

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Box 599, 1128 Mill Street
Manotick, Ontario, K4M 1A5
(613) 692-3571, 1-800-267-3504

MINUTES

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

February 22, 2007

#1/07

Present: David Biggs John Campbell
David Crowley Steve Desroches
Rob Dunfield Ken Graham
Andy Jozefowicz Magda Kubasiewicz
Larry O'Grady Michael McEwen
Maria McRae John H. Miller
Estella Rose Cathy Willoughby
Adrian Wynands

Regrets: Alan Arbuckle Chris Babcock
Dwight Bennett Glenn Brooks
John Purdon Bradley Wing
Larry York

Guests: Gavin Liddy, Superintendent, Rideau Canal
Ralph Raina, Director, RVC Foundation

Staff: Dell Hallett Cliff Craig
Charles Billington Jim Ellis
Rudy Dyck Peter Goddard
Jocelyn Chandler Joan Sherwood

1. Declaration of Interest

None

2. Approval of Minutes, Meeting , June 15, 2006

Motion 1 **Moved by:** David Crowley
 Seconded by: David Biggs

That the minutes of meeting #2/06, June 15, 2006 be approved.

Motion Carried

3. Introductions

Ken Graham, Vice-Chair, on behalf of Alan Arbuckle, Chair, requested the members, staff and guests introduce themselves.

4. Chair's Remarks

Ken Graham, Vice-Chair welcomed RVCA members, RVCA staff, RVC Foundation members and guests to the 2007 RVCA Annual Meeting held at the P. J. McManus Interpretive Centre at Baxter Conservation Area. Ken Graham, Vice-Chair and Smiths Falls Municipal Representative, stood in for Chair, Alan Arbuckle, who sent his regrets as being unable to attend the Joint Meeting.

Ken introduced John Miller, Past Chair and the Tay Valley Municipal Representative, to say a few words regarding RVCA activities and achievements in 2006.

John Miller, thanked Ken Graham for this opportunity as Past Chair to say a few words as follows:

“2006 was our 40th year of conservation service and we celebrated this time last year with a sit-down gourmet meal at the Monterey Inn followed by a catered barbecue in mid-June at which time we welcomed back over 150 guests including past members, staff, friends and partners of all kinds.

There was remarkable progress on conservation of our watershed resources in 2006 and most of it is outlined in the Annual Report to be presented tonight. After 40 years of work, the list of RVCA accomplishments is long. In many ways though, there is still so much left to be done.

I would like to talk briefly about three recent projects which I believe will become increasingly important to us as the years go by:

- first is the New RVCA Headquarters under construction about 20 km up the road,
- second is the continuing work on watershed monitoring and modeling, and
- third is the Clean Water Act of 2006.

These three important 2006 items will have far-reaching positive impacts on all of our member municipalities as the twenty-first century unfolds. For the first 40 years of our existence, the RVCA offices were far from ideal for providing our important conservation service role to the municipalities. Not only will our new Headquarters Building be a conservation centre to be proud of, its highly visible location and efficient design will speak volumes about the leadership role that we play among our colleagues and partners in the conservation field. We will have a building with many “green” features at the entrance to Beryl Gaffney Park, a natural green space within a municipality that values the watershed concept, that values the idea of healthy waterways and parks, and that values the natural heritage for social, economic as well as environmental reasons. It is a pleasure to thank the City of Ottawa on behalf of all our municipalities for their assistance in making the move to the new Headquarters building possible.

I am equally pleased with the continuing emphasis on understanding how our watershed works, the first installment of which is in the second publication being distributed tonight, the Annual Rideau Valley Watershed Check Up. It is only by using RVCA's experience, data and science-based information and advice that we, as municipalities, can make the

appropriate decisions in the years ahead. The RVCA is making great strides in watershed modeling, in learning about the subtleties of our water budget through an expanded rain gauge network, in understanding the relationship between groundwater and surface water and about the role of forests in the watershed. These are key elements of planning, growth and land use decisions in the coming years, particularly in light of the potential for disruption of traditional water systems caused by climate change. RVCA will be there with all the information at our disposal to assist municipalities in the difficult years ahead in terms of erosion control, flooding, drought, reforestation, conservation of land, plan review, natural land functions and threats to drinking water.

