

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mississippi Valley Conservation Centre  
Carleton Place

**MINUTES**

April 19, 2017

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

J. Karau, Chair;  
D. Abbott, Vice-Chair;  
D. Black;  
M. Burnham;  
G. Code;  
E. El-Chantiry;  
A. Gillis;  
J. Hall;  
B. MacDonald;  
G. Martin;  
J. Mason;  
G. McEvoy;  
P. Sweetnam;  
K. Thompson.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

F. Campbell;  
J. Flynn;  
M. Wilkinson.

**INVITED MEMBER ABSENT:**

L. Antonakos.

**STAFF PRESENT:**

J. Sargeant, Secretary-Treasurer;  
A. Broadbent, Information Technology Supervisor;  
M. Craig, Manager, Planning and Regulations;  
S. Gutoskie, Community Relations Coordinator;  
G. Mountenay, Water Management Supervisor;  
J. Price, Director, Water Resources Engineering;  
D. Reid, Environmental Planner;  
K. Stiles, Biologist;  
A. Playfair, Recording Secretary.

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

Mr. Karau advised that Mr. Lehman will be absent for the next 8 weeks as he was selected for jury duty.

Mr. Karau advised that Brian Doucett, representing the Town of Carleton Place, had to step down for personal reasons and former Carleton Place representative Doug Black has been appointed in his place.

**BUSINESS:**

1. Minutes – Board of Directors Meeting – March 15, 2017

**B04/19/17-1**

**MOVED BY: M. Burnham**

**SECONDED BY: G. Code**

**Resolved, That the Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on March 15, 2017 be received and approved as printed.**

**“CARRIED”**

2. Constance Creek Flood Plain Mapping Study

Mr. Price commented on staff report # 2909/17. He explained that, in co-operation with the City of Ottawa, the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) has completed a flood plain mapping study on Constance Creek. He noted that the flood plain mapping for Constance Creek, between its confluence with the Ottawa River upstream to Thomas Dolan Parkway, was previously produced in 1994 as documented in the *Constance Creek Flood Plain Mapping Study* (October 1994) completed by M. E. Andrews and Associates Limited.

The study reach for the present study included the main branch of Constance Creek from, and including, Constance Lake downstream to the Ottawa River. Thus, the previous flood plain mapping has been updated and extended upstream and around Constance Lake. Constance Creek was determined as a priority watercourse for an updated flood plain analysis and mapping due to its proximity to village boundaries and the potential for rural development within the watershed.

Mr. Price explained that the hydrologic and hydraulic analysis and the flood plain mapping were completed in accordance with the standards found in *Technical Guide River & Stream Systems: Flooding Hazard Limit* (OMNR 2002). The engineering report documents the work completed for the project.

Mr. Price listed what the major components of the project were:

- Preparation of topographic mapping based on LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging laser technology) flown in 2012 and 2014 DRAPE aerial photography;
- Hydrologic analysis to estimate flood discharges for various return periods at key points along the creek. This was completed employing the SWMHYMO hydrologic model;
- Hydraulic calculations using the HEC-RAS backwater program to estimate flood levels associated with the flood discharges;
- The delineation and plotting of flood lines on the topographic mapping to delineate areas that are susceptible to flooding during the Regulatory (1:100 year) flood event and definition of the Regulation Limit based on provincial standards.

The main channel of Constance Creek is controlled by a wide flat flood plain and wetland area and the grade of the channel and flood plain is also very low. As such, the 1:100 year backwater elevation from the Ottawa River (60.8 m) is the governing Regulatory flood level for the lower reach of the

watercourse. Upstream of Vance's Side Road the Regulatory (1:100 year) water level rises to 60.9 m.

He informed the board that an open house was held on November 23, 2016 at the West Carleton Client Service Centre to show draft maps to the public. The technical steps involved in the mapping process were explained. How the flood maps are used by the MVCA and the municipalities was also discussed. Although a limited number of members of the public attended the open house, the information presented was generally well received.

He noted a technical review of the report was completed by J. F. Sabourin and Associates Inc., under contract with the City of Ottawa, and comments were incorporated and addressed in the final report.

