

CROWE VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

FULL AUTHORITY

21 April 2011

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sandy Fraser	Municipality of Marmora and Lake
Brent Goodwin	Wollaston Township
Sharon Carson	Limerick Township
Suzanne Partridge	Municipality of Highlands East
Dan Boyd	North Kawartha
Robert Stiles	Stirling-Rawdon Township
Jim Martin	Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Townships
Gerald Phillips	Tudor & Cashel Township
Dennis Purcell	Faraday Township

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Hector Macmillan	Municipality of Trent Hills
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ALSO PRESENT:

Judy Backus, Marmora Herald
Mark Holt, Community Press
Tim Pidduck, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer, CVCA
Amanda Donald, Recording Secretary, CVCA
Shannon McCracken, Regulations Officer
Shirley Patterson, Friends of Crowe Bridge

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chair, Suzanne Partridge, called the meeting to order at 12:33pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

FA Motion G24/11

Moved by: Sandy Fraser

Seconded by: Dan Boyd

To approve the agenda as circulated.

Carried.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

There were no conflicts declared.

WELCOME:

Suzanne Partridge welcomed Judy Backus, Mark Holt and Shirley Patterson to the meeting. She also welcomed Dennis Purcell to the Board who will be replacing Bob Wilson from Faraday Township. She mentioned that Bob Wilson will be missed.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

FA Motion G25/11

Moved by: Bob Stiles

Seconded by: Sharon Carson

That the minutes and motions of the Full Authority meeting, 17 February 2011, be approved as amended.

Carried.

Jim Martin asked that the minutes be amended to include a discussion about \$30,000 from the Source Water Protection budget as well as the money from the taxes for Crowe Bridge Conservation Area.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET:

The Committee reviewed the accounts as presented.

FA Motion G26/11

Moved by: Jim Martin

Seconded by: Gerald Phillips

That the accounts in the amount of one hundred and fifty five thousand, one hundred and ninety eight dollars and twelve cents (\$155,198.12) representing cheques 2854 to 2967 be approved as presented.

Carried.

GENERIC REGULATIONS:

Shannon reported to the Board that she recently attended an erosion and sediment control seminar. She also mentioned that there have already been some violations this year.

FA Motion G27/11

Moved by: Brent Goodwin

Seconded by: Gerald Phillips

To approve the Generic Regulations report as presented.

Carried

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

Water Management Report

Tim wished everyone a Happy Easter. The spring freshet this year seems to be a lengthy process. The watershed has experienced two significant peaks so far this spring. The first peak was at approximately 90 cms at Marmora and after the recent rain we have received, the flow as of today is 102cms. With the current weather forecast and the expected precipitation, it could trigger higher levels and flows which will push the Authority into a flood warning. Tim briefly explained the different levels of flood status to the board members – watershed bulletin, flood advisory and flood warning. Flow rates have been good for the Marmora hydro plant, unfortunately, the plant has been operating on manual for the last two

weeks. Tim made sure that all of the board members had received their copy of the 2011 Flood Warning Plan. He reminded them that the Authority is not a flood fighting agency and that it is the responsibility of the land owners, their municipalities and ultimately the Province of Ontario.

Administration

Tim informed the Board that he recently met with Alan Appleby and signed the consulting service agreement for field work to be completed at Crowe Bridge Conservation Area. Tim and Marnie will be going to meet with them at the park. The assessment will primarily be on the trail system, the trails condition and difficulty, signage, means to restrict motorized access, and suggestions for improvement.

Tim and Lou attended presentations given by an engineering class at Queen's University, on an analysis of the administrative building. The presentations were well done and will be forwarded onto Tim once they have been completed. Tim has also had several emails with Dr. Robert Mcleman at the University of Ottawa regarding the McGeachie Conservation Area as a possible research site for climate change. If this project occurs, Tim feels that several different opportunities could arise for the Authority.

Tim informed the Board that he received a copy of a letter from Jeff Leal, MPP for the riding of Peterborough, regarding the Authority's Trillium Grant application. Mr. Leal suggested that the Minister change the rules for the Trillium grants to allow conservation authorities access to the Trillium fund.

Two summer students have been hired primarily for the benthic monitoring program and stream flow data collection.

