

BONNECHERE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)
FINAL Minutes of Meeting #16 – April 23, 2008
Eagles Nest, Eganville

Attendees:

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

MNR: Mike Radford, Joanna Samson, Tom Giesler, Erin Malloy

Waterpower Producers: Jeff Featherston (RPG), Frank Scheer (Eganville Generation Corporation), Janusz Rydel (Multistream Power Corp.), Andreas Vornweg (Vornweg Waterpower)

Regrets:

Niall McArdle, Steve Munger, Jan Leroux

1. Housekeeping Items

1.1 Review of Agenda

No items were added to the agenda.

Joanna indicated that “new business items” was on the agenda. This will be a standing agenda item and will allow a SAC member, MNR or waterpower producer the opportunity to bring forward new business during a meeting.

1.2 Aurel Boucher

Mike Radford announced to the group that Aurel Boucher had resigned from the committee. There was some discussion regarding recruiting new members, however, decision was to put it on hold for now. The Terms of Reference indicates 6-9 people and we are currently at 7 having lost Aurel and Kevin O’Connor.

2 Review & Approval of Minutes of Meeting #15 – Feb 13, 2008

Page 1- two typos were corrected. “Dave Lemkay” & ... *there was not any firm ice*”.

Mike Radford updated an Action item from the minutes regarding SAC involvement in the First Chute Waterpower proposal (RPG). Mike explained that the SAC is on the mailing list for the EA process. The EA will take care of the public consultation and the SAC will have the opportunity to become involved. If and when it comes to this table, it will most likely be as an administrative amendment to the plan as all requirements will have had to have been met through the EA. Any questions regarding the project can be directed to RPG (Peter Boldt).

3 Golden Lake ESTN Update

Mike Radford introduced Erin Malloy, currently our District Planner, formerly our Biologist Intern. Erin lead a End of Spring Trap Netting (ESTN) on Golden Lake from May 7-24, 2007. Erin walked through the handout she prepared highlighting some facts, survey results, and next steps.

Some questions came up regarding the impact of the native harvest. Mike indicated that although difficult to know exact numbers, the modelling assumes a level of harvest by the Algonquin's and angling effort of non-natives. He explained that the Algonquin's were at the table for the discussion and that they exercised restraint during the moratorium.

Don Pouliot commented about Walleye not being indigenous to Golden Lake and wondered what species were. Erin indicated that all other fish listed on the pie chart, other than Black Crappy, were indigenous.

Murray Borer asked if Erin had tagged any Walleye during the study. No tagging was done, however, they did note a walleye that had previously been tagged.

ACTION: Joanna to send a digital copy of the handout with the minutes.

Erin indicated that if anyone had any further questions, they could contact her via email at erin.malloy@ontario.ca or by phone at (613) 732-5522.

4 Operations Update – Power Producers

Multistream (Douglas) - Janusz:

- Currently 5 logs in
- Noticed a lot of beaver sticks when the ice melted
- Water is still rising; roughly 100cms (estimated based on RPG reports)
- Raised deck worked very well
- We held an Open House for the upgrade of the plant, 13 people came and generally supportive of the project

Eganville – Frank:

- Seeing lots of water
- 11 logs on deck
- 12th log is at the 5th level
- Keeping away from inside chutes
- Getting lots of calls, including several from Niall McArdle

Vornweg Waterpower - Andreas:

- Water is going down, smaller drainage area. Water was high, but not extremely high, had no flooding.

RPG – Jeff Featherston:

- Renfrew running fine, beyond that there is flooding everywhere; Round Lake, Golden Lake, Tramore
- We are operating to attempt to flood equally & equitably if at all possible.
- Called a meeting with the municipalities last night and provided information as following information.
- Melt water, rain comes from upper water watershed in Algonquin Park to Round Lake.
- Tramore reach restrictions.

