

CROWE VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

FULL AUTHORITY

MINUTES

June 20, 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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Hector Macmillan	Municipality of Trent Hills
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ALSO PRESENT

Judy Backus	EMC
Wayne Alexander	Belmont Lake Resident
Peter White	Belmont Lake Cottagers' Association
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

Barry Rand stated that there were a number of delegations on the agenda including Kathy Hamilton, Belmont Lake and the Auditors report. He would like to move agenda item 7 (Correspondence) to 19 or 20 and switch items 12 and 13. Barry also added the budget to actual sheet as number 18a. There were no objections to the amendments to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

FA Motion G 38/13

Moved by: Dennis Purcell

Seconded by: Sharon Carson

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. He wanted to get moving quickly as the agenda is quite full for the meeting.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

FA Motion G 39/13

Moved by: Ron Gerow

Seconded: Suzanne Partridge

That the minutes be approved, as circulated.

Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Barry stated that there may be some discussion regarding Algonquin Power and that he would like the discussion to be during the Belmont Dam portion of the meeting.

KATHY HAMILTON DELEGATION – NORTHLAND POWER

Kathy introduced herself to the Board and thanked them for having her today. Kathy stated that she is here today to voice her objections to both the Northland Power project and the Services Agreement between Quinte CA and CVCA. She is horrified by the planning process that introduced Northland Power to the Municipality, public and press. She is concerned that her home and future could potentially be threatened to be flooded by a billion gallons of water if there was a disaster. Kathy is concerned that the Council Resolution places higher priority on the project over the security of local residents. The CAO of Marmora and Lake described the Northland Power project as a “significant industrial development” in the newspaper.

Kathy expressed her concern over the decision making process of the strategic sub-committee with regard to the proposed “services agreement” between CVCA and Quinte. She feels that the process has been similar to that of the Marmora and Lake sub-committee which had strategically failed to show the scary “pumped storage” picture. She wonders that if the CVCA Board had been shown the true implications of pumped storage would their decision to support the project in November 2011 be different.

Kathy informed the Board that her home is on the lowest elevation along the Crowe River on Cameron Street, which is prone to flooding. She bought their home with the expectations that her handicapped daughter will be the future owner of the home. Kathy and her family retain total confidence in the CVCA’s water management and employees. She informed the Board that she is not confident in Quinte CA’s judgement. Quinte CA was one of the first to submit their letter of support for the Northland Power project. Kathy asks the Board why would the CVCA even consider a “services agreement” with Quinte?

She asked that the Board take her thoughts into consideration during their deliberations. She stated that it is never the wrong time to do the right thing. Kathy thanked the Board for their time.

Barry Rand thanked Kathy for her presentation. He asked her if there was a watershed connection between CVCA and the Northland Power project. Kathy informed him that yes there is a connection. There will be discharge channels that will allow flow directly into Naylor’s Creek and ultimately into the Crowe River. If there was ever a breach, the water from the holding area would flow into Marmora and the Crowe River.

FA Motion G 40/13

Moved By: Brent Goodwin

Seconded By: Sharon Carson

To receive the delegation by Kathy Hamilton.

Carried.

BELMONT LAKE DAM UPDATE

Barry distributed copies of a lake level chart for Belmont Lake to the Board and the public who attended the meeting. He allowed the public to introduce themselves to the Board. Barry briefly reviewed Belmont Lake levels over last year and the low water conditions across the watershed last summer. Barry informed the Board that in the past staff have targeted the lake level to be higher in anticipation of the lake level to drop over the summer months. This buffer helps to maintain the lake level over the dry season. He informed everyone that the current lake level is over the targeted 187.300 due to the recent rainfall. Barry referred to the chart that was distributed, pointing out the level at which the road was flooded. Kevin Lang asked him how he came up with that and Barry informed him that it is from last year's lake level information. Kevin stated that is not just the road that is under water, a lot of their property is underwater and they are unable to use it.

