

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

Meeting Held Electronically due to COVID-19 State of Emergency

APPROVED MINUTES

Board of Directors **4/21** **May 27, 2021**

Present:	Pat Barr	Gerry Boyce
	Carolyn Bresee	Judy Brown
	Vince Carroll	Jamie Crawford
	Brian Dowdall	Victor Heese
	Robin Jones	Andy Jozefowicz
	Pieter Leenhouts	Dale McLenaghan
	Shawn Pankow	Gene Richardson
	Anne Robinson	Rob Rothgeb
	George Sachs	Kristin Strackerjan
 Staff:	 Sommer Casgrain-Robertson	 Dan Cooper
	Kathy Dallaire	Terry Davidson
	Diane Downey	Glen McDonald
	Michelle Paton	Justin Robert
	Brian Stratton	
 Regrets:	 George Darouze	 Guy Desjardins
	Julie Graveline	Don Halpenny
	Scott Moffatt	

Chair Leenhouts called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Chair Leenhouts advised that Melissa Sullivan has resigned from the Board and Westport Council and he welcomed the new representative from the Village of Westport, Mayor Robin Jones.

A roll call was taken to confirm attendance.

1.0 Agenda Review

Chair Leenhouts reviewed the Agenda.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

Motion 1-210527 **Moved by:** Andy Jozefowicz
Seconded by: Brian Dowdall

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority adopts the Agenda as circulated.

Motion Carried

3.0 Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were identified.

4.0 Approval of Minutes of April 22, 2021

Motion 2-210527 **Moved by:** Carolyn Bresee
Seconded by: Anne Robinson

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approves the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting #03/21, April 22, 2021 as circulated.

Motion Carried

5.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising.

6.0 Weather Stations

Brian Stratton, Manager, Engineering Services, provided an update on the purchase of weather stations approved by the Board on March 25, 2021. On May 3, 2021, staff was notified that RVCA's application for federal funding had not been approved. Since the price quote was only valid until May 7, 2021, Chair Leenhouts permitted staff to use an email poll to seek approval to use the approved \$168,750 from the working fund reserve to proceed with the purchase of 10 weather stations. A total of 18 responses were received, all in favour of the request.

Motion 3-210527 **Moved by:** Gene Richardson
Seconded by: Carolyn Bresee

That the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority ratify their approval to spend up to \$168,750 from the RVCA's working fund reserve to purchase equipment from Hoskins and FTS to construct and install 10 weather stations.

Motion Carried

7.0 Flood Risk Assessment and LiDAR Elevation Data

Brian Stratton, Manager, Engineering Services, presented a proposal to spend \$40,000 plus HST to acquire 2,866 km² of LiDAR elevation data and \$57,321 plus HST to complete a flood risk assessment of the watershed.

The flood risk assessment was approved for 50% federal funding through NDMP, but the acquisition of LiDAR elevation data was not. However, a proposal by 5 eastern Ontario conservation authorities and their upper tier municipalities to bulk purchase LiDAR resulted in cost savings of 70%.

In response to a question from a member regarding Parks Canada's decision to limit access to their flow data which is used by conservation authorities and other partners, Sommer Casgrain-Robertson offered to follow up with those municipalities who may be impacted.

Motion 4-210527

Moved by:

Dale McLenaghan

Seconded by:

Rob Rothgeb

That the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approve the spending of up to \$40,000 plus HST from RVCA's Topographical Data reserve to acquire 2,866 km² of LiDAR elevation data; and

That the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approve the spending of up to \$57,321 plus HST to complete a flood risk assessment of the watershed with \$45,000 coming from RVCA's Topographical Data reserve and \$12,321 coming from RVCA's general Working Fund reserve.

Motion Carried

8.0 Implementation of Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager, provided a progress report on RVCA's implementation of amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and responded to questions. The Board was also asked to

pass a motion supporting Conservation Ontario's Transparency and Accountability Initiative.

Motion 5-210527

Moved by:

Judy Brown

Seconded by:

Anne Robinson

WHEREAS the provincial government has passed legislative amendments related to the governance of Conservation Authorities;

AND WHEREAS Conservation Authorities remain committed to fulfilling accountable and transparent governance;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority endorse the three key actions developed by the Conservation Ontario Steering Committee to update Conservation Authority Administrative By-laws, to report proactively on priorities and to promote/demonstrate results;

AND THAT staff be directed to work with Conservation Ontario to implement these actions and to identify additional improvements and best management practices.

Motion Carried

9.0 MECP Regulatory Proposal Consultation Guide (Phase 1)

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson provided an overview of MECP's *Regulatory Proposal Consultation Guide: Regulations Defining Core Mandate and Improving Governance, Oversight and Accountability of Conservation Authorities* that was recently posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario for public consultation and responded to questions.

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson advised that MECP is hosting two webinars during which participants can provide input on the regulatory proposals. These webinars are open to Board and staff of conservation authorities, municipalities and other stakeholders.

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson noted that conservation authorities are working closely with each other and Conservation Ontario to review MECP's consultation guide and prepare comments. These comments will be brought to the Board on June 24, 2021 for consideration.

Motion 6-210527

Moved by:

Brian Dowdall

Seconded by:

Carolyn Bresee

That the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority receive this report for information.

Motion Carried

10.0 Meetings

a) Summer Student Orientation: May 3, 2021

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson advised that eight summer students had been hired about half of RVCA's normal complement. Students will be assisting with monitoring, conservation lands and stewardship programs.

b) Policy Working Group Kick-Off Meeting: May 11, 2021

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson indicated that there was great interest from municipalities to participate on this multi-stakeholder working group and that the first introductory meeting went very well.

c) Montague Council Annual Report Presentation: May 18, 2021

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson confirmed that she had made a presentation to Montague Council on RVCA's 2020 Annual Report and upcoming changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Vince Carroll noted that the presentation had been well received and a second presentation had been requested for the fall to discuss development.

d) Conservation Ontario Chairs Session: May 19, 2021

Pieter Leenhouts commented that this was an excellent initiative offered by new CO Chair Andy Mitchell.

Upcoming

e) MECP Webinars on ERO Posting: May 27 and June 7, 2021

f) RVCF AGM and Board of Directors Meeting: June 9, 2021

g) Rideau Lakes Council Annual Report Presentation: June 14, 2021

h) RVCA Board of Directors Meeting: June 24, 2021

11.0 Member Inquiries

In response to a question from a member regarding the exception request submitted to the Minister regarding term limits for the Chair and Vice-Chair, Sommer Casgrain-Robertson confirmed that a response had not been received yet. RVCA and Conservation Ontario have been following up with the Minister's office to push for an answer to enable elections to proceed.

George Sachs commended staff for the recent safety and accessibility improvements at Rideau Ferry Yacht Club. Sommer Casgrain-Robertson

indicated that she would pass the compliments on to RVCA's conservation lands staff who were responsible for the improvements.

12.0 New Business

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson reminded members to submit their completed Electronic Transfer Payment forms to the Finance department to facilitate payment of per diem and mileage expenses.

13.0 Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m. on a motion by Andy Jozefowicz which was seconded by Jamie Crawford.

Pieter Leenhouts
Chair

Michelle Paton
Recording Secretary

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer