

new staff positions called for in the workplan, the lack of phase-in and increased rates for OMERS, salary increases, extension of stewardship programs as indicated in the workplan, the potential for non-renewal of shared staff positions with other agencies, and the opportunity in Corporate Services caused by a staff resignation. The RVCA Three-Year Workplan developed last year and agreed to by a majority of municipalities called for about a 25% increase in 2004 and about 15% in 2005. Dell asked for members' advice as to the approach we should take in developing the 2004 budget.

Members felt that the Workplan is a major accomplishment, that it remains completely valid, and that RVCA should attempt to move it forward on the timetable set up last year. The time and effort put in last year to reach consensus on the plan must not be wasted. The approach suggested was to create a one-page scorecard or progress report that would show essential accomplishments and justify moving forward on the original schedule with the original increase in place. If possible, members felt that showing costs through to 2006 would now be appropriate for a "rolling" three-year plan. Costs of the new office space should be separated out from the 2004 budget discussions. The advice was "stick with the plan" and attempt to increase revenues through planning fee increases and other user pay methods.

Staff will proceed with draft budget work taking it to the Advisory Boards in early October, the Board of Directors in October or November and council presentations in January-February.

9. Office Building Plans

Dell briefed the Board on progress towards an office site that is suitable, efficient and large enough for the growing staff complement. Our consultant has refined the space requirements to undertake the Workplan. The business case is being developed including identification of all costs for operating the five separate buildings we now use. The Office Building committee will review the consultant's work to date and provide comments for a final report to be brought to the Board in October.

10. September Activity Reports

Don Maciver presented the new CA regulation currently posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights website. The new generic regulation under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* allows each CA to develop and adopt its own regulations to implement provincial policy and specifically expands the type of areas in which CAs can get involved to include wetlands, river and stream valleys and other areas where, in the Minister's opinion, development should be regulated or prohibited. This new tool provides significant advances in our work to protect the environmental health of the watershed. Questions were raised about how we could raise the funds to use the new tool properly.

11. Members Inquiries

Cliff reported on the Beaver Management Pilot Project on Kemptville Creek. We have identified the priority areas (between North Augusta and Oxford Mills) in collaboration with municipal staff and landowners; we are pursuing approvals from DFO and apparently need a letter of authorization which may be forthcoming after intensive assessment of individual dams (GPS coordinates of all 47 damsites identified in the priority area, upstream / downstream assessments and photographs, professional biologist's assessment of the potential damage to fish habitat, other data). Some of the mitigation measures being suggested are simply not practical in the circumstances. We proposed some intensive monitoring of dams before and after removal in terms of fish habitat as a research project to gather specific data on Kemptville Creek dams and their role in the aquatic environment. We await approval on all of the above. We still hope to get some beaver management work done this fall in spite of the lengthy DFO approval process.

Charles reported that the pieces forming the RVCA Communications Handbook and RVCA Communications Plan are proceeding at various rates of speed. He proposed an update in October and the production of the final copy for November Board of Directors if possible.

11. New Business

All Board members are cordially invited to the Official Opening of the Meisel Woods Conservation Area and the Sandi Slater Memorial Walk on Saturday, October 4 at 10 am. This huge community effort is the first RVCA facility in Central Frontenac Township. We expect a good crowd at the opening. Light lunch to follow in Crow Lake Village. Please call Joan if you plan to attend for program and map.

The *Arrow & the Loon Pub and Restaurant* is putting on another of their famous Creemore River Dinners with a four-course gourmet pub meal, a pint of Creemore with every course, lots of good companionship and a chance to win a 14-foot canoe with all the proceeds going to the stewardship programs at the Conservation Foundation. \$55 each with a charitable tax receipt to cover a portion of the cost. Please contact the Arrow directly for reservations at 237-0448.

13. Upcoming Meetings

- a) Upper RVC Advisory Board – October 1, 2003
- b) Middle RVC Advisory Board – October 8, 2003 *(DATE CHANGED)
- b) Board of Directors – October 16, 2003

14. Adjournment The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:30 pm.

**Chair,
John Miller**

**Recording Secretary,
Charles Billington**