Tim showed the Board a slide show presentation which included a map of Fire Route 28. Tim pointed out the area that the flooding on the road is occurring. Tim pointed out the CVCA flood line and that FR28 is located in the flood plain. Kevin asked about the date of the photos and Tim informed him that it is from 2008, but the flood lines were determined in the 1970s. Kevin complained that when they bought the property, no one told them that it was in a floodplain. Tim stated that at that time, there were no regulations in place to protect them. Tim informed them that every year there is a 1% chance of a 100 year flood occurring, which could put all of these cottages under water. Tim also stated that a flood can occur at any time during the year, not just during a spring freshet. Tim explained that they try to maintain a buffer so that the summer lake level can be maintained all summer long. Kevin complained that their land is wet and muddy and unusable. Tim informed the Board that a wetland can be seasonally inundated with water and does not necessarily have water in it year round. Larry Ellis expressed his concern that everyone expects the land to be flooded in the spring, but it is now almost July and wants to know why CVCA can't get the levels down to the targeted level. Barry agrees that the lake level is up 2 -3 inches above previous years, however this is the current situation on all the lakes.

Barb Lang stated that you cannot see the edges of the road, and that no emergency vehicle would be able to pass over the road. Ron Gerow stated that the 8 inch buffer was implemented 4-5 years ago because the water level drops significantly over the summer. Perhaps the Board should open discussions on changing the water levels on Belmont Lake. Ron stated that one side of the lake wants it high and the other wants it lower. We need to get the right balance between the two.

Barry stated that even if the lake level was at the target of .3 the road would still be flooded. If the current regulations were in place when the cottages were being built, they would not have received a permit to build them. The buffer of .3 will provide enough water on the lake to last a month. Barry wonders if the road is sinking because it was built in a wetland. Barb feels that the CVCA is preventing

them from enjoying their property and wants to know if they have a right to do this. Tim stated that this is a balancing act and staff try to balance the water level so there is enough water to enjoy it for the entire summer. Peter White is more concerned over low water levels, but feels the current level is high and that it should be lowered. Peter White discussed some of the proposed options to solve leakage at the dam. Barry mentioned that the province has been approached and there has been a request for additional funding for Belmont Dam and he feels that it is important to be able to say that the public is supporting the Authority.

There was some discussion on sharing water from other lakes during low water conditions. If Cordova Lake was kept at a higher level and then gave Belmont 10cm of water, because Cordova is a smaller lake, it would only raise Belmont 1-2cm. Tim feels that if this is something that the Board is interested in doing, then the residents of Cordova Lake should be involved. Sharing water could be done, but eventually all of the residents throughout the entire watershed would want to gain or lose water in the sharing process. Peter White feels that we should be controlling the dam rather than have the dam control us. Ron Gerow understands what Tim is saying and feels that the time has come and we need to look at water management as a whole and come up with a recommendation for staff. Ron stated that we need to resolve the issue and work with the public. Perhaps they should take it back to the cottage association and see if the residents feel that the 8 inch variance is acceptable.

Sandy Fraser asked if the water level could be dropped until the road was visible. Tim stated that in order to do that the level would have to be at 187.15, which would be 6-8 inches below the .3 target. Sandy asked if the road was flooded in 2012 and the residents said no. Barry suggested that if the forecast looks unsettled, then staff should drop the lake level below 187.3 target level to prepare for the rain. Tim informed the Board that in May 2013, Belmont Lake level was at or near 187.26 and people were already calling into the office saying the level was too low. Wayne Alexander requested that the Belmont Lake level be posted on CVCA website every Friday.

FA Motion G 41/13

Moved By: Suzanne Partridge

Seconded By: Sandy Fraser

That staff be directed to drop Belmont Lake level to 187.3 as soon as possible and treat that level as a target summer level and that when precipitation is anticipated staff should decrease water level below the target to accommodate the predicted rainfall amount and that Belmont Lake water levels be posted on the website every Thursday.

