

CROWE VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

FULL AUTHORITY

MINUTES

19 September 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Stiles	Stirling-Rawdon Township
Sandy Fraser	Municipality of Marmora and Lake
Brent Goodwin	Wollaston Township
Barry Rand	North Kawartha
Suzanne Partridge	Municipality of Highlands East
Ron Gerow	Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Townships
Gerald Phillips	Tudor & Cashel Township
Sharon Carson	Limerick Township
Dennis Purcell	Faraday Township
Hector Macmillan	Municipality of Trent Hills

MEMBERS ABSENT

None.

ALSO PRESENT

Judy Backus	EMC
Wayne Alexander	Belmont Lake Resident
Kathy Hamilton	Delegation – Northland Power Presentation
Tim Pidduck	General Manager/Secretary Treasurer, CVCA
Amanda Donald	Recording Secretary, CVCA

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Barry Rand, called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

FA Motion G 54/13

Moved by: Ron Gerow

Seconded by: Bob Stiles

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

There were no conflicts to declare.

WELCOME

The Chair, Barry Rand, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Barry thanked the public for coming to the meeting. He stated that most of the public was here today to express their interest in the Quinte Proposal. Barry stated that ever since the 1980s Conservation Authorities have been encouraged to find more efficient ways to operate. This review is the first that has been formally announced and it has generated lots of interest. The CVCA Board is dealing with the issues as best as they can to ensure that the services are delivered at current standards or even better.

Barry informed everyone there is not a definitive proposal from The Quinte Conservation Authority yet but the Strategic Alternative Committee is working diligently to complete it as soon as possible.

Hector Macmillan stated despite what some of the newspaper articles say, it is not a done deal yet. He mentioned several board members are self employed individuals and are not going to make this decision without careful consideration. The decision will be in the best interest of the CVCA and the public.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

FA Motion G 55/13

Moved by: Hector Macmillan

Seconded: Sharon Carson

That the minutes be approved, as circulated.

Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Bob Stiles asked about the fencing at the Marmora Dam and asked if the Municipality of Marmora and Lake were willing to pay for it. Sandy Fraser told the Board that the Municipality is willing to pay for it if the fencing expenditure does not exceed \$500.00.

KATHY HAMILTON DELEGATION – NORTHLAND POWER

Kathy apologized for any confusion that may have arisen from her last presentation, on 20 June 2013, in regards to quotes she used from different sources. She has clarified that information and included it in the handout that was circulated to the Board. Kathy stated today she would like to challenge some popular misbeliefs with evidence and share her observations.

According to the CVCA's 22 September 2011 meeting minutes, this Board was asked to submit a letter of support for the Northland Power pumped storage project. Kathy informed the Board that the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) is among the ones who are hesitating to support the project. The OPA does not have any existing procurements for the project and that procurement opportunities are expected for early next year. Another misconception is that Northland Power is looking for a 20 year contract however, in 3 newspaper articles from June 2011 all state that Northland Power is looking for a 40 year contract.

Other existing pumped storage projects are usually accompanied by a traditional hydroelectric generating plant at the same location and are capable of supplying the electricity needed to pump the water needed for storage into an elevated reservoir. Kathy referred to a blog written by Tom Adams who has been discussing the project since December 2011. Kathy mentioned that many people have been misled by wording like "materials already in place to assist with the construction of an upper reservoir". She also emphasized the project is on private land. The mine already contains enough water to provide a working water source for pumped storage. The upper reservoir will be made using the current perimeter of the waste rock pile.

The Chair reminded Kathy of the 10 minute time limit.

Kathy then summed up her presentation with a few slides of pictures and blue prints of the pumped storage project. The pictures showed the discharge point going into Naylor's Creek and then into the Crowe River. The slides also showed Google maps pictures overlaid with the blue prints and several different reservoirs. She asked, if people support this project, which version are they supporting? Kathy distributed some additional information for the Board to read and thanked the Board for their time.