The last item I wish to highlight is the Clean Water Act of 2006 which became law on October 19 last year. One of the primary benefits of all of our conservation work over the past 40 years is having a healthy, clean environment in which to live, work, raise families and build communities. The Clean Water Act focuses a lot of attention directly on family and community health by protecting drinking water at source. This huge environmental monitoring and evaluation program which will provide municipalities with most of the information and know-how they need to protect their vital drinking water sources against contamination and depletion for up to 50 years into the future. If one of the fundamental pillars of a community is access to safe, abundant drinking water, this service in cooperation with our colleagues at MOE is reason enough to invest in good sustainable conservation information.

It was an honour for me to represent all of you as Chair over the past five years. It was appropriate to cap off 40 years of growth, learning and understanding as an organization with the celebrations and the highlights of 2006.

We didn't accomplish it without help. It is my pleasure to publicly thank our municipal members of course for their outstanding, consistent, thoughtful input and commitment to our goal; they are the political and social oversight of our work as well as where the buck stops most often; and on behalf of Karen, my very patient wife, I would also like to thank their husbands, wives and partners who put up with the regular evenings alone (although this will be relieved somewhat by our recent switch to afternoon meetings in winter) and the worry of long, late-night drives back home; our staff is second to none in this province and deserve credit for commitment, imagination and fortitude in facing the challenges and suggesting solutions over the years; we have many, many partner agencies who provide advice, sometimes funds, sometimes endorsement, that all grease the wheels towards the goal of watershed health.

My sincere hope is that we can continue to work as one of the most-respected watershed-based organizations in Eastern Ontario being sensitive to the needs of each of our areas and each of our municipal representatives while maintaining that essential watershed approach. All indications are that this will happen."

John Miller personally thanked Dell Hallett, RVCA General Manager, for his assistance in the past year, Cliff Craig for his past contribution to RVCA and his current assignment as Project Manager for the New Office Headquarters. He expressed his sincere appreciation to Charles Billington, Don Maciver, Jim Ellis, Rudy Dyck and Peter Goddard for all their help as he moved through the five years. He thanked Jocelyn Chandler for joining staff at this meeting, and Joan Sherwood and Jan Gobey for their RVCA front desk assistance. He passed on his personal "thank you" to all other RVCA staff.

Ken Graham thanked John Miller, Past Chair, for his support to RVCA Staff and Board Members.

Ken introduced Gavin Liddy, Superintendent, Rideau Canal, Parks Canada, the evenings' guest speaker.

5. **Gavin Liddy, Superintendent, Rideau Canal, Parks Canada, with a presentation on the New Directions, World Heritage Designation and 175th Anniversary Celebration**

Mr. Gavin Liddy introduced himself and expressed his pleasure at being able to speak to the group gathered. His first day as Superintendent at the Smiths Falls, Rideau Canal Headquarters was on January 16, 2006. He expressed his pleasure in the position and he is proud to be a part of the Parks Canada team and the Smiths Falls community.

The year 2007 marks the 175th Anniversary of the opening of the Rideau Canal, the oldest continuously operated canal in North America. Parks Canada invites you and your family to celebrate the 175th opening of navigation on the Rideau Canal on Tuesday, May 22, 2007 in Smiths Falls. This event will include a ribbon cutting, presentations, musical performances, birthday cake and much more!! There are many events planned throughout the year. Information can be found on the Parks Canada, Rideau Canal website at www.rideau175.org.

The Rideau Canal Waterway is operated today much as was when it first opened in 1832 linking the lakes and rivers between Ottawa and Kingston. Originally built for military purposes, the Rideau Canal origins go back 195 years to the War of 1812 in North America, illustrating an important stage in human history when Lieutenant-Colonel John By first envisioned the canal. The Rideau Canal mandate is to protect the heritage, natural and cultural, for future generations, in partnership with others, working on the development of areas along the Rideau.

An important part of the 175th celebrations is Canada's nomination of the Rideau Canal for World Heritage Status, which was submitted on January 25, 2006. The World Heritage Committee will announce its decision in the summer of 2007. If the Rideau Canal receives this designation, it will join the thirteen amazing Canadian places that are presently on the World Heritage list and will be the only such site in Ontario.

Mr. Liddy's presentation is attached to the minutes.

