

4. **Approval of Minutes - Meeting , January 18, 2006**

Motion 2

Moved by:

Dwight Bennett

Seconded by:

Chris Babcock

That the minutes of the Middle Advisory Board Meeting #1/06, January 18, 2006, be approved as printed and distributed.

Motion Carried

5. **Speaker – Mr. Paul Sharpe, Professor of Animal Sciences, Kemptville College – Pasture Project Research Barnes Creek**

Cathy Willoughby introduced Mr. Paul Sharpe, Professor of Animal Sciences at Kemptville College. Professor Sharpe gave a presentation titled “Cows, Creeks & Water Quality” which presented the results of his pasture project along Barnes Creek. Professor Sharpe explained that while there is currently a big push to fence cattle out of waterways, there is some science that suggests cows can be trained to water at a trough, and as a result, stay out of a water course. His study grazed cows along a stretch of Barnes Creek that runs through the Kemptville College campus. The variable in the study was the presence of a water trough and the study measured the cows’ frequency of watering in the creek versus watering at a trough and the location of defecation (creek, riparian zone or upland). His study also measured bacteria in water samples taken at three points along Barnes Creek (upstream, midstream and downstream of the pasture site). The results are somewhat inconclusive at this time given that the experiment was only run twice. Professor Sharpe plans to run the experiment three more times in 2006. He asked if anyone knew of a farm close to Kemptville with a streamside pasture that he could use for his study in the event that Barnes Creek dries up. He is also looking to borrow a remote automatic sampler and flow sampling equipment. There was a lot of discussion about Professor Sharpe’s study, and he acknowledged that it was still early in the study and more data is required to produce any conclusive findings. He said that a weather station will be in place this summer to look at factors like temperature and rain fall that could very well affect bacteria levels.

6. **Business Arising from Minutes**

None

7. **Meetings**

a) RVCA Upper Advisory Board Meeting, April 18, 2006

Allan McCallum gave a brief report on the Upper Advisory Board meeting that took place April 18, 2006. He stated that David Taylor of Friends of the Tay gave a report on their activities in 2005, David Crowley and Bruce Reid reported on the status of the Perth Dams study, Sommer Casgrain-Robertson gave an update on the proposed *Clean Water Act* and progress being made by source water protection staff, Dell Hallett presented a summary on the RVCA Rural Clean Water Program, Don Maciver gave an update on Generic Regulations, Matt Craig gave a report on planning activities in the upper watershed, Lynn Preston gave an update on the Rideau Lakes Watershed Plan, and Bond Strand outlined the work being done at Foley Mountain.

b) Merrickville-Wolford Council Meeting

Dell Hallett and Cathy Willoughby attended the Council meeting and they were asked to provide the RVCA's budget trend from the late 1980s to present (it is quite steady except for the spike over the last three years due to RVCA's three year workplan). There was interest in our screening guidelines for planning applications, which planning applications does RVCA look at and how are they filtered out. There was also interest in the new office building resulting in Merrickville-Wolford Council passing a resolution recommending that RVCA use the assets they have in Manotick to pay for the new office building. This resolution will be brought to the Board of Directors April 27, 2006.

In response to this report Dell was asked to elaborate on the Best Use Study currently taking place to look at RVCA's assets in Dickinson Square. Dell explained the study process and indicated that the popular option coming out of the study is that the City of Ottawa take an increased role in the buildings.

c) Bellamy Pond Dam

Bruce Reid reported on the status of repairs and rehabilitation work to the dam at the outlet of Bellamy Pond at the headwaters of Irish Creek. An assessment report was done last year and three deficiencies were noted, requiring joint action by the RVCA and the Township: 1. absence of guide rails along the road; 2. original culvert is wearing out; 3. seepage through the embankment is causing toe erosion at the base of the embankment. Bruce attended an Elizabethtown-Kitley Township Council meeting on April 10th, to brief Council on the matter since the correction of these deficiencies by RVCA requires financial support from the Township as the benefiting municipality and since these deficiencies have to do with the condition of a public road for which the Township has responsibility. Council indicated an interest in proceeding with both the geotechnical investigations (required in order to select a preferred approach to repairing the culvert and stabilizing the embankment) and the guide rail installations, but requested additional information on the likely timing of the geotechnical work.

8. Staff Report – Kemptville Creek Open House

Lynn Preston explained that the updated Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan has been circulated throughout the community over the last six weeks. On March 22nd, RVCA hosted an open house regarding the plan, 25 people showed up and public concerns focused on water levels and beaver activities. There was a brief presentation during the open house and Darcy Alkerton (RVCA's beaver consultant) was in attendance and provided clarity on the beaver issue. The public seemed content with RVCA's efforts to monitor beaver activity and remove dams. The comment period is now closed and RVCA received a lot of feedback from other agencies. The final plan is expected by the end of May 2006.

9. Staff Report – Beaver Management Report

Mark Scott gave a verbal report on the Beaver Management program. He indicated that right now people are calling RVCA to remove beaver dams in the channel when really landowners have the power to remove dams so long as they

follow the operational statement issued by Department of Fisheries and Oceans on beaver dam removal. RVCA will be moving into a role of providing advice to landowners about how to go about removing a dam, rather than organizing the removal and contracting the trapper. RVCA may also help determine who is responsible for a particular dam in situations where it's unclear who the landowner is. RVCA may become involved in the removal of problem beaver dams in special cases, such as when a dam is on crown land. Currently RVCA provides \$15,000 for dam removal on Kemptville Creek and the North Branch. RVCA will now expand the project to the entire watershed and the \$15,000 for dam removal will be allotted on a first come, first serve basis. People with questions regarding beaver dams can call Mark directly or contact the Landowner Resource Centre for more information.

