

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Mississippi Valley Conservation Centre
Carleton Place

MINUTES

October 17, 2018

2018 MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Abbott, Chair;
J. Mason, Vice-Chair;
D. Black;
M. Burnham;
F. Campbell
G. Code;
E. El-Chantiry.
J. Flynn;
J. Karau;
G. Martin;
K. Thompson;
P. Sweetnam;
M. Wilkinson.

2018 MEMBERS ABSENT:

A. Gillis;
J. Hall;
B. MacDonald;
G. McEvoy.

INVITED MEMBERS ABSENT:

L. Antonakos.

STAFF PRESENT:

P. Lehman, P. Eng., General Manager;
J. Sargeant, Secretary-Treasurer;
A. Broadbent, Information Technology Supervisor;
M. Craig, Manager, Planning and Regulations;
S. Gutoskie, Community Relations Coordinator;
A. Moore, Regulations Officer;
G. Mountenay, Water Management Supervisor;
A. Playfair, Recording Secretary;
J. Price, Director, Water Resource Engineering.

OTHERS PRESENT:

S. McIntyre, Incumbent General Manger;
J. Glaser, Cornerstone Management Solutions;
M. Livingston, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority;
B. Stratton, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

BUSINESS:

Mr. Abbott called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

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MOVED BY: J. Flynn

SECONDED BY: K. Thompson

Resolved, That Agenda for the MVCA Board of Directors meeting be adopted as presented.

“CARRIED”

1. Minutes – Board of Directors Meeting – September 19, 2018

B10/17/18-2

MOVED BY: M. Burnham

SECONDED BY: G. Code

Resolved, That the Minutes of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors meeting held on September 19, 2018 be received and approved as printed.

“CARRIED”

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

In response to a question about the appeal on Mississippi Lake, Mr. Craig commented that staff has met with landowners and there is ongoing negotiations to resolve the issue.

3. Review of Wetland Policy Implementation

Mr. Craig presented staff report #2975/18. He noted in September of 2017, the Board of Directors approved policies for administration of Ontario Regulation 153/06 in regard to non-provincially significant wetlands within the jurisdiction of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority. To receive permission for development within or adjacent to regulated wetlands, it must be demonstrated in an application to the satisfaction of the CA that the control of flooding, erosion, pollution, or the conservation of land will not be affected, and/or the interference on the wetland is acceptable in terms of the natural features and hydrologic and ecological functions of the wetland. The board had requested staff to provide a status update after one year of implementation.

He provided a summary of the activity and site assessments completed from October 1, 2017 to October 1, 2018 as a result of the new policies:

- 37 Site Visits for Wetland Assessment/Review
- 15 Related to Planning files (Consents or Site Plan)
- 6 Permits issued
- 6 Violations

- 1 Recommendation/consultation that did not support draining a wetland to expand an existing agricultural operation
- 1 Recommendation/consultation that did not support urban expansion within a wetland

Mr. Craig estimated that 12 site visits were not related to a Planning Act file and required a separate site visit. It is estimated that this required additional staff time of 50 hours and 1200 km in mileage.

He commented there had been no significant cost or delay in development due to the implementation of the wetland policies. The majority of landowners have chosen to relocate work/development away from regulated areas so that these features are not disturbed. Offsetting has been discussed as an option for some proposals.

Mr. Craig noted staff will be updating the Regulation policies in 2019 and several recommendations in regard to the wetland policies will be forthcoming, which include flexibility in regard to driveways and

access through wetlands. The policy has resulted in greater protection of wetlands but provides some flexibility in existing use and future development.

He also noted that there was a recent report issued by the Insurance Bureau of Canada entitled “Combating Canada’s Rising Flood Costs”, which outlines the importance of natural infrastructure including wetlands and forests for flood protection.

In response to a question, Mr. Craig mentioned site visits that staff have been attending that are not for agricultural use, they are more for individual property owners. He noted a call was received for a property on John Shaw Road that the land owner wanted to tile drain the property. Staff did an assessment and made recommendations for the property. The landowner has not followed up to date.

In response to a question, Mr. Moore noted there were 6 violations and the majority of the violations had been resolved and 1 of the violations is still ongoing. He also noted that another violation regarding a larger wetland that was not included in the numbers was also in the process of being investigated. He commented that a charge was able to be laid was because of the recent updates.

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MOVED BY: G. Martin

SECONDED BY: J. Karau

Resolved, That Staff Report #2975/18, Review of Wetland Policy Implementation, be received for information.

“CARRIED”

4. Ottawa River Watershed Study

Mr. Lehman presented the Ottawa River Watershed study. He informed the members that on May 3, 2017, Motion M-104 was passed by the House of Commons;

“That, in the opinion of the House, the government should undertake a detailed study with regard to the creation of an Ottawa River Watershed Council, which would bring a comprehensive, inclusive, co-management approach to the Ottawa River Watershed, in order to foster ecological integrity, sustainable economic opportunities, and quality of life; in its study, the government should examine (i) the council membership, which would include, but would not be limited to, federal, provincial, regional, and municipal governments, First Nations, industry groups, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions, (ii) important indicators such as water quality, biodiversity, and shoreline integrity, in order to assist with the creation of a co-management plan and conservation strategy, (iii) the economic, cultural, heritage, and natural values within the Ottawa River Watershed.”

He noted in response to Motion M-104, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) initiated a study examining the Ottawa River watershed. The Ottawa River watershed includes the Ottawa River, from its headwaters in Québec’s Laurentian Mountains, to its junction with the St. Lawrence River at the Lake of Two Mountains, as well as streams, rivers and lakes that flow into the river, including the Mississippi River. As part of this study, consultation was conducted from January to April 2018 to engage federal departments and agencies, the governments of Québec and Ontario, municipalities within and near the Ottawa River watershed, local watershed agencies, industry representatives, non-

governmental organizations, and the general public. A separate consultation process was completed with Indigenous groups.

