



Board of Directors

MINUTES

Via Zoom

May 19, 2021

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

J. Mason, Chair  
J. Atkinson, Vice-Chair  
F. Campbell  
R. Darling  
E. El-Chantiry  
G. Gower  
B. Holmes  
J. Karau  
P. Kehoe  
B. King  
P. Sweetnam  
A. Tennant  
K. Thompson

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

J. Inglis  
C. Kelsey  
Representation from Greater Madawaska

**STAFF PRESENT**

S. McIntyre, General Manager  
A. Millar, Treasurer  
A. Broadbent, IT Supervisor  
M. Craig, Manager of Planning and Regulations  
J. Cunderlik, Director, Water Resource Engineering  
R. Fergusson, Operations Supervisor  
S. Gutoskie, Community Relations Coordinator  
J. North, Water Resource Technologist  
A. Symon, Watershed Planner  
E. Levi, Recording Secretary

J. Mason called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

**B05/19/21-1**

**MOVED BY: F. Campbell**

**SECONDED BY: P. Kehoe**

**Resolved, That the Agenda for the May 19, 2021 Board of Directors meeting be adopted as amended.**

**“CARRIED”**

**BUSINESS**

1. Approval of Minutes – Board of Directors

**B05/19/21-2**

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

**SECONDED BY: J. Atkinson**

**Resolved, That the Minutes of the Mississippi Valley Board of Directors Meeting held on April 21, 2021 be received and approved as printed.**

**“CARRIED”**

2. Watershed Conditions

J. North advised that we were able to fill the upper reservoirs, however, Crotch Lake is below target levels for this time of year and that significant rainfall will be vital to maintaining target summer flows. She noted that it may become necessary to issue a Level 1 Low Water Condition if current weather conditions persist.

3. Regulations Consultation Document

S. McIntyre outlined proposed new regulations under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. She highlighted Phase 1 consultations included mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services, municipal MOUs/Agreements, creation of a Community Advisory Committee, the transition period and the proposed consolidation of CA land regulations.

S. McIntyre advised that the next step will be to collaborate with other conservation authorities as well as Conservation Ontario to draft and submit comments to the Province. She confirmed that as the regulation is currently posted for comment, there will likely not be further opportunities to do so.

E. El-Chantiry asked whether the Board of Directors would be committed to implementing recommendations from a Community Advisory Committee, if formed. Sally advised it would be similar to our current advisory boards in that recommendations may be received but ultimate decisions reside with the Board.

4. Corporate Strategic Plan

S. McIntyre reviewed Staff Report 3133/21 regarding the 2021-2025 Corporate Strategic Plan drafted to address the changing mandate, governance, and funding of conservation authorities per Bill 108 and Bill 229, and other key pressures facing MVCA. She outlined the three main objectives of the plan: asset management, community building and people and performance.

E. El-Chantiry stressed the importance of asset reviews and keeping the Board aware and informed about asset management and needs that may be coming forward in the future so proper financial planning may occur. S. McIntyre noted that asset management was done in a phased approach to address priorities within the affordability limits of the organization. While conducting condition assessments and plans upfront across all assets would provide for shovel-ready, it would require a significant increase in the annual municipal level to effect.

J. Mason advised that the General Manager will be reporting regularly to the Board as to how the authority is progressing in terms of the strategic plan's goals.

**B05/19/21-4**

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

**SECONDED BY: R. Darling**

**Resolved, That the Board approve the 2021-2025 Corporate Strategic Plan, as presented.**

**“CARRIED”**

5. a. PPAC Report- Watershed Plan

A. Symon discussed Report 3131/21, previously presented at the Policy & Priorities Advisory Committee. The report outlines background of how the Draft Watershed Plan was created and highlighted the steps in its development.

A. Symon commented that the draft plan was completed prior to the new regulations being released by the province, which provides some interesting consistency in recommendations as well as potential changes in monitoring and other areas that may need to be revisited. The final plan will be presented to the Board in July after public consultations.

A. Symon noted that due to the pandemic, the Indigenous Engagement Plan (IEP) was not implemented and that it will proceed as things open up. To that end, it is expected that staff will return with an additional Discussion Paper and proposed changes to the Plan based upon matters raised by First Nations.

S. McIntyre advised that she will be visiting municipalities to review the draft plan over the coming weeks.

**B05/19/21-5**

**MOVED BY: J. Atkinson**

**SECONDED BY: B. King**

**Resolved, That the Board of Directors direct staff to release the Draft Mississippi River Watershed Plan for public consultation and return with final document for approval.**

**“CARRIED”**

6. Conservation Ontario Governance Accountability and Transparency Initiative

S. McIntyre commented on Report 3134/21 wherein Conservation Ontario requests all 36 conservation authorities endorse and support completion of an Accountability and Transparency Initiative focused on updates to CA Administrative By-Laws, proactive reporting on governance accountability and transparency as well as priorities and promotion/demonstration of results.

