

**BONNECHERE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)**  
**FINAL Minutes of Meeting #17 – June 25, 2008**  
**Eagles Nest, Eganville**

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**Attendees:**

**SAC:** Don Pouliot, Ross Campbell, Murray Borer, Murray Bimm, Steve Munger

**MNR:** Mike Radford, Joanna Samson, Tom Giesler, Jamie Riley

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

**Regrets:**

Niall McArdle, Lucy King, Jan Leroux

**1. Housekeeping Items**

1.1 Review of Agenda

Mike indicated that Darwin was unable to attend the meeting

Mike indicated that “new business items” that appeared on the agenda at the last meeting are now titled “walk-on agenda items” to keep these items brief as our agendas are usually pretty full. If there is an agenda topic that you would like to discuss they can be brought forward and added as a full agenda item with the appropriate amount of time allocated to it for a future meeting.

**2. Review & Approval of Minutes of Meeting #16 – April 23/08, 2008**

Some minor editorial comments were provided.

**3. Operations Update – Power Producers**

**RPG – Jeff Featherston:**

- Lots of water, lakes are full: 2 inch capacity in Golden Lake, 6 inch capacity in Round Lake
- 2 weeks left before we need to start drawing down.
- Spilling water at Renfrew
- Pulled the file on RPG’s past recommendation of having reservoirs built in Algonquin Park. RPG will be looking to send another letter.

Jeff asked the group who had ownership over the plan and was informed that the waterpower producers are partners and MNR is the regulator. MNR assisted in developing the plan. Jeff indicated that Coalition 108 wanted to meet with RPG and Jeff directed them to the SAC in a letter which he shared with the committee. Coalition 108 is concerned with the 108 contour - where RPG can flood to legally on private land. Group argues that the 108 contour has changed over the years and it is now under water. MNR indicated to Jeff

that we may have to refute his letter as this may not be something to be tabled with the SAC depending on what their concerns and issues are.

Murray Borer inquired about Golden Lake from the peak down, when logs were re-installed, and questioned how much farther RPG could have kept that line. Jeff indicated that with it diving that steep; it likely would have bellied-out. Murray wondered if that same dive could be achieved in the fall and was given an indication that it could, however, it would depend on how much water came into the system.

**Eganville – Frank:**

- Lots of production
- 13 logs on deck – the height is still like a spring run-off
- Experiencing lots of debris and he is not sure why there is so much more this year than in previous years.
- Getting lots of extra leakage that they don't normally have.

**Multistream (Douglas) - Janusz:**

- Douglas is running well, not experiencing much in the line of debris
- Too much water in May at the bottom of the dam
- Running full capacity; 4 or 5cms
- Received work permit to raise the deck
- Will apply for a work permit to pin the weir
- All based timing – waiting to see if I get the permits to do the work to upgrade the plant this fall
- Few power outages.

**Vornweg Waterpower - Andreas:**

- Lots of water – had to put logs in
- Still running, good production, good year

**4. Compliance Review**

Tom Giesler handed out a document, “compliance record 2004-2008”, to the SAC. Joanna will include the Powerpoint presentation with the minutes.

Good discussion occurred with a number of questions directed to Tom. Discussion regarding the typical operating line and how it is not a “target”, it's an estimation of where the operator may be under typical conditions and it was developed using historical data. It is not an average.

Don Pouliot mentioned 1995 and referenced that there was more water that year and that the draw down was very quick. He indicated that the restriction acted more like a spout. Round Lake was drawn down immediately after freshet and Golden Lake didn't go out of compliance.

Mike Radford indicated that you can't always compare the lines on the graph. The slope of the line exceeds capacity for Golden to get it out. You have to look at a number of variables including frozen ground, amount of snow, etc. It is a similar slope (1995) to this year but

Golden will react in different ways depending on the conditions. We don't know if pulling more logs out of Round Lake would force water out of Golden Lake instead of driving it up. Murray Borer wondered if there was a computer model/program that could look at how Golden Lake reacts to the input from Round Lake. Is it always variable? Mike indicated that Murray made a good point. This something that would need to be studied or have an engineer look at it and make a call.

## **5. Round Lake Lake Trout Update**

Mike handed out Darwin's update to the group as he wasn't able to make the meeting.

**ACTION: Joanna** to attach update to the minutes.

Don Pouliot indicated that they are hoping for some relief for 2009.

Mike indicated that we still don't have the DNA report, however, we were told by the scientist that did the analysis to treat the population as a natural population. Mike also indicated that MNR has had a preliminary discussion with DFO.

The final comprehensive report is not ready however; we don't have to hold further discussion until it is ready. We have all the information necessary to go forward with discussions.

Please email Darwin with any questions you may have concerning his update at [darwin.rosien@ontario.ca](mailto:darwin.rosien@ontario.ca)

## **6. Update on Amendments**

### **6.1. RPG Amendments**

RPG's four plan amendments are a work in progress. RPG has submitted a first draft of the amendment summaries to MNR. Joanna is currently working through them and adding input, which will then go back to Jeff. Once ready, the summaries will come to the SAC prior to proceeding. There are 3 administrative amendments which will be approved once everything is finalized and 1 minor amendment (lower limit of Golden Lake) that will proceed to public notification which includes a notice in the newspaper and mail out with a 15 day public inspection period.

Mike R. asked the SAC if they would prefer to have a meeting to go over the summaries or receive them electronically. Murray Borer indicated that he would prefer to receive them electronically, however, if it is found that there are many issues that we could look at having a meeting to discuss. Other SAC members present agree with electronic distribution of the amendment summaries with a turn-around time.

### **6.2. New Proposal**

Mike Radford discussed the joint amendment proposal submitted by RLPOA, GLPOA and RPG that was handed out at the last SAC meeting. A similar amendment to the Round Lake Operating regime was put forward by RPG and was subsequently withdrawn by Peter Boldt last year to allow for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year of critical Lake Trout data collection.

There are two proposals presented in the joint request and we may need to look at having a representative group come and present it to the SAC as you will need to be involved. Additionally DFO will need to be involved. This package was shared with our

DFO contact in addition to Darwin and Rob Steele's information they have collected. DFO will look at impact and history of impact and if they will let it happen, they will also look at compensation.

Mike Radford indicated that MNR will be looking to prepare a Briefing Note seeking direction as decision on how to proceed with the Lake Trout will not be local decision. This amendment request could very easily go to a major amendment.

Don Pouliot asked if there was virtually no chance of making changes to the plan for 2009 and Mike indicated that that was quite likely the case given the time frame a major amendment could take. We will need to have the group present to MNR for some clarification of their amendment proposals and then the group will need to present to the SAC.

Murray Borer suggested that given the issue that if Kirby and Darwin could be at the SAC meeting, that he would be okay with having an additional summer meeting. Other SAC members present agreed that a meeting to discuss the amendment proposal was important and that it should happen in the summer.

**ACTION: Joanna** to check with Kirby & Darwin regarding their availability for a SAC meeting July 30<sup>th</sup> or August 6<sup>th</sup>. She will let the SAC know the date ASAP.

Don Pouliot inquired as to whether the public could attend the SAC meeting as a few individuals expressed interest in attending. Joanna indicated that SAC meetings are not intended to be public meetings and public attendance is not preferred due to some past issues with volunteer committee meetings made open to the public. It was proven to be very difficult to generate good discussion and move through the agenda. The minutes are available on line at the RPG website. Don indicated that he will inform those who asked that the minutes were available on line.

## **7. Walk-on Agenda Items**

- 7.1 Frank expressed to the group that wants to put in a boom at Eganville, however, his Board of Directors is interested in installing a gate. Frank had some questions regarding MNR's permitting process for the installation as there is some discrepancy between his and the Boards' understanding of the process.
- Tom Giesler suggested that Frank needs to formalize his request in writing to our District Manager and he will respond in writing outlining the necessary permits and approvals required for either the installation of a gate or a boom in the water.

## **8. Next Meeting Date**

**Wednesday July 30<sup>th</sup> @ the Eagles' Nest in Eganville.**

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.