



Kashwakamak Lake Dam Class EA Public Information Centre Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: May 23, 2024, 4:00 – 5:35 PM

Location: Teleconference Call via Zoom

List of Attendees: **Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA)**
Juraj Cunderlik, Director, Engineering
Jennifer North, Water Resources Technologist
Jane Cho, Water Resources EIT
Alana Perez, Water Resources Engineer
Kelly Stiles, Biologist
Sally McIntyre, General Manager
Christopher Stoddard, Civil-Geotechnical Engineer
Kelly Hollington, Executive Assistant

Egis
Lisa Marshall, P.Eng., Project Manager (PM), Lead Environmental Planner
Mustafa Sasal, Lead Sr. Water Resources Engineer
Monika Orwin, Water Resources Engineering Intern

Public Information Centre Members – 14 Attendees

Subject: Kashwakamak Lake Dam Class EA
Public Information Centre Meeting #1

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) provided a brief overview of the project and meeting objectives.
- An introduction was provided for all MVCA and Egis project team members.

2.0 PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE PRESENTATION

- Egis PM provided the Public Information Centre (PIC) presentation to meeting participants. A copy of the PIC recording and presentation have been posted on the MVCA website: [Kashwakamak Lake Dam Class EA - Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority](#)

3.0 QUESTIONS AND OPEN DISCUSSION

- CLC member (Alan D.) – Could any new information relative to what was presented to the first CLC meeting on February 26, 2024 be highlighted?
 - Egis PM agreed to highlight new information as the presentation progressed.
- CLC member (Alan D.) – How is the project funded and will the cost of the dam improvement have an impact on the municipality (of North Frontenac and possibly others) in terms of additional pressure on their budgets?
 - MVCA noted that they were successful in securing both federal and provincial funding for the project and provided further explanation as follow;
 - MVCA has been granted federal funding through the *Disaster, Mitigation, and Adaptation Fund (DMAF)* program, which is run by Infrastructure Canada. Federal funding is provided for up to 40% of the project balance.
 - MVCA has been granted provincial funding through the *Water, Erosion, and Control Infrastructure (WECI)* program, which is delivered through a municipal-provincial-conservation authority partnership. Provincial funding is provided for up to 50% of the project balance.
 - The remainder of the project costs are assumed by the MVCA. The project is eligible for *Category 1* funding, meaning that all of the member municipalities within the jurisdiction contribute towards the reconstruction/rehabilitation of the dam to some level. The degree of financial contribution from each municipality is dictated through a formula based on the assessment value within the municipality and watershed. In this case, the City of Ottawa is a major contributor to the project. The Municipality of North Frontenac will be contributing but to a lesser degree.
- CLC member (Alan D.) – Is there an estimate for the overall cost of the project?
 - MVCA noted that the total cost has been estimated to be approximately \$6 million.
- Mayor of North Frontenac (Gerry L.) – North Frontenac already has a funding agreement with the MVCA; approximately how much can this be expected to increase?
 - MVCA noted that the funding agreement is for *Category 3* programs, while this project is a *Category 1* program which is mandatory for the MVCA to deliver on. It goes on the main levy, which is established annually and has no impact, other than what the council has already accepted when the 2024 budget was put forth for both capital and operations.
 - MVCA noted that over the past few years, the capital levy to all municipalities has been increasing to help pay for the rehabilitation of both this dam, as well as other dams throughout the system

which are well in excess of their design life. Investment will need to be put into this infrastructure over the coming years. The 10-year capital plan currently allows for approximately \$10 million - \$11 million of investment in capital renewal.

- CLC member (Alan D.) – For many years, there has been an informal walkway running from the dam through the wooded area along the north side of the river down to the ponds below. Will this be maintained? Can it be improved/maintained considering that it is likely on private property?
 - MVCA noted that they are familiar with the walkway, and do not foresee construction works relating to the dam disturbing the walkway and should therefore be maintained. In regard to the walkway being improved, the land ownership would need to be evaluated as it may be private property or part of the North Frontenac shoreline allowance.
- CLC member (Alan D.) – What do the different colours represent on the watershed map (on the slide for Hydrologic and Hydraulic Assessment)?
 - The colours represent the ground level elevations, where the darker red corresponds to higher elevations while the green corresponds to lower elevations.
- CLC member (Alan D.) – Are there any climate-related hydrological changes expected in the near future?
 - Storms and weather events are definitely changing. MVCA noted that a climate change analysis was completed as part of the hydrological analysis to evaluate various scenarios and found that the future inflows to the lake may increase by approximately 20%. It is something that will need to be considered/accommodated in the design stage of the project to ensure an additional safety factor in the event that the flows increase due to the climate change impact.
- Member of the Public – If the dam is replaced, will the water levels be maintained at the same level?
 - MVCA confirmed that the water levels and water management plans will be maintained and even improved as a result of the structure providing more efficient service/function and the seepage issues being addressed.
- Egis PM noted that Alternative Solution 2b to decommission the existing dam and reinstate the natural watercourse was not carried forward to higher levels of evaluation as it does not address the problem statement or meet the needs of the watershed management plan.
- Member of the Public – For Alternative Solution 4 (the preferred solution), how would the project proceed? What do temporary impacts mean? Will a temporary dam be built ahead of the existing to hold the water in the lake?
 - MVCA noted that a temporary cofferdam will be built to remove water from the existing dam area to allow for the construction.
 - To accommodate the construction period, the temporary impacts would include considering an earlier drawdown of the lake, which typically happens in the fall around early October. MVCA may need to proceed with an earlier drawdown of the lake levels, such as in September, to allow for the construction.

