

CROWE VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

FULL AUTHORITY

MINUTES

7 November 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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dennis Purcell	Faraday Township
Hector Macmillan	Municipality of Trent Hills

ALSO PRESENT

Mark Holt	Community Press
Judy Backus	EMC
Tim Pidduck	General Manager/Secretary Treasurer, CVCA
Amanda Donald	Recording Secretary, CVCA
Sharlene Richardson	Regulations Officer, 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 79/13

Moved by: Sharon Carson

Seconded by: Suzanne Partridge

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

There were no conflicts to declare.

WELCOME

The Chair, Barry Rand, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chair Rand informed the Board that Dennis Purcell could not make it to today's meeting and he has not heard from Hector Macmillan. He reminded the Board that there is a Source Protection Authority (SPA) meeting immediately following the Full Authority Board meeting.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

FA Motion G 80/13

Moved by: Sandy Fraser

Seconded: Ron Gerow

That the 25 October 2013 minutes be approved, as circulated.

Carried.

Barry Rand suggested that in order to improve the timeliness of communications with various stakeholders the Authority publish the draft minutes of all meetings on the website. He suggests that "Draft" be stamped across the minutes to make it clear that they are in draft format. Barry suggests that staff report to the Board at the next meeting with their recommendations. Suzanne Partridge stated that she thinks it is a good idea and the Municipality of Highlands East distributes their draft minutes to members of council for comments before they are posted on the website.

FA Motion G 81/13

Moved by: Brent Goodwin

Seconded by: Gerald Phillips

That staff report back to the Board at the 12 December 2013 meeting with recommendations with regards to posting draft minutes on the CVCA website.

Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

GENERIC REGULATIONS REPORT

Sharlene Richardson updated the Board on the permits issued to date. She informed the Board that there is an application that she is going to deny and the applicant will have the opportunity to request a hearing. The applicant has not requested a hearing yet, but Sharlene wants to review the hearing process and procedures with the Board today.

Sharlene updated the Board on the issues at Fire Route 28 (FR28). The residents who use FR28 to access their properties have deeded access to the road. Sharlene is trying to set up a meeting with all the residents who use the road to access their properties.

Sharlene informed the Board that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has gone under some reorganization and as of 25 November 2013 all current agreements with DFO are null and void. There is a presentation at Latornell Conservation Symposium that will provide Conservation Authority staff with more information on how it could affect Conservation Authorities. Sharlene thinks that Conservation Authorities with higher level agreements with DFO could be greatly affected, compared to CVCA and she will update the Board at the next meeting in December.

For the meeting in December, Sharlene will be distributing the updated policy and procedures manual with the changes and recommendations that she has received. Sharlene will also be doing a comparison between CVCA fees and neighboring Conservation Authority fees to make sure we are in line with other Conservation Authorities.

Ron Gerow expressed his concerns over the DFO downloading more work to Conservation Authorities and is concerned that we will be asked to provide additional services to the DFO.

FA Motion G 82/13

Moved by: Ron Gerow

Seconded by: Gerald Phillips

That the CVCA Board express their concern to the federal government with regards to the recent changes in the DFO and that Conservation Authorities be reimbursed for any additional costs incurred due to these changes.

Carried.

Sharlene informed the Board that we have a level one agreement with DFO and she thinks the changes will have little effect on this Authority.

Sharlene gave a brief presentation to the Board outlining the hearing procedures and reminded the Board members of their roles and responsibilities during the hearing.

FA Motion G 83/13

Moved by: Gerald Phillips

Seconded by: Suzanne Partridge

To receive the Regulations report as presented.

Carried.

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

Tim informed the Board that due to the comments made from Cottage Associations at the 25 October 2013 Meeting, he would like to follow up with the cottage associations and re-establish old connections, build new relations and work to create a long lasting partnership with them. He hopes that through this we can provide an information exchange, bring ideas to the table and ensure the cottage associations fully understand the operations of the Authority. Tim will be emailing the cottage associations and setting up a workshop in 2014.

Tim updated the Board on the WECI projects. He is expecting to receive a quote from ODS Marine in the next week for the overhead gantry work. Tim updated the Board on the current water conditions informing them that due to the recent rain, water levels and flows are high for this time of the year and a water conditions statement has been issued. The levels have peaked and are beginning to recede and levels should return to winter levels in the next week or two.

Tim informed the Board that Mike Whiltshire is working on a server for the Authority and it should be installed by the end of the year. Mike is also working on a new website for the Authority. Dan Orr is preparing a new logo for the Authority and will be providing three new versions to choose from, which should be available for the December meeting.

Tim has received a letter from the Ministry of Transport regarding an old dock submerged in Beaver Creek. The dock could be a hazard to the public and the Ministry of Transport will be conducting an investigation when lower water levels occur.

Suzanne Partridge is looking forward to having a new logo.

