



MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting Via Zoom
and at MVCA Office

Board of Directors Meeting

May 13, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cindy Kelsey
Richard Kidd

STAFF PRESENT

Sally McIntyre, General Manager
Juraj Cunderlik, Director of Engineering
Scott Lawryk, Property Manager
Stacy Millard, Treasurer
Alex Broadbent, Manager of IC&T
Bryan Flood, Water Resources Engineer
Joe Arbour, Maintenance Technician
Krista Simpson, Administration Assistant
Kelly Hollington, Recording Secretary

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

P. Kehoe addressed the Board with an apology and explanation for his critique of the KPMG PowerPoint presentation at the April 8, 2024 Annual General Meeting.

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.

BOD24/05/13 - 1

MOVED BY: J. Atkinson

SECONDED BY: T. Popkie

Resolved, that the agenda for the May 13, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting be adopted as presented.

“CARRIED”

MAIN BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes: Board of Directors Meeting, April 8, 2024.

P. Kehoe noted no additions or changes to the minutes.

BOD24/05/13 - 2

MOVED BY: H. Yanch

SECONDED BY: M. Souter

Resolved, that the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on April 8, 2024 be received and approved as presented.

“CARRIED”

2. GM Update, Report 3417/24, (Sally McIntyre)

S. McIntyre presented the GM Update. She highlighted several items:

- The Carp River Floodplain mapping open house was held on May 2nd, 2024. MVCA received many questions and is taking time to investigate these items and discuss with landowners. The report is planned to be tabled with the Policy & Planning committee in June and to the Board of Directors in July.
- The Kashwakamak Class Dam Environmental Assessment (EA) Public Information Centre is scheduled for May 23, 2024. Public notices have been issued for the PIC, which will be held virtually. The PIC will be used to review the EA process and steps taken to date,

provide interim findings, and provide an opportunity to answer questions and to hear comments and concerns. The preferred solution will be presented to the Board of Directors following the consultation period.

- The Land Cover Update was completed in partnership with Rideau Valley (RVCA) and South Nation (SNCA) conservation authorities with funding from a grant through the federal government. MVCA now has an updated land use map layer that is used for floodplain mapping.
- The 2024 field monitoring program will be focused on the Clyde River subwatershed as well as Crotch Lake, Dalhousie Lake and Mississippi Lake.
- The 2024 Summer Camp program is almost sold out with just 8 spaces remaining.
- MVCA is in discussions with RVCA and Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) regarding shared service agreements. She noted that MVCA has a longstanding relationship with RVCA on some shared services. Draft agreements will be brought to the Board for approval.
- Several summer students joined MVCA. As of yet, MVCA has not received notification of receiving any student grants. She noted that traditionally the students are hired before confirmation of grants.
- The Latornell Conservation Symposium is scheduled for October 8-9. MVCA staff attended in 2023 and plan to attend again in 2024. She explained that any board members interested in taking on a leadership role should consider conference. She noted that the Chair position is a 2-year term and P. Kehoe is currently in his second year. She encouraged members of the Board to consider taking on a leadership role and to connect if there is interest in attending the conference. J. Mason has attended 3 times in the past. J. Mason commented that she highly recommends attending the Latornell Conservation Symposium to members interested in any committee leadership roles, and all members generally.

J. Mason asked for clarification on the difference between flood control and stormwater management in regards to the Glen Cairn Detention Pond. J. Cunderlik explained that the Glen Cairn facility was designed and built as a flood control facility, not as a storm water management pond. He noted that it is the only flood control facility within the Carp River corridor. Most stormwater facilities in the Upper Carp River watershed are designed to handle up to 1:10 year flood, whereas the Glen Cairn facility was designed to handle larger storm amounts.

J. Mason asked if the facility was designed in response to the flooding events in the area in 2009. J. Cunderlik responded that he believed it was in relation to the development of the Glen Cairn area. He noted that the original Upper Carp River lost floodplain capacity due to it being channelized, and MVCA has noted a large increase in the flows from that portion of the

watershed since being developed. J. Mason noted that stormwater ponds take off surface water from hardscapes and asked if that helps with flood control. J. Cunderlik responded that it is difficult to determine and is dependent on the timing of the release of water and the peaks of water levels in the area.

A. Hubley added that he was involved in the reports and works completed after the 2009 flooding events in Glen Cairn address flooding. He noted that 10 million dollars was invested in the Glen Cairn Detention pond. The City of Ottawa dredged the area to increase the facility's capacity. He explained that during the 2009 flooding events, water backed up from the stormwater ponds into the system.

