

3. Chair's Remarks

John H. Miller, Chair welcomed RVCA members, RVCA staff, RVC Foundation members and guests to the 2005 RVCA Annual Meeting held at the P. J. McManus Interpretive Centre at Baxter Conservation Area.

"We are all here tonight to discuss and hopefully approve the 2005 budget and the municipal benefits which will flow from it.

I would like to spend just a couple of minutes of your time to talk about the big picture of conservation in this watershed. The 2005 budget or even the Three-Year Workplan is not an isolated event. They fit into a long, well-debated and thoroughly-thought out inter-municipal approach to conservation needs, benefits and costs over many years. Next year, 2006, is our 40th anniversary as an organization and it is an ideal time to look back however briefly at our achievement AS A GROUP OF UNITED MUNICIPALITIES.

The first and major achievement is 39 years of watershed knowledge. Water levels, water quality, lake studies, bugs as indicators, shoreline classifications, wetland studies, water budgets, flood histories: as a group we all know how our watershed works better than anyone else. We are tracking and protecting water quality on a weekly basis. We will soon plant our three millionth tree in the watershed. In a recent report by the World Bank it was confirmed that world cities drawing water from forested watersheds get higher quality water at lower cost than those who don't. Common sense to many people. Our tree planting continues to help future generations.

We have acquired over 5,000 acres of natural areas and parks called conservation areas for everyone to enjoy and we are attract new gifts of land from committed citizens each year. Not all are acceptable but we do consider each one and these gifts will be used in the future as conservation lands get scarce and populations increase. On these lands, especially here at Baxter and at Foley Mountain in Westport, we have taught over 100,000 of our children in conservation education classes and we are currently gearing up for the next generation which we expect to be more numerous.

RVCA has an excellent and credible plan review function which helps protect the environment at the same time as steering citizens and municipalities away from legal troubles. Septic system inspections and approvals systems are delivering highly satisfactory, cost-effective services. Fish habitat protection directly supports the multi-million dollar fishing, cottage and tourist industry in our watershed. Without good fishing, that industry would diminish with great negative effects on our member municipalities.

We host several incentive and information programs to encourage private landowners to do their part to protect the aquatic environment. We have a major role in the reduced flood and erosion risks that we all enjoy based on years of study, remediation and incentives. We have a huge ability to partner with like-minded agencies and to raise outside sources of money to offset municipal levies as we accomplish our healthy watershed goals. The most recent example is the Source Protection Planning effort we are involved in as lead CA in the combined Mississippi-Rideau Watershed Region. This major work will take several years and result in a safer water supply for everyone in the valley at no cost to our municipalities. It is 100% provincially funded. We will receive 100% of the benefit from this program.

The point is, we could **not** have achieved even a small fraction of these benefits as INDIVIDUAL MUNICIPALITIES. Here is the message I would like to leave with you tonight: **It is only through membership in the partnership of municipalities known as RVCA that we get these major mutual benefits by doing watershed work once and well instead of repeating it 19 individual times.**

The Upper Watershed municipalities receive a benefit in the order of 10:1 for their levy dollars while those in the Middle Board area receive benefits in the ratio of 6:1. The City

of Ottawa which pays over 90% of the total RVCA levy knows that clean water and a healthy watershed is a big and fundamental part of the city's outstanding and envied quality of life.

After many years of being underfunded, we are now back close to the provincial levy average/person and poised as an organization to deliver an excellent job of watershed management at the appropriate level of service. It is all about investing in the continuing and future health of our watershed and our communities.

It is a pleasure to thank the 32 municipal members for their continual injection of good business sense and good common sense into our discussions during 2004. Our staff, lead by Dell Hallett General Manager, is clearly second to none in Ontario and I salute them for their hard work and commitment, leadership and quality of staff, to the watershed health over the past year.

I also wish to thank members of the Authority for their confidence in voting me in as Chair for the 2005 year. It is a job I have grown to enjoy largely because I believe that we ARE making a difference to the environment for our kids and future generations. I hope you will consider it a piece of your legacy too. Thank you very much."

4. Introductions

John H. Miller asked the members, staff and guests to introduce themselves.

5. 2004 Financial Statements

Dell Hallett, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, presented the RVCA December 31, 2004 Financial Statements prepared by Allan and Partners. Dell reviewed the contents of the Auditor's Report for the members covering the RVCA statement of financial position, financial activities, fund balances, statement of cash flow, program revenue and expenditures and clarified some entries for members. On the Auditors recommendation, an adjustment has been made to include wage accrual to December 31, 2004 in the amount of \$158,883 in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Motion 2 **Moved by:** Charles Long
Seconded by: Stephen Bird

That the 2004 Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Financial Statements dated December 31, 2004 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

6. 2003 Budget and Municipal Levy

Dell Hallett presented the 2005 Budget and Municipal Levy information previously provided to the members.

