

**MINUTES**

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

**January 16, 2003**

**#1/03**

**Present:** Stanley Brunton (Beckwith)  
William Buckler (Augusta)  
William Buffam (Smiths Falls)  
Alison Conley (Athens)  
Gerry Furlong (Montague)  
Bill Stevenson (Elizabethtown-Kitley), Chair  
Cathy Willoughby (Merrickville-Wolford)  
Dwight Bennett (North Grenville)  
Estella Rose (North Dundas)

John Miller (Tay Valley), RVCA Chair  
Charles Long (Ottawa)

**Staff:** Dell Hallett  
Don Maciver  
Bruce Reid

**Regrets:** Allan McCallum (Rideau Lakes), Upper Board representative  
Stephen Bird (Ottawa)

**Guests:** David Delaney, Councillor - Twp. Of North Grenville

**1. Welcome and Opening Comments**

Bill Stevenson, Chair, welcomed the members, staff and guest to the meeting held in the Ayers Building, Manotick.

**2. Declaration of Interest**

None declared.

**3. Approval of Minutes - Meeting October 3, 2002**

<b>Motion 1</b>	<b>Moved by:</b>	Dwight Bennett
	<b>Seconded by:</b>	Stanley Brunton

That the minutes of the Middle Advisory Board meeting #5/02, October 3, 2002, be approved as printed and distributed.

**Motion Carried**

**4. Business Arising from Minutes**

The proposed three year work plan and budget for 2003 will be discussed under items 8 and 9 of this agenda.

**5. Report on Meetings**

a) Board of Directors

Chair Stevenson reported that much of the Board's attention in recent meetings has been devoted to overseeing the preparation of the three year work plan and identifying the program priorities that need to be addressed considering the interests of the member municipalities.

Recent land donation proposals have also been given careful consideration and scrutiny by the Board.

b) Upper Advisory Board, January 15, 2003

Dwight Bennett reported on the following items considered by the Upper Board:

- ¥ Advisory Board Chair Allan McCallum and Vice-Chairs John Miller and Michael McEwen were returned to their respective offices by acclamation
- ¥after an in camera discussion of a land donation proposal in the Tay Valley Township, the Advisory Board is recommending to the Board of Directors that it decline the offer, primarily on the basis of the Board's view that protection of the environmental attributes of the property can be achieved without requiring outright ownership of the land by the RVCA
- ¥ after a discussion of the proposed work plan and 2003 budget, the Advisory Board passed a motion of support for the Operations component of the plan, but expressed reservations about the Capital portion (for the headquarters relocation initiative)
- ¥ Friends of the Tay Watershed was represented at the meeting and appealed to the Advisory Board to support the formation of a multi-agency ad hoc committee to pursue Tay River watershed management actions, and suggested that the RVCA be asked to draw up the terms of reference for such a committee

c) Rural Clean Water Program

Cathy Willoughby and John Miller share RVCA representation on the Steering Committee. Cathy reported that the program has been well received in the rural area, and interest in participating in it is on the increase amongst rural landowners. She has received positive feedback on the common sense approach that is being taken by



Chair Stevenson called for nominations to the position of Vice Chair.

**Nomination**                      **Moved by:** Cathy Willoughby  
That Dwight Bennett be nominated as Vice-Chair.

**Nomination**                      **Moved by:** Stanley Brunton  
That Cathy Willoughby be nominated as Vice-Chair.

There being no other nominations, the chair called for a motion to close nominations.

**Motion 3**                              **Moved by:** William Buckler  
   **Seconded by:** William Buffam

That nominations be closed.

**Motion Carried**

Chair Stevenson declared Cathy Willoughby and Dwight Bennett as Vice- Chairs of the Middle RVCA Advisory Board for 2003, by acclamation.

8.

**Three Year Work Plan**

Dell Hallett provided the members with a brief overview of the process that unfolded over the past several months to produce the proposed three year work plan. The most recent Board of Directors discussions on the matter were focussed on the timing and schedule that should be endorsed by the Board for phasing in the municipal levy increase, which had earlier been identified as needed in order to deliver a sound program of watershed management that addressed present and emerging needs. The Board also provided direction that the resources required for program operations should be identified separately from those needed to begin addressing the matter of future main office accommodations. The work plan was sent to Municipalities and their appointees to the RVCA in December. The distribution of resources to the various program areas, as shown in the previously distributed work plan summary sheets, reflects both the program priorities and the preferred phase-in schedule identified during Board of Directors deliberations.

