“CARRIED”

7. Proposed 2020 fee Schedule

A. Millar gave a presentation on the Proposed 2020 Fee Schedule #3033/19 (see attached).

S. McIntyre reiterated that staff did research on comparable services and rentals to make sure MVCA rates were within comparable range.

B. Holmes raised concerns about the honour system for parking payment at conservation areas. She asked how it was enforced.

R. Fergusson described the electronic parking meters. He noted that staff check cars when on site and if a car is found to not have paid 3 times they are sent a letter by the enforcement officer A. Moore.

P. Sweetnam suggested that the hearing cost could be raised to act as a deterrent.

S. McIntyre stated that only one appeal per year is requested on average and that she would like to keep it the same. She stated that it could be looked at again next year.

B10/16/19-5

MOVED BY: R. Darling

SECONDED BY: P. Sweetnam

Resolved, That: The Board of Directors approve the 2020 Fee Schedules A, B, C and D, as presented.

“CARRIED”

8. Watershed Conditions Report

G. Mountenay gave a presentation regarding watershed conditions. He described that drawdowns have started for the fall as per normal operations. He stated that the window for residents to do shoreline work will be the month of November. He noted that because the watershed is still in drought conditions, they will keep the water at the top of the drawdown range, but this may change if we get considerable rain.

9. Mill of Kintail Advisory Committee

S. McIntyre reported that a committee is being formed to determine how the museum collection will be handled at the Mill of Kintail. She stated that C. Lowry and herself have reviewed volunteer applications and that they will be finalizing the committee members within the coming week. She stated that this committee will be meeting 4-5 times before the New Year and will be developing alternative plans to ensure the long-term health of the museum.

10. Retirements

S. McIntyre announced the retirements of G. Mountenay and J. Price. She noted that filling these roles will depend on funding cuts.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

B04/17/19-6

MOVED BY: F. Campbell

SECONDED BY: J. Atkinson

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

“CARRIED”