

CROWE VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

FULL AUTHORITY

MINUTES

April 18, 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
Hector Macmillan	Municipality of Trent Hills

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dennis Purcell	Faraday Township
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ALSO PRESENT

Judy Backus	EMC
Wayne Alexander	Belmont Lake Resident
Peter White	Belmont Lake Cottagers' Association
Tim Pidduck	General Manager/Secretary Treasurer, CVCA
Caroline Anshan	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 noted that the Auditors, McColl Turner would not be present at the meeting but would attend the 20 June meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

FA Motion G 26/13

Moved by: Suzanne Partridge

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.

Sharon Carson commented on how good the boardroom and reception area were looking.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Barry Rand requested that **FA Motion G10/13** be amended to read: "Any such savings will be reflected in the 2013 accounts and be brought forward into the 2014 budget."

FA Motion G 27/13

Moved by: Sandy Fraser

Seconded: Ron Gerow

That the minutes be approved, as amended.

Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

Tim Pidduck presented a letter received from a resident on Belmont lake fire road 29. They had made a complaint with regards to partiers who frequented the sandbar at 20 Preston Road. Ron Gerow agreed that this was a problem area and suggested the letter be forwarded to the Township By-Law Department who would look into the matter.

Tim then presented e-mails that had been received thanking CVCA employees for their prompt, efficient service in dealing with permit applications. Barry said that these were good responses and thanked Sharlene and Lou for this positive feedback.

MOTION TO MOVE TO IN CAMERA SESSION

FA Motion G 28/13

Moved by: Suzanne Partridge

Seconded by: Sharon Carson

That the Full Authority Board move into closed session.

Carried.

MOTION TO MOVE INTO OPEN SESSION

FA Motion G 29/13

Moved By: Brent Goodwin

Seconded By: Ron Gerow

That the Full Authority Board move into open session.

Carried.

FA Motion G 30/13

Moved by: Barry Rand

Seconded: Sandy Fraser

Whereas the Board of the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority authorized the Strategic Sub-Committee to pursue possible Service Agreements with neighbouring Municipalities and Conservation Authorities.

Therefore be it resolved that the Strategic Sub-Committee (Ron Gerow, Chair, Hector Macmillan, Sandy Fraser and CVCA Chair Barry Rand) be authorized to develop a detailed services agreement with Quinte Conservation for consideration by the CVCA Board.

Carried.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Tim gave details about the water levels and flow conditions in the watershed and explained that flows at Marmora had reached 100-105 cubic metres per second. Levels generally within the watershed had risen considerably in recent days and they were currently under a flood watch from Cordova Lake to the Trent Severn Waterway due to the forecast of rain. Tim said there was a possibility of flooding and as such Municipal Emergency Services had been alerted. As yet the wing wall at Cordova had not been topped since Algonquin Power had been closed and therefore unable to pass the usual 8 cubic metres.

Tim explained that he had been in touch with Rob Fancy from the MNR regarding the WECl Funding. Rob had indicated that the MNR wanted to deal with the transfer payments before giving official notification about the WECl Funding. Tim expected to find out either in mid May or early June, 2013. Tim explained that the engineering work for these projects had been completed except for site inspections. Bill Grandy from EXP would let Tim know his schedule next week.

Tim confirmed that the Source Water funding had been approved and that an invoice would be issued for work completed shortly.

Tim also mentioned that Glen Covert, Supervisor for Highlands East, had indicated that he would like to contract CVCA staff to take on the Risk Management Official role to be run out of the CVCA office. Tim asked the Board to give this their consideration and guide the staff accordingly. Barry suggested that they consider the timing requirement and volume of work needed to produce a report.

Tim then introduced the fact that over the past 16 months certain events and decisions made by the Board had led to a point where any piece of information the staff obtained, whether correct or not, only added to their uncertainty about this organization and their future. We have now reached a breaking point where staff feels their only option is to take matters into their own hands.

The Board's decision today to pursue the Quinte Conservation proposal would be certain to further reduce staff morale and many may feel they have no option but to look for employment elsewhere. While trying to encourage staff to continue as normal and to mitigate some of the negative effects that certain Board decisions have had on the staff, I implore the Board to consider the continued efficient functioning of this watershed and to support me in reassuring the staff before I am faced with a landslide of resignations. The tensions have built as a result of current and future decisions that the Board may make. My goal is to keep the CVCA running as smoothly and efficiently as possible and I ask the Board support me in this endeavour.

Barry said that there would be a staff meeting after the Board meeting at which time he would bring the staff up to speed and recognize the excellent work that has been done over the last 9 months. He said that he spoke for this Board when he said that they highly valued the work that the staff do.

Hector said that the Board was simply acting on demands from their municipalities to explore other options.

The Board further discussed safety and liability issues at Cordova dam because of Algonquin Power's involvement.

FA Motion G 31/13

Moved By: Ron Gerow

Seconded By: Hector Macmillan

That the General Manager open initial discussions with Algonquin Power regarding safety and liability issues during high water conditions.

REGULATIONS PRESENTATION & REPORT

Sharlene gave an overview of the progress made since her last presentation. She informed the Board that permit applications were now available online through the CVCA website. The CVCA regulations policy manual introduction chapter was now complete and she asked the Board to provide comments to her. A final approved version would be presented in June, 2013.

Sharlene then gave an update on establishing Planning Agreements with the member municipalities. She had reached out to nearly all the municipalities and has had a positive response.

Sharlene gave a brief overview of the Deer Creek Resort proposal for a health and wellness facility to be located in Wollaston. After initial permit discussions with the developers Sharlene was impressed with their willingness to work around the wetlands within their building envelope. They were open to environmental education for their clients and would be happy to include McGeachie CA and the Gut CA into their hiking and educational programs. Sharlene felt that the CVCA might look at funding opportunities that could link into the resort's educational programs.

Sharlene then reported on the GIS data survey she had conducted. She had heard back from nearly all the municipalities. While it was acknowledged that there was better cartography on paper maps most Counties did have a GIS portal and were willing and able to host GIS data. She noted that Trent Hills did not have a GIS portal and Hector said that he would look into this.

Sharlene stressed that she would continue to process all applications in a timely manner as the season grew busier.

Ron thanked Sharlene and said that his council had received nothing but positive feedback for the work Sharlene was doing. Sandy said that Marmora had also had a really great response.

FA Motion G 32/13

Moved by: Ron Gerow

Seconded by Suzanne Partridge

That the Board break for lunch at 12:30pm

Carried

FA Motion G 33/13

Moved by: Sharon Carson

Seconded by: Ron Gerow

That the meeting be called back to order at 1:00pm.

Carried

REGULATION'S OFFICER PERMANENT POSITION

Tim brought the Boards' attention to the contract nature of the Regulations Officer. He said that under normal circumstances the probationary period would have been served and a formal offer of employment would be given. Tim expressed his satisfaction with the work that Sharlene had done and asked the Chair for his input. Barry said that he agreed that Sharlene had been a great addition to the team.

FA Motion G 34/13

Moved by: Barry Rand

Seconded By: Sandy Fraser

That the Regulation Officer contract be extended to 31 December, 2013.

Carried

SPECIAL PROJECT - THE GUT CONSERVATION AREA PROPOSAL

Tim explained that he had been approached by Michael Sherwin of Norwood District High School offering the services of 18 forestry students for two or three days to participate in repairs and maintenance on The Gut Conservation area. This work would take the shape of replacing steps and handrails, clearing trails and the building of a new outhouse. Lou is currently pursuing a proposal for funding for the materials that would be necessary for this work. Ron felt this was a win-win situation for both parties.

Hector mentioned the need for Liability insurance coverage for the students. Brent and Barry said they would talk to their respective Road Supervisors to help with the access road to the Gut. Brent said there was also a possibility of reconfiguring the entrance way and would see if the landowner might be willing to donate some of his land.

Barry mentioned that an ATV club had been formed in North Kawartha and he asked the Board for guidance with regards to potentially setting up a multi-use trail in the Gut. Barry asked for approval to pursue this idea. Barry said that he would come back to the Board with a proposal.

BELMONT DAM SEEPAGE OPTIONS

Peter White from the Belmont Lake Cottagers Association presented a letter he had written to the Board dated 15 December, 2012. The Board accepted this letter.

Tim then presented two options for sealing the Belmont Dam. Option 1 involved installing plastic membranes at the two end bays, the placement of sandbags along the sill and oakum used as a seal between the logs. The estimated cost would be \$12,000 to \$15,000. Ken Rule from ODS Marine felt confident that this solution would last for two to three years. Tim said that staff would assess the dam as the year progressed and get the work done as soon as the situation demanded.

Barry stressed that leakage is normal with any dam and to seal it completely would mean starving the river downstream. He said that it is not within the CVCA's core mandate to completely seal dams and that he was in favour of Option 1.