Ron Gerow expressed concern over the cottage association meetings that could occur and wants to make sure that all stakeholders are invited. It is difficult to keep everyone informed. Ron referred to an email that he received, that originated from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) regarding the work being done at Kasshabog Lake Dam. He stated that he did not receive the email from the MNR or CVCA and he feels that the township needs to be aware of work being done on dams. Tim informed Ron he was not aware of this and he will pass it onto other staff to make sure the township receives future emails regarding work being completed at the dams. Ron also thinks that the CVCA Chair should be in attendance at the meetings with cottage associations.

Ritch Smith supports the idea of a committee as there is a great deal of interest from the local cottage associations. The redesign of the website is a great idea, as there can be a lot of additional information put on the website that would be helpful to the public.

FA Motion G 84/13

Moved by: Sharon Carson

Seconded by: Ron Gerow

To receive the General Managers report as presented.

Carried.

2014 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

Barry Rand gave credit to staff for providing more information in the budget. He reminded the Board that the projection column is just forecasted amounts and could change, but it allows for a good comparison.

Tim Pidduck stated that 2013 had many challenges and it was the first full year of implementation of the Long Range Plan (LRP). He stated staff are excited to move forward and the LRP is a great framework for the CA to move forward. Staff does not want anything to fall off the table and are willing to raise awareness and explore new partnerships to better the Authority. This budget expresses what is achievable and staff will deliver the planned projects and programs. Since the original budget was distributed, it has been further refined and slight changes have been made.

Tim reviewed the changes made to the budget with the Board offering explanation as he went through. The majority of the changes were to the Water Operations budget and an addition of a summary page that compares the 2014 budget to the LRP 2014 budget amounts. Tim reviewed the projects planned for WECI for 2014 and gave explanation.

Barry reminded the Board there are currently no fees charged to municipalities for planning comments on zoning amendments and minor variances. Sharlene spends a lot of time on these and the Authority is not being paid for staff time. Barry would like to see a staff recommendation regarding this issue. Tim informed the Board that all of the neighboring Conservation Authorities currently charge their municipalities for these services. Ron Gerow expressed concern over duplicating costs to taxpayers and would not support this addition to the fee schedule. Further discussion ensued.

Tim informed the Board that staff are always looking at additional funding opportunities for the Authority. He will be meeting with the TCC managers to discuss possible grant opportunities the Authority could apply for in 2014. This additional funding was not included in the 2014 draft budget.

Ron Gerow requested the updated version of the draft budget and a more detailed summary comparing the 2014 budget to the LRP so he can take it to council for Monday.

Sharon Carson expressed concern that the total increase is currently at 6.33%. According to the LRP our member municipalities were promised the increase would not exceed 6.0%. Sharon feels very strongly to keep the increase at 6% especially for this first year of implementation of the LRP.

Tim and staff will revisit the budget make some changes and bring it back to the Board at a 6% increase for the December meeting.

Ron Gerow expressed concern that the Authority's problems have not gone away and it is something that needs to be discussed. Brent Goodwin asked Tim if logging at the Gut Conservation area has been considered. Tim informed him it has not been considered in quite some time and it is something that could be considered if the Board desired. Sharon Carson feels it is imperative to deal with the 2014 budget now and that it is inappropriate to bring up other options for the Authority at this time. Sandy Fraser brought up the Qunte Conservation (QC) proposal and stated the costs for operating the Authority are very high in comparison to the QC proposal. He asks why there is such a big difference and why can someone else do it for so much less. He suggested getting an efficiency group in to look at the operations of the Authority. Barry reminded him there would be less staff members and that is where the savings would have occurred. Ron Gerow stated in order for him to support the 2014 budget, he will need to have a Board discussion regarding how the Board is planning on moving forward in the future, now that the QC proposal is off the table. He has a lot of concerns moving forward. He would like to see the five Board members who voted against the QC proposal to come up with some solutions.

FA Motion G 85/13

Moved by: Suzanne Partridge

Seconded by: Sharon Carson

To receive the 2014 draft budget as presented and to bring further discussions to 12 December 2013 meeting.

Carried.

MARMORA DAM STOP LOG REPLACEMENT

Tim informed the Board that Neil McConkey recently noticed the bay beside the power gate at the Marmora Dam needs to have the logs replaced as soon as possible. This bay at the dam has not been operated for at least fifteen years and the stop logs have deteriorated significantly. Staff are unable to remove the logs due to their condition and the risk of log failure is high. A quote has been received from ODS Marine at \$14,000 for replacing the old logs with new. Tim is recommending to the Board the work be completed in 2013 to diminish a risk of a possible failure and the added expense if this was to occur.

FA Motion G 86/13

Moved by: Sandy Fraser

Seconded by: Ron Gerow

To authorize CVCA staff to replace the deteriorating logs at the Marmora Dam.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Full Authority Board will be 12 December 2013 at 10:00 am.

ADJOURNMENT

FA Motion G 87/13

Moved By: Ron Gerow

Seconded By: Sharon Carson

That the Full Authority Board Meeting be adjourned at 11:46p.m.

Carried.

Amanda Donald
Recording Secretary

Barry Rand
Chair