3. WECI Program Update, Report 3418/24, (Juraj Cunderlik)

J. Cunderlik provided an update regarding the status of the annual call for proposals under the provincial Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) funding program. He explained that the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) provides matching funds to Conservation Authorities for infrastructure projects. He highlighted that MVCA heavily depends on funding through the WECI program; the majority of capital projects indicated in the 10-year capital plan rely on this program. He reviewed major changes to the 2024 program application process that have presented significant challenges. He explained that the most significant challenge for MVCA will be completing the projects planned for 2024 in the time remaining in the year after confirmation of funding. He noted that applying for projects over a 2-year span is problematic because infrastructure projects rely on studies to inform and define the scope of work for the next phase of the project. He highlighted outlined the projects that would be submitted, and stated that if MVCA is unsuccessful in any one of those projects that there will not be another call for applications until 2026.

P. Kehoe commented that he forwarded these concerns to the office of Lanark-Fontenac-Kingston MPP, John Jordan.

R. Huetl asked for confirmation that the Condition Assessment of Farm Lake will be completed in 2024. J. Cunderlik confirmed.

Ice Management Strategy, Report 3419/24, (Juraj Cunderlik, Bryan Flood & Joe Arbour)

J. Cunderlik presented MVCA's *Ice Management Plan* and noted that all Conservation Authorities must design and implement and *Ice Management Plan* by the end of 2024. He highlighted the primary objectives of MVCA's plan including informing flood forecasting and warning, shoreline erosion and monitoring activities and to understand how the ice regime is changing. He explained that ice formation, duration and depth, is very sensitive to changes in climate.

He stated that MVCA began by drafting a monitoring program that was carried out the winter of 2022, amended and undertaken again the winter of 2023. He stressed that staff safety is very important and an integral part of the ice monitoring program. Staff that conduct ice monitoring must have valid ice safety training. He noted that MVCA has developed a standard operating procedure (SOP) and a detailed work plan regarding ice monitoring practices.

B. Flood overviewed the Ice Monitoring Program. He listed the ice hazards that MVCA monitors for including river ice (ice jamming), frazil ice and lake ice. MVCA monitors rivers in 9 locations on an as-needed basis and 3 lakes on a bi-weekly and as-needed basis: Mazinaw Lake, Mississippi Lake and Silver Lake to represent the upper, middle and lower watersheds. He highlighted the triggers to monitoring activities and said that no observed ice jamming, ice build-up or flooding associated to ice occurred in the past two years.

B. Flood further explained that ice thickness is measured on multiple sites on the lakes to gain an understanding of spatial variability of the ice and a lake-wide representation of thickness. Field data is used to develop and calibrate a model to predict ice thickness and inform future monitoring needs and field work. He explained that MVCA also runs a Citizen Science program that engages lake residents to collect ice data: ice-on, freeze up, break up, and ice-off.

J. Arbour explained that ice monitoring technicians are required to complete a two-day ice water rescue course that includes self-rescue and rescuing another person. Monitoring technicians work in teams of three and provided photos and video of field work demonstrating use of the pole test and the presence of gas holes on Silver Lake caused by decomposing plant matter increasing water temperatures.

H. Yanch asked about testing on Silver Lake. J. Arbour confirmed the location is north of the park, South Mazinaw Heights Road. H. Yanch commented that the ice was not readily accessible during the 2023-24 winter season.

A. Kendrick asked if MVCA will be making the ice monitoring information available to the public and if there are concerns regarding liability issues of releasing ice thickness data to the public.

B. Flood responded that MVCA is not planning to publish the information due to liability concerns. The data is not representative of all lakes within the watershed.

A. Kendrick asked what will be included in the end-of-year report. B. Flood responded that a report will be prepared at the end of each monitoring season, however the timing of any release had not been discussed. S. McIntyre responded that an approach has not been agreed upon at this time. She explained that MVCA will come back to the Board for a recommendation on if or how ice monitoring data will be released. She noted that this information is not intended to inform recreational users on when it is safe to use the ice.

C. Curry noted the use of drone footage to monitor ice conditions. She asked if MVCA staff have collaborated with Hydro One or Hydro Ottawa on the use of drone technology for monitoring

activities. B. Flood responded that MVCA has not been in contact with Hydro One or Hydro Ottawa regarding drone use. C. Curry encouraged collaboration with external groups on how to effectively use drones for monitoring activities.

M. Souter asked if there were significant changes in the results between the first and second year of the program. B. Flood confirmed that the two years were significantly different due to varying weather conditions.

J. Mason commented that the development of the *Ice Management Plan* is a regulatory requirement for the end of 2024 and MVCA began development prior to its introduction. She asked if it is being completed to the same level. B. Flood explained that MVCA began the development of the *Ice Management Plan* in anticipation of the new legislation in order to have a more informed plan in place.

