

**RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**Box 599, 1128 Mill Street**  
**Manotick, Ontario, K4M 1A5**  
**(613) 692-3571, 1-800-267-3504**

**MINUTES**

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

**February 27, 2003**

**#1/03**

---

**Present:** Alan Arbuckle                      Dwight Bennett  
                 Stephen Bird                      Stanley Brunton  
                 William Buckler                      David Crowley  
                 Gerry Furlong                      David Hahn  
                 Charles Long                      Allan McCallum  
                 Michael McEwen                      John H. Miller  
                 Estella Rose                      Janet Stavinga  
                 Bill Stevenson                      Wendy Stewart  
                 Cathy Willoughby

**Regrets:** William Buffam                      Alison Conley  
                 Jan Harder                      Robert Pedherney  
                 Boyce Peters

**Guests:** Scott Muir, Conservation Programs Leader,  
                 Ducks Unlimited Canada  
                 Ron Maher, Manager of Eastern Ontario Field Office,  
                 Ducks Unlimited Canada  
                 Mary Bryden, Chair RVC Foundation  
                 Ralph Raina, Director RVC Foundation

**Staff:** Dell Hallett                      Don Maciver  
                 Bruce Reid                      Sommer Casgrain-Robertson  
                 Jim Ellis                      Peter Goddard  
                 Joan Sherwood

1. **Declaration of Interest**

None

1. **Approval of Minutes, Meeting , February 28, 2002**

**Motion 1**                      **Moved by:**                      Bill Stevenson  
   **Seconded by:**                      Charles Long

That the minutes of meeting #1/02, February 28, 2002 be approved.

**Motion Carried**

1. **Approval of Minutes, Meeting , June 27, 2002**

**Motion 2**                      **Moved by:**                      Allan McCallum  
   **Seconded by:**                      Charles Long

That the minutes of meeting #2/02, June 27, 2002 be approved.

### **Motion Carried**

#### **1. Chair's Remarks**

John H. Miller, Chair welcomed RVCA members, RVCA staff, RVC Foundation members and Ducks Unlimited Canada guests to the 2003 RVCA Annual Meeting held at the P. J. McManus Interpretive Centre at Baxter Conservation Area.

Looking back we had a very good year of environmental protection services in the watershed in 2002 with excellent value for levy, bringing \$2 - \$3 of work and value for every one municipal dollar contributed. There were several new products and services for municipalities and taxpayers and several new major partners and project sponsors as we continue to take care of the long term health of the Rideau and its tributaries

Some of the highlights of our conservation year included:

Coordinating a watershed drought response for the first time in recent memory, planting of over 106,000 new trees in the Rideau and South Nation valleys as part of the City of Ottawa's Green Acres program with 133,000 planted under all planting programs

There was the installation of an important new stream gauge on the Jock River at Franktown Road with special thanks to the Friends of the Jock River for their fundraising of \$30,000 to get this project completed

We participated in and closely followed the Walkerton Inquiry and Report which came out in February last year; discussions continue with MOE and Conservation Ontario about implementing a source water protection program in Ontario.

We started the Rideau Valley Clean Water Program giving grants to farmers and rural landowners for projects to reduce nutrient enrichment of local watercourse, with the official launch at the McGregor farm near Merrickville, The Clean Water Program is sponsored by RVCA, Agriculture Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The completion of the four-year Tay River Watershed Management Plan and action on implementation of the Tay and the Jock River plans with our municipal and other partners. The first series of eight State of the Lake Reports (Crosby, Davern, Farren, Little Crosby, Little Silver, O'Brien, Pike and Rainbow) based on research and monitoring being done each year through the Watershed Watch program.

We participated in the Renfrew-Mississippi-Rideau Groundwater Study identifying sensitive aquifers, potential contaminants and recharge area. There are an estimated 160,000 people relying on clean groundwater for their daily drinking water in the area.

We are dealing with mining claims staked on two of our conservation lands.

RVCA staff participated in the development of a Conservation Authority Watershed Reporting pilot project with the Upper Thames and the Rideau River Roundtable.

We participated in the provincial Water Quality Monitoring Program (10 sample sites) and the Groundwater Monitoring Program ( 16 sampling wells).

