

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
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Members and the public were also able to join via Zoom given the ongoing pandemic.

APPROVED MINUTES

<u>Board of Directors</u>	<u>4/22</u>	<u>May 26, 2022</u>
Present:	Carolyn Bresee Vince Carroll Brian Dowdall Steve Fournier Victor Heese Andy Jozefowicz John McDougall Scott Moffat Gene Richardson Rob Rothgeb	Judy Brown Jamie Crawford Mel Foster Julie Graveline Robin Jones Pieter Leenhouts Dale McLenaghan Shawn Pankow Anne Robinson Kristin Strackerjan
Staff:	Ferdous Ahmed Dan Cooper Marissa Grondin	Sommer Casgrain-Robertson Diane Downey
Regrets:	Gerry Boyce Bob Foster	George Darouze

Chair Leenhouts called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer conducted a roll call.

Chair Leenhouts wished everyone well after the wind storm that passed through much of the watershed over the weekend.

The Chair also welcomed new Board member and Agricultural Representative, Mel Foster, and asked him to introduce himself. Mr. Foster provided a brief background on his experience in the Agricultural sector. The Chair asked everyone to briefly introduce themselves to Mr. Foster.

1.0 Land Acknowledgement Statement

Chair Leenhouts gave the Land Acknowledgement statement.

2.0 Agenda Review

Chair Leenhouts reviewed the Agenda.

3.0 Adoption of Agenda

Motion 1-220526

Moved by: Victor Heese
Seconded by: Vince Carroll

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

Motion Carried

4.0 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5.0 Approval of Minutes of March 24, 2022

Motion 2-220526

Moved by: Brian Dowdall
Seconded by: Victor Heese

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approves the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting #03/22, March 24, 2022, as circulated.

Motion Carried

6.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising.

7.0 Chapman Mills Conservation Area Bridge Replacement

Dan Cooper, Director of Conservation Lands and Stewardship provided an overview of the history of the Chapman Mills Bridge, why a replacement bridge is now needed, what accessibility features will be added and how much funding the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation has raised to-date for the project.

Chair Leenhouts thanked Mr. Cooper for his presentation and called for questions from the board.

In response to questions from members:

Mr. Cooper confirmed that trail counters are set up at the conservation area to measure how many visitors visit the site each year.

Mr. Cooper informed the Board that once the order is placed for the prefabricated bridge, construction will take 10 weeks before delivery and installation. The estimated project completion date is September 2022.

Mr. Cooper also clarified that all funding raised to-date will be needed to complete the project as there will be additional expenses for abutments and access ramps.

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson confirmed that the RVCA is a not-for-profit organization with a municipal determination for HST purposes. This qualifies RVCA for the public service bodies' rebate, meaning that RVCA recovers the HST it pays on many goods and services.

A member congratulated staff on all the hard work that has gone into the planning and fundraising of the bridge replacement so far.

Motion 3-220526

Moved by:

Rob Rothgeb

Seconded by:

Gene Richardson

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approve Eagle Bridge to construct, deliver and install a prefabricated bridge at Chapman Mills Conservation Area at a cost of \$77,851 plus applicable taxes;

THAT staff be authorized to spend up to an additional \$11,677 (15 percent contingency) should there be unforeseen project expenses;

AND THAT the project be funded from RVCA's *Conservation Areas Infrastructure* reserve and a private donation of nearly \$50,000.

Motion Carried

8.0 Baxter Conservation Area Helical Piles

Dan Cooper provided background on Baxter Conservation Area's raised boardwalk, why it needs to be replaced, the formation of the Nature for All Committee and fundraising efforts to date by the Committee and the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation.

Chair Leenhouts thanked Mr. Cooper for his presentation and called for questions from the board.

Councillor Moffatt thanked Diane Downey, Dan Cooper and their team for their hard work on this project. He noted that RVCA staff worked closely with his office on this project and believes that the community will be improved with this addition to the area.

In response to questions from members:

Mr. Cooper explained that approximately \$45,000 has been spent so far on architectural design, geotechnical design and expert consultation, and that the City of Ottawa has donated \$21,000 towards these expenses.

Mr. Cooper confirmed that the \$777,000 cost estimate is to construct the new boardwalk and two platforms as illustrated in the staff report. The platforms will play a critical role in RVCA's outdoor education programs.

Mr. Cooper explained that the RVCA anticipates an increase in visitors to the site as a result of these enhancements, as the new boardwalk will mean accessibility will be available from the parking lot all the way across the Marsh. RVCA is not aware of any other location in Eastern Ontario that offers the same access to nature. The project has already gained a lot of publicity including being featured on the front page of the Ottawa Citizen and in multiple TV appearances and its generating excitement within the community. Mr. Cooper expressed that the RVCA hopes to lead the way in providing access to nature for all visitors.