Peter White felt that by sealing the dam completely it would allow CVCA to better control the lake levels. Tim went on to explain Option 2 which would require the use of a floating coffer dam to dewater the dam bay by bay. The sill logs in each bay would then be replaced by new logs that would be anchored onto the sill. The cost for Option 2 would be approximately \$120,000.00 to \$150,000. Barry said that this was a significant capital expense. He felt that the CVCA should not be expected to foot the costs for either option as it was not part of their core mandate.

Ron said that as a Municipality he felt they had an obligation to determine if there was a problem with the dam. What they had established was that there was seepage at the end bays. He felt that the Board needed to follow up on this information. He said he wanted to be clear that there were a number of rate payers who understood that the CVCA would do something. He felt the problem should be fixed once and fixed right. In the original report it was noted that the majority of the water was going round the ends of the dam. Tim noted the report did not identify any leakage at the interface between the concrete and the bedrock. However, there was also seepage along the sill logs so the strategy should be to try and contain this seepage using marine board and sandbags. Ron asked Tim if he had considered a strategy to manage lake levels upstream. Tim said that the CVCA had given it some thought and had talked with the MMR regarding lake levels at Cordova Dam. The problem with Cordova is that there is an operating range for that dam set by the MNR. MNR are not willing to go outside that range. We could try and store a little more water at Cordova so that option 1 and/or 2 would be more effective. Tim said that an engineer from Ganaraska CA had reviewed Belmont dam who felt that the best solution would be Option 1 to seal the end bays and place sandbags all along the sill. This option allows the Authority time to investigate the effects on residents and ecology downstream.

Peter White then asked what influence Algonquin Power had over the levels at Cordova. He asked that Tim review the CVCA's agreement with Algonquin Power to see whether it was legally binding and if there was any wiggle room. He said that as there were fewer bays at Cordova dam there were fewer tools to establish an accurate measure of the lake level. Ron felt that the information gathered on Belmont Dam last year needed to be formatted and presented to the Cottagers Association as an educational tool. He felt that Option 1 was most likely the best choice but that nothing much could be done before the end of June. Tim said that ODS Marine had assured him that once alerted they could mobilize a team within 5 to 7 days.

Ron felt that a strategy should be developed based on discussions with the MNR regarding Cordova while at the same time sealing up Belmont Dam.

FA MOTION G 35/13

Moved by: Ron Gerow

Seconded by: Suzanne Partridge

That the Board get clarification from the MNR on Cordova Lake levels while acknowledging that the Board is prepared to do the work necessary to execute Option 1.

Carried.

Ron said that in order to consider Option 2 the Board would need to approach the MNR with regards to getting provincial funding. He suggested that he and Barry would take on this task.

CVCA WATERSHED REPORT CARD – PRESENTATION

Marnie gave an overview of the benefits of the recently released Watershed Report Card. She explained that human health was closely linked to a healthy environment and that it would motivate stewardship action plans and provide watershed data to the general public.

Marnie gave an overview of the types of monitoring data that had gone into the production of this document and the different areas of the watershed targeted; managed forests, surface water, ground water and benthos. The CVCA watershed had scored an “A” in all four areas. Marnie pointed out that there were still data gaps because historic data was missing, however, they had made a good start moving forward.

The Board thanked Marnie for her presentation.

CONSERVATION ONTARIO - WHITE PAPER

Barry stated that the MNR White Paper seemed to be designed to download tasks to Conservation Authorities without offering appropriate remuneration. He said without being properly funded he did not see why they should take on these added responsibilities.

WAR CASUALTY NAMING REQUEST - JEFF BALL, GEOGRAPHIC NAMES SPECIALIST, MNR

Brent said through discussions within the community he had discovered that Daniel Byrd a local trapper, trader and logger had died at the Gut falls. As an alternative he suggested that the road into the Gut be named after the war casualty.

FA Motion G 36/13

Moved by: Ron Gerow

Seconded by: Sharon Carson

That the road leading into the Gut be offered as an alternative for the naming of a war casualty.

Carried

MEDIA SESSION

Suzanne told the Board that Sharlene and Marnie would be hosting watershed educational sessions at two local schools in Highlands East next week.

Sharon requested that if the Board had delegations at a meeting that they be placed at the beginning of the Agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

20 June, 2013 at 10:00 am.

ADJOURNMENT

FA Motion G 37/13

Moved By: Sharon Carson

Seconded By: Ron Gerow

That the Full Authority Board Meeting be adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Carried.

Caroline Anshan
Recording Secretary

Barry Rand
Chair