We encourage the important work of the RVC Foundation and their generous donors who raised over \$125,000 last year and helped with the donation of a key environmental property on Upper Rideau Lake. The Rideau Environmental Action League of Smiths Falls were honoured as the volunteer

community Conservation Award winner last year.

We are completing the first half of the important shoreline classification project on the Lower Rideau to evaluate the current health of the shoreline vegetation and habitat; partner project with Parks Canada and Hurst Marina.

Our Upper Watershed Planner has been stationed in the Perth Town Hall because of the high volume of waterfront development in the area (thanks for the cooperation and participation of the Town of Perth)

The opening of our newest Conservation Area, Chapman Mills with our partners Parks Canada, South Nepean Development Corporation and MINTO Developments Inc. took place in September. This new area, with a 1.5 km boardwalk trail, is already well-used in all seasons by the people in the Chapman Mills and Winding Way communities.

RVCA staff have started on the timely Lower Rideau Watershed Strategy, a roadmap and common priority plan for all agencies to use in managing the Lower Rideau (one of the areas of the watershed most under stress from many causes).

All of this activity and all of the new programs we are being asked to manage are a sign of confidence in our ability to deliver cost-effective conservation for our members and our conservation partners including Ministry of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and others; I think we should all (as a conservation community) be very proud of RVCA's 2002 accomplishments and look forward with anticipation to the new three year work plan and beyond.

Sincere thanks to my colleagues on the Board for their dedication, common sense and vision which they always bring to the table as we work through the details of RVCA's program: my Vice-Chair Janet Stavinga, Dwight Bennett, Stephen Bird, Mary Bryden, Alan Arbuckle, Jan Harder, Charles Long, Allan McCallum, Michael McEwen, Bill Stevenson, Wendy Stewart and Cathy Willoughby.

Sincere thanks and appreciation to our professional staff lead by Dell Hallett, General Manager; their advice, commitment and good judgement are respected throughout the watershed community and across the province.

Thank you all for an outstanding year of progress in the watershed.

1. **Introductions**

John H. Miller asked the members, staff and guests to introduce themselves.

1. **Guest Speaker, Scott Muir, Conservation Programs Leader, Ducks Unlimited Canada**

John H. Miller asked Don Maciver, RVCA Planning Manager to introduce our guests, Scott Muir and Ron Maher from Ducks Unlimited Canada, to provide information about Ducks Unlimited Canada and to sign an agreement between RVCA and Ducks Unlimited Canada. The project had arisen out of discussions with Jim Anderson and Scott Muir early in 2002. The joint project is intended to identify and protect wetlands in the Rideau Valley watershed.

Our guest speaker, Scott Muir, Conservation Programs Leader, Ducks Unlimited Canada presented us with a slide presentation of "Wetland Conservation in Ontario". Their Mission is "Conserve wetlands for the benefit of North America's waterfowl, other wildlife and people". They are a private, non-profit, science based conservation organization commenced in 1937 which has invested in excess of \$1 billion toward habitat conservation, through 4,300 projects affecting over 19 million acres and with 150,000 members.

Wetlands are a key component of watershed management. Wetlands benefit watersheds by improving

water quality, recharging groundwater, maintaining stream base flows, reducing flooding, minimizing erosion and as a private habitat. The conservation objectives are to prevent further loss of the remaining wetland base and restore degraded and lost wetlands.

The Ducks Unlimited Canada programs take the “landscape approach”, with on-ground demonstration projects, wetland acquisition, stewardship, influence public policy and forge partnerships which are essential to making a difference on a larger scale.

RVCA and Ducks Unlimited Canada projects include the Mica Mines Wetland Restoration Project, Tay Marsh Enhancement Project, Motts Mills Wetland Enhancement Project, McEwen Property Nest Box Project and the Curtis Land Donation.

Members had an opportunity to ask Scott Muir questions following his presentation. Of interest was where money comes from to support Ducks Unlimited projects. Scott responded that 60-65% of money available does come from Canadian sources but that some American money does support projects. The issue was raised of agricultural loss as relating to nuisance wildlife. Scott was questioned on whether Perth dams on the Tay River affecting Grant’s Creek would be replaced. The site is still being studied by the interested parties and no decisions have been made.

