



Board of Directors
MINUTES

Via Zoom

July 21, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

J. Atkinson, Chair
J. Mason, Vice-Chair
F. Campbell
B. Holmes
J. Karau
P. Kehoe
C. Lowry
P. Sweetnam
K. Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT

R. Darling
E. El-Chantiry
G. Gower
J. Inglis
C. Kelsey
B. King
C. Rigelhof
A. Tennant

STAFF PRESENT

S. McIntyre, General Manager
A. Millar, Treasurer
A. Broadbent, IT Supervisor
J. Cunderlik, Director, Water Resource Engineering
J. North, Water Resource Technologist
E. Levi, Recording Secretary

J. Atkinson called the meeting to order at 1:03pm.

B07/21/21-1

MOVED BY: C. Lowry

SECONDED BY: P. Sweetnam

Resolved, That the Agenda for the July 21, 2021 Board of Directors meeting be adopted as presented.

“CARRIED”

BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes – Board of Directors

B07/21/21-2

MOVED BY: J. Karau

SECONDED BY: F. Campbell

Resolved, That the Minutes of the Mississippi Valley Board of Directors Meeting held on June 16, 2021 be received and approved as amended.

“CARRIED”

2. Watershed Condition Report

J. North advised that flows are beginning to stabilize. The majority of flows in the river and its tributaries have increased and lakes and tributaries are at or slightly above summer target levels. Conditions have improved enough across the watershed to terminate the Low Water Level 1 declaration. The weather forecast for August does not include a lot of rain, however with current conditions, flow and level sustainability shouldn't be dependant on weather conditions.

Given extreme weather becoming a greater feature, J. Karau questioned whether a warning protocol was in place for public visiting conservation areas. S. McIntyre advised that the public should rely on Environment Canada for weather statements. Per current protocol, if there are indications for significant flooding or conditions of concern, then staff would issue such warnings as usual.

3. Draft Mississippi River Watershed Plan

S. McIntyre presented the Draft Watershed Plan. She noted the many contributors to the project. She thanked John Karau for chairing the Public Advisory Committee as well as Alyson Symon for her work and dedication to the plan.

J. Atkinson expressed his thanks to all involved and commented that he was happy to see follow through continue with Indigenous Peoples even after the plan's implementation.

P. Sweetnam asked whether there were plans to do similar work within the Carp River watershed. S. McIntyre advised that Staff will be tasked with putting forward a Carp River Subwatershed plan as priority for 2022. Staff will be putting forward a recommendation with the City of Ottawa that the Carp project be prioritized.

B07/21/21-3

MOVED BY: P. Kehoe

SECONDED BY: B. Holmes

Resolved, That the Board of Directors approve the Mississippi River Watershed Plan as amended.

“CARRIED”

4. Results of RFQ for Boardroom A/V Upgrades

S. McIntyre reviewed Staff Report 3153/21. She noted the Authority would like the ability to have blended meetings (in-person and virtual) however there were expensive technical encumbrances to overcome in order to achieve that. The Request for Quotes broke the proposal into two parts; audio vs visual. Only three potential contractors responded and unfortunately two did not agree to the terms of reference. The one remaining bid was larger than anticipated. Given that, it was felt the cost was not equal to value based on the number of meetings held and member desire.

Board direction is being sought in terms of reasonable cost. There is a possibility to be able to get a new audio system working with provision of laptops offering individual cameras. Acquiring a professional assessment to investigate that option and subsequent implementation is expected to cost approximately \$10,000, which could be paid from the Operating Reserve.

P. Sweetnam supported the use of laptops as most people have one already. He suggested providing only to members don't have access to one.

There was a brief discussion noting the importance of ensuring the system would work effectively for both people in attendance physically and functionality for people attending remotely.

B07/21/21-4

MOVED BY: P. Sweetnam

SECONDED BY: F. Campbell

Resolved, That the Board approve up to \$10,000 for upgrade of boardroom equipment to facilitate the blending of remote and on-site meeting participation, to be paid from the Operating Reserve.

“CARRIED”

5. Meeting Remotely

S. McIntyre discussed staff report 3140/21 firstly seeking allowance to meet remotely outside of the State of Emergency and secondly providing policy clarity and business processes around remote meeting participation.

J. Mason questioned whether the Board could adopt the recommendation given the A/V restrictions. S. McIntyre advised that, at minimum, the Board could approve meetings outside of state of emergency.

J. Atkinson asked if the decision for the rest of the amendment could be deferred until the A/V system was finalized. S. McIntyre advised that amending the By-Law 10a.3) provides for permission; if the authority doesn't have the technical ability, then meetings can't proceed remotely. The entire recommendation could therefore be passed at this time.

J. Karau commented on the advantage of moving forward with entire amendment with the understanding that the entire situation is a bit of an experiment. To send a stronger message, the recommendation could commit to revisit the issue in a year. C. Lowry agreed it would be prudent to review the process in the future as there will no doubt be adjustments moving forward.

B. Holmes advised that discussion was had at the committee level regarding Chair and General Manager discretion in terms of meeting arrangements and participation.

S. McIntyre proposed the following amendment to the recommended By-law Changes:

10a3. Electronic meetings will only be arranged upon request by the Chair or GM, a Member or a Delegate, or as required to comply with legislation. Requests for electronic participation must be made in writing to the General Manager at least five (5) working days in advance of the scheduled meeting. The Chair will determine whether the request will be granted in consultation with the General Manager.

B07/21/21-5

MOVED BY: P. Kehoe

SECONDED BY: C. Lowry

Resolved, That the Policy & Priorities Committee recommend that the Board approve amendment of the MVCA Administrative By-law as set out in this report, as amended, that will allow Board members to participate in meetings electronically outside of a State of Emergency.

“CARRIED”

6. GM Update

S. McIntyre highlighted the Transition Plans which will come into effect after adoption of the new regulations. Eastern Ontario GMs have begun meeting to discuss a common approach with shared municipalities which can be put in place in short order given the tight timelines proposed. The Plans essentially outline the approach and methodology to review the suite of services and programs that would be deemed no longer mandatory.

S. McIntyre commented that the permit was received from Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for the Shabomeka Lake Dam Project. J. Cunderlik advised the tender was recently posted and there were eight bid-takers thus far.

There was a discussion regarding the low number of bids received for the Carp Creek Restoration Project and the large difference in quotes to complete the work. J. Mason expressed her concern about the Authority being in a tight position with few choices. J. Karau commented that City of Ottawa is engaged with this project as well, so the burden is shared with more than the Authority. If the time frame for work allows, there may be the opportunity to take a pause and review.

In response to a question, S. McIntyre advised that surveys were continuing at conservation areas to determine what areas visitors originate from. Results will be shared with the Board and municipalities.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was declared adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

“E. Levi, Recording Secretary

J. Atkinson, Chair”