

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Box 599, 3889 Rideau Valley Drive
Manotick, Ontario, K4M 1A5
(613) 692-3571, 1-800-267-3504

APPROVED MINUTES

Board of Directors

August 25, 2011

06/11

Present:

Jim Anderton	Alan Arbuckle
Lee Armstrong	Gerry Boyce
Vince Carroll	David Chernushenko
Barclay Cormack	David Crowley
Tom Dewey	Rob Dunfield
Ken Graham	Ed Hand
Andy Jozefowicz	John H. Miller
Lyle Pederson	Ray Scissons
Bradley Wing	

Staff:

Ferdous Ahmed	Rudy Dyck
Michelle Paton	Bruce Reid

Regrets:

John Campbell	Gary Davison
Steve Desroches	

Guests:

Horace Roxborough, Drain Wolford
Kari Sommer, Drain Wolford
Robert St. Denis, Drain Wolford Trapper
J. Douglas Struthers, Mayor, Merrickville-Wolford

1. **Declaration of Interest** None.

2. **Delegations**

The Chair, Alan Arbuckle, advised that the Board would be receiving a delegation and, in anticipation, asked that Agenda Item #11 be brought forward and discussed after Agenda Item #6.

Chair Arbuckle then welcomed the Drain Wolford delegation and invited Horace Roxborough to address the Board.

Mr. Roxborough gave a presentation (attached) on rising water levels and drainage issues in the North and South branches of Kemptville Creek. He stressed that the volume of water being retained, as a result of beaver dams and watercourse obstructions, is beyond the scope, expertise and accountability of local property owners and trappers and proposed that all stakeholders (affected municipalities, RVCA, the province, and property

owners) work together to define short and long term strategies to reduce and maintain water levels. Mr. Roxborough asked the Board to consider a proposal that would allocate 10 percent of the general levies received from the affected municipalities of Augusta, Elizabethtown-Kitley, Merrickville-Wolford and North Grenville towards the restoration and management of the North and South Branch of Kemptville Creek including but not limited to beaver and beaver dam removal.

In response to questions from members, Mr. Roxborough confirmed that Drain Wolford met with representatives from RVCA, some of the affected municipalities, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and M.P.P. Steve Clark in Merrickville, in June, to try to resolve issues relating to responsibility, the downstream effect of breaching beaver dams and/or removing watercourse obstructions, land drainage, and associated financial implications. Mr. Roxborough stressed Drain Wolford's frustration with the lack of progress given that all parties recognize the importance and magnitude of the issue.

Mr. Roxborough confirmed that Drain Wolford had not yet acted on offers made by RVCA, at the "Merrickville meeting" in June, to assist with both the identification of the location of beaver dams and obstructions, and with the permitting process to allow equipment access to these locations because of anticipated costs and liability issues.

A member suggested that, as potential flooding and infrastructure failures would be municipal issues, some townships contribute financially to beaver control programs and employ the services of trapping associations. Mr. Roxborough expressed doubt that trappers would be an effective solution as their future incomes would be impacted by successful culls.

Members suggested that Drain Wolford take on a landowner leadership role and begin the permitting process required for beaver dam removal.

Mr. Roxborough reiterated that rising water levels in the North and South Branch of the Kemptville Creek was a huge, complex issue requiring a cooperative approach by municipalities, the province, landowners and RVCA. He asked the RVCA Board to consider Drain Wolford's proposal and direct more funds towards beaver and beaver dam control. Mr. Roxborough added that extensive data had been collected and could be made available to interested parties.

Chair Arbuckle thanked Mr. Roxborough for bringing the issue to the attention of the RVCA Board and added that the Board would be discussing RVCA's beaver management program later in the evening.

11. **Staff Report – RVCA Beaver Management Program**

Rudy Dyck, RVCA's Director of Stewardship, gave a presentation (attached) on RVCA's current beaver management program.

Mr. Dyck confirmed that there is no legislated responsibility for conservation authorities to manage beavers and dams, and no other conservation authority in Eastern Ontario has a beaver management program. Some Conservation Authorities have been encouraged by their member municipalities to not apply municipal levy funding to beaver management activities unless the dams are on Authority property, or doing so is necessary in the execution of a Conservation Authority project.

RVCA municipalities have requested RVCA's assistance on occasion and the current program was created as a stewardship initiative. RVCA offers a Beaver Management Information Package to landowners. As well, RVCA will undertake beaver dam surveys and mapping to better understand the scope of reported problems and, at the request of a member municipality, RVCA may assist with beaver and dam removal on selected priority locations for up to two years. Staffing and financial resources currently restrict this to one or two projects per year.

Mr. Dyck confirmed the scope of the problem along the North and South Branches of Kemptville Creek citing the existence of beaver dams and other obstructions, debris-choked ditches and drains, and the influx of invasive species. He cautioned that Drain Wolford's request should not be viewed in isolation as RVCA's response could be precedent-setting.

Mr. Dyck reminded members that formal processes for resolving drainage problems are available under the *Drainage Act*; however, the time and expense associated with engineers reports and assessing benefits amongst landowners might be avoidable by applying effort and attention to beaver and beaver dam management on an ongoing basis.

In response to a suggestion that land drainage is outside the mandate of Conservation Authorities, Bruce Reid noted that in watersheds like Kemptville Creek, chronic beaver problems contribute to drainage problems that, if left unaddressed, can eventually develop into flooding problems, and in that sense the case can be made for Conservation Authority involvement in finding and implementing solutions. He suggested that municipal Drainage Superintendents should be included in future discussions.

Lyle Pederson confirmed that a partnership approach to solving the water level issues along Kemptville Creek had been identified as the preferred course of action by participants at the "Merrickville meeting".

