

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
POLICY & PRIORITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mississippi Valley Conservation Centre
Carleton Place

MINUTES

April 3, 2020

MEMBERS ON-SITE:

J. Atkinson, Chair;

MEMBERS VIA PHONE:

F. Campbell;
G. Gower;
B. Holmes;
J. Inglis;
J. Karau;
J. Mason.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

K. Thompson, Vice-Chair;
R. Darling.

STAFF PRESENT:

S. McIntyre, General Manager;
A. Symon, Watershed Planner;
S. Lickley, Recording Secretary.

VISITORS PRESENT:

J. Atkinson called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Information Item:

1. Mississippi River Watershed Plan – Draft Goals and Objectives

A. Symon summarized the process of creating the Backgrounder reports and the public review of the documents.

J. Karau noted that provincial level plans and strategies are not mentioned. He added that the profile of relevant sources is incomplete. A. Symon explained that the Wetland Strategy is archived so it was not referenced in the document. J. Karau listed other provincial documents that he felt should be considered including: Wetland Strategy, Source Water Protection, Forest Sector Strategy, and Agricultural Soil Health and Conservation Strategy.

A. Symon presented Goal 1 of the document. J. Mason asked how goals are allocated to different areas. A. Symon clarified that when the plan actions are drafted, it will be highlighted what partners are responsible. S. McIntyre commented that there are varying interests across the watershed. J. Mason added that there is a possibility for conflict depending on population density. J. Karau suggested that the plan set targets as indicators with different targets for different areas of the watershed that show the difference between the city and the wild areas. A. Symon commented that the task will be challenging but the Backgrounder reports have laid the groundwork in preparation for creating actions with careful phrasing to differentiate the application areas. J. Karau suggested to add “adaptive” as a descriptor to better clarify the approach.

A. Symon presented Goal 2. J. Inglis asked, regarding the 3 actions relating to adaptation and

climate change, if MVCA has the ability to take action. S. McIntyre replied that the third point in the Goals 2 section allows MVCA to expand its depth and breadth as it become possible. She added that avoiding duplication is important as well as positioning MVCA sensitively and not be explicit. J. Karau commented that this topic does not preclude mitigation and MVCA does some mitigation measures . J. Inglis reflected that these measures are not proactive. J. Atkinson closed the conversation by explaining that once the Mississippi River Watershed Plan is in place, there will be more opportunities for proactive mitigation measures.

A. Symon Introduced Goal 3.

J. Inglis suggested that septic reinspection be considered in this section.

J. Karau suggested that surface and ground water should both be considered as drinking water sources.

A. Symon introduced Goal 4.

B. Holmes commented that the agricultural community may be uneasy about these goals and they may cause problems for the plan being implemented smoothly.

S. McIntyre replied that partnerships are necessary. J. Karau added that ‘Sustainable Resource Use’ might be a different way to word the goal.

A. Symon commented that moving Goal 7 ahead in the list will mitigate confusion or offense.

A. Symon introduced Goal 7.

J. Inglis suggested that landowners and land users might be added.

J. Mason asked what industries are included. A. Symon replied that Backgrounder 2 details businesses and key industries.

J. Karau suggested that ‘monitoring the health of the watershed’ qualifies as an objective, although it may also be an action item.

A. Symon introduced Goal 5.

A. Symon introduced Goal 6.

J. Karau asked for the definition of water balance. A. Symon replied that water balance is the goal to maintain even water throughout the watershed system. J. Atkinson suggested to use the word ‘hydrological’ instead of ‘water’ for better understanding.

A. Symon introduced Goal 8.

J. Karau commented that environmental education can be explicitly stated to further the value of this goal. S. McIntyre added that the last point in this goals section reflects that. J. Karau asked if education get encompassed in stewardship, which he added is more about science. A. Symon replied that MVCA does have various stewardships workshops and educational initiatives that take place. S. McIntyre commented that MVCA needs better promotion.

J. Karau suggested that ‘sense of responsibility’ is too vague a statement and needs to be revised.

General Concluding Comments

J. Inglis critiqued that there are too many goals for a strategic plan. A. Symon replied that many of the plans she referenced as examples had many more numbers of goals.

J. Karau critiqued that the plan needs more depth. He added that he wants to know once the plan is finalized, what are the next steps. A. Symon replied that this section is the basis for a workshop

to set a framework for getting the information out to the public.

S. McIntyre added that workshops are not possible at this time due to the pandemic, so we will be determining alternative next steps shortly.

J. Inglis commented that the document is aspirational goals threatened by development. It will be fundamental to get the towns, townships and county on board because they regulate the development. A. Symon added that planners from Lanark County and various municipalities have already provided feedback on the Backgrounder reports. This feedback has been positive and helpful. There has been no feedback offered from the province which is disappointing.

S. McIntyre added that presentations to municipal councils are booked so that counsellors are well informed.

J. Karau commented that MVCA needs to use the watershed plan as a way to build relationships, partnerships and workplans. MVCA can develop deliverables and common priorities with partners. J. Mason added that forging good relationships will help with the allocation of important actions.

J. Atkinson commented that meetings for his municipality are hosted through ZOOM software. B. Holmes commented that WebX is more secure but very difficult to use. F. Campbell noted that phone meetings must be publicized.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

“S. Lickley, Recording Secretary

J. Atkinson, Chair”