

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
POLICY AND PRIORITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MVCA Boardroom

MINUTES

October 16, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

R. Darling;
G. Gower.

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

J. Atkinson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

BUSINESS:

1. **PPAC10/16/19-1**

MOVED BY: J. Karau

SECONDED BY: K. Thompson

Resolved, That the Agenda for the Policy and Priorities Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as presented.

“CARRIED”

2. **Minutes – Policy & Priorities Advisory Committee Meeting – September 15, 2019**

J. Inglis requested that item two in the minutes be amended to reflect his comment was to gift the entire Mill of Kintail site, not just the museum collections.

PPAC10/16/19-2

MOVED BY: J. Inglis

SECONDED BY: F. Campbell

Resolved, That the minutes of the Policy & Priorities Advisory Committee meeting held September 15, 2019 be received and approved as amended.

“CARRIED”

2. Mississippi River Watershed Plan – Backgrounder One: The Physical Environment

A. Symon reviewed key elements of the document titled *Backgrounder One: The Physical Environment*. She highlighted the process and timelines of the Watershed Plan and reviewed the physical environment of the Mississippi Watershed.

There was a brief discussion about the difference between a watershed plan and a subwatershed plan.

J. Karau stated that a watershed management plan will be useful regardless of what changes may come to the MVCA mandate. He noted it will be useful to outline what the conservation authorities do and show the linkages to the larger provincial process.

J. Hall asked what format the draft consultation takes. A. Symon advised that would occur in the next phase of the plan. She commented that later in the process a Discussion Paper will be drafted to solicit input on specific ideas and to obtain feedback for the Committee's consideration.

There was discussion regarding how the public and interested parties would be informed about the plan and related meetings. A. Symon commented that she has an extensive contact list including lake associations and municipalities who have been helping to get the word out.

S. McIntyre noted that it will be important at the first Public Advisory Committee meeting to address the expectations of the committee and review the terms of reference. She commented that multi-jurisdictional plans have been completed before and typically provide high level recommendations and jurisdictional recommendations. She noted the need to highlight which organization will action and fund each recommendation. She further stated that, in law, this document has no authority, in contrast to a municipal Official Plan.

J. Karau commented that the document is collaborative effort being led by the MVCA, with the desired outcome a consensus amongst the parties on how to move forward.

There was a discussion about the graphs and tables outlining future precipitation. There was some concern that the year spans denoted in the report data may lead to question the credibility of the report and affect its relatability. It was suggested to add a year which people can relate to, such as the 1998 ice storm and flooding.

S. McIntyre remarked that MVCA is planning to update its website and place the existing interactive mapping for water levels on the home page in an effort to make this important information more easily accessible to the public.

J. Mason commented that with the trends leading to more droughts, there could be an increased risk of forest fire and proposed that the plan should address increased fire risk as a possible outcome. B. Holmes commented that the Mississippi Mills fire chief advised that each municipality has to develop a fire plan in next five years.

S. McIntyre advised that each *Backgrounder* will be seen by the MVCA Policy & Priorities committee first, then taken to the Watershed Plan Public Advisory Committee, and then be made available to the public. She noted that the Discussion Paper to be released next spring will contain actions based on comments from consultations and will identify which organization will be tasked with carrying out each recommendations based. Each *Backgrounder* is a mechanism to present the breath of information to be considered in carrying watershed planning.

J. Karau noted that a plan is only as strong as its ability to be adaptable. As for process, he commented that there still has to be opportunity to go through a lot of recommendations and focus on priorities and ability to execute those recommendations. He noted the importance of analysis of options.

B. Holmes remarked on the importance of engaging local MPP throughout this process by notifying them of the PAC meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

PPAC10/16/19-3

MOVED BY: J. Hall

SECONDED BY: K. Thompson

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

“CARRIED”

“E. Levi, Recording Secretary

J. Atkinson, Chair”