**B05/19/21-6**

**MOVED BY: J. Karau**

**SECONDED BY: B. Holmes**

**Resolved, That the Board endorse the actions proposed under the Conservation Ontario Governance Accountability and Transparency Initiative; and direct staff to participate and implement as appropriate.**

**“CARRIED”**

7. Eastern Ontario LiDAR Acquisition Project

S. McIntyre summarized Report 3135/21 and explained that only the risk analysis portion of the National Disaster Mitigation Program application was awarded a grant. However, in developing the proposal, political and financial support for the LiDAR project was sought from area municipalities and counties and, collectively, sufficient funds were committed by all parties to allow the LiDAR project to proceed. South Nation Conservation is acting as project lead and will continue to coordinate with partners and the successful vendor throughout the project.

**B05/19/21-7**

**MOVED BY: C. Lowry**

**SECONDED BY: J. Inglis**

**Resolved, That the Board of Directors direct staff to:**

- a) **enter into agreements with partner Conservation Authorities and Municipalities/ Counties for the Eastern Ontario LiDAR Acquisition Project, valued at approximately \$700,000 plus HST.**
- b) **issue a Purchase Order to the preferred vendor in the amount of approximately \$157,000 plus HST.**

**“CARRIED”**

8. Budget Control Report

A. Millar reviewed revenues and expenditures outlined in Report 3136/21 noting that revenues are strong this Quarter and 2021 planning revenues are above the 5-year average.

9. a. Mississippi Valley Conservation Foundation – Financial Statements

A. Millar presented the MVC Foundation Financial Statements for 2020. She advised that the auditor, Glenn Street, recommended investing the large balance into a high interest savings account. She noted the balance was due to the Cavanagh donation and is the first in long time since any significant balance was there.

P. Sweetnam questioned the audit fees. A. Millar advised that they were \$2250 + HST. Glenn Street provides audit services to both the Foundation and the Authority and, as there are many duplication transactions, she feels there is time efficiency and the costs are acceptable.

10. General Manager Update Report

S. McIntyre provided updates as outlined Report 3137/21.

There was a brief discussion regarding disposal of the K&P to the counties of Lanark, Renfrew and Frontenac. Further information will be brought to the Board after a meeting held May 31 between the counties and MVCA.

a. Lower Mississippi Flood Plain Mapping

S. McIntyre outlined that a resident on the Lower Mississippi had identified a discrepancy in the April 2020 flood plain mapping and that staff had since reviewed it with John Price, former Director of Water Resources at MVCA. Unlike floodplain mapping carried out for the City of Ottawa, this mapping project was not subject to revisit the model and it is recommended that staff update the model to address the concern raised and have it under go a 3<sup>rd</sup> party peer review.

S. McIntyre commented that up-to-date LiDAR data helps provide for quality modeling. J. Cunderlik advised that the Province has identified that there is a need for improved and more comprehensive data, and that discussions are on-going with the province.

J. Cunderlik advised that there are limitations to topographic data for modelling the Lower Mississippi, and some areas do not have safe access to obtain it. He noted that the rules and guidelines from the province are very outdated and have not been updated since 2013 so the methodology used for lower Mississippi was completed with those limitations. He commented that there are new tools available which can provide more accurate results.

C. Lowry asked whether it appeared to be confined to a particular area or if it appeared to be wide-spread. S. McIntyre advised that the problems arises in areas where there is flow splitting around islands, not in the tributaries. The entire main stem of the river downstream of Bridge Street in Carleton Place will be reviewed.

Staff were given direction to advise local municipal planners of the current concerns.

**B05/19/21-8**

**MOVED BY: F. Campbell**

**SECONDED BY: B. Holmes**

**Resolved, That the Board of Directors direct staff to:**

- a) **apply the precautionary principle in administering permits and providing planning advisory services downstream of Bridge Street on the Mississippi River until such time as a new floodplain limit is approved by the Board; and specifically, to**
- b) **assess flood risk hazards on a site by site basis and apply the greater of the flood plain elevation from the original Mississippi River Flood Risk**

- mapping (Regulation 211/88) and the 2020 Lower Mississippi River Flood Plain Mapping Study; and to
- c) provide the Board with a work plan and cost estimate to update the model and to have it Peer Reviewed by a third-party for consideration at the June 2021 meeting.

**“CARRIED”**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**B05/19/21-10**

**MOVED BY: C. Lowry**

**SECONDED BY: K. Thompson**

**Resolved, That the Board of Directors meeting adjourned.**

**“CARRIED”**

**“E. Levi, Recording Secretary**

**J. Mason, Chair”**