

3. Consent Agenda

All agenda items were discussed.

4. Introductions

Alan Arbuckle, Chair, asked the members and staff to introduce themselves.

5. Chair's Remarks

The Chair, Alan Arbuckle, welcomed RVCA members and staff to the RVCA Board of Directors and Conservation Advisory Board Meeting.

He advised that visits to RVCA member municipalities have been well received and will continue in 2010.

Organization

Alan reviewed the work done on organizational structure during 2009 which culminated in the creation of a single Conservation Advisory Board. This is viewed as an interim step. In 2010, the 18 member municipalities will be canvassed to determine whether to continue using this type of governance model or to move towards full municipal representation on the RVCA Board.

Political Environment

The role of Conservation Authorities is currently subject to various points of view. RVCA and other CAs are viewed as targets by some groups. While CAs contribute to healthy watersheds, they are sometimes portrayed as costly and a burden on the tax base by these groups.

Budget

Some municipalities have pressured RVCA to reduce the 2010 budget. There is little flexibility in the budget but RVCA has responded to these concerns and will use financial reserves to reduce the levy to municipalities.

It is hoped that the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation will be able to play a bigger role in revenue generation in the future.

Biennial Tour 2010

The RVCA/MVC Biennial Tour 2010 will be held September 19 to 22. John H. Miller is leading the planning for this tour. Approximately 100 participants are expected.

6. Conservation Ontario Presentation

Alan Arbuckle provided a little background on Conservation Ontario and then introduced the General Manager, Don Pearson.

Don Pearson congratulated RVCA on its new building adding that its construction showed the confidence that the municipalities had in the Authority.

He acknowledged the current tensions that the Authority is facing between the rights and wants of the individual and the public interest. Don confirmed that other Conservation Authorities are facing the same issues as RVCA. Building and housing developments continue to place stress on infrastructure and watershed health. Levy rates across the province are increasing or will increase. They range from \$2 to \$30 per household depending on the location.

Don outlined the priorities for Conservation Ontario which include:

- Current declines in funding
- The need for infrastructure funding
- The need to raise visibility
- Working with governments

In response to a question on MNR operating grants, Don confirmed that Conservation Authorities were not receiving the funds they were supposed to. He added that he did not anticipate receiving any increase in funding from the provincial government.

Don discussed the possibility of a potential review by the Province of Ontario of Conservation Authorities. He indicated that he would prefer a bilateral (provincial and municipal) approach to a review paid for by the Province as this might come with additional rules and/or restrictions. A review might also provide benefits through exposure.

Alan Arbuckle thanked Don for the presentation.

7. RVCA Publications

Alan Arbuckle encouraged Board Members and staff to pick up their copies RVCA's newest publications:

- a) RVCA 2009 Annual Report;
- b) RVCA Membership Directory 2010;
- c) Middle Rideau Subwatershed Report 2009 – A report on the environmental health of the Middle Rideau Valley Conservation Authority; and,
- d) Rideau Lakes Watershed Plan – Priorities & Recommendations.

8. RVCA 2009 Financial Statements

Dell Hallett presented the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Financial Statements December 31, 2009 to the Board Members with a page by page review of the Authority's assets, liabilities and fund balances. He reviewed the accounting procedures and account policies.

Motion 2 **Moved by:** Ken Graham
 Seconded by: Michael McEwen

That the RVCA Board of Directors receive the 2010 Financial Statements.

MOTION CARRIED

9. 2010 Budget and Municipal Levy

Dell Hallett described the RVCA 2010 budget with a presentation which is attached to the minutes. He spoke to the budget pressures and reminded members that the budget is not a static document – as monies come in, adjustments are made.

Dell directed members to the attached Staff Report – 2010 Budget and Municipal Levy in the Agenda package. He advised that, as a result of municipal concerns, the 2010 levy rate had been reduced from 4.5% to 2.7%. This was accomplished by using reserve funds originally set aside in 2008 in case the office debenture rate was more than originally budgeted. The remaining funds in this reserve, along with savings realized through a reduction in landscaping costs, as well as anticipated revenues from the Foundation, will be applied to the 2011 Budget. However In 2012, municipalities will be levied for the full amount.

Alan Arbuckle added that RVCA's current levy rate per household falls within the \$2 - \$30 range mentioned in Don Pearson's presentation. The levy rate is \$5.73 per \$100K. On a house valued at \$250K, the levy rate would be \$14.33.

Ken Graham agreed that using the reserve funds to reduce the levy shows that we are listening to and appreciate input from the municipalities.

Motion 3 **Moved by:** Ken Graham
 Seconded by: David Crowley

That the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approve the attached 2010 Budget in the amount of \$8,754,600 (dated February 17, 2010); and further

that the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority establish a 2010 general municipal levy of \$4,190,000; and further

that this levy be apportioned to the participating municipalities according to the attached sheet entitled "Rideau Valley Conservation Authority 2010 General Levies (dated February 17, 2010) ; and further

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

1. \$405,600 - Rideau River Ice Management
2. \$50,000 - Graham Creek Water and Erosion Control Structure Bio-engineering Repairs
3. \$10,000 - Infrastructure Reserve for emergency repairs
4. \$278,000 - Brewer Park Flood Control Pump Replacement
5. \$100,000 - Green Acres Tree-planting Program

A recorded vote of all Board of Director members was undertaken.

Those in favour:	Alan Arbuckle	Barclay Cormack
	David Crowley	Ken Graham
	Andy Jozefowicz	Michael McEwen
	John H. Miller	

Those against: None

Absent:	Glenn Brooks	Steve Desroches
	Clive Doucet	Ed Hand
	Maria McRae	

MOTION CARRIED

The Board discussed budget summaries in general and the amount of information that should be presented with them. It was agreed that additional financial information could be made available to those Board members who want it.

Alan Arbuckle questioned the seven month budget process. He suggested that the budget process could be evaluated for efficiency when the Board reviews governance models.

The Board expressed their confidence in staff.

10. **Member Inquiries** None

11. **New Business** None

12. **Upcoming Meetings**

- a) RVCA Board of Directors, 7 pm, Thursday, March 25, 2010
- b) RVCA Conservation Authority Board, 7 pm, Thursday, April 15, 2010

13. **Adjournment** 8:20 pm moved by Michael McEwen

Alan Arbuckle
Chair

Saved as: Meeting minutes February 25, 2010 Draft

Michelle Paton
Recording Secretary