

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 (\$30,000), 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).

One concern expressed by members was that ratepayers are expecting Municipalities to keep all tax increases to a minimum. Dell explained the RVCA'S increases are modest and at approximately the cost of living and assessment growth.

Dell explained that 46% of the RVCA operating costs are generated from the Municipal levy which is about average for Conservation Authorities across the province as they range from 17 – 83%.

Motion 8

Moved by:

Michael McEwen

Seconded by:

John H. Miller

That the report be received.

Motion Carried

9. Planning Update

Matt Craig presented a summary of planning activities in the Upper watershed. A total of 139 applications were reviewed from the Perth office while 41 permits were issued. Approximately 2/3 of the permits were issued for development adjacent to wetlands or shoreline works. Rideau Lakes once again had the most activity. Staff participated in the update of Official Plans as most of the Municipalities in the upper watershed are currently working on changes to their Plan.

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. She noted that the RVCA invited Executive members of the OLA to their Board Meeting on December 20, 2007 but they declined. The OLA blockaded RVCA's driveway that morning in protest.

Members asked if other source protection regions appointed local OFEC nominees. Sommer indicated that OFEC nominees were appointed in 17

of 19 regions. The OFEC process produced some very strong agricultural candidates and the conservation authorities appreciated that. In our particular region the conservation authorities felt that the two strongest candidates who applied to represent agriculture did not include the OFEC nominee. Also important to note is that in Eastern Ontario OFEC held their nomination meetings in early August and we were legislatively required to accept applications for all SPC seats until October 8. This resulted in a very tight window for farmers to participate in the OFEC meeting and they were left with an additional six week period to apply directly to the conservation authorities. OFEC held the rest of their meetings across the province in October to coincide with the legislative application deadline.

11. RVCA New Office Headquarters

Dell Hallett informed members that we anticipate a debenture of \$5 million. Although the total project cost rose \$900,000 to \$7.3 million (\$600,000 was the result of increased construction costs) the value of our offsetting recoveries rose:

- Manotick buildings sold for \$1.4 million (\$400,000 more than anticipated)
- Chapman Mills property sold for \$266,000 (\$166,000 more than anticipated)

Dell responded to a member's inquiry that the office had some capacity to accommodate new staff if required.

12. Member Inquiries

None

13. New Business

Allan Arbuckle stated that new building sets the standard for environmental and energy efficiency and extended an open invitation to all members to visit the new office. He also mentioned that he is pleased with the recent progress of source water protection committee meetings.

Ken Graham also stated that the new office is a showcase for other Conservation Authorities in the province.

John Miller reminded the Board that the extension of the trails at Meisel Woods will be completed by next October. He mentioned that it may be appropriate to have the fall meeting coincide with the opening of the new trail.

14. Upcoming Meetings

- a) RVCA Board of Directors, Thursday, January 24, 2008
- b) RVCA Board of Directors, Thursday, February 21, 2008
- c) RVCA Joint Advisory Board, Thursday, February 28, 2008

15. **Adjournment**

Motion 9

Moved by: David Crowley

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Motion Carried

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John H. Miller
Chair

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Matt Craig
Recording Secretary

C:Upper Board Minutes January 21 2008 Approved