



MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting Via Zoom
and at MVCA Office

Board of Directors Meeting

September 9, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT

Paul Kehoe, Chair
Jeff Atkinson, Vice Chair
Bev Holmes
Cathy Curry (Virtual)
Clarke Kelly (Virtual)
Dena Comley
Glen Gower
Janet Mason
Mary Lou Souter
Steven Lewis
Taylor Popkie

MEMBERS ABSENT

Helen Yanch
Roy Huetl
Allan Hubley
Allison Vereyken
Cindy Kelsey
Richard Kidd

STAFF PRESENT

Sally McIntyre, General Manager
Juraj Cunderlik, Director of Engineering
Matt Craig, Manager of Planning and Regulations
Stacy Millard, Treasurer
Scott Lawryk, Properties Manager
Alex Broadbent, Manager of IC&T
Kelly Hollington, Recording Secretary

GUESTS

RoxAnne Darling, Community Engagement Officer,
Ginawaydaganuc Village

VIRTUAL GUESTS

Lyne Trahan, Senior Advisory (Volunteer), Ginawaydaganuc Village
Karen Bisson, Executive Director/Treasurer/Operations Advisory,
Ginawaydaganuc Village
Marthe & Glen Bucci

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 no additions to the agenda were received.

BOD24/09/09 - 1

MOVED BY: M. Souter

SECONDED BY: D. Comley

Resolved, that the agenda for the September 9, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting be adopted as presented.

“CARRIED”

MAIN BUSINESS

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

P. Kehoe asked members if there were any comments or additions to the minutes. No comments were received. S. McIntyre noted that an amendment to the minutes was circulated to board members via email: Item #2: Employee Presentation: Enforcement Activity Update (Will Ernewein) “...MVCA is on par with other CAs with an average of 2-5 charges a year and roughly ~~100~~ 700 inquiries.”.

BOD24/09/09 - 2

MOVED BY: J. Mason

SECONDED BY: M. Souter

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

“CARRIED”

2. Delegation Presentation: Ginawaydaganuc Village, Roxanne Darling.

Roxanne Darling, Community Engagement Officer, from Ginawaydaganuc Village introduced herself the board, and highlighted her membership with the MVCA board from 2018-2022. She noted the virtual attendance of Ginawaydaganuc Village board of Directors and Staff members, Lyne Trahan and Karen Bisson. She explained that the Land Acknowledgement speech that Jeff Atkinson provided at the September 2021 board of Directors meeting left a lasting impression,

she requested that he provide the same speech to open her presentation. J. Atkinson read the Land Acknowledgement statement he delivered at the board meeting that preceded the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

R. Darling outlined the Ginawaydaganuc Village (GV) project, an Indigenous-led, multi-purpose eco-cultural-education centre and tourist destination planned for Algonquin territory near Almonte. She reviewed accomplishments since their establishment in 2022 and identified an opportunity to partner with MVCA. Her presentation was closed with a video recording of comments from Elder John Henri Commanda. He highlighted the importance of fostering relationships and reconciliation.

R. Darling recommended that the board pass a motion to explore a mutually beneficial partnership with GV and the possibility of a sub-committee including staff, board members and representatives from GV.

J. Mason asked if GV is working with any municipalities or other organizations on this project.

R. Darling responded that they have been coordinating with Mississippi Mills and Mayor Lowry. She noted that GV is looking for land in Mississippi Mills to establish their centre. MVCA is the first organization that they have approached. She explained that presentations are planned with Lanark County and other local municipalities.

P. Kehoe thanked R. Darling for her presentation. He explained that the information presented will be reviewed and tabled at a future board of directors meeting. P. Kehoe asked S. McIntyre to follow up on the GV presentation.

3. GM Update, Report 3433/24, Sally McIntyre.

S. McIntyre presented the GM Update. She updated the board on the ongoing work in preparation of the *Land Conservation Resource Strategy* document, due at the end of 2024. She explained that public consultation has been ongoing for the summer, including circulation of documents and surveys to all member municipalities and board members. She noted the promotion of the documents and surveys on social media, local news papers, and local libraries.

She highlighted the need for feedback from the board on the future direction of MVCA including programs and services, policies, direction and role. She will be sending the board the documents with a set of questions, drafted specifically for Board members.

Other matters she highlighted from her report included: updated regulation mapping, conservation area capital projects, monitoring system improvements, bathymetric surveys, agricultural projects, shoreline plantings, and the contract with TRCA. She also noted the invitation to the Reconciliation and Thanksgiving Harvest, and the opportunity to attend the 2024 Latornell Conference.

M. Souter asked if there is an extension for comments on the *Land Conservation Resource Strategy* surveys to September 20th. S. McIntyre responded that an extension was provided to municipal and county staff and council. She highlighted that she is interested in getting the board member's personal thoughts and unique perspectives on the *Land Conservation and Resource Strategy*. She re-iterated that she will be sending a set of unique questions on key matters to the board.

S. Lewis asked about the survey questions on recreational facilities in regards to managing marinas and the responses on this topic. S. McIntyre responded that there has been little demand for marinas in the feedback received so far. She noted that a demand for campsites/campgrounds and discussion is required on this topic. S. Lewis commented that he attempted to open a campground and that it was cost prohibitive because of permit requirements.

4. 2024 WECI Application Results and Project Awards, Report 3434/24, Juraj Cunderlik.

S. McIntyre explained that the Province changed the funding model for the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) program to a two-year agreement with constraints around using the funding in the same year. MVCA applied for WECI funding to support studies in Year 1 with capital works in Year 2. MVCA was denied approval for Year 1 projects but received approval for Year 2 projects. Without a source of funding for studies, MVCA would not be in a position to complete the associated capital works in Year 2. MVCA pooled funds allocated for the two studies to carry out one of the two studies in 2024 in order to access the Year 2 WECI funding to implement the capital works. S. McIntyre and J. Cunderlik will be coordinating with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) on the challenges with the WECI program.

P. Kehoe commented that there is a possibility to meet with the local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) to discuss the WECI program and the challenges and barriers experienced in the application for funding. He asked the board for their input. M. Souter expressed her approval in meeting with the local MPP. She noted that the mayor of Mississippi Mills has been supported by the local MPP on many advocacy projects. P. Kehoe noted that members of the board nodded in agreement in regards to the opportunity for a meeting with the local MPP. He stated that the findings from this meeting will be tabled with the board in the future.

5. Kashwakamak Lake Dam Class EA – Preferred Alternative, Report 3435/24, Juraj Cunderlik.

J. Cunderlik presented the Kashwakamak Lake Dam Class EA Preferred Alternative report. He explained that the Kashwakamak Lake Dam EA is a multi-year and multi-million-dollar project. Funding was secured through the Infrastructure Canada's Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF). Funding is further supplemented by WECI funding on an annual basis. The Environmental Assessment (EA) identified 5 technical solutions/alternatives for the project.

The preferred technical solution is alternative 4--to replace the existing dam at the same location. He explained that this option will enhance existing water management of the lake. The dam will be built according to current dam safety guidelines including consideration of climate change, adding to the dam's resiliency and safety during future storm events. He highlighted that there will be no change in water levels, environment, aquatic habitat, and public or private properties associated with the updated design. Previous studies also recommended replacement of the dam at the same location.

M. Souter asked how dependent this project is on provincial funding to complete future phases. J. Cunderlik responded that the Federal government is funding 40% of the project costs, and WECl is providing an additional 30%. He highlighted that MVCA has been 100% successful in receiving provincial WECl funding for the Kashwakamak Lake Dam project.

S. Lewis asked for the price difference between options 3 and 4. J. Cunderlik responded that option 3, repairing the existing structure, has been explored and repairing the 115-year-old concrete dam is not effective due to high amounts of erosion. Repairing the dam is an extensive and expensive project and would only extend the dam's lifespan by 10 years. Replacement will result in a functioning dam for many years. S. Lewis asked for the cost of option 4. J. Cunderlik responded that project costs for option 4 are estimated at \$6 million.

S. McIntyre asked if J. Cunderlik has a ball-park cost for option 3. J. Cunderlik responded that during a risk assessment study of the dam in 2000, a cost-benefit analysis determined that there was no benefit investing in a repair as it would only extend the life of the dam by 10 years and replacement of the dam would still be required. He estimated the cost to repair at around 50% of the cost to replace. S. McIntyre summarized that the value for money analysis was in favour of alternative 4.

BOD24/09/09 - 3

MOVED BY: J. Atkinson

SECONDED BY: G. Gower

Resolved, That the Board of Directors endorse Alternative 4 as identified through the Class EA process as the preferred approach for replacing the Kashwakamak Lake Dam.

