

# RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MINUTES

**Middle Rideau Valley  
Conservation Authority  
Advisory Board Meeting**

**April 20, 2005**

**#2/05**

**Present:** Dwight Bennett (North Grenville)  
John Fischl (Augusta)  
Ken Graham (Smiths Falls)  
Sterling Condie (Montague)  
Estella Rose (North Dundas)  
Bill Stevenson (Elizabethtown-Kitley)  
Cathy Willoughby (Merrickville-Wolford)

John H. Miller (Tay Valley), RVCA Chair  
Allan McCallum (Rideau Lakes representing the  
Upper RVCA Advisory Board)

**Staff:** Dell Hallett                      Cliff Craig  
Lynn Preston                      Bruce Reid

**Regrets:** Stanley Brunton (Beckwith)  
Alison Conley (Athens)  
Stephen Bird (representing City of Ottawa)

**Guests:** Bob Woolham                      Gabe Levac  
Steve Kirkwood                      Bill and Carolyn Kroot  
Jeff Banks                      Gill Cyr  
John Willoughby

### **1. Welcome and Opening Comments**

Cathy Willoughby, Chair, welcomed the members, staff and guests to the meeting held in Elizabethtown-Kitley Twp. at the former Kitley Township Office, Toledo. She thanked the representative of Kitley Township for the use of the hall.

Changes in the agenda were made. Item 7 Beaver Problems and Drainage in Elizabethtown-Kitley portion of Kemptville Creek was moved and inserted after item 4, Business Arising. An open question period will be held after item 11, Member Inquiries.

### **2. Declaration of Interest**

None declared.

### **3. Approval of Minutes - Meeting January 19, 2005**

Cathy reviewed the activities of the last meeting. John Fischl commented on remarks he had made relative to the increase in levy and the Three Year Work Plan. Dwight Bennett stated the minutes should read that both the RVCA and MVC were recipients of \$500,000 for this region.

**Motion 1**

**Moved by:** Dwight Bennett  
**Seconded by:** Ken Graham

That the minutes of the Middle Advisory Board meeting #1/05, January 19, 2005, be approved as amended.

**Motion Carried**

**4. Business Arising from Minutes**

None

**5. Beaver Problems and Drainage in Elizabethtown-Kitley Portion of Kemptville Creek**

Steve Kirkwood of Elizabethtown-Kitley discussed the issue of beavers and their need for management in the area of Kemptville Creek known as Mud Creek (above North Augusta). He provided a map of properties and a list of landowners affected. He stated that he will be making a similar presentation to the township roads department. He reported that 11 beaver dams were spotted in a 1 mile stretch of Fly Creek. Mr. Kirkwood requested that the RVCA look into removing the beavers and the dams.

Ken Graham noted that over 58mm of rain fell on the days prior to when pictures presented were taken and that flooding was a problem in many places at this time. He also questioned what it was landowners could do about the beaver problem.

Cliff reported that the RVCA's beaver monitoring pilot project did not extend to the area above North Augusta. As a pilot project, an analysis must be made of the effectiveness of the efforts to achieve the objectives as originally defined. He also stated that beavers can be killed and removed if they are on your land. If not, a licensed trapper must be hired to remove.

Cathy thanked Mr. Kirkwood for attending the meeting and suggested he contact the LRC for information on how to deal with beavers.

**6. Meetings**

(a) RVCA Upper Advisory Board Meeting, April 18, 2005  
Allan reported on the delegation that attended the Upper Board meeting requesting that the RVCA commit more resources to Lake Management Planning. A motion in this regard was put forth to the Board of Directors.

**7. Water Level Management on Kemptville Creek above the Oxford Mills Dam – 2004 Activities**

Bruce gave a slide show on the findings of the water level and beaver monitoring undertaken in 2004. He stated that the purpose of the project was to evaluate the effectiveness of work done under the beaver dam monitoring program and to help describe the degree to which the operation of the Oxford Mills Dam influences upstream water levels. Based on findings to date, it was concluded that the Oxford Mills dam had little effect on water levels above the Patterson's Road crossing between

July and November of 2004. The very mild natural gradient of the stream above Pattersons' Corners, combined with beaver dams and heavy vegetation growth are more significant factors governing water levels on the upper reaches of the Creek during runoff events. It was recommended that monitoring and breaching of beaver dams will have to be continued if control of water levels on these upper reaches is to be achieved. It was acknowledged that better information is needed about the profile of the creek, in order to more precisely identify the most critical locations where water levels are controlled. He reported that water level monitoring of the Creek will continue through 2005, and RVCA also plans to conduct surveys to more accurately define the streambed profile this summer. Further, it was recommended that some effort be applied to defining the water levels along the system at which problems are perceived to begin for riparian landowners.