Chair Rand asked staff what the CVCA's responsibility will be since the upper reservoir will be in the CVCA watershed. Tim informed the Board, the project would require an application for a permit from the Authority. Tim also mentioned that there is a possibility that the transmission line may go through an Environmentally Protected Area, which would also require a permit. As of right now, CVCA has not received an application for the project. Sandy Fraser informed the Board that the project is a long way from being complete and that Northland Power is fully aware of the permit process and it will be followed.

Hector Macmillan stated that he enjoyed the presentation, but was unsure if it was for or against the Northland Power project. This is a green energy project and it should be a good thing.

Tim stated that it will be up to the engineers of the project to ensure public safety and ensure there is a proper emergency plan in place. He is hopeful that the Authority will have the opportunity for input with regards to safety measures.

FA Motion G 56/13

Moved By: Ron Gerow

Seconded By: Hector Macmillan

To receive the delegation by Kathy Hamilton and that the Authority's policies and procedures will be followed when an application is received from Northland Power.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Barry briefly reviewed a letter received from the MNR regarding additional funding request submitted by the Board for Belmont Dam. The letter stated that the Authority should apply for WECl funding next year and include the project for dam leakage in the application. Ron Gerow stated that this issue is long from dead and he has been in contact with Jeff Leal regarding the letter. Jeff was not aware of the letter and he is going to follow up with the Minister regarding the issue. Ron expects to hear something back soon and remains positive about it. Barry asked Tim if any work could have been completed this year. Tim informed the Board that the way the summer unfolded there was not the same pressure on the lake and he recommended not sealing the two end bays of Belmont Dam this year. The fall drawdown will begin soon and it is no longer necessary to maintain the summer recreational water levels. Tim informed the Board that Belmont Lake water level was maintained at 187.3 for the majority of the summer.

Ron Gerow stated that this summer has been very different from 2012. He feels that the sealing of 2 bays on Belmont Dam still needs to be done at some point. There was a motion from the Board directing staff to complete the work. Ron also mentioned that he did not receive too many calls from FR28 residents and he recognizes the work that Tim and the staff did to drawdown the lake level to an appropriate level for them to safely reach their cottages. He would like to see the work, to seal the two end bays of Belmont Dam, get scheduled to be completed. Barry asked Tim if the fall or summer would be a good time to complete the project at Belmont Dam. Tim stated that he felt it would be best to complete the work during the early months in the summer, probably in July 2014 when flows are lower. Tim also mentioned that by putting the work off for another year, it could potentially make the seal last longer.

There was some discussion on the 2013 WECl funding and whether or not it could be used for this project, however the WECl funding has already been allocated for this year.

FA Motion G 57/13

Moved By: Ron Gerow

Seconded By: Hector Macmillan

In light of the 2013 summer weather patterns, the sealing of the two end bays that was scheduled to be completed at Belmont Dam be referred to the Capital Budget process for 2014 and that staff recommend timing of the work to be completed.

Carried.

Hector Macmillan thanked Tim and the staff for their efforts over the years, as drought and flooding seems to be happening more often in recent years.

FA Motion G 58/13

Moved By: Hector Macmillan

Seconded By: Sharon Carson

To receive and file the letter from the Paudash Lake Cottage Association.

Carried.

Ron Gerow stated that the QCA Proposal is not an amalgamation. Barry stated that he appreciates the comments from people living on the lakes throughout the watershed, it is important to hear their comments. Suzanne Partridge stated that perhaps we need to do a better job of communicating with the cottage associations in the watershed.

Barry suggested updating email and contact lists for the cottage associations to make a better effort to communicate with the cottage associations. He requests that each board member get updated contact information for each cottage association in their municipality and they will compile a contact list.

FA Motion G 59/13

Moved By: Suzanne Partridge

Seconded By: Ron Gerow

That the CVCA develop a list of contacts and that the Chair is given permission to give the cottage associations regular updates on behalf of CVCA.