10. Staff Report – RVCA Rural Clean Water Program (RVRCWP)

Cathy Willoughby highlighted that between 2002 and 2005 the RVRCWP funded 290 projects at a cost of \$319,118.64 in grant money. These projects totaled \$1,244,516.04 in total project costs. Cathy stated that this success is reflective of the will of the community to do the right thing. The RVRCWP program has now been updated to work in cooperation with recent changes made to the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). The RVRCWP will offer top ups to farmers who receive funding through the EFP program. EFP will do the site visit, receive the paperwork, and approve projects, the RVRCWP will simply top up grants where the EFP grant rate is lower than the grant rate offered by the RVRCWP. There will be no additional paperwork or site visit. The RVRCWP also added a grant for non-agricultural well replacement, in the event that someone has a chronic bad well they can receive up to \$1000 to decommission their bad well and \$2000 towards building a new well. After some discussion Cathy noted that she brought forward the idea of restructuring the Steering Committee and it was voted on resulting in status quo. Cathy Willoughby and Dell Hallett explained that we are no longer eligible to receive funds from the Dragon Boat Festival which has been a very generous source of grant money over the last two years. This loss of revenue is the reason for the decrease in projected budget for grants. Staff are trying hard to raise additional funds, and if successful, they will be reflected in an updated budget. Our current budget of \$50,000 in grants in 2006 is a conservative estimate. It was noted that the program is being promoted in municipal offices, farm equipment dealerships, farm shows, plowing matches, banks, website, etc.

11. Staff Report – Clean Water Act (Source Water Protection)

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson gave an update on source water protection. Technical work is progressing well, draft copies of the Watershed Characterization Report and Water Budget Report are due in June 2006. MOE recently provided grant money to undertake technical studies around municipal wellheads and surface water intakes. Our source protection region received funding to begin: 1. field work to characterize the aquifer around the wellheads in Westport, Kemptville and Merrickville; 2. aerial photography and preliminary intake protection zone delineation around the surface water intakes in Carleton Place, Perth and Smiths Falls. Over the last few months communications staff have been focussing on meeting with as many stakeholders as possible, providing SWP briefs to media outlets, creating updates and working on the website. Discussion arose regarding private wells and how they will be addressed under the new legislation. Sommer explained that the technical work will be done across

the watersheds and will identify vulnerable areas around municipal systems as well as vulnerable aquifers and recharge areas. In the draft *Act* land use restrictions are focussed around municipal systems, protecting source water protection in areas of private systems may be done through public education and incentive programs to encourage best management practices.

12. Staff Report – Land Donation

Dell Hallett announced that an 80 acre wetland in the Township of Merrickville-Wolford is being donated to the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation. The wetland is located in the wellhead protection area for Merrickville's municipal well. The costs will be negligible, just the legal fees for land transfer.

12(b). Staff Report – Generic Regulations

Don Maciver explained that in the coming weeks Regulation 166 will be rescinded and replaced with a new regulation approved by the Minister of Natural Resources to implement Ontario Regulation 97/04. A key feature of the new regulations is that they extend the RVCA's hazard area mapping by approximately 50% and provide for the regulation of development in and adjacent to "provincially significant" wetlands; draft policies were presented and circulated for comment. A final draft of new implementation policies will be sent to the Board of Directors in early summer. Further discussion is required with the Board of Directors. In discussion Don Maciver noted that it is the Ministry of Natural Resources who evaluate wetlands and that the Generic Regulations process may be a mechanism for resolving some wetland boundary disputes that landowners have with the MNR. If Middle Advisory Board members have comments about the draft policies regarding wetlands please direct them to Don Maciver on or before May 5, 2006

13. Member Inquiries

Larry O'Grady asked if RVCA had selected a site to plant their 3 millionth tree. Dell explained that the tree will be planted at Baxter Conservation Area on June 15, 2006 as part of RVCA's 40th Anniversary celebrations.

13(b). Open Questions

Bill Eckersley, Councillor for Montague Township asked whether RVCA would be revisiting rejected office sites now that it has been determined that a basement would be too costly to construct at the Beryl Gaffney site due to soil conditions. John Miller, Allan McCallum and Dell Hallett explained that although it has been determined that it would be difficult to construct a basement at Beryl Gaffney Park, building the proposed annex building is both cheaper than a conventional basement and better meets RVCA's needs. It was noted that RVCA needs to do a better job of communicating with member municipalities regarding the new building.

14. New Business

None

15. Upcoming Meetings

a) RVCA Board of Directors, Thursday, April 27, 2006

b) 40th Anniversary Chairman's BBQ, Thursday, June 15, 2006

16. **Adjournment**

Motion 3

Moved by:

Larry O'Grady

That the meeting be adjourned: 10 pm.

Motion Carried

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Chair,
Cathy Willoughby

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Recording Secretary,
Sommer Casgrain-Robertson