

CROWE VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

FULL AUTHORITY

22 September 2016

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Suzanne Partridge	Municipality of Highlands East
Jim O'Shea	North Kawartha
Edgar Storms	Stirling-Rawdon Township
Catherine Redden	Municipality of Trent Hills
Ron Gerow	Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Townships
Emma Kearns	Faraday Township
Sandy Fraser	Municipality of Marmora and Lake

MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Taylor	Limerick Township
Irene Martin	Tudor & Cashel Township
Bob Ireland	Wollaston Township

ALSO PRESENT:

Tim Pidduck, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer, CVCA
Amanda Donald, Recording Secretary, CVCA
Sharlene Richardson, Regulations Officer, CVCA
Margriet Kitchen, Freelance Reporter
Kathy Hamilton, Marmora and Lake Resident
Neil McConkey, Water Technician, CVCA

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chair, Suzanne Partridge, called the meeting to order at 9:15am.

WELCOME:

The Chair, Suzanne Partridge, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

FA Motion G 63/16

Moved by: Sandy Fraser
Seconded by: Jim O'Shea

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

There were no conflicts declared.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

FA Motion G 64/16

Moved by: Ron Gerow
Seconded by: Jim O'Shea

That the minutes and motions of the Full Authority meeting, 16 June 2016, be approved as circulated.

Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

None.

Catherine Redden arrived at 9:20am.

PRESENTATION TO NEIL MCCONKEY

The Chair, Suzanne Partridge, informed the Board Neil McConkey, CVCA's Water Resource Technician, has been employed at the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority for 25 years. He has been a very dedicated employee. Suzanne presented Neil with a plaque and thanked him for his 25 years of service to CVCA.

Sandy Fraser thanked Neil and informed him that despite the drought this summer water levels on Crowe Lake remained perfect all summer.

REGULATIONS AND PLANNING REPORTS

Sharlene Richardson informed the Board this building season has been very busy. Since the previous Board meeting 54 planning files have been completed, compared to 45 for the same time period last year. Regulations files completed are 90 compared to 72 last year and 47 Property Inquiry Forms (PIFs) have been completed. There have been a high number of calls, site visits and some larger complicated files so far this season.

FA Motion G 65/16

Moved By: Ron Gerow

Seconded By: Jim O'Shea

To receive the regulations and planning report as circulated.

Carried.

HEARING PRESENTATION

Sharlene Richardson gave a presentation reviewing the procedure for conducting a regulations hearing. She reminded the Board that when an application has been denied, the applicant has a right to a hearing where the Watershed Advisory Board will decide to either approve or deny the permit. To ensure the hearing is fair and objective as possible, and prevent bias, Board members must not have received, discussed or have prior knowledge of the application. During the hearing process, reports are presented to the Board by CVCA's regulations officer and the landowner. The Board has the opportunity to ask questions of both the landowner and the regulations officer. The Board makes a decision to approve the permit, deny the permit or defer the decision to the next meeting. Sharlene updated the Board with a recommendation by both CVCA's lawyer and Conservation Ontario to defer any decision where safe access policies apply, due to the appeal of the Gilmour case by Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority.

Emma Kearns arrived at 9:41am.

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

Tim Pidduck, General Manager, updated the Board on the Low Water Level 1 status. Tim informed the Board that the fall drawdown has begun and this is increasing flows throughout the watershed, which is one of the low water indicators. Although the main tributaries are increasing in flows, the smaller tributaries, ponds and wetlands have still not recovered from the drought over the summer and Tim feels it is necessary to remain at a level 1 low water status until a significant amount of rainfall is received to help the groundwater recover.

There was some discussion on the low water conditions throughout the watershed. Tim informed the Board that the MNRF will be replacing the penstock at Cordova Dam. Therefore residents on the lake may experience some fluctuations in water levels. The Marmora power gate has been removed and repaired and the regular maintenance to the hydro plant still needs to occur.

The University of Guelph will be completing another tick drag at McGeachie Conservation Area. The university completed a drag last year and no ticks were found.

There is a possibility for staff to be completing the Yellowfish Road project in Highlands East with the help of staff from Otonabee Region Conservation Authority.

Tim informed the Board he has been approached by a person who would like to turkey bow hunt on Callaghan's Rapids Conservation Area. The season is from April 25th to May 31. There is not typically a lot of activity at Conservation Areas during this time period.

Tim informed the Board there have been a number of complaints about Callaghan's Rapids being vandalized. There is a lot of garbage being dumped, ATVs and trucks, broken glass and the destruction of habitat. Tim has had discussions with the OPP and asked them to increase patrols in the area.