Ron Gerow asked to add that staff continue to monitor conditions and the issue be brought back to the Board if necessary. Barry reminded him that the Board doesn't meet again until September.

Motion Carried.

Barry Rand began discussions on the Belmont Dam leakage issue. Option one is to seal the two end bays of the dam and plug any obvious leaks by using a diver. The work cannot be completed until lake levels and flows are low enough to safely complete the work. Barry mentioned that this work will only last a couple of years and then we will be right back where we are today. Ron Gerow stressed that the work must happen this year when it is safe for the divers to complete the project. He doesn't want another repeat of last summer. Bob Stiles mentioned that they may not be able to wait to know if the funding has been approved. Peter told the Board that the Belmont Lake Cottagers Association is willing to donate \$3000 towards the project.

FA Motion G 42/13

Moved By Sandy Fraser

Seconded By: Dennis Purcell

Whereas a request has been made to the Ministry of Natural Resources to support work on Belmont Dam to deal with low summer water levels,

And Whereas the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen and the Belmont Lake Cottagers Association support this project, and agree with the intent and scope of work

Be it resolved that the CVCA General Manager be authorized to implement the Belmont Dam short term work when the funding has been confirmed and when lower water flows permit in-water work on the dam.

Ron Gerow stated that he feels that the work on Belmont Dam must be completed this year and that the Board has already invested \$30,000 in the project for reporting. He remains optimistic that the province will come through with the funding, but if it doesn't it can be taken back to the municipality. Suzanne Partridge has mixed feelings about the project. She feels that it is not part of the core mandate of the Authority and that there is no benefit to people and municipalities upstream of the dam. Suzanne feels that the project should only proceed if funding is granted to the Authority. Sharon Carson asked if there should be a separate motion to deal with the funding of the project. The Board decided to remove "when funding has been confirmed" from the motion on the table.

FA Motion G 43/13

Moved By: Sharon Carson

Seconded By: Ron Gerow

That the FA Motion G 42/13 be approved as amended.

Carried.

Tim asked the Board for guidance regarding maintaining a minimum flow through Belmont Dam once the work has been completed. Last year it was at approximately .7cms. Barry stated that according to the Long Range Plan, .85cms has been the historic minimum flow through Belmont Dam.

FA Motion G 44/13

Moved By: Sandy Fraser

Seconded By: Suzanne Partridge

To direct staff to maintain the historical minimum flow at Belmont Dam, which, has been approximately .85cms.

Ron Gerow asks how to determine what it should be when the work on the dam will have a affect on the minimum flow. Tim stated that the work on the dam will redirect the flow to go over the dam instead of between the logs in the dam. Suzanne stated that the minimum flow should vary at different times of the year and feels that minimum flows should be a staff decision. You need to look at the watershed as a whole. Dennis Purcell stated that the minimum flow should be left up to staff.

Motion Defeated.

MOTION TO MOVE TO IN CAMERA SESSION

FA Motion G 45/13

Moved by: Sandy Fraser

Seconded by: Ron Gerow

That the Full Authority Board move into closed session.

Carried.

MOTION TO MOVE INTO OPEN SESSION

FA Motion G 46/13

Moved By: Bob Stiles

Seconded By: Gerald Phillips

That the Full Authority Board move into open session.

Carried.

Suzanne Partridge left the meeting at 1:15pm.

AUDITORS REPORT

Barry thanked John West of Mccoll Turner for coming to the meeting today. John informed the Board that once again the financial statements for 2012 are, in his opinion, a clean report. He stated that the financial position of the Authority as of December 31 2012 is good and that the bank is still strong. John outlined the highlights of the 2012 Financial Statements with the Board. There is a deficit primarily due to the hydro plant not generating revenue due to low water conditions, and unbudgeted expenses of approximately \$66,000. The unbudgeted expenses included the study at Belmont Lake Dam, human resources issues, the Long Range Planning Committee expenses, and some legal fees. However the regular expenses were in line with the 2012 budget.

