

BONNECHERE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)
FINAL - Minutes of Meeting #25 – March 31, 2011
Eagles Nest, Eganville

Attendees:

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

MNR: Jeremy Jones, Joanna Samson, Tom Giesler

Waterpower Producers: Peter Boldt (RPG), Shawn Cameron (RPG), Janusz Rydel (Multistream), Frank Scheer (Eganville Generation Corporation); Andreas Vornweg

Regrets:, Kevin O'Connor, Jan Leroux

1. Housekeeping Items

1.1. Expense Claims

- Expense claims were handed out to the group.

1.2. Review of Agenda & Walk-on items

- Nothing was added to the agenda

2. Review & Approval of Minutes of Meeting #24– Dec 9, 2010

No changes were made to the minutes.

3. Power Producers Update

Andreas:

- Normal year, with a normal freeze-up. Highest we saw was 3 feet below the crest.

Frank (Eganville)

- Good water from late summer/fall on
- Good production year. Three units ran until the end of December, two full units ran all winter.
- Gate update – looks positive, meeting with council is scheduled for next Tuesday.
- Application into MNR to put in a coffer dam to due the maintenance at the tail race.
- Looking to come up with a cheaper way to get the work done.

Janusz (Douglas/Multistream)

- Amount of water has been good
- Significant problems with frazil ice this winter. Ice lifting rocks from the bed, couldn't get through the turbines.
- There was a lot stone in trash rack but no damage to the turbines. Everything now goes into the trash racks.
- Looking at doing more work to raise the head.

Shawn (RPG)

- Considerably high flows.
- All logs are out.
- Production has been very good, not a lot of debris – good run so far.

Peter (RPG)

Peter handed out information to the group to help explain where the lakes are currently and RPG's strategy. The following are notes based on Peter's presentation:

Peter indicated that a couple of amendments were processed, one to remove the lake trout box, and one, on Golden Lake, to keep it flat across the bottom.

Last fall RPG diligently tried to stay between the lines for the WMP. The thought pattern was to get Golden Lake down, create a reservoir and then get Round Lake down. This was tried in 2005. By processing the amendments, this would assist in this strategy.

- Step 1; brought Golden Lake back up – run that angle in October, hoping to run that line in the spring
- Step 2: Start with the 4cm/week drawdown, raise Round lake, start on that angle.

There was a lot of rain and the water went up so quickly on Round that RPG was pulling logs every day. Golden hit a peak and started going down. RPG picked a point and headed down.

This spring has been good and we have been fortunate with the cooler nights couple with mild days. As a result, we were able to get down to the bottom of the Round Lake chart waiting for spring to kick in. Peter indicated that RPG hasn't really changed the input into Golden; so far it has more or less passed. However, Golden is still going up. There is a standard input, but the lake is still rising at 2cm/day. This indicates that the drainage basin is adding 2cm/day. Golden in fact has flattened out – actual effect is more from drainage basin than from what is coming from Round Lake. Round Lake is constant but Golden Lake is still rising.

The second thing that was picked up this year is that a drawdown of 4cm/week is supposed to help with the development of a shoreline bond. The question asked was can we bring it down and leave it flat? The ice at Deacon was 5-6ft high. There was 90 feet of shoreline bond in some areas. We cannot have a flat Golden lake, the shoreline bond will break. Golden can't be drained flat and left either. So for Golden Lake, we have to go down on an angle and keep it flat.

Strategy for next year: Line up the same way as we did this past year, but we will watch weather patterns a little more carefully.

Peter referred the group to the handouts which contains 20 years of operations. He focused on 1984, 1985, 1996, & 1983. He indicated that these were big water years that will likely re-occur. If this type of water hits, the lakes will go out and can't be brought back.

Peter made reference to the typical line. He indicated that they never attempted to run the line. He recently put in a 6 yr average to show the reality.

Golden lake: Golden Lake has been out 64 times. It showed a difference between 1980-2000. If the typical line was the actual average, it would be out. Need to look at the average line for the last 6 years. 168.83 is the lowest that has ever been achieved as a result of very little water in the fall. We would like to be able to get to 168.83.

For this year: RPG will be more cognisant in the fall and will try to set up based on the angle in the amendment. RPG will set up the 4cm and back it up. The problems experienced this year was with the weather. At freeze up, we were at the right level to go down. We were pushing the extreme, 6cm/week, heading for the bottom – dropping fairly hard.

RPG is still doing ice drilling. Max 20 inches (less ice).

This spring: There is still considerable ice/snow, anticipate more water to come from Algonquin park. Peter referred to the handout:

- At 169.2 on Round Lake, we need to seriously consider where we are on Golden. That may be the number when it hits there, seriously evaluate what is going on.
- Round Lake – there is lots of water, may actually start putting logs in as of next week. Water has to stay over spawning beds for walleye. It will depend on how much rain and heat and snow we get.
- We will be worried if there is no rain and little snow.
- Not going to be able to change from year to year. Economics are involved, 4cm/week to operate comfortably. At 6cm/week, we spill too much.

Q: Murray Borer noted an interesting rise on Golden Lake and wondered if RPG could look at snow load for this year. He also commented on the good ice bond, ridge out on the lake, line coming down is probably what you are looking for.

Summary:

Fall last year: Connect the dot mode but nature took a kick at us with the rain

This summer: Hope for no problems.

This fall: Try the same strategy again to connect the dots and get that angle to come lower; we will try to get Golden Lake lower too.

Peter also referenced the group formed with the Municipalities, producers, MNR, RLPOA & GLPOA to assist in the preparedness of people for floods in the watershed. RPG has communicated at this meeting that any issues dealing with water levels and flows should be brought to the SAC.

4. Walk-on Agenda Items

4.1. Don Pouliot:

Don Pouliot informed the group that RLPO & KHR – presented to the Minister's (MNR) staff. This was out of frustration due to on-going damage caused by ice push and erosion. Don also passed around pictures of ice push that occurred this year, all on Enos Bay and damage that people are experiencing. He indicated that the RLPOA position is that it is a direct result of the high water. If RPG were to take the water lower, creating a buffer/perimeter around the lake, it would prevent the movement of ice on people shorelines. Roots are all exposed right on the shoreline.

MNR reminded Don that years of work have been conducted on firstly the Lake Trout Study, and secondly the trial amendment proposed two years ago that has been put on hold by RPG.

Don proposed having the RLPOA sit down with RPG & MNR to better understand all view points. Tom suggested that Don produce a list of issues that the RLPOA feels that have not been addressed. This will also serve to help with plan review/renewal when that process is underway.

Murray Borer made a point to say that the simple answer is that this is a system. Round Lake is not the only lake affected when changes to operating regimes are made.

Action: Don Pouliot to create list and send to MNR for discussion

5. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday June 22, 2011 - 6:30pm, @ Eagles' Nest in Eganville

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.