

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
POLICY & PRIORITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mississippi Valley Conservation Centre  
Carleton Place

**MINUTES**

January 16, 2020

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

J. Atkinson, Chair;  
K. Thompson, Vice-Chair;  
F. Campbell;  
G. Gower;  
B. Holmes;  
J. Inglis;  
J. Karau.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

R. Darling;  
J. Mason.

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**VISITORS PRESENT:**

J. Atkinson called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

**PPAC01/16/20-1**

**MOVED BY:** J. Karau

**SECONDED BY:** G. Gower

**Resolved, That the agenda for the Policy & Priorities Advisory Committee meeting be adopted, as presented.**

**“CARRIED”**

**BUSINESS:**

1. Minutes – Policy & Priorities Advisory Committee Meeting – December 4, 2019

**PPAC01/16/20-2**

**MOVED BY:** F. Campbell

**SECONDED BY:** K. Thompson

**Resolved, That the Minutes of the Mississippi Valley Policy & Priorities Advisory Committee meeting held on December 4, 2019 be received and approved as printed.**

**“CARRIED”**

2. Mississippi River Watershed Plan – Backgrounder Four: Asset Management

S. McIntyre introduced the report with an historical overview of asset management approaches and how asset management differs when dealing with natural resources. She continued to describe the report in detail.

S. McIntyre explained adaptive management strategies. She noted that this section is not in this

version of the report, but will be included in future versions.

#### *Built Assets*

Sally continued to describe *Dams, Weirs and Power Generating Stations*.

F. Campbell commented that she believes the report should state the 9<sup>th</sup> line, not the 7<sup>th</sup> line on page 14.

J. Karau said it is important to highlight that there is not the adequate infrastructure to manage water with the extremes that climate change may provide.

S. McIntyre explained that she discussed this with her staff and because there is no study available to support this viewpoint.

J. Karau added that it is possible to deduce that it would be ineffective to try and control the water with new infrastructure based on current operations. It is overly optimistic to state that Crotch Lake is our greatest opportunity for storage, because there is still very little opportunity for the current dam or a new dam to have an effect on the waterways in the watershed.

B. Holmes added that one flood area that was left is the 7<sup>th</sup> concession of Ramsey near the Indian River that floods annually.

S. McIntyre explained that the *Backgrounder* documents will be circulated to the municipalities for review very soon.

S. McIntyre One item of concern is public safety in areas where roads floods and prevent emergency vehicle access. J. Karau and G. Gower discussed specific examples of where flooding roads, specifically private roads, has become an issue in the past.

S. McIntyre noted that OPG owns the Crotch Lake Dam asset. She added that when OPG did a review on needs for the dam, none of the options looked at increasing capacity.

J. Karau clarified that OPG reviewed that it was possible to increase the capacity, however they determined that it wouldn't make a meaningful impact on effectiveness of water management.

#### *Natural Storage*

J. Karau described the challenge for assessing natural assets. It is critical to evaluate a wetland for its value in managing water, especially if we are able to put a dollar value on it.

B. Holmes asked the group about about mosquito larvae in large storm water management pond reservoirs. S. McIntyre replied that there are issues with mosquitos in reservoirs in Kanata. She suggested a reframing of the "problem" to what is the best management approach for insects? We use to have many more mosquitos and other bugs, and minimizing their reproduction may hinder the health of at-risk species like birds. Maybe it is a case of educating people to live with them.

#### *Docks, Boathouses, Houses and Marinas*

J. Inglis asked the group if there have ever been issues with property owners suing MVC for damages to their properties due to flooding. S. McIntyre responded that MVCA has not had issues with that in the past.

J. Karau noted that public opinion doesn't always reflect the reality of disaster situation, and with climate change extremes, people may become more frustrated.

S. McIntyre added that MVCA job of educating people needs to include that we can't control mother nature and that climate change is a real thing.

#### *Nature Conservation Assets*

J. Atkinson asked if it was known which naturally conserved lands have claims by indigenous groups. S. McIntyre responded that huge swaths of land around many lakes do have indigenous claims. She added that 21% of watershed is crown lands, however townships need to take a more detailed look on what that means and if they want to enter into discussion with the province.

J. Karau added that the federal government is also a stakeholder and there may be funding available for conservation projects, specifically for protecting species at risk.

S. McIntyre noted that there is a section still to be written on natural corridors for this report.

A. Symon asked the group if all lakes have a buffer between landowners' property and water line.

J. Inglis responded that they do, however municipalities are selling it to land owners so they can develop (docks) on the shore.

#### *Forests and Forestry*

S. McIntyre stated that the MNRF used to monitor landowners and help them to manage their forests, however she stated concern for landowners who don't have experience in lot management.

J. Inglis explained that generally, local forests are not economical to harvest from. The province's draft strategy is also about finding new markets for wood products. I am suspicious about how the province wants to make forestry more economical because so far there are very few details.

S. McIntyre added that the province thinks we are not meeting our targets for producing forestry products, however deregulating the industry could make the industry less sustainable. She continued that it is not a guarantee that the province will protect our forests and natural assets.

J. Inglis noted that MNRF is doing controlled burns in Lanark area forests.

J. Karau described the situation in Renfrew County where there is no Conservation Authority. The municipality is trying to get the government to provide basic services in land management and conservation. They believe that putting the responsibility on the government is an important way to make sure they are held accountable.

#### *Wildlife Asset Management*

S. McIntyre described how some species are evaluated differently at the provincial and federal level, which causes a gradual decimation of habitats because there are no definite protections.

J. Karau shared that the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Centre is an excellent resource for species classifications. He added that if the classification of a species is clouded, the provincial rules

should apply. An example locally is the hearings at in January regarding the intersection of Hwy 7 and Hwy 15 in Carleton place and how to deal with the habitat as things are developed.

*Non-Native Invasive Species*

J. Karau explained that it might be good to clarify that MVCA does not regulate any species or wildlife, however the information is important to inform the their work. This also is true for fire management.

Sa. McIntyre responded that she believes it is important that MVCA focus on the interconnectedness of how their work is intertwined with other conservation topics and partners. MVCA is interested in facilitating the discussion with municipalities and larger communities.

J. Karau shared that he believes that the report's review of the broader context of asset management is important. It is also important that MVCA stays connected with relevant partners so that when the public calls looking for other resources, MVCA can direct them to the correct organization.

J. Inglis asked if the fixed infrastructure managed by MVCA is in need or repair of replacement.

S. McIntyre explained that many built assets owned by the CA are soon needing replacement or past when they should be replaced. For example, Widow Lake Dam needs repair and it could be replaced with a fixed weir which would eliminate operating and maintenance costs.

J. Karau advised that from his experiences decommissioning should be done very carefully because it can ignite a lot of opposition in the public.

S. McIntyre added that property ownership around and under our dam structures is not clear. For example, around Shabowmeka Dam it is not clear who own adjacent land parcels, however it needs to be rebuilt which will be a complex process.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

**PPAC01/16/20-3**

**MOVED BY: B. Holmes**

**SECONDED BY: J. Inglis**

**Resolved, That the Policy & Priorities Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.**

**“CARRIED”**