



MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting Via Zoom
and at MVCA Office

Board of Directors Meeting

February 12, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT

Paul Kehoe, Chair
Jeff Atkinson, Vice Chair
Allan Hubley (Virtual)
Allison Vereyken (Virtual)
Andrew Kendrick
Bev Holmes
Cathy Curry (Virtual)
Cindy Kelsey
Clarke Kelly (Virtual)
Dena Comley
Glen Gower (Virtual)
Helen Yanch
Janet Mason
Mary Lou Souter
Roy Huetl
Taylor Popkie

MEMBERS ABSENT

Richard Kidd
Steven Lewis

STAFF PRESENT

Sally McIntyre, General Manager
Stacy Millard, Treasurer
Scott Lawryk, Facilities Manager
Matt Craig, Manager of Planning and Regulations
Juraj Cunderlik, Director of Engineering
Jennifer North, Water Resources Technologist
Kelly Hollington, Recording Secretary

P. Kehoe called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Declarations of Interest (Written)

Members were asked to declare any conflicts of interest and informed that they may declare a conflict at any time during the session. No declarations were received.

Agenda Review

P. Kehoe noted that there were no additions to the agenda.

BOD24/02/12-1

MOVED BY: M.L. Souter

SECONDED BY: A. Kendrick

Resolved, That the agenda for the February 12, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting be adopted as presented.

“CARRIED”

MAIN BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes: Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, December 11, 2023.

BOD24/02/12-2

MOVED BY: D. Comley

SECONDED BY: T. Popkie

Resolved, That the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on December 11, 2023 be received and approved as printed.

“CARRIED”

2. Employee Presentation: Kintail Country Christmas Follow Up, (S. Lawryk)

S. Lawryk outlined the event and noted that it brought ~1150 visitors to the Mill of Kintail with 135 visitors pre-buying their tickets online and 240 paying on site. The event netted ~\$3,000 in revenue. He highlighted the important role that volunteers and staff involvement played in making the event a success. Challenges included staff time availability (day jobs don't go away), site/parking capacity limits and weather uncertainty/risks. He described three options for future events: running them independently, using an events company or not running such large events. He noted the need to optimize staff time to better manage workload while continuing to put on well received, community events.

J. Mason commented that a net revenue of \$3,000 is low and asked if the purpose of the event was to raise funds or to connect with the community. S. Lawryk responded that the focus of the event has always been to have a touch point with the community. He noted the introduction of many new visitors to the Mill of Kintail site and the potential for return visits. He noted the opportunity to leverage the success of Kintail Christmas and the 50th Anniversary

to grow future events and improve revenues. He gave examples of more food trucks, community group run activities and possible sponsorship opportunities. He highlighted the importance of connecting with the community and bringing visitors to the site who otherwise would not visit. J. Mason asked the amount generated in gross revenue. S. Millard responded that direct sales were roughly \$7,000-\$8,000 and noted roughly \$1,000 in donations to help cover costs.

B. Holmes commented that the event increases the visibility of the Mill of Kintail as a destination for families. She asked if fireworks were carried out as planned. S. Lawryk confirmed that they were and noted that other conservation authorities host fireworks and that the quietest-rated (level 1/5), residential fireworks were used.

A. Kendrick asked if data was gathered on visitor demographics. S. Lawryk noted that some data was captured through online sales prior to the event; many guests were from Kanata, Perth and various areas outside of Mississippi Mills.

3. Watershed Outlook, Report 3385/24. (J. North)

J. North presented the Watershed Outlook report. She explained that rain events and snow have brought flows to near-normal conditions, and predicted normal levels within the next week. Crotch lake was successfully filled and is currently being drawn down to access full storage capacity for the spring run-off. She added that the draw down will provide lower portion of the Mississippi River with normal flows for the next two months. She highlighted higher than average snow pack density, which could possibly lead to early freshet in March. She noted the possibility of low run-off due to snow sublimation. She highlighted that air temperatures and precipitation in March and April will be major factors influencing the 2024 freshet. She explained that conditions will be monitored closely to deliver accurate messages in regards to ice safety and high water. She noted that the updated *Flood Preparedness Manual* will be circulated to municipalities in the next few weeks.

4. GM Update, Report 3386/24. (S. McIntyre)

S. McIntyre highlighted the following matters: an item that was not in the GM Update—the Danby Foundation has committed to a donation of \$50,000 per year for 3 years the help implement MVCA’s wetland restoration and enhancement program; M. Craig presented the draft offsetting policies to member municipality planning groups; the first meeting of the Mill of Kintail Museum Advisory Committee was held on January 31; and MVC Foundation’s 2024 budget provides for the following transfers to MVCA: \$15,000 for Wetland Legal Defense Fees, \$5,000 for boardwalk restoration at Purdon CA, and \$10,000 for review of MVCA’s education program.

P. Kehoe asked if offsetting policies would be used in response to the Minister issuing an order. S. McIntyre responded that if the Minister issues a Zoning Order or a Housing Acceleration

Order that the offsetting policies would take effect. She noted that these policies would also take effect if a municipality approved development in an area where offsetting would be required. She highlighted the importance of offsetting parameters being fully transparent to all parties.

