

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mississippi Valley Conservation Centre
Carleton Place

MINUTES

October 18, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT:

J. Karau, Chair;
D. Abbott, Vice-Chair;
D. Black;
M. Burnham;
F. Campbell;
G. Code;
J. Hall;
B. MacDonald;
G. McEvoy;
J. Mason;
P. Sweetnam;
K. Thompson;
M. Wilkinson.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

E. El-Chantiry;
J. Flynn;
A. Gillis;
G. Martin.

INVITED MEMBER ABSENT:

L. Antonakos.

STAFF PRESENT:

P. Lehman, General Manager;
J. Sargeant, Secretary-Treasurer;
A. Broadbent, Information Technology Supervisor;
M. Craig, Manager, Planning and Regulations;
R. Fergusson, Operations Supervisor;
S. Gutoskie, Community Relations Coordinator;
G. Mountenay, Water Management Supervisor;
S. O'Grady, Education Coordinator;
N. Oddie, Environmental Planner;
J. Price, Director, Water Resource Engineering;
D. Reid, Environmental Planner;
A. Symon, Watershed Planner;
E. Levi, Recording Secretary.

Mr. Karau called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

BUSINESS:

1. Minutes – Board of Directors Meeting – September 20, 2017

Mrs. Code requested that the minutes reflect how each member voted for the recorded vote regarding the wetland policy. She noted she wants her constituents to know which way she voted.

Mrs. Sargeant advised that the MVCA Administrative Rules & Procedures do not reflect that names are to be recorded and that the Authority has never done so, however if members wish to have the names and their respective votes reflected in the minutes, the policy can be updated.

Mr. Karau stated that given the request and the substantial nature of the issue, if there are no objections then the minutes should be amended to reflect the details of the vote. This was agreed.

Mrs. Sargeant confirmed the minutes will be amended to list the names of members and how they voted and the revised minutes will be sent to the members and municipal clerk-treasurers. She noted that the change to the Policy will be brought to an upcoming Policy and Priorities Advisory Committee meeting and moving forward names will be listed on all recorded votes.

B10/18/17-1

MOVED BY: M. Burnham

SECONDED BY: D. Abbott

Resolved, That the Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on September 20, 2017 be received and approved as printed.

“CARRIED”

2. Mississippi River Water Management Plan

Mr. Lehman reviewed Staff Report #2928/17. Mr. Lehman gave a brief overview of the history of the development of the Mississippi River Water Management Plan (MRWMP) per the Minister of Natural Resources order issued under the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act*.

He noted that the Plan defines mandatory operating regimes for each hydro-electric facility to follow during “normal” flow conditions, outlines an Effectiveness Monitoring Plan, defines Compliance Monitoring requirements and establishes a Standing Advisory Committee consisting of various public stakeholders. The term of the Plan was to extend for 10 years and expire on December 31, 2017 at which time the Plan was to be renewed.

Mr. Lehman advised that in October 2016, the Ministry adopted a new policy document - Maintaining Water Management Plans which introduced the following changes:

Term – The current 10 year term was revoked and the Plan is extended indefinitely without the need for periodic reviews.

Standing Advisory Committees – Standing Advisory Committees (SAC) which were originally established to provide a mechanism for public and indigenous community engagement are now the responsibility of the Plan proponents to administer and are no longer mandatory for water management plans. However, discontinuing an established SAC would require an amendment to the existing Plan and be subject to consultation with MNRF and the SAC.

Amendments – Amendments to the existing WMP can be initiated by the Plan proponents or by a third party. Amendment requests by a third party are submitted to the Plan proponents who must notify the MNRFB and conduct an assessment of the request and provide a recommendation to the MNRFB. MNRFB may agree with the recommendation, request additional information or disagree with the recommendation.

Implementation Report – Plan proponents are responsible for preparing and submitting an Implementation Report to MNRFB every five years. The Report is to include:

- summary of all amendment requests received, including the rationale for completed amendments and how proposed amendments that did not proceed were addressed;
- status of the Standing Advisory Committee where applicable;
- report on the results of the Effectiveness Monitoring Program (EMP), if applicable, including a summary of monitoring conducted and findings, a determination of whether operations are having a negative or unintended impact, and an assessment of whether revisions to the facility operations, or to the EMP, are required; and
- status and results of any data or information collection outlined in the WMP's data collection program, if applicable, and a determination of whether revisions to the program are required.

Mr. Lehman outlined the potential implications to the Mississippi River Water Management Plan. The implications of climate change were not considered in the first round of water management planning. Based on MVCA's recent studies, it is evident that climate change will fundamentally alter the streamflow conditions on which the MRWMP was based. Elimination of the mandatory renewal period reduces the incentive for Plan proponents to initiate either a full or partial review of the MRWMP.

Mr. Lehman noted that it was originally intended that adaptive management of WMP's would be informed through working with the SAC in facilitating on-going public and First Nations community engagement. The SAC for the MRWMP has been inactive over the past five years. The Terms of Reference for the Mississippi River Watershed Plan proposes a Watershed Advisory Committee to essentially exercise the same function as the SAC except on a broader scale. It is proposed that the Watershed Advisory Committee could serve in the capacity of the SAC for purposes of the MRWMP.