A brief discussion ensued regarding MNR funding, WECI funding received in previous years, and the new budget to actual sheet.

FA Motion G 47/13

Moved by: Sandy Fraser

Seconded by: Gerald Phillips

To accept the 2012 financial statements as circulated.

Carried.

QUINTE CA – SERVICES AGREEMENT

Barry reminded the Board of the information session comprised of CVCA Board Members and approximately half of the municipal reeves at Quinte Conservation Authority. He reminded the Board of the motion passed at the last Board meeting to further investigate a services agreement with Quinte. The intent of that motion was to get a detailed proposal from Quinte. Ron Gerow stated that the direction of the Board is to develop a proposal for CVCA Board and Quinte Board to review. We would like to maintain the current level of service and build on it if possible. Barry stated that Suzanne wanted to mention that there has to be a way for the Regulations process to be dealt with locally.

Barry stated that CVCA employees will be contacted in the near future by Terry Murphy so he can get a better understanding of their skills and background. Barry feels that it is important to keep the current skill set in the organization.

Bob Stiles stated that you have to be careful not to go into amalgamation and that once the proposal is accepted, we will never be able to get what we have back. There are a lot of implications in the draft proposal that puts undue stress on our employees. What is the right thing to do, are the potential implications worth the small amount of savings? Barry stated that the Board is still responsible for providing the services to the ratepayers in the watershed.

FA Motion G 48/13

Moved By: Ron Gerow

Seconded By: Denis Purcell

Whereas the Board has passed Motion G30/13 authorizing the Strategic Sub-Committee to develop a detailed services agreement with Quinte Conservation,

And whereas the Board has visited the facilities of Quinte Conservation for an information session,

Therefore, be it resolved that CVCA Staff be directed to work with the Staff of Quinte Conservation in preparation of the detailed services agreement for consideration by the CVCA and Quinte Boards.

Carried.

Bob Stiles pointed out that an auditor for 2013 has not been appointed. Barry reopened the Auditors report for discussion on appointing an auditor for 2013. Bob stated that the Authority should have an auditor and he feels that John West has done a good job. Tim stated that occasionally throughout the year there is a need to contact the auditor for financial advice. Barry stated that he is hesitant to appoint anyone at this time without knowing where the services agreement may go. Ron Gerow agrees that we should wait to see where the future of the Authority will be headed and would also like to know what the cost of the 2013 audit would be.

FA Motion G 49/13

Moved By: Ron Gerow

Seconded By: Brent Goodwin

To direct Tim to request a quote from Mccoll Turner Chartered Accountants for a quote for services provided to the Authority in 2013.

Carried.

ONT REG 159/06 POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL

Sharlene reminded the Board that the first half of the Policy Manual was sent out to them for the previous meeting. The second half of the manual was distributed to them with the agenda package and it focuses on the actual regulation. This updated version of the policy has been taken from the best of several other policies provided by other Conservation Authorities. Sharlene told the Board that there are mistakes throughout the draft policy, but she wanted to review the content of the policy with them. The new policy enhances the old one and addresses individual features such as river and stream valleys, hazardous lands, watercourses, etc. She feels that it is easier to read and find specific sections that apply to you.

Sharlene presented the specifics of the updated policy manual to the Board and answered any questions they had as she went through it. Barry suggested involving municipal staff in updating the policy and requested Sharlene to send the whole document to the municipalities for their review. Sharlene stated that she would send it to the municipalities with a deadline for comments for the September Board meeting. She informed the Board that she will have to use the old policy manual until the updated one is approved by the Board.

FA Motion G 50/13

Moved By: Ron Gerow

Seconded By: Sandy Fraser

To receive the Policy and Procedures Manual and to direct staff to circulate it to Municipal staff for comments.

Carried.