5. 2023 Workplan Update, Report 3387/24 (S. McIntyre)

S. McIntyre stated that significant progress was made on the 27 projects listed in MVCA's *Corporate Strategic Plan – Implementation Plan*, approved in 2021. Deferred and at-risk items were explained. She highlighted that MVCA is working on engaging first Nations communities on the Kashwakamak Environmental Assessment project, and that MVCA plans to implement a quarterly update to Indigenous communities. She noted that there have been challenges in implementing a governance review of the MVC Foundation, and that the Foundation is pivoting from running campaigns to focusing on soliciting larger donations from foundations with similar interests. She also noted progress in job evaluation and review processes and these would require ongoing effort.

J. Mason asked about the timeframe for public consultation on the Carp River Floodplain Mapping. J. Cunderlik responded that the open house is planned for late March, early April 2024.

6. 2024 Workplan, Report 3388/24, (S. McIntyre)

S. McIntyre presented the 2024 Workplan. She highlighted mandatory deliverable documents that are required by year-end:

- Land Inventory,
- Ice Management Strategy,
- WECl Asset Management Plan,
- WECl Operational Plan,
- Land Strategy and;
- Watershed Based Resource Management (WBRM) Strategy.

She noted that regulatory requirements for the *Land Inventory* and *Land Strategy* appear to be focused on conservation areas, and noted that most ownership challenges at MVCA relate to dam structures, e.g. parcels with no easement agreements, and a combination of crown, municipal and private ownership under and around dams. She explained that the *Land Strategy* defines what MVCA plans to do with their land and why and the *WBRM Strategy* defines the programs and services that MVCA will deliver, why and how. The work plan recommends that the *Corporate Strategic Plan* be updated late 2024 as it will be based upon the conclusions of the other documents.

A. Kendrick commented that direction and framework is needed from the Federal, Provincial and Municipal levels that all conservation authorities can work under. He recognized challenges in the *Land Inventory* and *Land Strategy*. He asked if MVCA is engaging with the government to develop these documents. S. McIntyre responded that the other levels of government were providing limited direction but that MVCA is engaging with other CAs that own and operate dams such as Quinte and Crowe to discuss a common approach. S. McIntyre added that as these documents are being developed, items will be identified that require more direction from legal counsel or other levels of government.

A. Kendrick commented that the mandatory documents are a drain on MVCA senior management resources and encouraged deferring aspects that are unclear. S. McIntyre agreed that items would be addressed as able and that outstanding items would need to be tackled based upon corporate priorities and as resources allowed.

J. Mason suggested focusing the strategy on the Conservation Areas, and defer the other items/properties. She expressed concern over lawyer and land title fees.

P. Kehoe noted the complexities of dam land ownership. S. McIntyre confirmed the challenges and noted that in regards to conservation areas, the strategy asks to define the role and focus Conservation Authorities have in the greater matrix of parks, open space, and conservations lands within MVCA jurisdiction.

J. Mason asked for more information in regards to the *Carp Erosion Control Project*. J. Cunderlik responded that the *Carp Erosion Control Project* is the previous Class Environmental Assessment that MVCA completed in partnership with the City of Ottawa. The project was still active because MVCA entered into two years of post-construction monitoring, but is approaching closing. J. Mason asked if this is the project completed in Glen Cairn. J. Cunderlik confirmed.

BOD24/02/12-3

MOVED BY: B. Holmes

SECONDED BY: J. Atkinson

Resolved, That the Board of Directors approve the 2024 Workplan as presented.

“CARRIED”

7. Appointment of Public Advisory Committee Board Co-Chair, Report 3389/24, (S. McIntyre)

S. McIntyre explained that J. Karau was the Co-Chair of the Mississippi River Watershed Plan Public Advisory committee until his retirement in 2023, and the position is still vacant. She noted an upcoming meeting and asked the Board if any member would have interest in

volunteering as Co-Chair. D. Comley asked what the expected time commitment is. S. McIntyre responded that there are typically 3 meetings per year that last 1-2 hours and chaired by either the Board or Citizen appointee. D. Comley confirmed her interest in joining the committee. S. McIntyre expressed her thanks for the commitment.

BOD24/02/12-4

MOVED BY: J. Atkinson

SECONDED BY: M.L. Souter

Resolved, That Dena Comley be appointed to serve as Co-Chair of the Mississippi River Watershed Plan Public Advisory Committee.

“CARRIED”

8. 2024 Budget, Report 3390/24, (S. Millard)

S. Millard explained that the 2024 Draft Budget has been circulated to member municipalities and received no comments. She reviewed the 2022, 2023 and 2024 operating, capital and total budgets, noting a 6.5% increase in total budget for 2024. She reviewed the overall breakdown of expenditures and revenues as presented in December 2023. P. Kehoe added that the municipalities have had approximately 2 months to review the draft budget and provide comments.

