

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS TELECONFERENCE

Mississippi Valley Conservation Centre
Carleton Place

MINUTES

May 20, 2020

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING:

J. Mason, Chair
G. Gower, Vice-Chair;
J. Atkinson;
F. Campbell;
E. El-Chantiry;
B. Holmes;
J. Inglis;
J. Karau;
W. King;
P. Kehoe;
C. Lowry;
P. Sweetnam;
K. Thompson.

MEMBERS UNAVILABLE:

E. Burke;
R. Darling;
T. Fritz;
G. McEvoy.

STAFF PRESENT:

S. McIntyre, General Manager;
A. Millar, Treasurer;
S. Gutoskie, Community Relations Coordinator;
M. Craig, Manager, Planning and Regulations;
J. Cunderlik, Director, Water Resource Engineering;
J. North, Water Resources Technologist;
A. Tenbult, Stewardship Technician;
S. Lickley, Recording-Secretary.

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

B05/20/20-1

MOVED BY: E. El-Chantiry

SECONDED BY: F. Campbell

Resolved, That the Agenda for the May 20, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting be adopted.

1. Watershed Condition and Outlook

J. North noted that the log operations teams are replacing the last few logs in the dams in the upper watershed. She stated that flows in the watershed are at their normal rates for the start of the summer. Specifically, Crotch Lake is at target levels. There is no worry about drought at this time as there is sufficient water for redistribution. The Ottawa River is at normal levels. Water management targets are on track and we hope to have an uneventful summer as the long-range forecast shows any average summer.

2. Approval of Minutes – Board of Directors Meeting May 20, 2020

B05/20/20-2

MOVED BY: J. Atkinson

SECONDED BY: P. Kehoe

Resolved, That the Minutes of the Mississippi Valley Board of Directors meeting held on April 15, 2020 be received and approved as printed.

“CARRIED”

3. Approval of Minutes – Special Board of Directors Meeting May 20, 2020

B05/20/20-3

MOVED BY: P. Sweetnam

SECONDED BY: C. Lowry

Resolved, That the Minutes of the Mississippi Valley Special Board of Directors meeting held on April 15, 2020 be received and approved as printed.

“CARRIED”

4. Lower Mississippi Flood Plain Mapping Update

S. McIntyre explained that the Lower Mississippi Flood Plain Mapping was uploaded onto the website and is available to the public. She also stated that MVCA had notified municipal clerks and planners so they are informed of the changes.

COVID-19 Update

S. McIntyre explained that all MVCA Conservation Areas are now open, except the beach at Palmerston Lake. The province now allows washrooms and first aid areas to be open. Small weddings may be allowed but we are awaiting confirmation. In the last 24 hours they have announced summer camps and daycares may be able to open soon. Cleaning procedures at Conservation Areas are under review, and staff are exploring what level of service they can offer safely.

With respect to the summer monitoring programming, the City of Ottawa Stream Watch program is on hold; and no lake monitoring programs will be conducted this year. However, staff are planning a citizen science / stewardship program to be offered to lake associations and community groups.

The partner of a staff member tested positive for COVID-19 and our staffer was placed on leave for 14 days in accordance with Lanark Leeds Grenville Health Unit directives. We are checking in with staff regularly to make sure everyone is taken care of.

S. McIntyre added that the watershed lies within the jurisdiction of multiple Health Units and that each is dealing with pandemic measures differently.

J. Karau asked for more information about the new monitoring program. S. McIntyre replied that it is currently under development. She encouraged board members to share their input with her after the meeting if they had suggestions. J. Inglis commented that a citizen-based monitoring program presents

an opportunity to engage local lake associations and for the community to take more ownership of their lakes. He asked that board members be kept in the loop about community engagement.

B. Holmes announced that Tea on the Lawn at the Mill of Kintail is cancelled due to exposure risks to the elderly that attend the event.

P. Sweetnam asked if MVCA is eligible for COVID-19 related government funding. S. McIntyre replied that CAs are receiving mixed information. It may be worth applying in case regulations or opinions change and MVCA becomes eligible. MVCA would set aside funds until we have confirmation of eligibility.

5. Kashwakamak Lake Dam Risk Assessment Results

Juraj Cunderlik, Director of Water Resources Engineering reviewed Staff Report #3057/20, attached.

F. Campbell asked for clarification on the term topo-bathymetric survey. J. Cunderlik answered that it is the measure of the bottom elevation of a water body—an underwater survey. J. Inglis asked whether the new dam structure is planned for downstream of the current structure. J. Cunderlik answered that downstream is where they are anticipating it will be built and that the existing dam could potentially be used as a coffer dam.

S. McIntyre clarified that WECI funding has not yet been confirmed, however unofficially MVCA has been told that none of their projects qualified this year. J. Mason asked if replacement could be postponed for 5 or more years. J. Cunderlik responded that a comprehensive review will give more insight and information into the condition of the dam. He added that there may be opportunities to salvage parts of the existing structure.

J. Karau asked if MVCA was ensuring insurability. S. McIntyre replied that MVCA strives to match industry standards regarding dam maintenance and safety to maintain insurability. If WECI funding continues to be denied, the Board of Directors may need to 100% self-fund the project in order to adequately mitigate risk and liability to the corporation.

B05/20/20-3

MOVED BY: J. Karau

SECONDED BY: P. Sweetnam

Resolved, That the Board direct staff to:

- a) **Postpone major repair of the Kashwakamak Lake Dam overflow weir for up to five years;**
- b) **Carry out topo-bathymetric survey and underwater dam inspection in 2020 and finalize the Dam Safety Review update in 2021; and**
- c) **Complete an Environmental Assessment and detailed design for replacement of the entire structure within the next five years.**

“CARRIED”

6. Regulatory Permits 2020 (January to April 2020)

M. Craig reviewed Staff Report # 3058/20 summarizing the permits processed in regards to Ontario Regulation 153/06, Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to shorelines and Watercourses for informational purposes.

J. Karau asked about instances where people have built within a regulated wetland. M. Craig responded that this can occur because every regulated wetland has a buffer which is also regulated. He added that often people will do minor work like site grading and the planning group works with them to have them become compliant with the regulations.

7. 2019 Poole Creek Stewardship Project

A. Tenbult presented on the 2019 Poole Creek Stewardship Project, presentation attached.

G. Gower commented that Poole Creek is one of Ottawa's most undervalued natural resources. F. Campbell asked if Poole Creek is classified as a municipal drain. S. McIntyre answered that the upper portion, above West Ridge, is a municipal drain.

J. Karau commented that a parallel project to Poole Creek is the University of Ottawa Carp River Restoration and Low Impact Development study. He requested that at a future meeting a presentation be made to the board on the Carp River.

J. Mason added that she would like to talk more about municipal drains at a future meeting. E. El-Chantiry suggested that Dave Ryan from the City of Ottawa could assist or present. S. McIntyre committed to arrange for a presentation at a future board meeting.

J. Karau suggested that the next meeting include an update on the Watershed Plan Public Advisory Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

B04/15/20-3

MOVED BY: F. Campbell

SECONDED BY: B. Holmes

Resolved, That the Board of Directors meeting be adjourned.

“CARRIED”

“S. Lickley, Recording Secretary

J. Mason, Chair”