Dell indicated that presentations to municipal Councils, to explain the work plan are continuing and several motions of support have been received. Also, some Councils have passed resolutions expressing objections to the proposed increase in levy.

Chair Stevenson then invited questions on the work plan from the members.

**Q (Bill Buckler)** - where would the office relocate to?

**A (Bill Stevenson)** - no decisions have been made on where, or to what kind of office set-up, but it is being recognized that the matter of head office accommodations will need to be addressed some day, and that it will require resources; the proposed funds would allow the planning work to begin, and begin the establishment of an office relocation fund in keeping with a pay as you go approach.

**Q (Bill Buckler)** - noted the steady and significant increase in recent years in revenues from fees and other revenue ; what are those revenue sources?

**A (Dell Hallett)** - fees are primarily user fees paid by users of the RVCA s regulations and plan review services, and gate fees at developed conservation areas, other revenues includes funds transferred from the Foundation (donations), grants from various government programs other than the MNR transfer payments for flood control and prevention operations, and payments for some services provided on a fee basis.

**Q (Dwight Bennett)** - why is the municipal levy to support corporate services increasing disproportionately with total spending in that area?

**A (Dell Hallett)** - due to a combination of factors, including Foundation revenues not materializing to cover the cost of a fundraising position, lower interest payments on banked assets (from levy and grant advances), and higher insurance premiums.

Chair Stevenson then invited members to comment on how the proposed levy increase has been or is likely to be received in their respective municipalities. Some members had not yet had the opportunity to fully consult with their Council. Several members indicated that with many other pressures facing Councils, including downloading of provincial services and infrastructure demands, the proposed levy increase is coming at a particularly bad time, and that the proposed Capital (Office) levy was considered premature.

## 9. 2003 Budget and Municipal Levy

Dell Hallett referred the members to the Staff Report dated January 6, 2003 and the proposed staff recommendation on the 2003 Budget and Levy.

### **Motion 4**

**Moved by:** Dwight Bennett  
**Seconded by:** Estella Rose

That the Middle RVCA Advisory Board support the budget for 2003 and the establishment of a 2003 general municipal levy of \$2,034,00 to support programs, and

participating municipalities according to the sheet entitled Rideau Valley Conservation Authority 2003 General Levies (Program) - dated November 19 , 2002.

**Motion Defeated**

**Motion 5**

**Moved by:**

Cathy Willoughby

**Seconded by:**

Stanley Brunton

That the municipal representative of each municipality within the Middle Advisory Board give their municipality s consent or disapproval, in writing, to the Chair or either of the Vice-Chairs no later than one half hour prior to the call to order of the Joint Advisory Meeting of February 27, 2003, or each municipality within the Middle Advisory Board may inform the RVCA head office, to the attention of the General Manager, in writing of their decision no later than February 21, 2003.

**Motion Carried**

**10. Meeting Schedule for 2003**

A meeting schedule for 2003 was distributed.

**11. Members Inquiries**

Estella Rose raised a question regarding the term of office for municipal representatives to the Advisory Board, noting that some municipalities appoint a member for more than one year, yet the Authority sends letters annually to the municipalities regarding their appointments for the coming year. Dell replied, indicating that the Authority considers a municipal appointee s tenure as a member of an Advisory Board to continue until such time as their appointment is terminated by the municipality, and it is in the purview of the Municipal Council to make the appointment for whatever term it deems appropriate. Dell indicated that the office would prepare some information interpreting the Conservation Authorities Act s rules respecting the appointment of members.

**12. New Business**

No new business was raised.

**13. Upcoming Meetings**

- a) Board of Directors, January 23, 2003
- b) Board of Directors, February 20, 2003
- c) Joint Advisory Board, February 27, 2003

**Motion 6**      **Moved by:** William Buckler

That the meeting be adjourned.

**Motion Carried**

.....  
**Chair,**  
**Bill Stevenson**

.....  
Bruce Reid

**Recording Secretary,**