

**BONNECHERE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN  
STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)**

**Minutes of Meeting #2, March 21, 2018  
1035 O'Brien Rd, Renfrew ON**

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**Attendees:**

**SAC:** Don Eady (Mayor of Renfrew), Deborah Farr (Mayor of NAW), Janice Visneskie (Mayor of KHR), Robert Kingsbury (Mayor of Horton Twp.)

**Waterpower Producers:** Shawn Cameron (RPG), Jack Roesner (Eganville Generation Corporation)

**Secretary:** Channa McEachen (RPG)

**Regrets:**

Jennifer Murphy (Mayor of Bonnechere Valley), Janusz Rydel (Multistream Power Corp.)  
Michael Donohue (Mayor of A/B Twp.), Steve Benoit (Pikwakanagan)

**1. Introduction of Members and Review of Contact Information**

Shawn Cameron (RPG) welcomed everyone to the SAC meeting and noted that a quorum was present.

**2. Walk-on items**

None

**3. Selection of Chair and Secretary**

Janice Visneskie (KHR) nominated Rob Norris for the position of the chair. Janice read aloud an email from Rob Norris expressing interest in the role.

A motion was made to nominate Rob Norris as chair of the SAC committee.

<b>Moved by:</b>	Janice Visneskie
<b>Seconded by:</b>	Don Eady
	<b>Carried</b>

Shawn C suggested that we keep using Channa McEachen as the secretary and that Rob Norris can forward agenda items to Channa. The committee unanimously agreed that Channa would continue to act as the secretary for the SAC.

#### 4. Freshet Outlook – Communication

Shawn C provided the committee with an update on levels at Round Lake and Golden Lake. Shawn C presented a graph of Round Lake, dated January 1 to March 20, 2018. This graph showed the levels at Round Lake and that a log was put in to maintain compliance with the BRWMP lower limit.

Golden Lake graph was presented and showed the lake coming down on its own which is favourable as levels rose slightly from mild spell in February.

As needed RPG will continue to adjust logs at Round Lake to maintain low levels as long as possible.

Lake Clear at this time is below average for this time of year.

Shawn C. presented a snow graph from a snow station in Fraser Twp. used by the MNRF. The chart indicates below average snow for the year and approximately 40 cm left on the ground as of March 19.

Robert Kingsbury (HT) asked how the data compares to last year.

Shawn C explained that we started the true Freshet last year with Golden levels quite high from the pre-freshet weather. Round for the most part is at the same levels as last year. The goal every year is to drain Round Lake and Golden Lake to their lowest allowable limits. Due to natural restriction at Golden Lake the lowering of its level is difficult. Round Lake we are successful every year in achieving lowest allowable limit.

Shawn C. reminded that weather is unpredictable and a major concern every year as it is impossible to forecast ahead. All RPG can do is drain the lakes to the best of our abilities and comply with enforceable limits.

Deborah Farr (NAW) questioned if there was any chance the province will have a look at the Golden Lake restriction

Shawn C answered that from a municipality point of view that would be something to put forward. Although RPG will support and contribute, the actual request should come from the municipalities effected as this is a very large scale and costly project.

Janice V (KHR) commented that the KHR amendment is number one priority. We need to get draw down lower on Round Lake. This is an immediate change. Phase 2 would be looking at the restriction, and dams in the park for example.

Deborah F (NAW) questioned, if we were to get draw down lower, how this will affect the fisheries.

Shawn C replied that this will be something that the MNRF will research when deciding on the amendment approval.

Deborah F (NAW) mentioned that she is more comfortable drawing down in the fall to allow fish a better chance to survive the lower limits proposed by the amendment.

Shawn C. Explained that the process for drawing down if the amendment is accepted would have the drawdown starting right after Labour Day on Round Lake. This would force fish lower in the fall.

Janice V (KHR) read a letter to the committee that was forwarded to her from Rob Norris. (Janice will forward electronically to Shawn C)

The letter was in regards to a request to MNRF to allow a deviation to the current lower limit at Round Lake. This would allow RPG to bring levels down lower without penalty. Rob requested that the SAC Committee put in a request to the MNRF for a temporary lowering of the lower limit at Round Lake.

The majority of the SAC members present were in favour of the request. Deborah Farr (NAW) has some concerns in regards to the impacts of the lower levels on the fisheries.

Shawn C will draft a letter as acting Chair and send out to the committee for review. It will then be forwarded to the MNRF for their decision.

Deborah F (NAW) questioned if MNRF would introduce more snow data in regards to Algonquin Park.

Shawn C explained that regardless of how much snow there is in the park as long as we are as low as we can get legally, there isn't anything else RPG can do regardless of this data.

Shawn C informed the group that daily freshet information will be sent out the CEMC's, SAC committee members, Nikki (John Yakabuski), and MNRF. From there the receivers can forward the information to whomever they choose.

RPG has been using Facebook and asked the group if they feel it would be adequate to send/post a link to the graphs that would have a legend, dialogue on the graph and an arrow up/down to indicate water level trending which would be different from past updates. Shawn C. presented a sample.

Janice V suggested we try this way for a while to see how it goes.

All were in favour of the new reporting.

Shawn C. explained that the trending would be based off of the average water level readings showing from the sensors from midnight to time gauge is read. It will not indicate how much rise or drop but simply an indication of the current trend during that time.

## **5. Concerns received – information share**

Shawn C shared calls and emails he has received with the committee and notified them that John Swick from MNRF has received some also.

Common question that is being asked is “What are you doing different from last year?”

RPG responds by explaining that our target every year is to empty Round Lake to the lowest allowable limit. Golden Lake drawdown was started a month earlier than usual to hopefully allow more time to drain. The events of 2017 was caused by unprecedented rainfall in a short time which was more than the system is capable of handling. An amendment is in the works to allow Round Lake to be lowered further if accepted.

**6. Meeting #1 – approval of minutes**

The draft meeting minutes were sent out to the SAC committee members prior to the meeting.

Meeting minutes from the SAC meeting #1 held on February 6, 2018 were accepted as presented.

**Moved by:** Janice Visneskie  
**Seconded by:** Don Eady

**Carried**

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

**Monday April 23, 2018** – Bonnechere SAC meeting #3 @ 1pm in Renfrew at **1035 O'Brien Road.**

**8. Adjournment**

Be it resolved that the meeting adjourn at 2:42 p.m.

Moved by: Deborah Farr

**Motion Carried.**