The report provided the technical basis for the associated mapping defining areas subject to flood hazards along Constance Creek, during a Regulatory (1:100 year) flood event. The mapping will also be made available to the City of Ottawa for updating their Official Plan and Zoning By-law documents.

Schedules are used in the review of other related *Planning Act* applications.

Mr. Price commented that the end products of the project are:

1. The Constance Creek Flood Plain Mapping Study dated April 2017;
2. Flood risk limit lines in GIS format (shape files);
3. The SWMHYMO and HEC-RAS model files;
4. The mapping schedules (23 flood plain maps).

Mr. Price advised that the report will be available to the public upon request. The model files will be available to anyone who wishes to obtain them, subject to their accepting the standard "terms of use" that apply to the release of MVCA data and information. The flood risk lines (shape files) will be maintained in MVCA's GIS system and will be made available to anyone according to our data sharing protocol. The documentation folder will be maintained at the MVCA office and made available to anyone wishing to inspect it.

Mr. Price noted that 23 maps were displayed at the back of the room if anyone wished to look at them at the end of the meeting.

In response to a question, Mr. Price noted that MVCA has a specific agreement for the project and the City of Ottawa funded 50% of the project and the other 50% was from the general budget of the authority.

**B04/19/17- 2**

**MOVED BY: E. El-Chantiry**

**SECONDED BY: P. Sweetnam**

**Resolved, that Staff Report #2909/17 be received, and furthermore;**

**Resolved, That the Board of Directors adopts the report *Constance Creek Flood Plain Mapping Study* dated April 2017 and the associated GIS-based flood risk limit lines and flood plain maps as the delineation of areas along the Constance Creek that are susceptible to flooding during the Regional flood standard as defined in Schedule 1 of Ontario Regulation 153/06, and furthermore;**

**Resolved, That the report and maps be used in the implementation of Ontario Regulation 153/06.**

**“CARRIED”**

3. Carp Creek Erosion Control Project Agreement

Mr. Price commented that the project is to stabilize approximately 50 m of severely eroded streambank of the Carp River in the Glen Cairn area upstream of Castlefrank Road. He advised the project will be funded by the City of Ottawa and includes completing a Class Environmental Assessment in accordance with Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects, final design, tendering and construction.

Mr. Price explained that all costs will be paid by the City of Ottawa; there is no levy impact from the project and staff time has been included in the proposed budget.

In response to a question, Mr. Price noted that the authority will be the project manager for the project and will involve city staff and councillors as required. For example, City staff will be involved in the review of consultant proposals, but, the authority will select the consultant for the project.

**B04/19/17- 3**

**MOVED BY: B. MacDonald**

**SECONDED BY: D. Abbott**

**Resolved, That the funding agreement with the City of Ottawa for the Carp Creek erosion control project be approved for execution.**

**“CARRIED”**

4. Planning Advisory and Regulation Services

Mr. Craig commented on the Authority’s role on Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services. He explained the difference between MVCA’s role in planning and regulations. He noted that water setbacks are governed by the municipalities zoning requirements.

Mr. Craig explained that municipalities are required to circulate to the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) planning applications as per the Planning Act. Staff screen out applications that are not part of the mandate of MVCA.

Mr. Karau mentioned overlapping approvals was a concern that was conveyed during the *Conservation Authority Act* review and he will advise the board of the review outcome when completed.

5. Wetlands in the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority

Mr. Craig made a presentation on the state of wetlands in 2017. He commented on the importance of wetlands:

- transition zone between terrestrial & aquatic;
- amongst the most productive and diverse habitats;
- temporarily retain excess runoff from rainfall or snowmelt;
- water released slowly as surface flow to downstream watercourses;
- interflow replenishing shallow aquifers or as groundwater recharge to deeper aquifers;
- reduce flooding potential;
- the importance of vegetative communities in wetlands provide a source of phosphorous removal improving water quality up to 6 kg/ha phosphorous is removed; and
- serves as important habitat to an array of plants, birds, insects, amphibians, fish and other animals.