Carried.

There was a brief discussion on the CVCA minutes and distribution lists.

Wayne Alexander mentioned that the minutes do not get posted on the website until they have been approved by the Board. People go all summer without any information from the minutes of the meetings. Ritch Smith of the Crowe Lake Waterway Association mentioned that communication is a problem and that whenever they need any information, they have to ask for it. He feels that communication is a one way street. The CVCA website should have more information on it. Hector Macmillan says he realizes this problem but there is a lack of resources. This CA is strapped for cash and hiring a contractor to do some IT work may be the cheapest option for the Authority.

FA Motion G 60/13

Moved By: Ron Gerow

Seconded By: Sandy Fraser

To receive and file the letter from Dave Daunter.

Carried.

Barry mentioned that he is willing to work with the TCC managers to see what they have to offer to the Authority and suggests setting up a meeting between the TCC group and the Strategic Committee.

FA Motion G 61/13

Moved By; Ron Gerow

Seconded By: Sandy Fraser

That a meeting be set up with the TCC managers and the CVCA Strategic Committee.

Carried.

CVCA AUDITOR APPOINTMENT

Tim informed the Board that he has been in contact with John West of McColl Turner and requested a quote for the 2013 audit as directed by the Board at the previous meeting. John submitted an estimate for approximately six to seven thousand dollars for the 2013 audit. Tim recommends setting up additional training for Amanda Donald to help with the year end process to help save money in the future.

FA Motion G 62/13

Moved By: Sandy Fraser

Seconded By: Dennis Purcell

That the firm of McColl Turner Chartered Accountants be appointed as the Auditor for the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority for 2013 and to send Amanda Donald on the appropriate training for year end.

Carried.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS – RATIFICATION OF RECENT POLL & DESIGNATION OF HEAD

Tim informed the Board that the Freedom of Information (FOI) requests were fulfilled. The requests took a considerable amount of time partly because there is no designated head for the Authority and the requests were among the first to come through this office. Tim informed the Board that he is willing to be the head for future FOI requests with the appropriate training. Hector Macmillan stated that he gives Tim support and that all things considered, Tim did a great job dealing with the requests.

FA Motion G 63/13

Moved by: Bob Stiles

Seconded by: Hector Macmillan

To designate the General Manager to be the Head for any future Freedom of Information requests and for the General Manager to get the appropriate training to carry out the requests.

Carried.

MOTION TO MOVE TO IN CAMERA SESSION

FA Motion G 64/13

Moved by: Sandy Fraser

Seconded by: Suzanne Partridge

That the Full Authority Board move into closed session.

Carried.

MOTION TO MOVE INTO OPEN SESSION

FA Motion G 65/13

Moved By: Sharon Carson

Seconded By: Suzanne Partridge

That the Full Authority Board move into open session.

Carried.

Break for Lunch.

The Board meeting was called back to order at 12:32pm.

FA Motion G 66/13

Moved By: Hector Macmillan

Seconded By: Dennis Purcell

That Sharlene Richardson is hired on as a full time employee and that her salary be at the appropriate rate according to the pay scale.

Carried.

CVCA FACT SHEET – RE: CVCA MOTION G48/13

Barry informed the Board that many of the extra expenses that were pointed out in the staff report have already been taken into consideration. There may be a few additions from the fact sheet that may need to be considered and put into the proposal. He reminded the Board that this is just the preliminary proposal from Quinte and recommends that the Board receive the staff report.

Tim thanked the staff for putting together the report and told the Board that staff is available to answer any questions they may have after reviewing the staff report. He reminded the Board that there are many intangibles that the Board would lose if they accepted the QC proposal. CVCA staff goes over and above their regular day to day duties and the staff has good team chemistry and take pride in their work.

Hector Macmillan reminded Tim and the staff that the proposal is very preliminary and at a high level. Perhaps some of the intangibles have been forgotten and they are relying on Tim to bring that information to light.