REGULATIONS PRESENTATION & REPORT

Sharlene informed the Board that there have been 28 permits completed since the last Board Meeting. There are 6 permits pending and violations pending. There is one violation request to have the fill removed. Brent asked about the pending permits. Sharlene informed him that there was originally a request for an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) which has now been retracted, however they still need a culvert crossing and she has had conversations with the property owner. Ron Gerow asked about a culvert that failed near the mine and asked if they will have to come to the Authority for a permit, and Sharlene informed him that she would recommend coming here first.

A brief discussion ensued regarding when an EIS could be requested by the Authority.

FA Motion G 51/13

Moved by: Sharon Carson

Seconded by: Bob Stiles

To accept the Regulations Report and approve the permits presented.

Carried.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Tim informed the Board that water levels and flows are approaching summer levels but are on the high side due to the recent weather conditions. Wollaston Township has invited CVCA to participate in their annual open house again this year, and Tim will be asking staff to participate.

Tim told the Board that the McGeachie cottage was fully booked for the summer, but has had two cancellations. He informed the Board that staff are trying to fill the voids and he is optimistic that it will be rented. Staff continue to work with Dave Golem to secure funding for McGeachie Conservation Area.

Tim updated the Board on the Benthics program and that the students are wrapping up another successful season. Tim complimented the students saying that they are both hard working and have done a great job in their short time here.

Dennis Purcell asked Tim about the sign at the end of the road and said it looks really good. Tim informed him that Wray refurbished the sign.

Sharlene mentioned to the Board that the Authority is participating in a Turtle Talley program that is partnered with the Toronto Zoo. People can report turtle sightings throughout the watershed and signs can be placed on road where there may be hot spots for turtle crossings. So far staff has seen 3 Blandings Turtles, which are a species at risk and she feel that this is a good opportunity to engage to community.

DAM SAFETY PROJECTS

Tim informed the Board that he thinks the projects have been approved, although he has not officially heard yet. Peter Hulsman has informed him that they are in the process of approving the projects and that the announcement will not be made until the funding is in place. The projects that the Authority has applied for are high priority for safety concerns.

Tim mentioned that the original package submitted did not include fencing for the Marmora Dam. The fencing is needed because of the drop off. Tim asked Sandy to pass onto Ron Chittick that the cost of the fencing would be approximately \$500 and to find out if the Municipality would be interested in helping with the cost of the fencing.

THE GUT RESTORATION WORK

Tim informed the Board that the work has been completed at The Gut. Mike Sherwin of the Norwood High School brought a group of students out to help complete the work. Another cedar rail was added to the top of the fence approximately 80 logs were used. Work on the stairs was started and Tim has had conversations with Mike about the possibility of coming back in the fall to finish the stairs and the outhouse.

Staff have received a quote from Drain Brothers to repair the road to The Gut that was a little higher than expected. Grants have been applied for and if the grants are received, then we may be able to get the work completed on the road.

BUDGET TO ACTUALS

Tim informed the Board that Caroline came in to volunteer for half a day to help with the budget to actual sheet and there are some revisions. Tim informed the Board that there is nothing that he can see that would derail the budget so far this year and it seems to be right on target.

FA Motion G 52/13

Moved By: Ron Gerow

Seconded By: Sandy Fraser

To receive the budget to actual and have the updated version sent out by email.

Carried.

MEDIA SESSION

Judy Backus of the EMC asked for Sharlene's last name and her position with the Authority. She confirmed the numbers for the WECI funding for the Dam Safety improvements. Judy asked for a copy of the updated Regulations Policy Manual, but the Board stated it has not been approved and therefore not ready for distribution. Judy asked for the services agreement motion that was passed at the meeting and she confirmed the reason for the 2012 deficit with Tim.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Full Authority Board will be 19 September 2013 at 10:00 am.

ADJOURNMENT

FA Motion G 53/13

Moved By: Sandy Fraser

Seconded By: Denis Purcell

That the Full Authority Board Meeting be adjourned at 3:20p.m.

Carried.

Amanda Donald
Recording Secretary

Barry Rand
Chair