Tim informed the Board that Vicki Woolfrey has completed the Provincial Offences training. The course was a full week of highly intensive work and long days. This training will give the Authority added flexibility to cover off a number of future scenarios. Tim reminded the Board that they will need to pass a motion appointing Vicki as a Provincial Offences Officer for the Authority at the June meeting.

Tim informed the Board that Dave Golem has received the engineering services for a bridge to over Bass Creek at the McGeachie Conservation Area. The company the preformed the engineering services donated a portion of their services to the Authority and Dave Golem and John Harnett donated the remainder of the cost. The construction of the bridge will be primarily out of hydro and telephone poles, which Dave is currently seeking from Hydro One.

Shortly after the last board meeting in February, Kelvin Robbins stopped by the office. Kelvin rents the McGeachie Conservation Area for the deer hunting season. Kelvin informed Tim that he can no longer afford the lease of the property and will not be able to lease the property in the future.

Tim and Suzanne attended the Conservation Ontario meeting on Monday. Minister Jeffery was at the meeting and gave a presentation in which she expressed her willingness to continue to build our relationship with the MNR. The meeting agenda included two amendments made to the Ontario Regulation 97/04. The amendments include changes to simplify the CA's permitting process and support compliance with permit decision timelines. CAs may delegate its powers to the executive committee or conservation authority employees to reduce wait times. Tim informed the board that an amendment was also made to extend permit validity from 24 months to 60 months. Tim encouraged the Board members to look at the Conservation Ontario's website to view the members ' manual and other valuable information.

Tim has recently had telephone conversations with Tim Powell the Building Official for the Township of North Kawartha, regarding the ownership of the Lasswade dam which is located in North Kawartha. After some investigation, Tim believes the weir belongs to the township and he has an upcoming meeting with Tim Powell for further discussion and a site visit.

Tim informed the Board that Vicki Woolfrey recently conducted a joint presentation with Quinte Conservation, to the residents of Marmora and Lake regarding water usage and conservation. Tim commended Vicki for her hard work on the presentation. Tim informed the Board that the CVCA staff will be completing Bill 168 training on May 5th.

Gerald Phillips asked for some clarification on the hunting lease as to whether or not there was an increase for this year and also asked Tim if there was a way to fix the hydro plant so both generators could operate during higher flows. Gerald is concerned that only having one generator in use means extra work for the staff. Tim informed him that there was not an increase to the hunting leases for this year and having the power gate at the dam helps to decrease the need for extra work when only one generator is running at the hydro plant. Brent Goodwin asked Tim how much is charged to lease Authority land for hunting. Tim informed him that the Authority charges \$2.50 per acre of land for the hunting leases.

CROWE BRIDGE CONSERVATION AREA LEASE:

Suzanne stated that she is happy about the ten year lease for Crowe Bridge Conservation Area. Tim has been in contact with Mike Rutter of Trent Hills and Mike informed him that the taxes for the property will be covered by the municipality. Dan Boyd asked that the money that would have been allocated for Crowe Bridge taxes be used for signage for the other conservation areas, the Gut in particular.

FA Motion G28/11

Moved by: Sandy Fraser

Seconded by: Gerald Phillips

That the lease for Crowe Bridge Conservation Area is signed immediately and the duration of the lease be set for ten years as requested by the Municipality of Trent Hills.

Carried.

RETENTION POLICY:

Suzanne asked Tim if there were any updates to the CVCA's Retention Policy since the document was introduced to the Board in December 2010. Tim stated that there were no changes, however the policy will need updates periodically once adopted.

FA Motion G29/11

Moved by: Sandy Fraser

Seconded by: Jim Martin

That the proposed CVCA Retention Policy be adopted by the Board for immediate implementation.

Carried.

