

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

**Minutes of Meeting #4, June 11th, 2018
1035 O'Brien Rd, Renfrew ON**

Attendees:

SAC: Don Eady (Mayor of Renfrew), Deborah Farr (Mayor of NAW), Rob Norris (KHR), Steve Osipenko (Horton Twp.), Michael Donohue (Mayor of A/B Twp.) and Jan Leroux (Pikwakanagan).

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

Secretary: Channa McEachen (RPG)

Regrets:

Jennifer Murphy (Mayor of Bonnechere Valley) and Steve Benoit (Pikwakanagan)

Introduction of Members

Rob Norris (KHR) welcomed SAC members to the meeting and round table introductions were made to introduce Jan Leroux (Pik) to the group.

1. Walk-on items

Tour of the Operations.

Rob N (KHR) explained a tour of the Dams (Eganville, Douglas and Renfrew) would be worthwhile to coordinate so when Shawn C (RPG) is talking about these sites; there would be a better understanding.

Shawn C (RPG) added that if we were to start the Dam tour in the morning it would take half a day.

Rob N (KHR) will work with Shawn C (RPG) to arrange this and keep SAC members informed.

2. Meeting #3 – 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 #3 held on April 23, 2018 were approved as presented.

Moved by: Don Eady
Seconded by: Rob Norris
Carried

3. Communication (Freshet review) – Power Producers

Shawn C (RPG) gave a thorough review of Freshet 2018.

Both Round Lake and Golden Lake levels were high during freshet, higher than what Shawn C (RPG) expected and believes the amount of snow up north played a significant part. Water levels were high but it is important to remember that homes were not flooded or damaged.

RPG started draw down a month earlier on Golden Lake to prepare for the spring. Golden Lake had no logs in it as of November 7, 2017. It again was a different Freshet as far as weather,

Jack R (EGC) said it was a lot easier to control water this spring. Flows are still high right now and there is ways to go before the system slows down.

Shawn C (RPG) presented a graph of Round Lake Jan 1-June 10th 2018 and explained that it is difficult to release water from Round Lake when Golden Lake is still above the Licence of Occupation line. For this reason RPG raises Round Lake levels slowly. RPG will be starting log operations June 12, 2018 at Golden Lake.

Lake Clear has a total of 8 logs in and its level is right at the average for now.

Rob N (KHR) commented on Round Lake, when the water went up during Freshet the ice was still on. The high wind storm caused damage with ice push, ice crept into properties. Rob N (KHR) mentioned that it was really late for ice to be that thick on Round Lake.

Michael D (A/B Twp.) questioned the difference between typical and average lines on the water level charts.

Shawn C (RPG) answered that the typical line was developed when the Water Management Plan was created. It describes in the plan that it is a non-enforceable line and was developed in attempt to forecast where levels might be.

Michael D (A/B Twp.) asked Shawn C if he was required to continue to chart the typical line as the average line seems more beneficial.

Shawn C (RPG) explained that it is part of the current BRWMP so an amendment would need to be put in to suggest removing it.

Michael D (A/B Twp.) felt the typical line is counterproductive and provides misinformation to the general public.

Rob N (KHR) commented on the Average line. Average line is an average and can creep especially from levels of last year.

Micheal D (A/B Twp.) adds that if average continues to creep up then maybe the system is telling us something.

Rob N (KHR) asked if it was possible to see what the average was before the approval of the plan.

Shawn C (RPG) can come up with a line from 1940's – 2004. Shawn C will create for next meeting.

Michael D (A/B Twp.) states that he is unfamiliar with the how the system operates. Golden Lake having zero logs. In a short time period 2 logs were added to Round Lake. Logs did not seem to have any effect on levels at Golden Lake.

Shawn C (RPG): agreed that logs in at Round doesn't have as dramatic effect that you would expect.

Don E (Renfrew) mentions that this is a good educational piece for people on the system.

Deborah F (NAW) added that water that goes into Golden Lake is just not from Round Lake. There are over 20 other tributaries.

Rob N (KHR) generally with freshet, Golden Lake gets hit sooner usually from these tributaries gathering the melt.

Shawn C (RPG) advises that to date, RPG has added 7 logs to Round Lake. Drop rate was not really effected at all.

Michael D (A/B Twp.): Trying to understand the system asked if that means outside of Freshet, does RPG have more control over Round Lake into Golden Lake. That the 28 other tributaries are only a concern at Freshet.

Shawn C (RPG) answers that outside of Freshet water level control is not normally an issue at either lake. When logs are all removed from Golden Lake we are relying on it naturally draining.

Steve O (H Twp.) asked Shawn C if RPG had a gauge at Golden Lake.

Shawn C (RPG) answered that RPG has a level gauge not flow. RPG operates to levels.

Deborah F (NAW): in Freshet water is backed up into the reach at Tramore.

Deborah F (NAW): the amendment submitted by KHR will give RPG more room and time for Freshet.

Jan L (PiK.) asked if this amendment is approved, what will happen to the trout/spawning beds.

Shawn C (RPG) answered that is it up to the MNRF or DFO, they are the experts in this field and may ask for a study to be done.

4. Concerns received:

Shawn C (RPG), noted he had talked with Rob N. (RLPOA) about concern that the water level was too low. At that time RPG was slowly adding logs to bring levels up to 171.00.

Rob N (KHR): Round Lake Members live with 171 level that RPG tries to get to. Most of the RLPOA are okay with that. Erosion, movement of sand, some residents on sandy shores are saying water level isn't high enough.

Deborah F (NAW): Does water flow not naturally shift sand, naturally?