- Member of the Public – Since water will continue to flow from upstream waterbodies, will mitigation be needed upstream of the Kashwakamak Lake Dam during this period as well to drop water levels and reduce incoming flows?
 - MVCA noted that the mitigation will be occurring at the site of the dam/construction, so a temporary bypass will be designed. However, it is too early in terms of the staging/construction of the project to provide details. Once the design stage begins, the potential alternative solutions for dewatering and bypassing the water will be evaluated but will occur at the construction site.
- CLC member (Alan D.) – Noted that most people who have their boats in the lake have them taken out at the end of the season in early October before the fall drawdown. The local marina should be notified about the timing for the reduced water levels, so they are prepared for the surge of boats at that time.
 - MVCA confirmed that they will have logistics in place to inform everyone affected by the earlier changes in water level. They will try to choose the timing that will have the least impact and accommodate the users of the lake.
- Mayor of North Frontenac (Gerry L.) – Is there an immediate risk of the dam failing?
 - MVCA noted that Alternative Solution 1 (the option to do nothing) has significant deficiencies due to the dam’s age and would pose a greater risk of dam failure. Proceeding with this project is a top priority as part of the 10-year capital plan to avoid risking the loss of the dam and lake.
 - With respect to the dam failure, it is constantly being observed and monitored by the MVCA as part of a monthly monitoring program to evaluate the risks of failure, as well as assess the structure and seepage.
- Mayor of North Frontenac (Gerry L.) – Regarding Alternative Solution 5 where a new dam would be built just downstream of the existing one, could the new dam be built in the summer while the old dam acts as the cofferdam? There would be minimal impact on the lake residents, and the old dam could be taken out in the winter while water levels are at their lowest.
 - MVCA acknowledged that Alternative Solution 5 definitely has some benefits with regards to construction, however, the channel widens downstream relative to where the current dam is placed. This would mean that the cost of the project would approximately double due to needing a larger/longer structure to accommodate the wider channel.
 - For Alternative Solution 5, using the existing dam as a cofferdam would be ideal, however, it is also evaluated from a socio-economic and environmental perspective regarding the impacts on the downstream area. From a hydraulic perspective, it could result in additional properties flooding due to elevation differences and topography at other possible dam locations downstream.
 - The report including further details on the alternative solutions evaluation process will be developed and there will be time for the public to review it over a 30-day period.
- CLC member (Alan D.) – Is there an updated sense of timing for the next CLC meeting?
 - It is currently expected to occur in mid to late June 2024. The Notice of PIC has requested that all comments/concerns be submitted by no later than June 20th so that the information can be brought to the CLC meeting.

- CLC member (Alan D.) – Is there an updated sense of timing for the whole project getting underway, including the demolition and lowering of lake levels?
 - The next phase of the project will be preliminary and detailed design, which will take place in 2025-2026. Following that there will be acquiring permits for the project. Therefore, construction is currently expected to occur in in the Fall of 2026 at the earliest.
- Closing comments:
 - A copy of the recorded PIC presentation will be posted on the MVCA website.
 - MVCA team members will be attending the KLA AGM meeting in July.

4.0 NEXT STEPS

- Continue consultation with governing agencies, CLC, First Nations, stakeholders, residents/cottagers and the public;
- Update evaluation criteria and matrix, and confirm selection of Recommended Technically Preferred Alternative Solution based on consultation;
- Conduct detailed analysis of environmental impacts and develop mitigation measures for Technically Preferred Alternative Solution;
- Prepare Conceptual Design for Technically Preferred Alternative Solution;
- Community Liaison Committee Meeting #2; and
- Prepare Project Plan and issue Notice of Filing (30-day review period).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

For any errors or omissions, please contact the undersigned.

Lisa Marshall, P.Eng.

Project Manager

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