Mr. Cooper explained that the contractor also offered to train RVCA staff on how to install helical piers as part of the contract, so that RVCA will have the skill to do it in house for future projects of a simpler nature (not over water). Mr. Cooper elaborated that staff foresee a need to do more boardwalk replacement at Chapman Mills and Baxter Conservation Areas where helical piles could be beneficial.

Lastly, Mr. Cooper confirmed that the Foundation, Committee and RVCA had been trying to pursue funding from the Province but that conservation authorities often were not eligible.

Motion 4-220526

Moved by:

Shawn Pankow

Seconded by:

Carolyn Bresee

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approve Pier Pressure to install helical piles as a foundation for a new boardwalk at Baxter Conservation Area at a cost of \$1,217 per pile plus applicable taxes and other project costs, for a total project cost not to exceed \$262,000;

AND THAT the project be funded from fundraised dollars with the balance coming from RVCA's *Conservation Areas Infrastructure* reserve.

Motion Carried

Robin Jones left the meeting 7:00 p.m.

9.0 Program Inventory Update

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson gave an update on Phase 2 regulations under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, feedback received from the MECP on the Program and Service Inventories that were submitted in February, RVCA's upcoming municipal information session and the need to submit a progress report to the province by July 1, 2022.

Chair Leenhouts opened the floor to questions but there were none.

Motion 5-220526

Moved by: Anne Robinson
Seconded by: Victor Heese

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority receive this report for information and direct staff to submit an interim progress report to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks by July 1, 2022 in compliance with Ontario Regulation 687/21.

Motion Carried

10.0 Meetings

- a) Source Protection Committee Meeting – April 7, 2022
- b) Leeds and Grenville Planning Meeting – April 8, 2022
 - Sommer indicated that member municipalities had expressed concern about the new timelines for development review outlined in Bill 109
- c) CO Council – April 11, 2022
- d) Stevens Creek Natural Hazard Mapping Public Meeting – April 21, 2022
- e) Executive Committee General Manager's Performance Appraisal – April 25, 2022
- f) SPA Meeting – April 28, 2022
- g) Summer Student Orientation – May 2, 2022
 - Sommer indicated that the RVCA welcomed 16 summer students this year and was successful at obtaining partial federal funding
- h) MECP Program Inventory Workshop – May 2, 2022
- i) North Grenville Council Presentation – May 3, 2022
 - Councillor Strackerjan thanked Sommer for presenting RVCA's 2021 Annual Report to Council and said Council appreciated the opportunity to engage with RVCA directly and ask questions
- j) Agricultural Representative MECP Orientation – May 11, 2022
- k) Executive Committee Hearing – May 12, 2022

Upcoming

- l) Municipal Information Day – June 7, 2022
- m) RVC Foundation AGM – June 8, 2022
- n) Health Shorelines, Healthy Lakes Webinar – June 14, 2022
- o) CO Council – June 20, 2022
- p) Watershed Tour – June 23, 2022
 - Sommer indicated that the watershed tour itinerary was nearly finalized and that this year's tour would center around the Rideau Ferry Yacht Club. Members will receive a copy of the itinerary shortly and were reminded to invite a member of Council or municipal staff member to join them.

11.0 Member Inquiries

Reeve Fournier asked staff to pass along his thanks to Amber Blewitt for her assistance in a tree giveaway on May 7, 2022 that distributed 8,500 trees to the community.

Reeve Fournier also asked staff for an update on the Lanark ALUS program and when it would be open for farmers to apply. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson explained that the year one ALUS funding was very targeted towards a small number of wetland projects. ALUS recommended a “soft” launch where a couple of key projects are targeted and completed, followed by a more public launch when all farmers can apply to ensure adequate funding is available to meet expectations. It is anticipated that the public launch will take place in the fall at one of the completed project sites. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson indicated that she would have staff provide Reeve Fournier with a more detailed update that he could share with County Council.

12.0 New Business

Judy Brown joined the meeting 7:16 p.m.

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson informed the Board that RVCA was very lucky during the high windstorm on Saturday, May 21, 2022 as its properties sustained minimal damage. Some neighbouring Conservation Authorities sustained substantial damage, especially the Ganaraska Forest Centre near Port Hope which could take six months or more to clean up. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson also acknowledged that RVCA staff were quick to respond after the storm to assess properties and clean up any downed or damaged trees to ensure public safety at our conservation areas.

13.0 Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m. on a motion by Andy Jozefowicz which was seconded by Judy Brown.

Pieter Leenhouts
Chair

Marissa Grondin
Recording Secretary

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer