



## 5. Report on Meetings

### a) **Board of Directors**

John Miller reported on discussions at the last BOD meeting concerning the 2004 budget (and attendant three year work plan), consultant's report on the Office Needs Analysis (5<sup>th</sup> separate work site opened this summer in Manotick), and the impending annual A.D. Latonnell Conservation Symposium being held in Alliston November 12 through 14.

### b) **Rural Clean Water Program**

Cathy Willoughy reported. Cathy noted with regret the sudden passing of Committee member Mary Thompson on Sunday. Mary was a math teacher at Glebe and a long time member of the Farren Lake Cottager's Association. Condolences have been sent to the family. Martha Bradburn and Charles Billington attended the funeral.

Due to recent crises in the farm industry, requests have been made to both the Federal and Provincial governments for extensions to funding. There has been success in having the Federal Agricultural and Environmental Stewardship Initiative extended to December '04. The situation is not clear on the Healthy Futures program yet. There has also been discussion concerning taking on the well decommissioning program and the well head protection program formerly operated by OFA.

Last week projects were approved involving some \$27,000.00 worth of incentive spending (mostly fencing and alternative watering) over a broad area of the watershed.

### c) **Conservation Ontario**

Dell Hallett reported on Monday's Conservation Ontario (CO) meeting in Toronto attended with Chair Miller. The new Committee structure was explained. There were updates on program activities; this year CO was involved in some 62 different activities in policy and issues management alone.

There was also discussion of the 2004 Conservation Ontario budget with wide spread support for CO program activities.

While supporting Smart Growth CO membership has expressed strong concern with the new Transportation Bill (Bill 25) that proposes changes to the *Ontario Planning and Development Act, 1994* and particularly those amendments that affect the *Environmental Assessment Act*. Bill 25 proposes to remove the establishment of a development planning area or an infrastructure corridor plan from the definition of "undertaking" as defined in subsection 1(1) of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA). This proposed change, it is stated, is in direct conflict with the original intent of the EAA.

The Watershed Coastal Zone Initiative, a national program, was also discussed. Ausable Bayfield and South Nation CAs were involved in this exercise on COs behalf. These CAs along with four other watershed/coastal Zone stewardship organizations representing distinct Canadian regions (Nova Scotia, Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia)

were selected to implement this project. The intent of this effort is to positively influence the overall national stewardship agenda by ensuring that watershed and coastal zone areas are recognized as the most appropriate ecological units for implementing stewardship efforts on the landscape.

Also talked about was a recent pilot project ("A framework for Local Water-Use Decision Making on a Watershed Basis") undertaken by the Grand, Credit and TRCA involving development of a local water allocation framework including the use of water budgets analysis. It was requested that CO endorse the local and provincial level messaging outlined in the report.

There was discussion on the Greencover-Buffer Strips Program which could provide grants for the creation of buffers. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association expressing support in principle for their approach to the implementation of the Greencover program in Ontario through a "special partnership" with Conservation Ontario for consistent program delivery across that part of the province where CAs exist. The goal would be to have a Memorandum of Understanding between Conservation Ontario and Ontario Soil and Crop Association with regard to Greencover delivery.

Charley Worte reported on progress vis-à-vis Source Protection Planning. A work plan for the coming year is being developed and will be brought to the December Council meeting. The two main elements of the work plan will be managing and supporting CO participation on upcoming provincial committees and supporting CA capacity building for source protection planning.

There was also extensive discussion on development of a Strategic Plan for Conservation Ontario. Advocacy, communication and marketing would be the primary foci.

A report on the Asian Long Horn Beetle infestation ongoing in Toronto was also outlined.

Lakehead Region will be hosting the 2004 Biennial Tour.

There was discussion concerning what degree of involvement CA's might have in Greencover. It was indicated that it would primarily be tree planting.

Estella Rose indicated that, with respect to Local Water-Use Decision Making and Source Protection Planning, a more comprehensive approach is definitely required in the Province.

#### **d) Upper RVCA Advisory Board Report**

Dwight Bennett reported on his attendance at the Upper Board meeting on October 01 in Perth. Tay River Watershed Plan priorities were discussed. There was a preliminary look at the 2004 budget and at a Bob's and

Crow Management Plan. Matt Craig, Planner for the Upper Watershed, presented a planning report.

The 130 acre Meisel Woods Conservation Area along with the Sandi Slater Memorial Walk (on Anderson Road North near Crow Lake Village) was officially opened at a ceremony on Saturday, October 4 in Central Frontenac Township.

There was a discussion of an additional use for some buildings at the Mill Pond Conservation Area west of Smiths Falls.

There was also a discussion on the proliferation of bass tournaments in some areas as well as dialogue on extension of the Clean Water Program.

A property issue was discussed.

**6. Expenditure & Revenue Summary, August 31, 2003**

Dell Hallett reviewed this report. A detailed review and projection to year end will be available for the Board meeting on October 16, 2003.

**7. Beaver Management Program Update**

Cliff Craig provided an update on the pilot beaver control program on Kemptville Creek.

DFO have indicated the Authority can not do their own fish habitat review, so it automatically gets referred to DFO, Prescott. Additional information requested (including location of each dam; photos of each dam site; macro stream survey at each dam site; and a map), has been provided to DFO.

A total of 47 dams were surveyed in the priority work area. The Authority has also indicated which dams we think are the priority for removal (9 dams).

We are awaiting a letter of authorization from DFO to proceed.

Cathy Willoughby noted that the process we are going through now with DFO may result in faster approvals later.

Cliff noted that opinions have also been expressed that dam removal should improve habitat and increase bio-diversity. A built-in component of any approval will be that the CA will monitor afterwards for effect.

A point was made that a signal should be sent to the Board of Directors that we need to get this project going now in the field. If progress becomes impossible this year then it should become a multi-year program.

**8. Implications of Generic Regulation in Middle Board Areas**

Don Maciver gave a brief Powerpoint presentation on the implications of the new generic Development regulation that was recently posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) Registry web site (comment period ended Sept. 19). The regulation has been anticipated ever since amendments were approved to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act some three years ago. Key changes include provision for prohibiting,

regulating or requiring permission for development in wetlands and in river or stream valleys and other areas where, in the Minister's opinion, development should require permission. The Province will adopt the generic regulation as posted on the web (and amended as required) and this regulation will then be approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council for use following its passage through the Statutory Business Committee of the Legislature (previously Regulations Committee). Within two years (based on current provisions in the Act) the Authority will adopt its own regulation by resolution of the Board of Directors for subsequent Ministerial approval. In the interim, staff will need to identify resources (time and money) to amend existing mapping to Provincial standards and/or produce new maps, draft text for the new regulation based on MNR approved document, hold public meetings and ask for resolutions of municipal support.

This will likely come back to the Board early next year. Some accommodation may be made in the 2004 budget with the bulk of the work possibly getting carried through to 2005. The overall challenge will be how do we pay to implement the changes and how do we pay to administer them? Provincial grants, typically, have not been available.

## **9. 2004 Budget Discussion**

2003 has been a building year during which the staffing was added to and restructured in the Watershed Science and Engineering Section. To maintain the momentum that has been attained and to allow for timely delivery of watershed watch reports; new streamflow precipitation stations; water quality and benthic monitoring; hydrologic modelling and water budget analysis; watershed plan updates and watershed report cards; and the watershed information management system, two additional staff will be hired in 2004.

In addition, there will be money in the budget to support some combination of programs like the Upper Rideau Watershed Plan, Barnes Creek, floodplain mapping on the Tay or Kemptville Creek.

The Planning Advisory Program is in a more or less mature state; staff were added in '03 (water resources engineer, ecologist and GIS and planning technicians) to complete (aquatic biologist and hydro-geologist already on staff) the multi-disciplinary team. Workload will have to be monitored.

Regulations administration is already staffed according to the work plan. Some work sharing is undertaken between Septic and S. 28 regulations as well as with both DFO and the MVC. Work load will have to be monitored. The implications of the new generic regulation on day to day workload will also have to be anticipated in the longer term.

Stewardship – there is uncertainty associated with the Ottawa Clean Water Program funds as well as Green Acres and Healthy Futures. In the

short term levy will be used to maintain core experienced stewardship and forestry staff pending new program directions.

Conservation Areas – no significant increase intended for 2004 and probably through 2005.

Corporate Services part of the budget proposes a somewhat more aggressive approach than originally set out in the work plan; a recent staff departure has afforded the opportunity to bring on line in Year 2, a Year 3 part of the Plan.

There were questions concerning the role of the Human Resource position in the Corporate Services part of the Program as well as how the costing of the office relocation would be handled. In addition another question was raised as to when geo-referencing of levy apportionment might be expected (no time line as of yet).

**10. Staff Reports**

a) Planning

No information had been prepared in time for meeting.

b) Cataraqui Trail

Dell reviewed an update provided by the Cataraqui Region CA.

c) Motts Mills and Bellamy Pond Dams

Dell reported that these dams received funding through the additional infrastructure dollars from the province.

**11. Membership Issues**

None.

**12. In – Camera Land Issue**

Pulled from Agenda. Information not available.

**13. Member Inquiries**

None.

**14. New Business**

None.

**15. Adjournment:**

9:35 p.m.

**Motion 2**

**Moved by:**

Dwight Bennett

That the meeting be adjourned.

**Motion Carried**

Next Board of Directors meeting October 16, 2003.

---

**Vice-Chair,  
Cathy Willoughby**

---

**Recording Secretary,  
Don Maciver**

C:Minutes Middle October 8 2003