Motion 3 **Moved by:** Maria McCrae
Seconded by: Ken Graham

That the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approve the attached 2005 Budget in the amount of \$6,513,000 (dated November 25, 2004); and further

that the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority establish a 2005 general municipal levy of \$3,119,000; and further

that this levy be apportioned to the participating municipalities according to the attached sheet entitled "Rideau Valley Conservation Authority 2005 General Levies (dated November 24, 2004) ; and further

that the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority establish special levies to the City of Ottawa as follows:

- X \$120,000 - Rideau River Ice Management
- X \$50,000 - Graham Creek Water and Erosion Control Structure Repairs
- X \$10,000 - Windsor and Brewer Park Pumping Station Life Cycle Review
- X \$70,000 - Green Acres Tree-planting Program; and further

that the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority establish a special levy to the town of Perth in the amount of \$36,500 for the Haggart Island Dams.

(A recorded vote of all Board of Director members was requested and carried out.)

Those in favour: Stephen Bird, Ken Graham, Charles Long, Michael McEwen, Maria McRae, John H. Miller, Janet Stavinga and Cathy Willoughby

Those against: none

Absent: Alan Arbuckle, Dwight Bennett, Allan McCallum and Wendy Stewart

Motion Carried

7. Source Water Protection – Brian Stratton

Dell Hallett introduced Brian Stratton, Source Protection Project Manager for the Mississippi-Rideau Watershed Region. Brian's presentation is attached to the Minutes. In the discussion following, Brian was asked whether the many agencies, that have performed previous studies, would be willing to share their information. There is misinformation in the agriculture area, and how will SPP be presented to the farming community. The public must be kept informed. Members acknowledged that the presentation shows the challenges to Brian and his SPP staff. Brian responded that as the Work Plan progresses, target areas will be pinpointed, there will be an assessment to prioritize and Terms of Reference will explain the process to design a program in the watershed.

Current groundwater studies will be looked at. The SPP Committee will drive the process. Brian was thanked by Janet Stavinga for his presentation. Dell Hallett also extended his thanks on behalf of members and staff.

Motion Carried

8. Staff Report – Members’ Per Diem & Chair’s Honorarium

Dell Hallett presented the three Staff Reports from Angela Maisonneuve, Finance Officer.

Motion 4 **Moved by:** Cathy Willoughby
Seconded by: Stephen Bird

That the RVCA Board of Directors increase members’ per diem for meetings to \$52.00 and further that the Chair’s honorarium increase to \$2,000.00 annually subject to OMB approval.

Motion Carried

9. Staff Report – Conservation Ontario Levy

Motion 5 **Moved by:** Michael McEwen
Seconded by: Janet Stavinga

That the RVCA Board of Directors approve payment in the amount of \$23,408.00 to Conservation Ontario for the 2005 general levy and 2005 marketing levy to the RVCA.

Motion Carried

10. Staff Report Mileage Rates

Motion 6 **Moved by:** Stephen Bird
Seconded by: Ken Graham

That the RVCA Board of Directors approve an increase in mileage paid to members and staff to .37 cents per km effective as of the date of this meeting subject to OMB approval.

Motion Carried

11. Staff Report - Rental of 1130 Mill Street

Dell Hallett presented the Staff Report on the rental of 1130 Mill Street, Manotick.

Motion 7 **Moved by:** Ken Graham

Seconded by: Michael McEwen

That the RVCA lease the building at 1130 Mill Street, Manotick, to house staff engaged in Source Water Protection Planning.

Motion Carried

12. Member Inquiries

None

13. New Business

Maria McRae reported that the City of Ottawa has extended the Advisory Board Members appointment to the end of November and that letters would be sent shortly.

Maria McRae thanked Joan Sherwood, RVCA Administrative Assistant, for her ongoing assistance to the members of her staff and to other Advisory Board Members. John Miller also extended his appreciation.

Peter Goddard, Baxter Interpreter, spent a few minutes informing members on the Baxter Conservation, P.J. McManus Interpretive Centre design which was originally established as an energy efficient building. The solar panels still partially in use, do provide some power to the main grid. The multi-purpose building provides weekend enjoyment for many Cubs, Scouts, Guides, and other groups and Peter expressed it is a wonderful place to work.

John H. Miller again thanked RVCA, staff and members for their support.

9. Adjournment 8:35 pm moved by Bill Stevenson

**Chair,
John H. Miller**

**Recording Secretary,
Joan Sherwood**

C:Joint Meeting minutes Feb 24 05