G. Gower asked if there are any areas of significant risk that the Board should be aware of in regards to the 2024 budget. S. McIntyre responded that the Water and Sewer Connection from the building to the municipal power and water line is still awaiting feedback from the Town of Carleton Place. The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) from the Town has communicated that they are currently in ongoing discussions with Cavanagh Construction in regards to cost sharing of the pump station and other shared infrastructure and until those negotiations are complete they are not in the position to discuss further. She noted that as a part of the new audit, MVCA was required to answer a risk-based survey and no other items were identified.

BOD24/02/12-5

MOVED BY: R. Huetl

SECONDED BY: J. Mason

Resolved, That the Board of Directors approve the 2024 Budget as submitted.

“CARRIED”

9. K&P Trail Update/ Quit Claim, Report 3391/24. (S. Lawryk)

S. Lawryk stated that MVCA had received a draft lease to own agreement and a document from the County of Lanark that identifies several title issues along the K&P that would require corrective action to register the property in land titles. He also discussed that MVCA recently received notice that a Quit Claim Deed/Transfer had been executed in favour of MVCA. He commented that acceptance of this property would be a step in the right direction to resolving title issues.

P. Kehoe asked if more Quit Claim Deed/Transfers are anticipated. S. Lawryk responded that it is a possibility. P. Kehoe asked if a more generic motion is needed to allow MVCA to proceed without bringing these items to the Board. S. McIntyre responded that many of the properties identified do not have a proper survey associated with them and that, future properties may have costs associated with properly registering them. She noted that the analysis of title issues was only completed for Lanark and Frontenac counties and not Renfrew county, identifying roughly 20 parcels.

A. Kendrick asked if the Quit Deed/Land Transfers can be negotiated between the current owners and the County without involving MVCA. S. McIntyre commented that this particular Quit Claim has been executed, is associated with settling an estate and that it was in MVCA's interest to move forward to implement. She noted that the lease to own agreement drafted by the county of Lanark could be a lengthy, multi-year process.

J. Mason asked if it would be possible when more is known about the parcels to have a discussion in regards to the proper direction forward. P. Kehoe asked if the topic would be tabled with the Finance and Administrative Advisory Committee. S. McIntyre confirmed that the K&P trail agreement would be tabled with the Finance and Administrative Committee and/or the Board before execution.

BOD24/02/12-6

MOVED BY: M.L. Souter

SECONDED BY: H. Yanch

Resolved, That the Board of Directors approve the signing of the Land Transfer Tax Affidavit in regards to the property identified by PIN: 05001-0121-R in the County of Lanark.

“CARRIED”

10. 2024 Fee Schedule Update: Education Program & Group Rates, Report 3392/24, (S. Millard)

S. Millard presented updates to the 2024 fee schedule. She explained that update of summer camp fees were required to implement the program; and that consideration was given to other local summer camp rates.

M. L. Souter felt that the suggested fees do not cover the cost of running the program. S. Millard responded that the budget includes anticipated summer student grants and combined are designed to cover the costs of the program.

BOD24/02/12-7

MOVED BY: A. Kendrick

SECONDED BY: D. Comley

Resolved, That the Board of Directors approve:

- a) Update to Schedule D of MVCA's 2024 Fee Schedule as set out in this report; and**
- b) Implementation of the cancellation policies set out in this report.**

"CARRIED"

11. Mississippi Lake Safe Road Project, Report 3393/24, (M. Craig)

M. Craig provided background on safe roads and this initiative, and highlighted a history of issues in areas such as West Carleton, Mississippi Lake, Lanark Village, Cedardale and Joe's Lake. He noted that floodplain mapping is an ongoing effort, and that maps are updated with information obtained from flooding events. He highlighted MVCA's involvement in the development of the *Safe Access Feasibility Report* for the former Township of West Carleton. He noted that Mississippi Lake Association (MLA) requested assistance in determining which roads around Mississippi Lake are at risk of flooding during a 1:100 regulatory event.

P. Kehoe asked if municipal staff can be circulated information prior to the Lake Association and suggests MVCA request a delegation with the relevant Municipalities to present findings. M. Craig responded that municipalities and the Mississippi Lake Association (MLA) were sent the same information shared in the Board report and that no mapping has been released. He noted that in circulating the items to the relevant municipalities, and offer was made to address any questions and concerns.

P. Kehoe commented that the report identifies specific roads, which may cause resident concerns. M. Craig commented that the MLA requested the study and it is also a part of the 2021 *Watershed Plan*. He noted that no decision has been made regarding potential distribution of maps.

12. Section 28 Permit – Status Update, Report 3394/24, (M. Craig)

M. Craig presented results for 2023.

A. Kendrick asked if the attachment, *Table 1 – All Permits Issued: January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023* can be provided in excel format to be able to adjust parameters for review. M. Craig responded that an excel version can be provided to Board members upon request.

ADJOURNMENT

BOD24/02/12-8

MOVED BY: H. Yanch

SECONDED BY: T. Popkie

Resolved, That the Board of Directors meeting be adjourned.

“CARRIED”

The meeting adjourned at time 2:38 p.m.

K. Hollington, Recording Secretary