

7. Source Water Protection Update

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson provided the following update on drinking water source protection:

- Proposed Terms of Reference were submitted to the Minister of the Environment in October and they are on track for approval within the next month.
- 2009 will focus on developing Assessment Reports which are due one year after the Terms of Reference are approved.
- Assessment Reports may not be entirely completed by the deadline because of Provincial delays in approving final technical rules and regulations. MOE is aware that many regions will be late and they take responsibility for the delay.
- Consultants are now completing draft studies in compliance with the final rules and regulations which were approved in November. These studies will be presented to the Source Protection Committee for their review and then municipalities (staff & council) and the public for consultation.
- A discussion paper on Source Protection Plans is expected from MOE this year. This will be our first look at what the planning phase will entail and it will be posted for public comment.
- The Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program is under review and Source Protection Committees are assisting MOE with consultation at the local level. We will be approaching stakeholders, including the agricultural sector, to provide comments on what this program should look like for 2009-2011.
- The Source Protection Committee is meeting monthly this year (except for February and August). A meeting schedule will be posted shortly.
- Staff continues to present to interested groups about the source protection program. Members were asked to let staff know about any potential speaking engagements.

Members asked if groups were still raising concerns about powers of entry. Sommer confirmed that there were a couple of groups still concerned about the powers of entry in the Act, but explained that staff will adhere to the protocol passed by the RVCA Board of Directors which clearly states staff must have permission from the landowner before entering property unless there is suspected environmental damage taking place (i.e. landslide, contaminant spill). Staff does not anticipate having to enter private property to complete Assessment Reports or Source Protection Plans so there should be no issues. The powers of entry in the *Clean Water Act* are standard powers of entry included in many pieces of legislation to be used as a last resort for compliance.

Members asked if Terms of Reference that called for compensation were rejected by the Minister. Sommer explained that MOE indicated there were some Terms of Reference that the Minister would likely return for amendment because they were not in compliance with the legislation. They did not specify which Terms of Reference this would include.

Motion 9

Moved by: Ken Graham
Seconded by: John Campbell

That the Source Water Protection verbal update provided by Sommer Casgrain-Robertson be received.

Motion Carried

8. Kemptonville Creek Flood Mapping Presentation

Ferdous Ahmed reported on the progress of the Kemptonville Creek Flood Mapping Project. He said that the hydrological analysis, field survey, hydraulic modeling and draft flood mapping are done. A report is being prepared on the modeling and mapping, and the maps are being finalized. An Open House, held on November 12, 2008 at Oxford Mills, was well attended; the public found the information and staff helpful.

In response to a member enquiry, Ferdous said that, when finalized and approved by the Board, all reports and maps will be posted on our website. He also explained that doing the mapping in-house is cost-effective and efficient. The Board expressed satisfaction at the quality of the work and the progress made so far.

The presentation is attached to the minutes.

Members confirmed that most of the area covered by this floodplain mapping was never mapped before so these are new floodplain areas, not revised ones. Staff also confirmed that this means these areas will now be regulated by all the regulations that currently apply to floodplains once the mapping is adopted by the Board of Directors.

Members asked if there were areas along Kemptonville Creek that have development pressure. Staff identified the outskirts of Kemptonville as having a significant amount of development pressure.

Members asked what areas experienced flooding last year. Staff identified the downstream section of Kemptonville Creek. Staff went on to explain that the public has associated flooding in past years on the Oxford Mills Dam but the watershed model had demonstrated that this is not true.

Members asked if there was concern from residents as the public meetings about regulations applying to new areas. Staff explained that the public open house was about the engineering and science that went into the mapping so the discussion was focused on how the mapping was produced. The public recognized that we were pointing out areas at risk of flooding so people wanted to know where they were, they were not concerned about regulations.

Members wanted to ensure this new information and data would be available to other RVCA staff and partner agencies to benefit a wider range of programs. Staff confirmed that this information can be accessed by all RVCA staff and is compatible with the larger GIS framework. This mapping will also be available on the RVCA website, like the Jock River mapping is, to benefit our partner agencies and the public.

Members asked when the Board of Directors would see this mapping for review and potential approval. Staff is confident that it will be presented to the Board in three to four months.

Members asked what level of detail the mapping shows. Staff explained you can see houses, auxiliary buildings and lot and concession lines have been drawn on.

Motion 10

Moved by:
Seconded by:

Ken Graham
John Campbell

That, the Kemptville Creek Flood Mapping Presentation provided by Ferdous Ahmed be received.

