

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

**Minutes of Meeting #10, May 7th, 2020
1035 O'Brien Rd, Renfrew ON**

Attendees: VIA Conference Call

SAC: Rob Norris (KHR), Cairine Cybulski (Bonnechere Valley Twp.), James Brose (NAW), Steve Osipenko (Horton Twp.), Michael Donohue (A/B Twp.) and Don Eady (Mayor of Renfrew).

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

Secretary: Channa McEachen (RPG)

Regrets:

Steve Benoit (Pikwakanagan)

Rob Norris opened the meeting by welcoming James Brose to the SAC committee representing North Algona Wilberforce (NAW) and Rob thanked Glenn Bingham for his contributions to the SAC committee.

Due to the meeting held by conference call, all votes will be recorded.

2. Selection of Annual SAC Chair

Steve O (Horton Twp.) nominated Rob N (KHR) to stay on as Chair for another year.
Don E (Mayor of Renfrew) seconded the nomination.

All members present voted in favour.

3. Walk on Items

Cairine C (BVT) requested clarification of the SAC committee versus the Stakeholders group.
This request was added under Other.

Meeting #9– Approval of minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended.

Moved by: Don Eady
Seconded by: Steve Osipenko
Carried

Communication – Freshet & Power Producers

Freshet

Shawn C reported to SAC committee that it was a good freshet. This year peaked two weeks earlier than the average peak time. RPG carried out a ministerial order that was received on February 27, 2020. We were able to achieve 12cm below the current lower limit. RPG staff went up to Algonquin Park on April 15th and the snowpack was zero. Currently RPG is managing for summer levels, right now the levels are stable. Golden Lake continues to go down. Round Lake is currently at the upper range for summer levels and stable. Logs will be added to Golden Lake when levels are back within the BRWMP limits.

RPG is planning a deck replacement at the Golden Lake dam. The concrete deck will be replaced with steel. This work will be done from above so an LRIA permit will not be required from MNRF.

Jack R (EGC) reported freshet this year for Eganville was uneventful. Able to keep water levels within the limits by gate operations. EGC is planning to add tailrace gates to the plant. This work is slated for late July mid-August and hoped to be completed before September.

Rob N (KHR) asked if you need MECP approval when completing the repairs?

Shawn C (RPG) answered that the Golden Lake dam work is not part of the Lake River Improvement Act (LRIA), nothing in the water.

Jack R (EGC) last year we went through MNRF to complete the work done in Eganville.

Concerns Received

Shawn C (RPG) reported that the only concerns he has received is from people concerned about summer levels.

KHR Amendment - update

Shawn C (RPG) reported to the SAC committee that on Monday, May 11th he would be putting up the amended water level chart. Lower limit will show the new target line and revised lower limit. Shawn C (RPG) advised the group to contact him if there were any questions with the new water level chart.

Shawn C (RPG) informed the committee that RPG is using Michelle Lavictoire of Bowfin as the biologist for the amendment. Shawn C (RPG) meets monthly with Michelle L., Janice V., and Laura Lapinski (MPP John Yakabuski's office) to keep moving on a permanent amendment.

Department of Fisheries would like the lake trout shoals monitored this fall. Michelle L (Bowfin) is developing a plan to be carried out this spawn season (Oct 2020) in conjunction with the AOO (Algonquin's of Ontario).

Commitments were made with AOO as part of the amendment to be included in any monitoring.

Currently the MECP (Ministry of Environmental, Conservation and Parks) permit expires December 31, 2020. The focus for the group is to do what is necessary to make this permanent.

Janusz Rydel (Multistream Power Corp) joined the conference call at 2:01pm.

Michael D (A/B Twp) questioned if the Biologist has concerns when water is high. Has there even been natural environment issues identified with high water, the concern with fish/turtles seems to be with low water.

Shawn C (RPG) notified the group that if there was interest, he can arrange for Michelle L (Bowfin) to be on the next call. Michelle is well educated in this field and Shawn C (RPG) can set it up.

Rob N (KHR) we can put Michelle L (Bowfin) at the start of the agenda for our next meeting.

Frequently asked questions – RPG webpage

James B (NAW) thanked Shawn C for the Frequently Asked Questions. James B added that the FAQ's clarified several issues for a lot of people and was very helpful.

Cairine C (BVT) asked Shawn C (RPG) if he was able to track number of hits on the RPG website.

Shawn C (RPG) replied it can be but is not being done currently.

Rob N (KHR) commented that if anyone were to get any questions going forward SAC members can forward the questions to Shawn C (RPG) and he could add them to the FAQ's.

Other

SAC vs Stakeholder (added by Cairine C (BVT))

Shawn C (RPG) described that the SAC Committee is a group put together by the Power Producers. One representative from each municipality that the municipality puts forward sits on the SAC. This committee is a permanent group which provides advise/opinion regarding all water operations described in the BRWMP.

The Stakeholders group was created from the flood events of 2017 by KHR. It is an ad hoc group with a key focus on flooding. This group is primarily involved with the amendment and how it will be implemented.

Date of next meeting

To be determined.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2:25pm by Cairine C (BVI) and Seconded by James Brose (NAW). All members in favour. **Carried.**