John Karau and Mr. Lehman participated throughout this process and on September 28, 2018 ECCC released a draft report titled, *An Examination of Values, Existing Data, Potential Indicators, and Governance in the Ottawa River Watershed*. The draft report has now been posted publically on PlaceSpeak for review.

Generally, the draft report presents views expressed during the engagement and consultation process along a variety of themes, including;

- Significance of the Watershed to Indigenous, Economic, Social and Natural Values and the potential risks and threats to those values
- Data, monitoring and potential indicators of watershed health
- Views and barriers to achieving an integrated watershed management (IWM) approach on the Ottawa River
- Future challenges and opportunities

As provided in the report, below is a brief summary of the suggestions identified through the engagement, consultation and research processes for the Ottawa River Watershed Study:

1. Enhanced collaboration, communication and information sharing among interested groups. The main suggestion was a collaborative body such as an Ottawa River Watershed Roundtable or Ottawa River Watershed Council.
2. Improved involvement of Indigenous peoples, and incorporation of traditional knowledge. Strategies proposed to enhance involvement included:
 - Meaningful consultation of Indigenous groups and improved incorporation of their views
 - Opportunities for monitoring and gathering of information on the watershed by Indigenous communities directly
 - A balancing of scientific knowledge with traditional knowledge
3. Opportunity to develop a strategic plan to propose a clear vision, common goals and guiding principles. Stakeholders noted that a strategic plan could be developed through:
 - Consideration of IWM principles
 - Analysis of existing frameworks of other watershed bodies both domestically and internationally
4. Potential to improve coordination of monitoring, data collection and use of scientific and socio-economic data to improve watershed knowledge. Academics and stakeholders noted that standardized data and monitoring requirements were necessary, as was use of a “whole of watershed” approach.
5. Opportunity to improve information sharing and accessibility of information regarding the watershed. Participants noted this could be facilitated by a central knowledge and data sharing platform.

As stated in the report, the central objective is for anyone to use the information to inform their work or interests, rather than ECCC outlining recommendations about how the findings should be used. By

considering both present and possible future challenges and opportunities, and by building on past and current initiatives in the Ottawa River watershed, it is hoped that this report will contribute to the dialogue about how to support the long-term sustainability of the watershed. It is anticipated that further discussion regarding an Ottawa River Watershed Council will ensue, although there is no time frame for this to occur.

He noted that as MVCA proceeds through an integrated watershed planning process for the Mississippi River, it may provide a framework for setting watershed targets and adaptive-management approaches within the broader Ottawa River watershed, while at the same time gaining insight into the Mississippi River's influence on the Ottawa River.

Mr. Lehman advised the members that John Karau will be presenting the report at Latornell in November 2018.

Mr. Karau commented on some of the progress in the last 5 years. The Ottawa River is now classed as a heritage river. He noted the Gatineau Declaration was a good step forward.

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MOVED BY: G. Code

SECONDED BY: F. Campbell

Resolved, That Staff Report #2976/18, Ottawa River Watershed Study, be received for information.

“CARRIED”

5. 2018 Budget Report

Mrs. Sargeant provided a budget report up to October 12, 2018 and summarized the department expenditures.

She advised the members a budget control will be provided to department supervisors at the end of October and projections will be brought to the next Finance and Administration meeting that will be scheduled later in 2018.

In response to a question, Mrs. Sargeant advised the members that the Operations Expenditures were lower than projected as a vehicle was to be purchased but there was no guarantee for delivery in 2018.

6. 2019 Budget Overview

Mr. Lehman gave a brief overview of what staff will be considering for the 2019 budget. He reviewed the 2016-2019 strategic plans and noted the financial successes and areas that were not able to be implemented due to funding and other factors. Mr. Lehman outlined the 2019 budget pressures.

In response to a question, Mr. Lehman advised the members that the next step was to draft the 2019 budget based on the assessment growth and bring the draft budget to the Finance and Administration Committee for comment and to the Board of Directors meeting in December. Once approved, the draft budget will be circulated to municipalities for comment.

7. Ontario Regulation 153/06 Permits

Staff report #2977 outlining Ontario Regulation 153/06 approved permits and active permits to October 10, 2018 was received.

8. Watershed Conditions Report

Mr. Mountenay advised the members the watershed has been in a moderate drought since early June. He noted the drought was localized to eastern Ontario. He noted the water levels were maintained on the lakes but flows in the rivers was low throughout the summer months.

He informed the members the long range forecast indicates a warmer November and December and expects the drought conditions to remain a Level 1/minor drought status for the winter months. He noted staff will continue to monitor the system and operate the dams when needed.

9. Program Updates

Lower Mississippi River Floodplain Mapping

Mr. Price updated the board members on the floodplain mapping over the past 5 years as well as the study of the lower Mississippi River.

In response to a question, Mr. Price informed the members there were three funding sources depending on where the mapping study was located. He noted the three Conservation Authorities have all signed a second 5 year agreement with the City of Ottawa and the city funds 50% of the floodplain mapping studies for the water courses within the city. He noted for Harwood Creek the Authority received 50% from Federal Funding under the National Disaster Mitigation program. The lower Mississippi study has 50% funding from the National Disaster Mitigation Program. He also noted the majority of the funding was to support staff wages for these projects.

10. Other Business

A Finance and Administration Advisory Committee meeting will be held on November 20, 2018 1:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:24p.m.

B10/17/18-5

MOVED BY: M. Burnham

SECONDED BY: J. Flynn

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

“CARRIED”



A. Playfair

“A. Playfair, Recording Secretary

D. Abbott, Chairman”