FA Motion G 67/13

Moved By: Sandy Fraser

Seconded By: Brent Goodwin

To receive the staff report.

Carried.

QUINTE CA – SERVICES AGREEMENT UPDATE – RON GEROW

Ron Gerow thanked Tim and the staff for co-operating with Quinte staff. Ron updated the Board and informed them that the two committees did not meet over the summer but plan to meet before the end of September. They are expecting to have a draft from Quinte in October or November. Ron reminded the Board that this is just an option that should be considered and they just want what is best for the Authority. Barry suggested setting a tentative Board meeting before the November 8th meeting that would be dedicated to discuss the Quinte proposal. Ron stated that he would have to consult with the committee and that they don't want to rush the committee, but he expects late October would be acceptable.

FA Motion G 68/13

Moved By: Ron Gerow

Seconded By: Sandy Fraser

To set a tentative meeting for 24 October 2013 at 10:00am located at the CVCA Administration Office to discuss the QC proposal.

Carried.

REGULATIONS PRESENTATION & REPORT

Sharlene Richardson asked the Board if they were satisfied with the format for the regulations report sent out with the agenda. Everyone concurred it met their expectations. Sharlene briefly reviewed the permits and violations that have occurred over the summer months. She informed the Board that she has received comments from the municipal staff on the Regulations Policy, but has not had the chance to compile and update the policy.

Sharlene informed the Board that the Limerick Estates have had a letter sent to them and she has received a package of information from them. Due to the fact that they did not include CVCA in the planning process, approximately 85% of the lots are in the regulated zone. Tim and Sharlene have a meeting with Limerick Estates scheduled for next week. Barry mentioned that this is a significant project and asked if there will be adequate compensation for Sharlene's time spent on this project. The Board may want to consider looking at the fee schedule. Sharlene informed the Board that she will have a better idea of what is required of her after the meeting next week. Tim stated that the fee schedule is a number of years old and it may be a good idea to revisit.

Sharlene informed the Board that someone has placed a number of large rocks in the wetland along the side of the road on FR28. She showed the Board pictures that were taken for the June meeting and compared them to the pictures that she took showing the rocks on the side of the road. Whoever placed the rocks should have come to the Authority for a permit. She is unsure who put the rocks there, but a violation notice will be issued to the landowner as they are

responsible for any activities carried out on their land. Ron Gerow offered his services to set up a meeting with the landowner and residents to coordinate discussions with Tim and Sharlene. Hector Macmillan thinks that the rocks were put there to help keep the gravel from getting washed out. They should have applied, but he doesn't believe the issue is a major concern. If it was a municipal road, the municipality would have gone ahead and done the same road maintenance. Barry states that it is a violation and the CVCA needs to try to protect the wetland. Sharlene mentioned that she liked the idea of setting up a meeting, however, there is still a process that must be followed. Bob Stiles mentioned that if a violation notice is not sent, other landowners will see this and could decide not to apply for a permit. He thinks that there should be a violation notice sent to the landowner. Other options were discussed.

FA Motion G 69/13

Moved By: Ron Gerow

Seconded By: Hector Macmillan

That Sharlene arrange for a meeting with the landowners of FR28 and Tim, Barry and Ron to be in attendance.

Carried.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Tim informed the Board that some delays have occurred in operations due to the review of the Strategic Alternative Proposal. For example, under normal circumstances, the Board and staff would be looking at the 2014 budget at this time.

Tim informed the Board that the water levels at Belmont were maintained for most of the summer at that target level set in June of 187.3meters above sea level. Neil informed Tim that there are approximately twenty stop logs that need to be replaced at the Marmora Dam. Tim will have more information for the next Board meeting.