- Due to a natural constriction upstream of the Golden Lake Dam, water cannot get out of Golden Lake faster than it comes in regardless of the number of logs in the control structure.
- Round Lake:
 - o Beginning of winter – 4cm/wk drawdown commenced. In January, the big thaw accompanied by the rain, drove the level of the lake up. Because of the big rise, RPG pulled aggressively at Round Lake, but ran into a problem and had to stop pulling to allow Golden Lake the opportunity to go down because it had flattened out. Level of Round and Golden Lake was high in comparison to other years leading into spring freshet.
 - o Just before freshet, snow survey showed 3 ft of dense snow with a high water content.
 - o Website shows the average weekly graph, however, I have been plotting it daily.
 - o All logs have been out of Golden Lake since January.
 - o As of today, we are above the peak flood level in 2005 by a considerable amount (171.712 today Vs 171.441 in 2005).
 - o Appears that the lake may be starting to turn around as a substantial decrease in rate rise was noted today.
 - o Snow is pretty much gone, so it's not a consideration at this point.
 - o There is a lot of standing water being held by beaver dams in the park.
- Golden Lake
 - o We hit a plateau and the water would not come out. Theory is that as there was no frost in the ground, much of the Jan melt went into the ground and we were actually trying to drain ground water as well as the Lake.
 - o Currently at the flood for 2005 level on Golden Lake (169.921 in 2005)
 - o Strategy/objective was to get the level of Golden Lake lower.
- Ice is all free floating; broken – black crystallized, still a bit of ice on Round Lake.
- Jeff showed a number of pictures of the flooding from: Red Rock Road, Tramore reach (2 inches of water in the garage) downstream of the Tramore Dam, Mountain view cabins on Golden Lake, Muntz Bay (Golden), Farmer's field, Tramore Dam (showing water by-passing the dam) and several others.
- Round Lake has risen a quarter inch in 18 hours
- Both lakes were at the same rate of rise yesterday, but now Round is down and Golden is up.
- Pressure is on to pull more logs at Round Lake
- The trick now is to get the water out as quickly as we can, as equally as we can.
- State of Emergency declared for Killaloe-Hagarty-Richards. I received a note from them last night to pull a log on Round Lake but then received another one today, advising me not do that based on the recommendation of their legal council.

Mike Radford asked what the level looked like at Tramore right now and Jeff indicated that the wingwall had 2 ft of water on it at the moment.

Don Pouliot reported based on the records he had that the max on record he found for Round Lake was 171.45 in 1996 and on Golden, 169.96.

Tom Giesler pointed out that we were very fortunate to have not had significant rain with this melt.

- Next Steps: manage as best we can, look at properties affected and balance out as best as we can. Neither lake has peaked, but it is slowing down. Round Lake is very close.

Don Pouliot indicated that he had received 23 complaints on Round Lake.

Mike Radford indicated that MNR had a helicopter available the next day to take several flights to show municipal officials the extent of the flooding to assist in their decision making process.

Lucy King wondered when Golden Lake would peak and was informed that it is difficult to predict.

Don Pouliot expressed concern regarding the rate of the recede as it may take some time for the level to go down once it has peaked. Jeff Featherston indicated that he would look into it.

Jeff Featherston indicated that RPG would be approaching Ontario Parks again regarding building reservoirs in the Park.

5 Status of RPG Amendments

Mike Radford recapped that RPG still had 4 amendments (3 administrative and 1 minor (Golden Lake lower limit) to be processed. Jeff Featherston indicated that Peter Boldt would provide the wording to the MNR within the next two weeks. MNR will review and input and it will be shared with the SAC prior to any approval (administrative) or public consultation (minor).

6 New Business Items

- 6.1 Mike Radford & Don Pouliot handed out the joint amendment request received from RLPOA, GLPOA & RPG.
- 6.2 Frank Scheer mentioned that similar to RPG's amendment request for Renfrew, Eganville and Douglas may want to look at extending the hat or having a shifting hat. Frank was informed that he would have to submit a formal amendment request and would need to demonstrate the need to extend the hat. Mike Radford indicated that it may be difficult to argue that spring freshet is still past late May when Eganville has shown it can pass the water.

7 Next Meeting Date

Wednesday June 25th @ the Eagles' Nest in Eganville.