Members discussed the four "Options for Who Pays for Recurring Beaver Management Issues" presented in the staff report.

Motion 2**Moved by:****Rob Dunfield****Seconded by:****Ed Hand**

That the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, after discussing the current beaver management program, and the request for assistance from Drain Wolford, directs staff to pursue Option 1 as outlined in the staff report.

Motion Carried

Doug Struthers, Mayor of Merrickville-Wolford, suggested that RVCA could provide educational and management expertise to municipalities and landowners. Members agreed that a co-ordinated, consistent approach to water quantity and quality was necessary throughout the watershed.

Barclay Cormack suggested that water quality affects water quantity. He recommended the Board consider an increase in beaver management funding to be allocated from current financial resources with no increase to levy. Members discussed the impact of increasing general levy support for a beaver management program that would not necessarily benefit all member municipalities. Brad Wing suggested that imposing a special levy on the affected municipalities might be more appropriate.

Motion 3**Moved by:****Lyle Pederson****Seconded by:****Ed Hand**

That the affected municipalities (Merrickville-Wolford and North Grenville), the landowners, and RVCA contribute equal amounts of funding for beaver removal and dam breaching for the balance of 2011, an amount not to exceed \$5,000 in total costs for the project (i.e. approximately \$1,250 each). The funding from the municipalities involved and the landowners would have to be paid up front to RVCA by September 30, 2011, before any work would commence. RVCA would coordinate beaver dam removal as it does in the case of Otter Lake and Creek.

This initiative is viewed as a one-time event and represents an expression of good faith as a result of the conclusion of the Merrickville meeting which expressed the need for a partnership approach.

NOTE: This initiative is not viewed as precedent setting for RVCA from a funding perspective. It attempts to promote cooperation between the affected municipalities and the landowners and hopes to promote their cooperation in pursuing initiatives among themselves for beaver dam management in future years and to resolve the larger issues of land drainage.

Motion Carried**7. Accounts Paid, June 1 – 30, 2011 and July 1-31, 2011**

The Accounts Paid, June 1-30, 2011 and July 1-31 were approved on consent.

8. **Staff Report – RVCA Expenditure and Revenue Summary, June 30, 2011**

The RVCA Expenditure and Revenue Summary, June 30, 2011 was approved on consent.

9. **Staff Report – Analysis of Regulatory Flood Level of Otty Lake, for the purposes of administering Ontario Regulation 174/06**

The Analysis of Regulatory Flood Level of Otty Lake, for the purposes of administering Ontario Regulation 174/06 was approved on consent.

10. **Staff Report – PLF 1-12 Hand Plant Contract**

Rudy Dyck spoke to the staff report recommending that the Hand Plant Contract for 2012 and 2013 be awarded to a specified contractor.

Members expressed concern with the practice of sole sourcing contracts. Staff were directed to establish appropriate criteria, implement a competitive bidding process, and invite tenders for the Hand Plant Contract for 2012 and 2013, in accordance with the purchasing policy..

Motion 4 **Moved by:** Barclay Cormack
Seconded by: Lyle Pederson

That the RVCA establish a formal competitive bidding process to solicit tenders for the Hand Plant Contract for 2012 and 2013.

Motion Carried

12. **A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium – Program at a Glance**

Chair Arbuckle stated that the A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium would be held November 16-18 in Alliston, Ontario. The theme for this year's conference is water. He advised that the conference offered educational and networking opportunities and encouraged members, in particular new members, to attend. Members should contact Michelle Paton, at the RVCA office for further information.

13. **July / August Activity Reports**

The July / August Activity Reports were received on consent.

14. **In-Camera Session** An In-Camera Session was not required.

15. Member Inquiries

Rideau Ferry Conservation Area

Barclay Cormack inquired about the regatta that was held at the Rideau Ferry Conservation Area on August 20. Staff confirmed that the Rideau Ferry Yacht Club hosts a regatta at Rideau Ferry every two years. Further explanation revealed that the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority purchased the property known as the Rideau Ferry Conservation Area from the Rideau Ferry Yacht Club in 1976. One of the conditions of that sale allowed the Rideau Ferry Yacht Club exclusive use of the property for one day in each year.

Strategic Planning Session

Chair Arbuckle confirmed that the September Board meeting would include a strategic planning session. He added that information regarding the session was not currently available for distribution but encouraged members to provide input on issues relevant to their municipalities.

RVCA Appeal to the OMB

Rob Dunfield advised that the Township of Rideau Lakes had recently passed a zoning by-law allowing for enlarged exterior decks on waterfront residences, which Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, and Parks Canada subsequently appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board. Mr. Dunfield asked about RVCA's process for appealing against municipal by-laws, questioning whether such matters should first be brought to the Board for consideration, in view of the potential for increased costs to both the municipality and the conservation authority. Bruce Reid informed the Board that planning staff of the three agencies have met with municipal officials on the issue, with a view to finding a way to resolve it such that the referral to OMB could be withdrawn. Staff were directed to present a report on the appeals process to the Board at the next meeting.

16. New Business

10th Annual Lake Links Workshop

Chair Arbuckle extended an invitation to members to attend the 10th Annual Lake Links Workshop – Developing Eastern Ontario Lakes Sustainably. The workshop will take place on Saturday, October 29 at the Perth Civitan Hall. Interested members should contact Michelle Paton at the RVCA office for more information.

17. Upcoming Meetings

- a) **Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee Meeting, Thursday, September 1, 2011**
- b) **Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation Meeting, 12 pm, Monday, September 19, 2011**
- c) **Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Strategic Planning Session, 7 pm, Thursday, September 22, 2011**

16. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m. on a motion by Ray Scissons.

Alan Arbuckle
Chair

Michelle Paton
Recording Secretary

Saved As: Board of Directors Minutes August 25, 2011 Final