Mr. Lehman advised that the MNRFB will be preparing a series of mandatory amendments to the MRWMP for consideration by the Plan proponents by the end of 2017 to implement the revised Policy which will be brought to the Board when available.

Ms. Mason asked for clarification of what may happen if the authority is unable to do other mandated jobs because of these new management practices. Mr. Lehman advised that it is the authority's role to determine if a water control structure will increase hazards. The operation of the structures is regulated by MNRFB and the WMP is in place to manage operations.

In response to a question, Mr. Lehman noted that once proponents and stakeholders understood the constraints of what water control structures can do, the MRWMP was viewed as valuable.

The biggest complaint from the Public Advisory Committee was that it only dealt with main parts of the system, not tributaries. There were also concerns that water quality was not included in the plan. He noted that these matters provided an opportunity to create a Watershed Plan to address those concerns and broader issues, as well as the creation of an advisory committee to assist in carrying out the goals of that plan.

Mr. Burnham commented that he likes the idea of a watershed advisory committee as it's an opportunity to get stakeholders involved which will help create a greater understanding of issues.

Mr. Abbott noted that it's not just a case of receiving input from the committee but it's also important that people are able to approach members of committee. People want to express their concerns and having such a committee would be a good forum to do so.

In response to a question, Mr. Lehman advised that the only direction required from the Board at this point was whether to proceed with establishing a Watershed Advisory Committee which could also serve as a committee for the Water Management Plan and that staff request endorsement of planned proponents to serve in the capacity of a standing advisory committee.

B10/18/17-2

MOVED BY: F. Campbell

SECONDED BY: M. Burnham

Resolved, That Staff Report #2928/17 regarding the Mississippi River Water Management Plan be received and that staff be requested to proceed with establishing a Watershed Advisory Committee which could also be the committee for the Water Management Plan.

“CARRIED”

3. Program Updates

Mississippi River Watershed Plan

Mr. Lehman and Mrs. Symon gave a presentation regarding the Mississippi River Watershed Plan. They noted the three main components: planning; analysis; and development (through a Watershed Advisory Committee). Mrs. Symon noted that MVCA is currently in the watershed characterization part of the planning process. In response to a question, Mr. Lehman noted the Plan was intended to be complete by the end of 2018, but would not likely be finished by then.

Mr. Black expressed his desire to obtain much of the data acquired through this project to assist his assessment of many of the subdivisions in process in Carleton Place and their impact on the Mississippi River. He requested that the data be shared as it was obtained.

Education Program

Ms. O'Grady gave a thorough overview presentation regarding the education programs and day camps at the Mill of Kintail. Ms. O'Grady was thanked for her important work and she agreed to send the presentation to the Board.

Planning and Regulations

Mr. Craig introduced Niall Oddie as the new Environmental Planner.

Mr. Craig and Mrs. Reid gave a presentation regarding City of Ottawa planning reviews and an overview of the plan review process.

Mr. Craig gave a brief update on wetlands noting he was working with GIS staff to update the wetland layer for the new policy. He advised that since the policy has been passed, each watershed municipality had been contacted with an offer for staff to meet with them and review updated mapping and the new policy. He noted at least half of the municipalities have responded.

4. Conservation Ontario Report

Mr. Karau advised the members to read Staff Report #2929/17. He noted that any questions regarding the report could be addressed following the meeting.

5. Watershed Conditions Report

Mr. Mountenay reviewed Staff Report #2930/17. He noted that due to the rain received this year, water levels were at or above target levels in the majority of the lakes from May through September. Dams were operated all summer long and for the first time in many years the system never had all the stoplogs in all the dams at any point through the summer. The typical number of annual dam operations was exceeded by June and there is an expectation that an all-time high will be set for total number of trips to dams for operation in 2017. As of October 11, there have already been 353 trips to dams for the purpose of removing or replacing stoplogs with the historical average being 238 trips.

Mr. Mountenay advised that he attended a meeting regarding Ontario Weather Outlook for the next 6 months. He stated that the forecast appeared to be comprised mostly of snow and lower than normal temperatures. He noted he has a full report and if members wish to read it he will send it via email.

6. Other Business

Mrs. Sargeant noted that the next Board meeting will be the morning of December 6, 2017 with a catered Christmas luncheon at the office to follow.

Mrs. Sargeant advised members attending the A.D. Latornell Symposium that there is no meal allowance and members need to submit receipts in order to be reimbursed for expenses.

Mr. Sweetnam noted he would like to see the location labels on photos shown on the lobby screen in the office.

Mr. Black highlighted three observations from the biennial tour. First is a sense of cooperation between all levels of government; second is despite budget pressures, money spent on invasive species is invaluable; and third is that there are great resources available locally from the cooperation of southwestern Ontario.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

B10/18/17-3

MOVED BY: G. Code

SECONDED BY: M. Burnham

Resolved, That the MVCA Board of Directors meeting be adjourned.

“CARRIED”

“E. Levi, Recording Secretary

J. Karau, Chairman”