

BONNECHERE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)
Minutes of Meeting #3, April 23, 2018 at 1:10pm
1035 O'Brien Rd, Renfrew ON

Attendees:

SAC: Don Eady (Mayor of Renfrew), Glenn Bingham (NAW), Rob Norris (KHR), Steve Osipenko (Horton Twp.) and Steve Benoit (Pikwakanagan).

Waterpower Producers: Shawn Cameron (RPG)

Secretary: Channa McEachen (RPG)

Regrets:

Jennifer Murphy (Mayor of Bonnechere Valley), Michael Donohue (Mayor of A/B Twp), Jack Roesner (Eganville Generation Corp.), Janusz Rydel (Multistream Power Corp.)

1. Introductions

Rob N (KHR) thanked the SAC committee for the nomination of Chair.

Round table introductions were made to introduce Glenn Bingham who is representative for NAW, Rob Norris, representative for KHR and Steve Osipenko representative for Horton Township.

Rob N (KHR) it is important that each municipality is represented at the SAC meetings so that each stakeholder has a voice.

2. Walk-on items

None.

3. Freshet Communication – Power Producers

Shawn C (RPG) reported that Jack Roesner (EPC) and Janusz Rydel (MPC) are not having any issues and there are no issues with the system as a whole. Shawn C (RPG) provided the committee with an update on levels at Round Lake and Golden Lake. Shawn C presented a graph of Round Lake, as of April 22, 2018. This graph showed levels at Round Lake are still hovering above the lower limit and if the level does not start to climb by the end of the week, RPG will need to start thinking about bringing the water level up by adding logs. Golden Lake graph was presented and as of April 23, 2018, the lake level is slowly climbing but is well below average. Same for Lake Clear.

RPG will continue to closely monitor water levels.

Shawn C also reported that Renfrew is flowing 50 CMS. This time last year Renfrew was well over 100CMS.

Shawn C presented the group with Snow Survey maps completed by Surface Water Monitoring on April 16, 2018.

Shawn C explained to the SAC committee that any snow that is shown on the map for our watershed is showing a water equivalency of 200%. The maps shows as of April 16, 2018 there is still 30-40cm of snow in some areas of the park. Seems to be just pockets of snow remaining.

Steve Benoit (Pikwakanagan) asked if this survey included the last snow fall.

Shawn C answered that is was included.

Glenn B (NAW) compared this year's data to last year's data and felt snow was almost the same.

Shawn C explained that last February we had a crazy February thaw, all the lakes responded. Golden levels didn't recover before the real Freshet. It was the perfect storm as unprecedented rain followed with already saturated ground and elevated lake levels.

Shawn C discussed freshet calls for 2018.

Freshet calls have been ongoing and there is a different platform this year, invite only. MNRF has teamed up with the County of Renfrew. It is up to the CEMC on the Freshet calls to deliver the information back to the appropriate people.

Shawn C explained that the Freshet calls are hosted by the MNRF and the County. This is different than the SAC altogether. RPG on behalf of the other power producers sent out an invite to each municipality to put forward one representative to sit on the new SAC.

Steve O (Horton) explained that the CEMC's have been tasked with reporting all Freshet call information back to their respective municipality.

Rob N (KHR), Glenn B (NAW) didn't agree this approach is best as they will have to go to their township's to get information from Freshet calls to pass along and felt valuable time will be wasted.

Steve O (Horton) continued to explain that your respective CEMC takes part in the Freshet calls and is expected to forward the information they receive from the call to their township. Shawn C described the issues from previous Freshet calls. It was difficult to determine who was on the calls. Now there is a roll call so everyone knows who is on the calls and who is receiving the information. The goal is to make sure the right people are receiving accurate information.

Steve O (Horton) stated that the CEMC are the eyes and ears of the township. Last year they were getting by-passed. This ensures the information is fanned out, and gets to where it needs to be.

4. Concerns received – Information share

A concern was discussed regarding low levels on Round Lake and this resident questioned how long levels at Round Lake will continue to be this low. The individual has communicated with Rob N (KHR) and the MNRF on this subject.

Shawn C informed the group that RPG is operating within the water management plan and attempts to keep levels as low as permitted before Freshet. This year so far has been drawn out resulting in levels lower than usual for this time.

Steve O (Horton) advised the SAC committee that there is a program in place called National Disaster Mitigation Program NDMA and encourages each municipality to apply for this funding.

“The NDMA was established in April 2015 to reduce the impacts of natural disasters on Canadians by focusing investments on significant, recurring flood risk and costs and advancing work to facilitate private residential insurance for overland flooding.”

5. Meeting #1 - approval of Minutes

The draft meeting minutes were sent out to the SAC committee members prior to the meeting. The SAC committee discussed recorded votes and unanimously agreed that moving forward all votes taken will now be recorded. It was noted there was one edit made brought forward by Deborah Farr.

Meeting minutes from the SAC meeting #2 held on March 21, 2018 were approved as presented.

Moved by: Don Eady
Seconded by: Shawn Cameron
Carried

6. Other

6.1 Draw down request

MNR drawdown request was denied.

Shawn C. spoke with John Swick, John explained that the request is very similar to the KHR amendment and MNRF didn't have the information yet to support this request. Steve B (Pik) questioned the request that was submitted and the permanent changes proposed.

Shawn C (RPG) explained that the SAC request was for an immediate one year deviation only. The amendment from KHR is for a long term change.

The amendment requests (concept at this point) are first sent to RPG, RPG screens the amendment request, includes their comments and then forwards to the MNRF for their assessment.

The MNRF screening results are sent back to RPG. This is then sent back to the person submitting the amendment to carry out any of the necessary requirements.

This process is outlined in the Bulletin.

Steve B (Pik) Pikwakanagan would like to make sure they are directly consulted with any and all amendments.

Shawn C (RPG) replied that is a KHR amendment and it is their responsibility to gather the necessary support if the amendment process continues to proceed, based on results of the MNRF's screening.

6.2 KHR – Amendment progress

The amendment submitted by KHR is still being reviewed by MNRF.

6.3 Other

Glenn B (NAW) voiced concern over the Killaloe property and that everyone downstream is at risk, once known as the Vornweg Station.

Shawn C (RPG) answered that he spoke to John Swick (MNRF) about this and that MNRF were keeping an eye on it.

It is private property. Shawn C does not think the plan accounts for change of ownership. The new owners are not named in the plan.

Rob N questioned if the SAC committee could request an update from MNRF.

A motion was made for Rob Norris to proceed with a letter to the MNRF in regards to the Killaloe site requesting status of its operation.

Motion by: Don Eady

Seconded by: Glenn Bingham

Carried

Rob N (KHR) noted that in the last minutes RPG discussed Facebook and questioned if Facebook is the only way of communication that RPG will be using.

Shawn C (RPG) replied that RPG will still be using their website www.renfrewpg.ca, daily emailing, and will also now be posting a link on Facebook every day during Freshet that will take you straight to the updated graphs.

Daily updating from RPG was discussed. At this point the committee felt there wasn't a need at this time as levels haven't responded and MNRF has not issued any bulletins.

6.4 Date and time of next meeting.

Monday, June 11th, 2018 – Bonnechere SAC meeting #4 @ 1pm in Renfrew at **1035 O'Brien Road.**

7 Adjournment

Be it resolved that the meeting adjourn at 3:40 pm.

Moved by: Steve Osipenko

Motion Carried.