Tim informed the Board Wally Hilts, who has leased the Gut Conservation Area for hunting for a number of years, would like to have a firmer commitment for a longer lease as they would like to do some renovations to their hunting camp located on the property.

There was a discussion on Callaghan's Rapids vandalism. It was suggested that Tim look into a security company to help enforce the rules at the CA. There was some discussion on the request from Wally Hilts regarding a long-term hunting lease.

FA Motion G 66/16

Moved By: Ron Gerow

Seconded By: Catherine Redden

That the hunting lease agreement for the Gut Conservation area proceed as usual for 2016 and that a proposal for a longer term agreement be brought forward for the Board's consideration and if approved, the Board review the lease at the end of each term.

Carried.

DELEGATION – RITCH SMITH, CROWE HILL ESTATES DEVELOPMENT

Ritch Smith of Crowe Lake Waterway Association thanked the Board for listening to his delegation. Ritch explained he is here today to express his concern over the Crowe Hill Estates Proposal by Fair Trade Works, for a property located on Crowe Lake. The proposed project will include a resort, spa, marina and luxury homes. Ritch is asking the Board that CLWA be made aware of studies and any meetings that occur with Fair Trade Works discussing the plans on this property. Ritch informed the Board he has also made the same request of the Municipality of Marmora & Lake and Havelock-Belmont-Methuen councils. He thanked the Board for their time.

The Chair, Suzanne Partridge, informed Ritch that CVCA's process is slightly different from a municipal process as it does not involve public input. She appreciated all the information he presented to the Board about the project. Jim O'Shea recommended to Ritch that he read the Provincial Policy Statement and the Planning Act to ensure he has a full understanding of them as it could help him in the future. There was also some discussion on the lake capacity study done on Crowe Lake.

There was some discussion on delegates and that they should provide some background information to the Board before the date of the Board meeting. There was discussion on what to do when individual Board Members receive emails from landowners with issues regarding CVCA. It was decided that all correspondence should be forwarded to the Chair and the Chair will respond on behalf of the Board.

DELEGATION – GARY STEVENSON, CILLICA RD, COMMON LANDS

Delegate did not attend the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Suzanne informed the Board Tim and herself have reviewed the letter from HBM outlining their concerns regarding the CVCA. A letter will be sent to them addressing their concerns.

FA Motion G 67/16

Moved By: Ron Gerow

Seconded By: Catherine Redden

To receive the following correspondence.

- a) HBM Letter – 22 July 2016
- b) Ritch Smith Letter – 30 August 2016

Carried.

QUINTE PROPOSAL/CONFLICT RESOLUTION/LRP Update

Suzanne Partridge reminded the Board that at the previous meeting, Tim was asked to contact Quinte Conservation to get a quote on updating the Quinte Proposal. Tim informed the Board that Quinte gave him a quote of \$2,000 to update the proposal and that they are waiting for direction from CVCA's Board before proceeding. Suzanne also informed the Board of the letter received from Havelock-Belmont-Methuen before the meeting began informing her that if CVCA cannot pay for the Quinte Proposal, then Havelock-Belmont-Methuen and Marmora and Lake are willing to share the cost up to a maximum of \$2,000 each.

The Board discussed the proposals from the past and decided there were not enough details in them to consider moving forward with updating the Quinte Proposal at this time. The Board discussed establishing a baseline of service delivery for CVCA. A service delivery review needs to be undertaken to establish whether or not the CVCA can save money and to determine if help is needed for fulfilling services. Concern over timelines was expressed by some Board members and a clear action plan should be in place for the future of the Authority.

FA Motion G 68/16

Moved By: Catherine Redden

Seconded By: Ron Gerow

To direct staff to survey neighboring Conservation Authorities on delivery service reviews, to begin answering the 10 questions provided by Catherine Redden to provide information to the Board and to schedule a special Board meeting on 20 October 2016 to discuss future planning for CVCA.

Carried.

MEDIA SESSION

Margriet Kitchen asked about the presentation to Neil and asked staff to email her a photo.

Sandy Fraser left at 11:45am.

MOTION TO MOVE IN CAMERA

FA Motion G 69/16

Moved by: Catherine Redden

Seconded by: Ron Gerow

That the Full Authority Board move into an In Camera session to discuss a legal issue.

Carried.

FA Motion G 70/16

Moved By: Ron Gerow

Seconded By: Jim O'Shea

That the Full Authority Board move into open session.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

The next scheduled meeting of the Full Authority Board will be 20 October 2016 at 9:30am.

ADJOURNMENT:

FA Motion G 71/16

Moved By: Jim O'Shea

That the Full Authority Board Meeting be adjourned at 12:26pm.

Carried.

Amanda Donald
Recording Secretary

Suzanne Partridge
Chair