Ken Graham thanked Gavin Liddy for his very interesting presentation and expressed pleasure from all those present, in looking forward to participating in the 175th Rideau Canal Anniversary Celebrations and the proposed designation of the Rideau Canal as a World Heritage Site.

6. **RVCA Publications**

Charles Billington, RVCA Staff, presented the following two RVCA publications. RVCA Staff will be pleased to receive comments.

a) Annual Rideau Valley Checkup 2006

The publication, the first Annual Rideau Valley Checkup 2006, is meant to tell the story of the health of our watershed to our people of the valley. It will be distributed to our local municipalities.

b) RVCA 2006 Annual Report

The RVCA 2006 Annual Report is a snapshot of Rideau Valley Conservation Authority as an organization in 2006.

Motion 2

Moved by:

David Biggs

Seconded by:

Magda Kubasiewicz

That, the RVCA Joint Advisory Board, received the Annual Rideau Valley Check up 2006 and the RVCA 2006 Annual Report.

Motion Carried

Ralph Raina, RVC Foundation director, passed on his congratulations to RVCA for the publication of the Annual Checkup, indicating he thought that the information provided would be a valuable tool in local schools.

7. **2006 Financial Statements**

Dell Hallett, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer, presented the RVCA 2006 Financial Statements prepared by Allan and Partners. The Auditor's Report covers the financial position of the RVCA. Dell reviewed the contents for the members covering Financial Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balances, Cash Flow and Notes to the Financial Statements. He gave credit to the RVCA Finance Department, headed by Angela Maisonneuve, for a job well done in working with the RVCA Auditors in the preparation of the Financial Statements.

Motion 3

Moved by:

Michael McEwen

Seconded by:

Cathy Willoughby

That the 2006 Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Financial Statements dated December 31, 2006 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

8. **2007 Budget and Municipal Levy**

Dell Hallett presented the 2007 Budget and Municipal Levy information previously provided to the members. His presentation is attached to the minutes.

Motion 4

Moved by: David Crowley
Seconded by: David Biggs

That the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approve the attached 2007 Budget in the amount of \$14,331,000 (dated January 30, 2007); and

that the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority establish a general municipal levy of \$3,329,000 for ongoing programs; and

a general municipal levy of \$338,000 for capital projects;

for a total general municipal levy of \$3,667,000; and

that this levy be apportioned to the participating municipalities according to the attached sheet entitled "Rideau Valley Conservation Authority 2007 General Levies (dated January 30, 2007) ; and further

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

- X \$335,300 - Rideau River Ice Management
- X \$5,000 - Ashton Dam Decommissioning Study
- X \$25,000 - Children's Water Festival
- X \$85,000 - Green Acres Tree-planting Program; and

that the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority establish a special levy to the Town of Perth as follows:

- X \$264,000 - Haggart Island Dam Reconstruction

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

Those in favour: David Biggs, David Crowley, Steve Desroches, Ken Graham, Magda Kubasiewicz, Michael McEwen, Maria McRae, John H. Miller and Cathy Willoughby

Those against: none

Absent: Alan Arbuckle, Dwight Bennett and Glenn Brooks

Motion Carried

9. Member Inquiries

None

10. New Business

Dell Hallett requested that the Advisory Board members look at three additional documents presented to them and attached to the minutes:

- 1) Two page document, Chart 2, Total Expenditures and General Levy 2006 – 2009, and Chart 3, Financing Conservation in 2007, with updated information to replace the back page of the document Making it Happen, the RVCA Work Plan, A Report on 2006 accomplishments, 2007 budget and a look ahead to 2008, distributed to members in January at the Upper and Middle Board meetings.
- 2) Summary of Source Water Protection Allocation and Funding Since Project Start-up, Proposed Mississippi – Rideau Source Protection Region, which clarifies the budget information provided in the RVCA 2007 Budget dated January 30, 2007,
- 3) The 2007 RVCA Membership Directory.

11. Upcoming Meetings

(a) RVCA Board of Directors, 1:30 pm, Thursday, March 22, 2007

Ken Graham again thanked RVCA, staff and members for their ongoing support .

12. Adjournment

8:15 pm

Moved by: John H. Miller

**Vice-Chair,
Ken Graham**

**Recording Secretary,
Joan Sherwood**

C:Joint Advisory Board Meeting Minutes February 22 2007 Approved