Motion Carried

9. RVCA Rural Clean Water Update

Martha Bradburn provided handouts summarizing historical activities of RVCA stewardship grant programs from 1992-2008 (including Clean Up Rural Beaches Program-1992-95, RVRCWP-2002-2008 and Ottawa RCWP-2005-08). The information provided is attached to the minutes.

During the 1992-2008 period, the RVCA supported over 800 stewardship/conservation projects. With our municipal and private sector partners, we offered \$1.4 million in grants for water protection projects valued at \$6.6 million.

Martha also circulated a draft RVRCWP and Ottawa RCWP **2008 Annual Report** for information. In 2008, the combined Rural Clean Water Programs allocated a total of \$172,000.00 (\$76,000.00 outside the City and \$96,000.00 inside the City) for 117 projects worth \$2.4 million. The final 2008 annual report will be available in the coming weeks.

Martha noted that both the Ottawa and RV programs remain in demand. There are 150 land owners in the RV watershed on the waiting list for 2009. Demand continues to be highest for well and septic projects.

Martha also noted that the Ottawa RCWP is undergoing a review by the City of Ottawa in consultation with MVC, RVCA, SNC staff and farm representatives. A consultant's report (Marbek) is to be completed in June. It is intended that there may be Program changes, if warranted, for 2010.

Members sought clarification of what a well "replacement" entails. Staff explained that a well replacement is only eligible for a grant if an existing well must be decommissioned because of poor water test results and there is no way to fix the problem. The old well must also be decommissioned as a condition of the grant.

Members asked if farm applications had increased since the RCWP started working with the Environmental Farm Plan program. Staff explained that farm applications were actually below average in 2008. Farmers seem to be using the EFP for large projects so they may come to the RCWP and RVRCWP once they've exhausted their EFP money. Another factor is the CA programs don't fund manure storage.

Members asked if most of the grant money came from the general levy. Staff explained that it is mostly levy money however some is raised through fundraising.

Motion 11

Moved by:

John Campbell

Seconded by:

Larry O'Grady

That, the RVCA Rural Clean Water verbal update and handout provided by Martha Bradburn be received.

Motion Carried

10. **Staff Report – RVCA 2009 Budget, Budget Sheets and Levy Apportionment Sheet**

Dell Hallett presented the attached budget and levy apportionment sheet.

Members asked what percentage of the budget covers salaries and benefits. Dell explained that the RVCA is a service based organization and approximately \$4 million is spent on salaries and benefits. There is not a lot of discretionary spending.

Larry O’Grady indicated that the Township of Montague forwarded a letter to RVCA stating they wanted the levy increase capped at 2% municipal growth. Larry O’Grady will set up a meeting for Dell to present the budget to council. Mr. O’Grady praised RVCA’s stewardship services and programs provided to the rural parts of the watershed. He explained that forestry and the other stewardship programs are fantastic and create good public relations for RVCA. He went on to say that in these difficult economic times, we should be careful not to erode the stewardship programs in order to maintain CA regulatory functions. Wherever possible, stewardship programs should be expanded.

Members asked what the status of the Beaver Management Pilot Program was and with a budget of just \$5000 should it be terminated. Staff corrected that the line item should read “Beaver Management Program” since the pilot is done. Staff explained that the budget is small but it is used to provide ongoing landowner advice (information packages) and it is also used to help municipal partners with complex multi-property owner situations where beaver management responsibilities are unclear. Staff has found they can solve very big complex situations for very little money after which local landowners and the municipality take over the responsibility.

Members asked how much the anticipated budget surplus would be. Dell explained that the reserves are currently in the negative so the surplus created because of the sale of the buildings in Manotick will be needed to get the reserves back up to approximately \$300,000. Approximately \$50,000 will also be needed to cover the expected debenture increase. Members cautioned that the use of reserves to compensate operations only compounds the problem.

Members asked if there was a direct relation between CVA and levy increase. Dell answered that levy is based on CVA. The levy increase in this budget is 5.6% and the CVA increased on average across the watershed by 2%. If the individual municipality’s CVA increased by more than the average, its levy increase will be more than 5.6%. If the CVA increase was less than the average that municipality’s levy increase would be less than 5.6%. Dell then ran through the levy apportionments for the middle board municipalities.

Members requested a presentation on hydrologic modeling at the April Middle Board meeting.

Members asked for an update on the Montague School. Larry O’Grady explained that RVCA staff had done a site visit and there was two projects under construction: 1) tree plant with kids, 2) include commercial planting on back location. A volunteer group from the school cut a trail through the woodlot and they are looking to install exercise equipment along the trail. In conclusion, the project is progressing well.

