

BONNECHERE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)
DRAFT Minutes of Meeting #13 – Nov 21, 2007
Eagles Nest, Eganville

Attendees:

SAC: Don Pouliot, Ross Campbell, Murray Borer, Lucy King, Murray Bimm

Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn: Jan Leroux

MNR: Michael Radford, Joanna Samson

Waterpower Producers: Peter Boldt (RPG), Jeff Featherston (RPG), Frank Scheer (Eganville Generation Corporation), Andreas Vornweg (Vornweg Waterpower)

Regrets:

Niall McArdle, Aurel Boucher, Kevin O'Connor, Steve Munger, Janusz Rydel (Multistream Power Corp.)

1. Housekeeping Items

1.1 Review of Agenda

No items were added to the agenda

1.2 Introductions

Peter introduced Jeffrey Featherston to the SAC. Jeff is succeeding Peter as the RPG Operations Manager. Pete will be working with Jeff in the transition until the end of the year. Peter will continue to work on special projects for RPG.

1.3 Date & Topics of Next Meeting

Joanna has found an erosion speaker, however, may need to save this for a meeting after the Lake Trout Presentation. We could have that meeting as early as December 16 or defer it until January.

Next Meeting Dates:

January 16th – Lake Trout Presentation

Feb 13th – Erosion Speaker

1.4 Other

Michael handed out a copy of a letter addressed to MNR from the RLPOA and a copy of MNR's response letter for their information.

2. Review & Approval of Minutes of Meeting #12 – May 30, 2007,

- spelling correction on Page 2 “water events will help him as he can't rely on the municipalities to declare **an** event a flood”

ACTION: Joanna to make changes and send minutes out as FINAL.

ACTION: Joanna to send past FINAL minutes to Peter/Jeff to post to the website.

3. Recap of Golden Lake Boat Trip – July 28/07

Michael handed out a summary of the boat trip in July. Unfortunately due to mechanical problems with the boat we were unable to see the whole lake.

4. Operations Update – Power Producers

Multistream - Douglas:

Janusz sends his regrets through Peter, however, indicated that things are going fine in terms of operations. Janusz received a work permit through MNR to do some maintenance work (raise the deck) this fall at Douglas.

RPG – Peter Boldt:

- currently at 50% production (1MW)
- Round Lake is going up
- Put a log in Round Lake to get ready for drawdown at freeze-up
- Golden Lake is flattening out and we will likely see it remain flat – could be less shoreline intrusion with ice, interested to see what the ice will do with the level flat

- Jan expressed concerns over the low level, and that it could still go lower. Lucy also mentioned that since she has been there, she has never seen it so low.

- RPG is drilling again on the 3 lakes this winter. They will be giving out yardsticks, binders, and thermometers to help in the collection of local weather information at the actual locations of the drilling for both Round Lake and Golden Lake. Snow depth and temperature will be taken at the time of the drilling which will occur once a week. This will give us actual local data.
- RPG has been more involved with the property owner's associations. This will be an on-going process and hopefully someday the POA's will take lead on this. Don, Kevin, Dave Lemke, & Jeff will meet with the volunteers in December.

Murray Bimm asked how the rain event in July affected RPG and Peter explained that it was more localized in the Renfrew area. Went from 6-163 cms in 4hrs, a very short period of time. Things were not bad at Golden Lake.

Jan questioned the level of Golden Lake and wondered if it would be going any lower as it is very low now. Peter responded that he didn't anticipate that it would go any lower, that it will pretty much stay at the current level. Mike R. mentioned that one of the proposed amendments to the plan has the potential to allow lower than the current lower limit. This is the minor amendment and it will need to go through consultation.

Vornweg Waterpower – Andreas:

- frozen over slightly
- slow to pick up with water; it was later this year but it is starting to pick up now.

Eganville – Frank:

- at a third of production
- we had a work permit in the summer to do some excavation work, which went very well
- seeing an increase already in the units (~60 kW possibly)
- Breaker is fixed

5. Status of Lake Trout work on Round Lake

Mike gave a summary of the Lake Trout work done to date:

- there was a presentation to SAC, members of the Fish & Wildlife Advisory Committee, and some property owners on Round and Golden Lakes in August regarding the upcoming SPIN in late August.
- There have been a number of meetings between MNR, RPG and Rob Steele (RPG's consultant) as we are all working closely to collect the information.
- Preliminary results of the SPIN estimate 3,700 Lake Trout in Round Lake. Many of them are the same size, indicating that there are some recruitment issues. Steve Sandstrom (MNR) is the leading expert in SPIN and we are hoping he may be able to make the next SAC meeting. Juvenile habitat could be factor i.e., the amount of it and the distance it is from the shoal.
- No juveniles were netted in the SPIN. Darwin thought he had one but SPIN is indicating that the numbers of juveniles are very low.
- We have placed Scotty boxes on the shoal in places where there are eggs
- There are also temperature data loggers to help pinpoint the timing of fry emergence, to see if they actually do emerge.
- Diving was done again this fall with the Deep River Dive Club. Looked at the same areas that we did last year, as well as other areas. A very good group of folks to work with. They were able to stay down longer this year than last year. Spawning was observed the week of October 22nd and the divers were out on the 27th of October.
- Genetic samples collected last year are still in Peterborough – we are pushing as much as we can on our end and we believe that we are making some progress (the manager of the unit has committed to getting the DNA results ASAP) in having the analysis made a higher priority. This information is a part of the picture, but we don't want to drag out research any longer than necessary to make a decision.

6. Status of proposed plan amendments

Peter gave an update on the status of RPG's amendments:

- Letter was received from Ray Bonenberg (Regional Director) allowing 4 of the amendments to proceed. The SAC all received a copy of this letter. Of the 4, the change to the lower limit on Golden Lake (Proposal #7) is to proceed as minor. The remaining 3 (#1, 2, & 6) are to proceed as administrative.
- We need to do some re-organization, rewording to make the changes as they will appear in the plan and we are looking to meet with MNR to hash out some of this.
- Minor amendments will go for public consultation.

Jan asked who will see the minor amendment to which Michael informed her that it will be sent to the mailing list and ads will be in the local papers. Jan expressed concern over the

current low level and has increased concern as the amendment would allow RPG to take it even lower.

Peter explained that RPG wants to bring it down as low as they can for room to reduce the risk of going over in the spring.

Mike explained that the proposed amendment for Golden Lake would allow for the level to be lower than it is currently. This proposal will go to public consultation as it has been accepted by the Regional Director to go the next stage. It could be bumped up to a major depending on the feedback that is received.

Mike walked through the proposed amendments, but asked that the SAC refer to the letter they received:

#1 – Approved as administrative, we will be adding an appendix for daily limits and changing the monitoring section based on 24hrs.

#2 – Approved as administrative if wording for high/low water triggers is adopted from Appendix J, however will need to proceed as minor if specific parameters for Round & Golden Lake are included with respect to high water indicators.

#3 – denied (extending the hat back on Round Lake)

#4 – withdrawn

#5 – withdrawn (Lake Trout Box)

#6 – Approved as administrative (change to upper limit at Renfrew)

#7 – Approved to proceed as a minor amendment (change to lower limit of Golden Lake)

#8 – denied (compliance/enforcement), however some information in Appendix J can be built in to help with the concern raised by the proposal.

All together, 4 of 6 were accepted to proceed. We will be looking to have a small group to work together on the text changes. Public consultation will likely occur later this winter/into spring.

BREAK

7. Terms of Reference Review

Michael walked the group through the current terms of reference:

- Discussion regarding the annual status report took place. It was decided that this was something that was unnecessary, because everything is captured in the minutes. Michael explained MNR may eventually have a yearly status report; however, looks like at this time it will focus on compliance.
- Murray Borer mentioned that turn-over of members is something we may want to revisit down the road. At some point we should be looking at bringing in new members or allow for new members to join the committee.
- Discussion regarding the issue of seeking the advice from absent members that Aurel brought up at a past meeting took place. It was decided that we would seek absent member's advice; however, a quorum is still a quorum. Absent members can still provide advice but it would not change the vote. There is an expectation that members who can't attend will review the minutes and notify Joanna if they would like to provide input/comments into a particular decision (within 2 weeks of receiving draft minutes).

Action Joanna: send out Terms of Reference with changes.

7.1 Selection of Chair – open discussion amongst SAC members

Michael explained to the group that MNR and the power producers were going to leave to allow the opportunity for an open discussion regarding whether or not they would like to select a chair (to which we would bring someone in to facilitate that process) or to keep it as it currently is with Mike as chair and Joanna taking the minutes.

Lucy agreed to contact the 4 missing SAC members to get their feelings on the issue and will report back to Mike with the result of their discussion.

**Note: in an email from Lucy King, dated November 26/07, the consensus of group, including follow-up with missing members, was to keep the status quo with Mike as the chair and Joanna as the recording secretary.*