OPERATIONAL & INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW:

Tim informed the Board that staff has reviewed the timelines for the report as it is a very aggressive deadline. Once the flood season has past, we will have more time to tackle it. Tim mentioned that there is a massive amount of information that needs to be compiled. Tim told the Board that Amanda suggested getting some of the information from Conservation Ontario. Tim informed the Board that the August deadline may not be realistic at this point due to staff's workload, vacations, etc, but every effort will be made to have it completed by August. Suzanne mentioned that we cannot take the staff away from their regular duties. Jim Martin mentioned that if the deadline of the AMO meeting in August cannot be met, then it would be nice to see it be ready for the February ROMA meeting in Toronto. Suzanne stated that she is happy as long as we are moving forward with the report. Tim informed the Board that we could possibly hire someone to complete the project if we need it done at an earlier date. Suzanne stated that there is no extra room in the budget for that option.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Tim informed the Board that there is some concern over the safety of the railings and stairs at the Gut Conservation Area. He wondered if the Board would be

interested in hiring a consultant to complete a risk assessment at the Conservation Area. Tim has met and discussed this possibility with Doug Wyseman at a seminar last year who would provide this service to the Authority for between \$600 and \$800. Tim feels that we should have the assessment done before any work is completed in the Conservation Area to see what he would recommend.

Gerald Phillips asked if signs would help protect us in case an accident did happen there. It was suggested that the money saved on the CBCA taxes be used to get started on fixing up the safety issues at the Gut Conservation Area instead of repairing the signage. Dan Boyd suggested getting rid of the rotten cedar rails and replacing them with new ones. Tim stated that he understood, but he thinks that the assessment report could provide other suggestions and may even suggest removal of the fence rather than provide the public with a false sense of security. Jim Martin stated that we need to get something started, to show that we are trying to solve the safety problems at The Gut. Bob Stiles suggested approaching the people who are doing the consultation at Crowe Bridge to see if they would be interested in doing something at the Gut Conservation Area as well.

Shirley Patterson informed the Board the people who are doing the work at Crowe Bridge are a professor from Trent University and students from Sir Sandford Fleming College. They will be doing an overall assessment of the property, not just on the trails but also looking at fossils in the park. She thinks the total cost of the assessment report for Crowe Bridge will be approximately \$5,000.

FA Motion G30/11

Moved by: Sandy Fraser

Seconded by: Gerald Phillips

To have a risk assessment completed for the Gut Conservation Area, using funds that were originally for the taxes at Crowe Bridge Conservation Area, then using any remaining funds for signage for the Gut at the staff's discretion.

Carried.

Tim reminded the Board that the Generic Regulations Policy needs to be updated. There may be a session held at or before the next board meeting in June. Tim asked the Board to think about the policy, especially the fees as there has been some public inquiry for the fees schedule. Tim gave an example of a property owner who has come to the Authority with questions about their property and something like this is usually treated as a technical review with a cost of \$150. Tim asked the Board, at what point do inquiries become a technical review or should we just be giving out information at no cost to the property owner. Tim would like to discuss this at the next meeting.

MEDIA SESSION:

Judy Backus asked about Shannon's course that she took on erosion and sediment control. She asked for clarification of the spelling of Dr. Mcleman's name. Judy asked why there is a need for a bridge over Bass Creek on McGeachie Conservation Area. Tim explained to her that Bass Creek runs through the Conservation Area and the bridge would help provide access to all of the property.

Mark Holt asked about the March 30 meeting and what it was about. Tim is going to email Mark the meeting notes form that meeting. Mark asked if the results of the meeting were a positive step for the Authority. Suzanne informed him that it was a very positive meeting. There were several CAOs in attendance and staff are going to work on a proposal to present either at AMO in August or at ROMA in February. The proposal will compare this Authority to others throughout the province to see if there are significant differences. She pointed out that the tax payers for this watershed pay the highest per capita in the province.

Jim Martin stated that the orientation was really good and wondered if staff could bring the video that was presented to the Celebrate Havelock display. Jim mentioned that the sign on the highway for the Gut Conservation Area is a provincial sign and perhaps we should send a letter with a picture of the sign and request a new sign. Jim suggested taking the wooden sign to a local school to see if they could refurbish it or make a new one for us. Dan Boyd commented that the sign is in horrible condition and still has the old Conservation Ontario logo on it.

Bob Stiles wanted to make it clear to the press that the bridge over Bass Creek at the McGeachie Conservation Area is a walking bridge only, not for driving vehicles over.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

The next scheduled meeting of the Full Authority Board will be 16 June 2011 at 12:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Jim Martin, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Amanda Donald
Recording Secretary

Suzanne Partridge
Chair