

BONNECHERE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)
FINAL Minutes of Meeting #8 – November 29, 2006
Bonnechere Valley Township Office, Eganville

Attendees:

SAC: Don Pouliot, Ross Campbell, Murray Bimm, Murray Borer, Kevin O'Connor, Steve Munger, Lucy King, Aurel Boucher

MNR: Michael Radford, Joanna Samson

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

Regrets:

Niall McArdle, Jan Leroux

1. Housekeeping Items

1.1 Joanna's job is now a permanent position (Water Resources Coordinator). The competition was held in October.

1.2 Expense Claims

When submitting expense claims for mileage, please feel free to submit for a couple of meetings at a time.

1.3 Erosion Speaker

Joanna is still looking to have an erosion speaker come and talk to the group about shoreline erosion dynamics & possibly mitigation techniques.

1.4 Review of Agenda

No items were added to the agenda.

2. Review & Approval of Minutes of Meeting #7 – September 27, 2006

Page 3: 1st paragraph; "..., however, the most complaints he had were in the spring ([9 comments with respect to ice and 3 to high water](#))..."

Minutes were approved by all SAC members present with the above noted change. A copy of the finalized minutes will be sent by email.

Updates related to minutes:

Victoria Island spawning shoal work – 8 Diver's from Deep River diving club were at the site October 21st, 2006. A dive report was put together which was shown to the SAC. The report

indicated that the eggs observed ranged in depth from a minimum of 4 ft to a maximum of 9ft, with the highest density of eggs in the 6-8 (2-2.5 metres) foot depth range. However, the equipment being used was not completely accurate and Darwin Rosien indicates that the majority of the eggs were at a depth of 1.5-1.6 metres. Darwin has some pictures of Lake trout from when he set the nets, which he will share with the group at a later date. Tissue samples were sent off for DNA sampling and this information will be presented to you folks as well when it is available. Otoliths were sent as well for aging.

Walleye Opening: The media release is going through Media Approvals Branch.

- 6-2 catch limit (Dam to Dam)
- Posters will be going up
- Opening Jan 1st with the new regulations
- State of the Resources Report (further background) will be prepared, which is something that can be put on the Golden Lake Property Associations website if desired.

A suggestion was made that the FINAL minutes to the Bonnchere SAC meetings be posted to Peter's website. Peter indicated that he would talk to his webmaster.

3. Operations Update – Power Producers

Peter Boldt - RPG

- no logs are in the Golden Lake Dam as of November 20th, 2006. Golden Lake is draining naturally.
- Conversations will take place with the staff of the MNR to reflect on how the natural flow on Golden Lake will be an impediment to the lowering of the levels of Round Lake for the spring freshet. Weather will be one of the main considerations in the discussion.
- The new BMT Fleet Tech. report has made some conclusions that are contrary to the physical ability of the system operation. The drain of the reaches at an equal drop rate is a theoretical possibility but not practical. RPG is proposing that the concentration of effort is better served to prepare for the spring freshet than to manoeuvre through the winter season with varying drop rates and conditions that are difficult to achieve at best. The apparent difficulty again is the positioning of the lake trout box and the height of level that the bottom represents. The statement of 2.5 feet of drop over the winter and the anticipated freshet increase in height of 3.5 on average leads to a negative impact depending on the year. These statistics indicate that we should be very concerned about the freshet and the impact it will have on shoreline.
- Currently 12 logs in Round Lake, which is like a February situation. There is 21cms, considerably more flow
- 103.8 local datum is the bottom of the Lake Trout Box. Existing logs are @ 103. If it were to drain naturally then we would be below the trout box. Therefore we need to put logs in at some point but we don't know when
- Climate change prediction – increase in amplitude, more and more rain. 14% more rain projected for 2050.
- Can't remember ever having no logs in Golden Lake Dam at this time of year

- It's a negative factor having too much water as far as power production. The high tail race lowers the head of the power plant and results in decreased production.
- Staying at 170.8-170.9 masl or 106.0 local datum. Trying to hold where BMT says to be at freeze-up
- If you are interested in seeing the obstruction at Golden Lake, you can see it now. Right now the Lake is controlling itself. The flow rate is equal or less than 21 cms due to the fact that it is matching the discharge from Round Lake most of the time. The Lake is at its natural flow rate with no impediments in the dam.
- What we are experiencing in Renfrew is something that you never see in the fall. You may see this in the spring.

Janusz Rydel

- Not currently operating at a level that he would like to be operating
- Broken log in the dam at the bottom and could not safely remove it because of the high flows
- Acquired a steamer so that he can operate logs in the winter.

Andreas Vornweg

- Everything is fine – ready for the winter
- Last week pulled a log, which was the first pull since the spring.
- Tail race is high, so there isn't much in terms of production

Frank Scheer

- Worried about freeze-up, gains freeze-up
- 5 ½ logs are out
- great movie about climate change – An Inconvenient Truth (Al Gore)

4. Information Needs – Recap & Evaluation of Prioritization Exercise

Joanna handed out the summary of information needs exercise.

Top 4:

1. Status of Amphibians and Reptile Populations
2. Minimum Flows
3. Monitor the whole fish community
4. Monitoring Walleye Success

This does not mean that MNR and the waterpower producers will only look to fill these information needs. It helps to give an idea of what the SAC would like to see.

Discussion:

Minimum flows should be high on the list and determination of how to calculate these flows needs to occur. There was a little confusion in terms of what the plan is concerned with; minimum flows with respect to historical leakage, or with respect to one minimum flow for the entire system. Further work/clarification is needed to ensure that everyone is on the same page in terms of establishing minimum flows.

A discussion regarding existing information on reptiles & amphibians also took place. The information need is in the context of the plan. Does the plan help the amphibians/reptile population or not?

Steve M

- suggested frog watch may already be established
- wondered what other kind of monitoring is going on
- start by looking at types of monitoring as next steps i.e. what's already out there.

Steve M – Northern Pike spawning should also apply to reach 7.

ACTION: Joanna – why Northern Pike spawning doesn't apply to Golden Lake

5. Handout of BMT Fleet Technologies Follow-up Ice Study

Joanna handed out copies of the BMT's follow up study.

Peter explained that by working in the confines of the plan, he couldn't physically do what is in the report as the report gives a water level to achieve at freeze up for Golden Lake. Peter also indicated that we all should be looking at the same areas. I.e. RPG, RLPOA, MNR in terms of pictures, timing, drilling for this winter. Only way to get true data is to collect this kind of information yearly to find consistency and to improve the science.

MNR will not be able to pay for updating the report every year.

RPG has provided data and paid for the collection of the information. In the future is RPG's intention to collect more data in co-operation with the Golden Lake and Round Lake groups to better understand the local effects of weather and ice characteristics to refine the theories that BMT have provided.

6. Handout – RPG Proposed Plan Amendments

Mike handed out an amendment package proposed by Renfrew Power Generation. He emphasized that the amendments were not up for discussion at this meeting but they would form the majority of the next meetings agenda. Any of the amendments that are accepted, depending on the type, may go to the public for comment. The plan outlines the difference between an administrative, minor or major amendment. The SAC will have an opportunity to review, comment & recommend, before an amendment is accepted or rejected.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Date of Next Meeting:

January 17, 2007 – @ 6pm at the Bonnechere Valley Township Office

ACTION: Frank to Book Township Office

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.