

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
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MINUTES

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

January 16, 2008

#1/08

Present: Chris Babcock (Elizabethtown-Kitley)
Dwight Bennett (North Grenville)
John Campbell (Beckwith)
Andy Jozefowicz (Athens)
Larry O'Grady (Montague)
Estella Rose (North Dundas)
Cathy Willoughby (Merrickville-Wolford)
Adrian Wynands (Augusta)
Alan Arbuckle (representing the City of Ottawa)
David Crowley (Perth) (representing the Middle RVCA
Advisory Board)
David Biggs, (representing the City of Ottawa)

Staff: Sommer Casgrain-Robertson Dell Hallett
Don Maciver

Regrets: Ken Graham (Smiths Falls)

Guests: Doug Struthers

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Cathy Willoughby, Chair welcomed members and staff to the meeting held in the Council Chambers, Village of Merrickville-Wolford.

Doug Struthers, Mayor of Merrickville-Wolford also welcomed members and staff. Mayor Struthers highlighted that 2007 was an exciting year for Merrickville-Wolford, not least of which was the 175th anniversary of the Rideau Canal and it's designation as a World Heritage Site. He complimented the Middle Board on their contribution to the RVCA which in turn has a positive impact on the broader community such as a World Heritage Site designation.

Mayor Struthers was pleased to see that a recent newspaper article about the Ontario Landowner Association blockade was followed by an RVCA press release explaining how Source Protection Committee members were chosen. Mayor Struthers underscored the importance of getting accurate information out to the public.

Mayor Struthers also explained that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) decided to circulate Merrickville-Wolford's draft Official Plan to the Algonquins of Ontario. No consultation process has been established so timelines and potential costs are unknown. Mayor Struthers is currently trying to get answers from MMAH.

Alan Arbuckle welcomed staff and members. He informed members that staff moved into the new office on December 10, 2007 and everyone seems happy to be under one roof. He encouraged members to stop in for a visit or attend the official opening on February 28. He explained that RVCA is awaiting the final decision on what level of LEED designation we have achieved. He also announced the City of Ottawa has agreed to acquire the five buildings in Manotick and RVCA and the community are pleased that they will stay in public hands. Lastly, Mr. Arbuckle noted the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee held its first meeting on January 10 and it's clear that the committee is a strong group of individuals who are going to do a great job over the next five years.

Dwight Bennett congratulated Mayor Doug Struthers who is finishing his two year term as Warden for Leeds and Grenville and Estella Rose who just became the first female Warden of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

2. Declaration of Interest

None declared.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion 1	Moved by:	Adrian Wynands
	Seconded by:	Chris Babcock

That the Middle RVCA Advisory Board Agenda, Wednesday, January 16, 2008, be adopted as presented.

Motion Carried

4. Approval of Minutes - Meeting , October 17, 2007

Motion 2	Moved by:	Dwight Bennett
	Seconded by:	Estella Rose

That the minutes of the RVCA Middle Advisory Board Meeting #3/07, October 17, 2007, be approved as printed and distributed.

Motion Carried

5. Business Arising from Minutes

Members inquired about item 8 and asked if the \$264,000 special levy was included in 2007 & 2008. Dell Hallett responded that it was included in 2007 budget and not 2008.

6. Election of Officers for 2008

Dell Hallett conducted the election for Chair and Vice-Chair, of the Middle Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Advisory Board.

a) Chair

Motion 3	Moved by:	Estella Rose
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That Cathy Willoughby, be nominated as Chair.

Motion Carried

That, the report be received.

Motion Carried

8. RVCA 2008 Budget

Dell Hallett gave an overview of the 2008 budget:

- Modest levy increase (approximately 5%) which is almost equal to inflation (2.5%) plus the assessment increase (average 2%)
- Includes three new expenditures – Total Phosphorus Management Program, additional \$20,000 for the Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program, and Landscaping for new office.
- Non-discretionary items added up to \$50,000 more than expected (payroll deductions increased by \$30,000, insurance bill is \$7000 more than in Manotick, and salary increase will be approximately \$66,000 including cost of living and merit increases for those who qualify this year).