He noted that wetlands are continuing to be lost and since the 1800's a substantial amount of wetlands has been lost and even more since 2002. Mr. Craig presented maps showing examples of loss of wetlands between 1976 to 2014 due to development in the Kanata area around Highway 417 and Terry Fox near Kizell drain.

Mr. Craig displayed a map showing the total wetlands in each of the sub watersheds in the watershed. In response to a question, Mr. Craig clarified the total wetlands calculations. The total wetlands also included unevaluated wetlands that did not meet the criteria of the proposed wetland policy update.

Mr. Craig noted the wetland loss in Lanark County since the 1800's. The watershed coverage is approximately 10.7%. Environment Canada uses a target of 10%. He noted the proposed wetland policy would result in an 8% protection of wetlands and a minimum loss.

Mr. Martin expressed concern that wetlands that are on Crown land are not being considered in the wetland calculation. Mr. Craig noted that the authority would look into the mapping quality of wetlands on Crown land.

Mr. Karau noted the wetland calculations should include Crown land as the Environment Canada target being used relates to all wetlands.

Mr. Abbott expressed concern that if wetlands are not maintained, the consequences could be a loss of water supply in municipalities.

It was agreed that landowners need to be better advised of the consequences/effects if more wetlands are lost.

Mr. Craig advised the board he had recently presented to Carleton Place and Addington Highlands council. He mentioned he would be presenting to the Mississippi Field Naturalists on April 27, 2017 at their AGM and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture would like an information session. Friends of the Tay would also like the MVCA to present at one of their meetings.

Ms. Gutoskie commented on the 2017 state of wetlands draft overview. She explained the authority's approach of communicating the wetlands policy and information to date and introduced a new approach which would not focus on regulations but rather on the consequences of losing wetlands. It is hoped to better engage landowners on the function and impacts of wetlands. A social media campaign will be created that would post links to MVCA's website, send out a number of tweets on Twitter, create an Instagram account that only posts pictures, and allow other organizations the tools to share messages to the public.

Ms. Gutoskie will discuss communications with Ducks Unlimited. She noted social media users are more engaged with MVCA's flood messaging.

In response to a question, Ms. Gutoskie listed a number of stakeholders that could be contacted about wetlands; Ducks Unlimited, Field Naturalists, other conservation authorities, local green businesses, cottage associations and school boards.

Concerns were expressed that not all residents use social media. It was suggested that staff members talk to the municipalities to see how they reach residents that do not use social media. Ms. Gutoskie commented that municipalities use newsletters and will contact them to see if it is distributed electronically or another way. She also mentioned that Mr. Craig presented to lake associations at a meeting that was held at the authority's office on April 1, 2017 and received a positive response on the proposed wetlands policy.

Mr. Gillis mentioned concerns expressed by farmers and suggested an effective communication plan that will directly answer the concerns of the landowners.

In response to a question, Mrs. Code commented that attention on nutrient controls should also be directed to landowners that have failed septic systems and not leave the impression that nutrients is solely a farming community issue.

6. Ontario Regulation 153/06 Permits

Ontario Regulation 153/06 Permits issued and activity report up to April 11, 2017 were reviewed and discussed.

7. Watershed Conditions Report

Mr. Mountenay provided an update on watershed conditions. He noted that rainfall over last week had increased water levels in the upper lakes which are currently at or above summer target levels. Water levels on Dalhousie and Mississippi Lakes were high but this was not a significant flood event and levels were beginning to decline. MVCA staff have begun operating dams to get water through the system as quickly as possible while storing water to meet summer targets level and slowing flows down for fish spawning requirements.

8. 2016 Watershed Monitoring Strategy and Report

It was agreed that the report on the watershed monitoring strategies be deferred to the May meeting.

9. 2017 Budget Control Summary

The 2017 Budget Control Summary up to April 10, 2017 was reviewed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

**B04/19/17- 4**

**MOVED BY: J. Hall**  
**SECONDED BY: K. Thompson**  
**Resolved, That the meeting be adjourned.**

**“CARRIED”**

“A. Playfair, Recording Secretary

J. Karau, Chairman”