Ken Graham suggested that the beaver problem was a daunting one and should be addressed not just by MNR but by all agencies affected by beaver activity. He mentioned that the municipalities are not likely to want to increase their levy after doing so the last 3 years. Dell suggested that financial support from the province is unlikely.

After much discussion the following motion was put forward:

<b>Motion 2</b>	<b>Moved:</b>	Bill Stevenson
	<b>Seconded:</b>	John Fischl

That the Middle Advisory Board recommend to the Board of Directors that the RVCA continue the Beaver Monitoring program (assuming funding can be found) to the headwaters of Kemptville Creek.

**Motion: Carried**

Jeff Banks questioned if higher water levels meant a larger area that would be regulated as floodplain. In reply Bruce Reid advised that in engineering studies to delineate flood risk areas for regulatory purposes it is assumed as a standard practice that beaver dams are not stable in the long term and will eventually be washed out or purposely removed; the flood hazard areas are delineated based on the natural channel geometry without active beaver dams; Gill Cyr stated that the beaver problem has been around forever and nothing gets done.

The meeting was reminded that there are also those in the community who are opposed to attempts at eliminating the beaver, as they are a natural part of the ecosystem, indigenous to the area. Staff suggested that it is possible to balance the need for drainage with natural heritage conservation objectives, but it requires having a clear understanding of the critical water levels along the system, ongoing attention to the status of beaver dams, and repeated efforts to breach the beaver dams in an ecologically sensitive fashion when necessary, maintaining head ponds below the critical levels.

## **8. Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan Update**

Lynn gave an update on the Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan. She stated that the Technical Advisory Committee has met and put together a list of actions to achieve the new objectives. Indicators and targets have been suggested for each action item. She reported that the next Steering

Committee meeting should be in early June with a public meeting to follow quickly behind. A draft watershed plan update can be expected this summer and a final this fall.

**9. Rural Clean Water Program Update**

Cliff reported that there have been changes made to the inside City of Ottawa and outside the City programs. Inside the City the program has changed in that all 3 CA's are delivering the program on their own as the City has delegated the program to them. The program is still funded by the City through special levy being channeled through the South Nation. \$129K is available within the City for the 3 CA's. Outside the City the program is being offered the same as last year (despite slight decreases in funding). Two additional appointees from the City now sit on the Rideau Valley Clean Water Program Committee.

Cliff also announced that a new Environmental Farm Plan program has been launched. There is now more focus on farms and less on rural living. A number of incentive grants are offered with the new program.

**10. Source Protection Planning Update**

Dell updated the group on Source Water Protection Planning. Highlights include: the Drinking Water Source Protection Act is expected to be passed in June (unless delayed). If the act is passed in June, the Source Water Protection Plan Committee is expected to be formed in the summer. The work plan and budget will be worked on from August 2005 to August 2006. 2007 is the deadline for completing technical assessment reports and 2009 should see completed plans.

Ken Graham reported that a public statement made by a local individual that the Town of Smiths Falls has sent untreated sewage to the Rideau River is false. The town has sent a letter to the organization stating that the information reported be corrected.

**11. Member Inquiries**

John Fischl brought forward a letter asking if MNR has any plans to use the Oxford Mills dam for power generation. Dell reported he was not aware of any such intention. He also brought forward a letter from Bob Woolham which requested that the RVCA request MNR to not place any logs in the Oxford Mills dam until water levels decreased. He also supplied a list of local landowners who have expressed an interest in being involved in or learning more about beaver management and the Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan update.

**12. New Business**

There was no new business

**13. Upcoming Meetings**

a) Board of Directors, Thursday, April 28, 2005

14. **Adjournment:** 10:05 p.m.

**Motion 3** Moved by: Estella Rose

That the meeting be adjourned.

**Motion Carried**

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**Chair,**  
**Cathy Willoughby**

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**Recording Secretary,**  
Lynn Preston/Bruce Reid

C:Minutes Middle Apr 20 05 Approved