

STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)
Minutes of Meeting #12, March 3, 2021
Via Zoom

Attendees: VIA Zoom

SAC: Rob Norris (KHR), James Brose (NAW), Steve Osipenko (Horton Twp.), Kevin Legris (A/B Twp.) and Don Eady (Mayor of Renfrew).

Waterpower Producers: Shawn Cameron (RPG), Jack Roesner (Eganville Generation Corporation) & (Multistream Power Corp).

Regrets: Cairine Cybulski (Bonnechere Valley Twp.) and Steve Benoit (Pikwàkanagàn)

Secretary: Channa McEachen (RPG)

Rob Norris welcomed the group to the Zoom call; a quorum was noted. Rob N welcomed Kevin Legris to the meeting. Kevin L will be representing Admaston Bromley Township.

2. Walk on Items

None noted.

Meeting #11– Approval of minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from November 12, 2020 SAC committee meeting.

Moved by: Don Eady
Seconded by: James Brose
Carried

Chair position – annual renewal

A motion was made by Steve O (Horton Twp) to nominate Rob N (KHR) for another term as Chair of the SAC. Seconded by James Brose (NAW). All in Favour by a show of hands. **Carried.**

Communication –Power Producers

Jack R (EGC) gave the SAC a report on the operations in Eganville.

Generation has been running steady all fall, better fall levels than normal due to the amendment drawdown. Averaging with 2 turbines on consistently for most of the fall, except for the month of February there is one turbine on and the second turbine running for 4 hours and off for an hour. No

issues with the plant. Work that was planned was not all completed due to Covid. Scheduled to finish after Freshet is done this spring.

Rob N asked about the better than normal fall levels and what percentage Jack R (EGC) would consider better than normal 10-15%.

Jack R (EGC) answered that he would say 15-18% increase in water, more consistent water flow from the drawdown from Round Lake and we saw that water move through the system earlier and gave us a better fall. Right now, the month of Feb was less than normal from normal. Must see how the new regime averages out over a full year.

Rob N (KHR) added that the reason he was asking about the increase in water levels was because part of the proposal was that there would be some benefits to green energy and if these things are coming to fruition, then that is very positive.

Shawn C (RPG) agreed, that is what we figured as Jack R (EGC) mentioned, It will take a full year to see and qualify the benefits. There were also some substantial rain events that are usually snow, one in the fall and one Christmas day.

Shawn C (RPG) Renfrew has not had any operational issues. Things have been going quite well since we last spoke. No complaints have been received. Last time we met we had a couple of complaints about low water and wells and none since. We do have calls every month with Janice T (KHR,) Laura Lapinski (MPP, Yakabuski's office) and Michelle L (biologist, Bowfin) they have been receiving positives. The drawdown went down perfectly, stayed on target. Right now, we are hugging the bottom and had to add a log the beginning of February to keep the level from going too low. There has not been a lot of precipitation over the winter which made it easy to take the water down.

Our staff goes up once a week to Bonnechere Provincial Park to do drilling to get ice thickness and to see what the water depth is at predetermined locations. Bowfin has been interpreting the results, no real issues to date. There are a couple of areas she has flagged that she wants to look at once the ice is off. Michelle L (Bowfin) must have her final report in by July 1st, 2021 to MECP.

RPG employees were up yesterday for snow sampling, and we are only up 5cm from the last snow sample. Sitting with a snow depth of 67.3cm as an average and snow water equivalent of 138mm. Depth did not change much but density has. Ice averages: Lake Clear 17 inches, Round Lake and Golden Lake 20 Inches.

Water level wise, Round Lake is on target with Golden Lake dropping. The dam has been empty since Nov 9, 2020. Round Lake being so low is giving Golden Lake more time to lower. Lake Clear slightly above average, logs have been out since Oct 2, 2020.

2021 RPG : work that we are trying to complete this summer is major dam repairs in Renfrew, presently working through proposals/financing. Hoping to start July 15 and scheduled to be completed early fall. We are also looking into replacing deck at Golden Lake dam, no in water work all to be completed from above.

Jack R (MPC) informed the Sac committee that Douglas is under new ownership as of this past fall. Jack R (MPC) and 3 silent partners are the new owners. Jack R (MCP) reported that the flows through Douglas have been up compared to the previous year's going from historical information. There is some work to be done on the grouting on the gains of spillways 1, 2 and possibly 3. Engineering drawings are complete. When grouting is being done may install a second set of logs gains. Currently right now only has one set.

Plant has been running with no issues same plant manager as before, Normand Guy.

Shawn C pointed out that Jack Roesner will now be the contact person for the Douglas site.

Concerns Received – All

None.

KHR Amendment – up-date

Things look fine, a couple of areas to investigate once ice is off. Important part is the report to MECP. The permit we have standing now expires Dec 31, 2021 certainly allows us to start the drawdown but will have to get sorted out before any drawdown is started this fall.

Jack R (EGP & MCP) asked if there is anything that could throw a monkey wrench in this, with MECP.

Shawn C (RPG) the issues we are looking at right now is a couple of the areas have run out of water. Primarily what we are doing is for turtle habitat. Turtle burrow into the mud over the winter and the concern is, if essentially the ice gets thick enough and there is no water the turtles could freeze. There is a couple of spots that Michelle L (Bowfin) is monitoring as the water is gone but the mud is still wet, not frozen.

We will have to do some Lake Trout work later in the fall. That was more DFO, they want some monitoring completed.

Freshet: Snow Data, System Water Levels

Freshet calls will continue. Same platform that has been used in the past. Daily communication exact start date is unknown but will still consist of daily emails to the SAC members, all CEMC's and a couple of mayors and the power producers. RPG Inc website will also continue to be updated daily during Freshet along with our Facebook page. Dates were added to the water level charts in place of days of the year. Positive feedback from the change.

As far as operations it may be a little different this year, from average Round Lake level is 55cm lower. Golden Lake typically rises first with Round Lake rising a little later.

Same intentions we will not hold water in Round Lake until confident that Round Lake has quit rising.

Part of the amendment is the positive effect we hope to have on Golden Lake to shorten the time they have high water because we will be able to fill up Round Lake sooner, that is the goal, but it is all weather dependent.

Steve O (Horton Twp) commented that he knows Round Lake is visibly much lower this year and asked where we are now on Golden Lake water level wise compared to the last 4/5years.

Shawn C (RPG) replied we are slightly below average right now.

Steve O (Horton Twp) informed the SAC that thankfully MNRF will continue to have Christina Davis do the Freshet calls as she has done previously. We have a call planned tomorrow with the CEMC's from the County. Not doing the big show that we normally do with all the presentations because the main part of the group is well versed after going through the last 4 years. Tomorrow will be the kickoff and then every week or 2 going forward and then once Freshet starts bump the frequency to probably twice a week as per usual.

Steve O (Horton Twp) to send Shawn C (RPG) and Jack R (EGC & MCP) an updated CEMC list.

Date of Next Meeting

To be determined.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2:00pm by James Brose (NAW) and seconded by Steve O (Horton Twp)

All members in favour. **Carried.**