Don Maciver in closing stated that MNR is drafting new regulations that will apply to wetlands, rivers and streams, valleys and flood plains. This project will help with identifying wetlands threatened by development.

1. **Signing of Memorandum of Understanding, by Ron Maher, Manager of Eastern Ontario Field Office, Ducks Unlimited Canada, between Ducks Unlimited and RVCA, on the Wetlands Priorization Project, Rideau Valley Watershed**

John H. Miller thanked Scott Muir for his informative presentation. John Miller and Ron Maher proceeded with signing the agreement between RVCA and Ducks Unlimited Canada for the Rideau Valley Wetland Protection Project.

1. **2002 Financial Statements**

Dell Hallett, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer, presented the RVCA 2002 Financial Statements prepared by Allan and Partners. Dell reviewed the contents of the Auditor’s Report for the members covering Financial Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balances, Cash Flow and Notes to the Financial Statements and clarified some entries for members.

<b>Motion 3</b>	<b>Moved by:</b>	Michael McEwen
	<b>Seconded by:</b>	Stephen Bird

That the 2002 Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Financial Statements dated December 31, 2002 be approved as presented.

**Motion Carried**

1. **2003 Budget and Municipal Levy**

Dell Hallett presented the 2003 Budget and Municipal Levy information previously provided to the members. In 2002 Board of Directors asked RVCA staff to prepare a work plan covering a longer term. The 3 year work plan was developed and Dell reviewed the information with a slide show on the Conservation Authority’s watershed management program, budget and municipal services for the coming year (copy attached). He provided us with figures indicating our per capita levy of \$2.45 is below the provincial average of \$5.00. RVCA staff and/or members visited 14 out of 18 municipalities to discuss the three year work plan and municipal funding pressures.

**Motion 4**                      **Moved by:**                      Wendy Stewart  
   **Seconded by:**                      Charles Long

That the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approve the attached 2003 Budget in the amount of \$4,592,000 and further that the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority establish a 2003 general municipal levy of \$2,034,000 and further that this levy be apportioned to the participating municipalities according to the attached sheet "Rideau Valley Conservation Authority 2003 General Levies".

(A recorded vote of all Board of Director members was requested and carried out.)

Those in favour: Alan Arbuckle, Dwight Bennett, Stephen Bird, Charles Long, Michael McEwen, John Miller, Janet Stavinga, Bill Stevenson and Wendy Stewart.

Those against: Allan McCallum and Cathy Willoughby. Allan McCallum and Cathy Willoughby asked that the resolutions from Merrickville-Wolford, Montague, Beckwith, Rideau Lakes, Westport and Central Frontenac, not supporting the levy increase, be recorded.

Absent: Jan Harder

\_\_\_\_\_                                      **Motion Carried**

**Motion 5**                      **Moved by:**                      Janet Stavinga  
   **Seconded by:**                      Stephen Bird

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

- i                      \$118,000 - Rideau River Ice Management
- i                      \$140,000 - Lower Rideau Watershed Plan

(A recorded vote of all Board of Director members was requested and carried out.)

Those in favour: Alan Arbuckle, Dwight Bennett, Stephen Bird, Charles Long, Allan McCallum, Michael McEwen, John Miller, Janet Stavinga, Bill Stevenson, Wendy Stewart and Cathy Willoughby.

Absent: Jan Harder

\_\_\_\_\_                                      **Motion Carried**

10. **Member Inquiries**

Dwight Bennett requested RVCA staff prepare an action plan on how to proceed with a new office location and gave credit for the work being done and Janet Stavinga expressed her support on moving ahead. Wendy Stewart thanked John H. Miller for his hours of dedication to RVCA over the past year and for his future years as Chair.

John H. Miller again thanked RVCA, staff and members for their support and is looking forward to the challenges of the coming year, cultivating partnerships and programs.

10. **Adjournment** 9:10 pm moved by Bill Stevenson

.....  
**Chair,**  
**John H. Miller**

.....  
**Recording Secretary,**  
**Joan Sherwood**