Dell explained that RVCA runs a very lean budget and there are a few things we'd like to do that are not in this budget

- a Planning Program reserve (program is 90% funded by user fees, a reserve would protect us against a short-term drop in applications)
- an infrastructure reserve (new building has one but the rest of our infrastructure does not).
- Septic re-inspection program is growing and may need additional staff if many more municipalities sign-up, however, this program is entirely funded through user fees.
- the Conservation Land Management program is looking for a funding increase to upgrade two positions.

Dell explained that we do not know when the City of Ottawa will finalize the purchase of the buildings in Manotick. Every month that we carry them costs RVCA \$10,000 (small operating cost and lost interest on purchase price).

Members requested that a letter be sent to the City of Ottawa strongly encouraging them to move quickly on the purchase of these buildings.

Other discussion from members included:

- Municipal levy increases and if they are in line with growth in those municipalities - Dell noted that in the Middle Board, North Grenville had the most planning applications in 2007 followed by Montague and these are the two municipalities seeing modest levy increases.
- Caution that the new Total Phosphorus Management Program must focus on the reduction of phosphorus, not on who is causing the phosphorus.
- Future growth of the septic re-inspection program - Dell explained that current staff could manage a few more municipalities after which additional staff would be hired at full-cost recovery back to the municipalities using the service.
- Members encouraged RVCA to do as much of the landscaping as possible in-house. Dell assured members we would.
- Since we are redirecting money from the Shoreline Stewardship program to the Rural Clean Water Program (which is oversubscribed) we should grow the Shoreline program slowly. We should also control the growth of the Rural Clean Water Program

- until the new building is complete so as not to stress the budget.
- It's important to go after external sources of funding whenever possible (e.g. grants). Even though it takes staff time to complete proposals it's worthwhile to pursue such funding. Dell assured members that we write a number of grant applications each year including one this year asking for funding that would allow us to revamp the Foundation to increase its fundraising capability.
- In other watersheds, what proportion of their CA budget is municipal levy?

Motion 9

Moved by:

Dwight Bennett

Seconded by:

Adrian Wynands

That the report be received.

Motion Carried

9. Planning Update

Don Maciver circulated a summary of Planning and Regulations activity in the Middle Board for 2007 (see attached). Highlights included:

- 128 planning entries (represents 10% of total annual volume)
- 42 Section 28 applications
- 13 Fisheries Letters of Advice
- 2 Environmental Assessment Act reviews
- North Grenville activity predominant followed by Montague Township.
- Also highlighted scope of ongoing review services provided to Leeds and Grenville County by Memorandum of Agreement

Members inquired about fees and Don explained that all services have a fee except the Environmental Assessment review. Fees cover about 90% of the planning program and about 50% of the regulations program (there is a lot of dissemination of information to the public that is not a fee for service function and enforcement costs apportioned to levy).

Dell highlighted that 3.5 planning staff persons provide the review and advice service for in excess of 1200 applications each year.

Motion 10

Moved by:

Chris Babcock

Seconded by:

Andy Jozefowicz

That, the report be received.

Motion Carried

10. SWP Update

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson informed members that the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee (SPC) held their first meeting on January 10, 2008. It was very productive and members seemed enthusiastic about the job ahead.

Sommer also informed members that the Ontario Landowner Association (OLA) is unhappy about the way the two agricultural Source Protection Committee members were selected. Sommer circulated a staff report summarizing the open and transparent process used to select these two individuals. She noted that the RVCA invited Executive members of the

15. **Adjournment**

Motion 12

Moved by:

Adrian Wynands

That the meeting be adjourned, 9:20 pm.

Motion Carried

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Cathy Willoughby
Chair

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Sommer Casgrain-Robertson
Recording Secretary