"CARRIED"

6. **Summer Nature Camp Program, Report 3436/24, Scott Lawryk.**

S. Lawryk presented the Summer Nature Camp Program report. He highlighted the success of the 2024 program and noted that it increased public exposure to the Mill of Kintail site. He commented that Emma Higgins, Camp Program coordinator, was instrumental in the success of the program. He summarized that the program sold out with a wait-list, generated \$34,000 in

revenue and received positive feedback from campers and parents. He reviewed the goals for the 2025 program: higher participation rates, better tailored to suit a range of ages.

G. Gower asked how the 2024 camps program was promoted and if demographics were collected. S. Lawryk responded that the program was advertised on social media including sponsored ads, in local newspapers and using posters at local community spaces. S. Lawryk explained that the demographic information was captured but it has not been analysed at this time. He noted that analysis will consider how far participants are willing to travel.

S. Lewis commented that word will spread in the community about the camps program.

J. Mason commented that a budget and cost-recovery breakdown of the 2025 program should be presented to the board. S. McIntyre responded that the cost projection of \$78,000 for the 2025 program is fully cost-recoverable and the detailed numbers will be presented with the budget. She clarified that approval today would allow for MVCA to add the 2025 program to the budget.

M. Souter commented that Almonte has a large population, there are few summer camps in the area, and that there is room to grow the program. She added that she would like to see the 2025 summer camp program in budget deliberations.

P. Kehoe suggested that the resolution should state that approval of the program is dependent on budget approval.

BOD24/09/09 - 4

MOVED BY: S. Lewis

SECONDED BY: T. Popkie

Resolved, That the Board of Directors authorize renewal of the Summer Nature Camp program at the Mill of Kintail for 2025, budget dependent.

“CARRIED”

7. Land Inventory Update, Report 3437/24, Sally McIntyre.

S. McIntyre outlined updates to the *Land Inventory* report since it was tabled in March, and items still outstanding. She stated that staff update the *Land Inventory Report* to include recent findings and will become a living document that is updated as new information is obtained and conditions change.

J. Mason noted references to *Carp Creek* that require amending to *Carp River*.

8. Financial Update – YTD June 30, 2024, Report 3438/24, Stacy Millard.

S. Millard presented the Financial Update. Year-to-date expenditures are at or below projections and revenues are on track. She explained that projections for compensation were not completed due to a significant number of leaves being replaced by consulting services. She noted the difficulty in projecting consultant costs. Projections show a surplus at the end of 2024 going into Category 2 and 3 operating reserves. She explained that MVCA applied for 10 student grants and did not receive any. Student hiring cannot be conditional upon grant approvals because approval is received after students have started their positions.

M. Souter asked if inquiries were submitted as to why funding was denied. She commented that the local libraries did not receive funding for summer students this year. S. Millard explained that the Member of Parliament has a say in the area of interest or priority for funding. The area of interest for 2024 was not in education or conservation. M. Souter suggested that MVCA contact the member of parliament to ask why funding was denied.

D. Comley commented that the member of parliament will generally identify their area of interest prior to the application date. She noted that 2024 had a focus on helping seniors. Applications can be tailored to suit the areas of interest as they change annually.

P. Kehoe noted that the student grant funding is a federal program and the MPP would be Scott Reid.

9. Auditor Update, Report 3439/24, Stacy Millard

S. Millard presented the Auditor Update report. The recommendation is to withdraw appointment with KPMG for the 2024 audit. She noted that she has reached out to municipalities and other conservation authorities for recommendation of an auditing firm for 2024, and has reached out to several of those firms.

D. Comley noted that the report says 2025 and requires amendment to read 2024.

S. Lewis asked if the firms contacted would be interested in completing the audit for 2024. S. Millard confirmed. S. Lewis expressed his dislike toward KPMG as an auditing firm. C. Curry expressed her concern regarding comments directed at KPMG. She commented that KPMG is a reputable firm and has had good experiences with them in the past at many organizations. S. Lewis apologized to C. Curry for his comments. He commented that KPMG may work better with larger organizations. P. Kehoe agreed that KPMG may work well for large organizations. He noted that in his experience, it does not go as well for smaller organizations. C. Curry added

that comments regarding the firm as a whole are not warranted when experience with a particular auditor within the organization has been negative.

BOD24/09/09 - 5

MOVED BY: S. Lewis

SECONDED BY: J. Mason

Resolved, That the Board of Directors withdraw appointment of KPMG for the 2024 Financial Audit.

“CARRIED”

ADJOURNMENT

BOD24/09/09 - 6

MOVED BY: D. Comley

SECONDED BY: S. Lewis

Resolved, That the Board of Directors meeting be adjourned.

“CARRIED”

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

K. Hollington, Recording Secretary