

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mississippi Valley Conservation Centre
Carleton Place

MINUTES

April 18, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Abbott, Chair;
J. Mason, Vice-Chair;
D. Black;
M. Burnham;
F. Campbell;
G. Code;
J. Flynn;
A. Gillis;
J. Hall;
J. Karau;
B. MacDonald;
G. Martin;
P. Sweetnam;
M. Wilkinson.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

E. El-Chantiry;
G. McEvoy;
K. Thompson.

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;
A. Moore, Regulations Officer;
G. Mountenay, Water Management Supervisor;
E. Levi, Recording Secretary.

VISITORS PRESENT:

B. Boyd, Project Manager, Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection.

Mr. Abbott called the meeting to order at 1:50 p.m.

BUSINESS:

1. Minutes – Board of Directors Meeting – March 21, 2018

B04/18/1

MOVED BY: P. Sweetnam

SECONDED BY: M. Burnham

Resolved, That the Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on March 21, 2018 be received and approved as printed.

“CARRIED”

2. Carp River Wetland Park Concept

Mr. Lehman reviewed Staff Report #2951/18 outlining the Carp River Restoration Project and the ensuing Carp River Wetland Park concept. MVCA and partner groups, namely Friends of the Carp, Ottawa River Stewardship Council and the City of Ottawa have been collaborating to develop the concept and design a series of interpretive and educational features along the Carp River. A group of volunteers has initiated a “Carp River Restoration Project: Visitor Interpretation App” which allows visitors to explore ecology features within the park independently. The hope is that the project could be kicked-off in the spring of 2018 with installation of interpretive panels.

Mr. Lehman advised that the intent is to secure City of Ottawa’s endorsement in terms of use of that area for the project. He noted there was not a lot of investment required and the project would raise the profile of MVCA in the Kanata area.

Ms. Wilkinson advised that the City is supportive of the project and a number of groups and individuals are involved.

In response to a question, Mr. Lehman confirmed that the wetland park is only in the northern part of the restoration area. He noted the intent is to evolve the project into a bigger educational opportunity, but the main focus at this time is getting the project started.

B04/18/18-2

MOVED BY: M. Wilkinson

SECONDED BY: G. Code

Resolved, That the draft Licence of Occupation for the Carp River Wetland Park be approved for execution.

“CARRIED”

3. Morris Island Conservation Area Lease Renewal

Mr. Lehman outlined Staff Report #2952/18 in which it was noted that the original lease with the Regional Municipality of Ottawa Carleton for the Morris Island Conservation Area (MICA) had expired and a new lease of 25 years with the City of Ottawa had been requested by staff. He reminded members that MICA consists of two properties located on the Ottawa River shoreline that are managed by MVCA under one management plan. One property, encompassing 34 ha, is owned by the City of Ottawa and has been leased to MVCA for use as a conservation area. The second property, encompassing 43 ha, is owned by Ontario Power Generation and largely consists of the shore lands along the Ottawa River and is managed by MVCA under a Licence of Occupation. He noted as the lease is, in essence, an extension of the original lease under similar terms and conditions, there was no financial implication to the authority.

Mr. Sweetnam suggested removing the Administration Fee of \$1020 plus HST from the agreement. Mr. Lehman advised he would raise removal of the fee with City of Ottawa, however it was a fee for the City to prepare the lease.

Mr. Lehman mentioned that staff had been working with renowned biologists and ecologists for a magazine article in a publication named “Parks”. The magazine, which is distributed internationally, will showcase MICA and provide the authority with some publicity.

B04/18/18-3

MOVED BY: P. Sweetnam

SECONDED BY: F. Campbell

Resolved, That the Vacant Land Lease for the Morris Island Conservation Area with the City of Ottawa for a period of 25 years be approved for execution.

“CARRIED”

4. Section 28 Regulation Compliance Program Update

Mr. Moore gave a presentation of Staff Report #2953/18 regarding Section 28 Regulation Compliance and Violations in 2017.

5. Watershed Conditions Report

Mr. Mountenay commented on Staff Report #2954/18. He noted that since the staff report was completed, there is more snow than usual so there is an increase in potential run off. He noted flows are starting to increase, but the biggest concern is western part of watershed where more snow still exists. He advised that operation of water control structures was just starting to occur in the upper watershed. He advised that the authority is waiting for the ice to melt while trying to anticipate summer levels. He noted a Watershed Conditions Statement will be issued April 19, 2018.

6. Watershed Stewardship Programs

Mr. Craig gave a presentation regarding the stewardship programs available through the Authority.

Mr. Karau questioned whether staff or the Foundation have looked into a funding strategy for stewardship. Mr. Burnham advised that traditionally the Foundation is asked to fund initiatives when approached, but agreed that funding stewardship programs is long overdue.

Ms. Mason reinforced the need for a funding strategy. She noted that grants are available and should be applied for. Mr. Craig noted that staff apply for grants when possible, however there is no staff dedicated to look and apply for grants which poses a challenge. Ms. Mason suggested finding interested parties to volunteer to do the applications so it does not require staff.

7. Budget Expenditure Report

Mrs. Sargeant reported on the budget expenditures up to the end of the first quarter. She advised the Authority is on target and has spent less than 25% of the budget so far.

8. Other Business

Mr. Lehman commented on Staff Report #2955/18 regarding a proposed Baseline Water Quality Monitoring Agreement. He advised that the City of Ottawa approved the Water Environment Strategy in 2016 which has resulted in discussions between the City and Conservation Authority staff regarding extending the CA monitoring programs to continue sampling several stream sites throughout the City which were originally sampled by City of Ottawa staff. The data collected from these sites is used to complement data from the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Program providing baseline water quality indicators to report on stream conditions through the watershed report cards. He noted the agreement between the City of Ottawa and MVCA is to conduct water quality sampling at 15 locations 12 times per year in addition to paying for associated laboratory expenses. The total cost to undertake this program is \$66,228 per year including staff, mileage and lab expenses.

B04/18/18-4

MOVED BY: M. Wilkinson

SECONDED BY: P. Sweetnam

Resolved, That the Agreement for Baseline Water Quality Monitoring between the City of Ottawa and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority be approved for execution.

“CARRIED”

Ms. Gutoskie advised that MVCA's 50th Anniversary celebration will be taking place at the MVCA Office on May 2, 2018 from 2-5pm. She noted there will be speeches and refreshments.

ADJOURNMENT

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

B04/18/18-5

MOVED BY: J. Flynn

SECONDED BY: M. Burnham

Resolved, That the Board of Directors meeting be adjourned.

“CARRIED”

“E. Levi, Recording Secretary

D. Abbott, Chair”