Shawn C (RPG): erosion is natural. It is looking for rock. Unfortunately when it erodes it gets shallower. Erosion happens at every water level. The perception by most is to lower levels to protect properties. The issue is undermining, although not an immediate concern, it will be some day when a shelf of land drops.

5. Other

5.1 KHR Amendment Status

RPG talked to John Swick (MNR) two weeks ago and he mentioned that they should hear something soon regarding the amendment.

Rob N (KHR) questioned when that comes through, do we pull together the SAC committee to discuss or broaden and work with John Yakabuski, have a public meeting.

Shawn C (RPG) explains that it would be KHR's decision on next steps after receiving the MNRF response. The SAC can only comment on the amendment and make recommendations. It would certainly help if the SAC endorsees and provided a letter stating this.

Deborah F (NAW) asked the SAC group if everyone present understood the 3rd party amendment process and if power producer submitting an amendment is treated different.

Shawn C (RPG) Power producer have to submit an amendment using the same process outlined in the bulletin.

Deborah F (NAW) the comment that was mentioned about fisheries is a very important consideration.

Rob N (KHR) commented that RLPOA is actively working on the issue of Lake Trout.

Jan L (Pik): commented that people who build below high water mark should expect issues at some point.

Rob N (KHR): When these people built 30 yrs ago they were set back at the time.

Steve O (H Twp.): the Ottawa River has high water marks that are established. Most effected were built below this.

Shawn C (RPG): the only requirement I am aware of is a 30M set back to build on the water's edge.

Michael D (A/B Twp.): I think 30m has zero to do with flooding, more with septic's. If this amendment doesn't happen soon with it being an election year longer delays can be expected.

Janusz R (MS) suggested sending in a resolution from municipalities, power producers etc. that they are supportive of the amendment request submitted by KHR.

Michael D (A/B Twp.): MNR must have a service standard.

Shawn C (RPG) replied according to the bulletin after the final draft is received it is 90 days. Jack R concurred.

Rob N (KHR): bulletin is confusing and can be interpreted differently.

Don E (Renfrew): felt face to face with MNRF is better than a letter.

Rob N (KHR): I will talk to Janice of KHR as it is their amendment about how they want to proceed.

5.2 Killaloe Mill

Rob N (KHR) discussed letter he had drafted to present to the SAC committee in regards to the Killaloe Mill.

At the last SAC committee meeting held on April 23, 2018, Glenn Bingham (NAW) had concern over the Killaloe Mill.

Shawn C (RPG) spoke to John Swick (MNR) and was told that logs were pulled before freshet.

Shawn C (RPG) informed the group that he had a call from Kevin Wooley who is looking to purchase the Killaloe site with his brother.

Michael D (A/B Twp.) what is our concern from a SAC point of view?

Shawn C (RPG) - Glenn B (NAW) was worried about upcoming spring and possible effects on the system if not operated properly. It is also part of the BRWMP.

Michael D (A/B Twp.) who owns the flooding rights?

Shawn C (RPG) Andreas Vornweg used to have a generation site there. Vornweg's sold it to a couple who have since walked away from the operation. There is some uncertainty on if the new owners are legally responsible to uphold the BRWMP requirements as they are not named.

Rob N (KHR) I would like some direction from the SAC, Do I forward the letter to MNRF, requesting information on the Vornweg dam?

Michael D (A/B Twp.) could it be more explicit. Who is responsible for this dam? Identify responsibility. Send an invitation to the owners to sit on this SAC committee.

A motion was made by Deborah Farr (NAW) and seconded by Michael Donohue (A/B Twp.) to move forward with a letter to the MNRF asking for information and to identify who is responsible for the Killaloe dam. All present unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

5.3 Algonquin Park rep. for SAC

Shawn C (RPG) informed the committee that after talking to John Swick (MNR), John had mentioned that it would be advantageous to have a representative to sit on the SAC for Algonquin Park reach and that would give the SAC support for the whole river system. Shawn C will ask John Swick (MNRF) to provide a contact from Algonquin Park.

Deborah F (NAW) thinks this would bring added information.

5.4 Golden Lake restriction presentation by MNRF

Deborah F (NAW) informed the group that she met with MNRF re: lower the restriction at Golden Lake. There are 9 different provincial/federal agencies that will need to be contacted. Completion of a study, getting all municipalities together. If document goes to MNRF, fisheries etc. All proponents would have to be willing to sit at one table.

Shawn C (RPG) John offered to provide a presentation to give everyone a high level look at the process.

Jan L (Pik) who is interested in removing the restrictions? This was discussed many years ago.

Shawn C (RPG) it was mentioned at the Stakeholder's meeting last June along with KHR amendment, and possible Dam in Algonquin Park.

RPG just completed a Bathymetric study last fall. This report identifies there is a restriction in the reach between the dam and the County bridge effecting outflow.

A more detailed and expansive study would need to be completed. Most likely from the Golden Lake bridge to the Eganville Dam.

Deborah F (NAW) thinks it would be great if we could invite MNRF and AOO to the session.

Shawn C (RPG) the information session is only intended to educate the SAC on what a project like this might entail. The SAC is only an advisory group to the power producers as stated in the Terms of Reference.

Whoever decides to drive this project will have their own sessions.

Steve O (H Twp.): There is Federal flood mitigation funding. Deadline for applications is October 31, 2018.

5.5 Next SAC meeting

Shawn C (RPG) if we want to try and coordinate fall. If we receive any amendment news we can arrange a meeting. We can save presentation (MNRF) for the next scheduled meeting.

Rob N (KHR): We will look at the next meeting in August and coordinate a Dam tour before then.

5.6 Adjournment

Be it resolved that the meeting adjourn at 3:03 pm.

Moved by: Steve Osipenko