J. Mason asked how useful the information is. B. Flood noted that the data is useful for informing projects. J. Mason asked about the costs associated with the *Ice Management Plan*. S. McIntyre responded that there was an initial investment in equipment and training and an estimated ongoing cost between \$5k and \$10k. J. Cunderlik clarified that that was the initial investment required and that the annual investment is closer to \$2k, but will vary depending upon periodic training requirements.

P. Kehoe thanked the MVCA team for getting the *Ice Management Plan* in place.

BOD24/05/13 - 3

MOVED BY: D. Comley

SECONDED BY: R. Huetl

Resolved, That the Board of Directors approve the *Ice Management Plan* attached to report 3419/24.

“CARRIED”

4. Palmerston-Canonto Conservation Area (PCCA) Lease Renewal, Report 3420/24, (Scott Lawryk)

S. Lawryk explained that MVCA has a lease agreement with the Township of North Frontenac to maintain the PCCA, and entered into an Option to Purchase Agreement with the Township for the beach portion in 2017. Several land ownership conflicts were identified at the beach that have yet to be resolved. The lease agreement for the Conservation Area is up for renewal and S. Lawryk recommended renewal of the 5-year lease while continuing to pursue resolution of the land ownership conflicts at the beach. Once ownership issues are resolved, a purchase

agreement would be tabled with the Board of Directors for the beach and the lease agreement could be amended.

BOD24/05/13 - 4

MOVED BY: G. Gower

SECONDED BY: J. Mason

Resolved, That the Board of Directors authorize renewal of the 5-year lease with the Township of North Frontenac to operate and maintain Palmerston-Canonto Conservation Area including the beach and associated amenities.

“CARRIED”

5. Land Conservation Strategy Update, Report 3421/24, (Sally McIntyre)

S. McIntyre provided an update to the Board on the Land Conservation Strategy, a mandatory deliverable by the end of 2024. The “current state” document is nearing completion and a needs assessment is under-way. These tasks are scheduled to be tabled with the Policy and Planning Committee in June and to the Board in July. She stated that she is reaching out to service provider partners including the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust, Climate Network Lanark, and local farming and agricultural entities. Meetings have been scheduled with member municipality councils with plans to present at County Council meetings. A meeting has been scheduled with relevant City of Ottawa staff who are involved in similar work. She highlighted the importance of targeted outreach to ensure clarity on MVCA’s objectives around *Land Conservation Strategy* and to collaborate on shared issues.

6. Designation of a Provincial Offences Officer – Rachel Clouthier, Report 3422/24, (S. McIntyre)

S. McIntyre explained that the Board has to delegate powers for R. Clouthier to be able to enforce Ontario Regulation 41/24 and 686/21 under the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

BOD24/05/13 - 5

MOVED BY: C. Curry

SECONDED BY: J. Atkinson

Resolved, That the Board of Directors appoint Rachel Clothier to enforce Ontario Regulation 41/24 and Ontario Regulation 686/21 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

“CARRIED”

7. Proclamation of New Ministerial Powers under the *Conservation Authorities Act* (ERO # 019-8320), Report 3423/24, (Sally McIntyre)

S. McIntyre explained that the powers that have been proclaimed by the Minister were already set out in the *Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act)*. She summarized the ministerial powers now in effect. She highlighted that the Minister will have the ability to prevent a CA from issuing a permit, will control the permitting process, but may have no liability for the approved permit. She reviewed the recommendations submitted by Conservation Ontario to the province and noted that no response had been received. She emphasized the importance of the Province engaging with conservation authorities on how the Minister's new regulatory powers would be implemented.

J. Mason asked if conservation authorities would be held liable for decisions that the Minister makes and could possibly be sued. S. McIntyre confirmed that this was a possibility and a major concern raised to the province.

8. Financial Update – YTD March 31, 2024, Report 3424/24, (Stacy Millard)

S. Millard provided the Financial Update as of March 31, 2024. She highlighted that the budget is on track, and expenditures and revenues sit just under 25% after the first quarter. She stated that MVCA had not yet received summer student grant approvals for 2024. MVCA had assumed roughly \$30k in grant funding out of a \$70k summer student budget. She noted that consideration is needed to determine if future budgeting should take into consideration receiving summer student grants as the process and results were unreliable. She also explained that permit revenues were tracking higher than predicted, at 37% of the annual budget. Interest revenue is higher than budgeted at 34% of the annual budget, with interest rates continuing to increase.

ADJOURNMENT

BOD24/05/13 - 6

MOVED BY: H. Yanch

SECONDED BY: M. Souter

Resolved, That the Board of Directors meeting be adjourned.

“CARRIED”

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

K. Hollington, Recording Secretary