Tim let the Board know that Marnie has resigned and wishes her luck in her future. Earlier in the meeting Hector was asking about IT options for the Authority. Tim informed the Board that a local gentleman is coming into the office once a week or as needed on a temporary basis to fulfill IT requirements for the Authority. Tim was pleased to tell the Board that Vicki Woolfrey has filled the SWP position for 2 days a week. This has made it a seamless transition and he is happy to have Vicki back.

Sharon Carson mentioned that she was expecting to receive more information from staff about their meeting with QC staff and perhaps even a wish list on how to make their jobs better.

Ron Gerow stated that the committee is trying to get some answers for staff. Over the past few months, due to various newspaper articles, there has been some stress created for the committee members as well. Hector Macmillan reminded everyone that this is a process and no stone should be left unturned. Barry Rand mentioned that he is trying to make it a habit to hold staff meetings after every Board meeting to keep the staff informed with up to date information. He feels that 2 or 3 options should be considered and that staff should proceed with the budget process for 2014.

FA Motion G 70/13

Moved By: Bob Stiles

Seconded By: Sharon Carson

To receive the General Managers report as presented.

Carried.

DAM SAFETY PROJECTS

Tim informed the Board that ODS Maine has been hired for the boom installation at Marmora, Belmont and Wollaston dams. Installation could begin as early as next week and will hopefully be completed by the end of the week. There have been some delays with the second package which is the installation of the overhead gantry system, but Tim is hopeful that the tenders will be sent out by the end of this week. The estimated completion date of all the WECl projects is sometime in December 2013.

FA Motion G 71/13

Moved By: Suzanne Partridge

Seconded By: Gerald Phillips

To receive the verbal report on the WECl projects.

Carried.

THE GUT WATERFALL – RENAMING REQUEST

Tim informed the Board that he has met with the requestor regarding the naming of the trail at the Gut Conservation Area. The requestor decided she did not want the trail named after her son, but she thought the waterfall could be named after her son. Brent Goodwin did some research on the waterfall but could find no documentation saying the waterfall is named Bird Falls. He did confirm the falls do have a local name as Bird Falls.

Tim has had conversations with Jeff Ball the Geographic Name Specialist at the Ministry of Natural Resources, who says the Board can request to have a survey done in the local area to find out if the falls are locally known as Bird Falls. If the

survey determines that there is not a local name for the falls, then the Board can name the falls after the requesters son. Barry clarified that the name of the Conservation Area would remain The Gut, but the actual waterfall within the CA would be renamed. Sharon Carson expressed concern that it could be a long process. Tim informed the Board that the natural feature cannot be named without Jeff Ball and his Board's involvement. Suzanne Partridge asked if there was a fee to complete the survey. Tim informed her that there are no fees involved. Gerald Phillips stated that he has spoken to a few local residents and they all know it as Bird Falls and he thinks the local name should remain. Suzanne Partridge agrees that the name of the waterfall should remain Bird Falls as it is a part of local history. Hector Macmillan stated that if the falls have been known as Bird Falls since 1934, it would be inappropriate to rename it now.

FA Motion G 72/13

Moved By: Brent Goodwin

Seconded By: Gerald Phillips

That the name of the falls in The Gut Conservation Area be retained as "Bird Falls" to keep the local history intact.

Carried.

MEDIA SESSION

Judy Backus of the EMC asked Tim several questions and made arrangements to talk to him after the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was a discussion on when in camera sessions should be held, at the beginning or at the end of the meetings. It was decided to hold in camera sessions, when necessary, at the end of the meetings to make it more convenient to the public.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next meeting of the Full Authority Board will be a special meeting held on 24 October 2013 at 10:00am.

The next scheduled meeting of the Full Authority Board will be 7 November 2013 at 10:00 am.

ADJOURNMENT

FA Motion G 73/13

Moved By: Brent Goodwin

Seconded By: Ron Gerow

That the Full Authority Board Meeting be adjourned at 2:25p.m.

Carried.

Amanda Donald
Recording Secretary

Barry Rand
Chair