

**BONNECHERE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN  
STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)  
Minutes of Meeting #5, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
1035 O'Brien Rd, Renfrew ON**

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**Attendees:**

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

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

**Secretary:** Channa McEachen (RPG)

**Regrets:**

Jennifer Murphy (Mayor of Bonnechere Valley) and Janusz Rydel (Multistream Power Corp)

**1. Walk-on items**

None.

**2. Meeting #5 – Approval of minutes**

Rob N (KHR) commented on the presented minutes and had some minor edits.

A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended.

**Moved by:** Don Eady  
**Seconded by:** Michael Donohue  
**Carried**

**3. Business Arising from approved Minutes**

Rob N (KHR) reported to the group that Mayor Janice Visneskie (KHR) has committed to having a public meeting and also to meet with Kirby Whiteduck (PIK) to discuss the amendment as per the process outlined in the Bulletin for Major amendments.

Michael D (A/B Twp.) commented on the discussion had at the last SAC meeting with the uncertainty with the process regarding amendments. It would seem we still have the same uncertainty as to when we might receive a response from MNRF to move forward.

A lengthy discussion was had amongst the SAC committee in regards to the Bulletin and interpretation of MNRF's service commitments when processing amendments.

Shawn C (RPG) reported to the group that a Maintaining Water Management Plans Technical Bulletin was put out by the MNRF in October 2016. In this Bulletin it states that any change to an approved WMP requires an amendment. All amendments require approval by the Ministry. Shawn C spoke to MNRF following the last SAC meeting to inquire about having a representative from MNRF to explain the amendment process to the SAC group. With the election of a new government a hiring freeze has complicated staffing at MNRF. MNRF responded to Shawn C (RPG) prior to the SAC meeting explaining a staff shortage so there would not be anyone available to send.

Michael D (A/B Twp) questioned who owned the amendment that was submitted.

Shawn C (RPG) answered that it is Killaloe Haggarty & Richards amendment. Shawn C (RPG) then briefly explained the process. Plan proponents receive the request first, screen as outlined in the bulletin, then forward to the MNRF. MNRF has final say.

Jack Roesner (EGC) added that the MNRF wants the Power Producer's input before they receive to make comment.

Glenn Bingham (NAW) voiced to the group that the SAC group isn't new. Reading minutes from the past SAC we are discussing a lot of the same issues.

The KHR amendment was submitted ten months ago. How do we move things along?

Shawn C informed the group that the old SAC was run by MNR at that time. As soon as MNR started their restructuring and water management plan review the SAC meetings ended (2012).

Rob N (KHR) questioned if the SAC committee could submit amendments.

Shawn C (RPG) replied that the SAC committee's role is to serve as an advisory group and promote communication between the power producers and other stakeholders on the system as defined in the Terms of Reference.

Jack R (EGC) added that the SAC committee is to provide advice. You are here to give us (power producers) advice. We (Power Producers) rely on you to bring information to the municipality you are here representing.

Steve Benoit (PIK) included that the amendment was definitely rushed and ahead of the formation of this SAC group. There is still time to continue to have these meetings and communicate, make recommendations. Working together, we can come up with something that everyone unanimously agrees on.

#### 4. Communication – Power Producers

Shawn C (RPG) reported to the group that summer has been very dry. RPG is doing their best to hold the lake levels. Significant rain event on July 26, prompted short term log operations for level management.

Concerns voiced through Rob N (KHR) that lake levels are too low on Round Lake. Shawn C (RPG) informed the group that because of the dry weather, the lake levels are where they are. Precipitation is always needed during the summer to maintain levels. When the flow gets low enough, RPG will have to use water from the lakes to maintain minimum flows (2 CMS) for the system.

Jack R (EGC) reports that Eganville Generation's summer has been very slow and dry also. Running 1 generator at 8 hrs on and 16 hrs off. EGC has just received a permit from MNRF to complete dredging at the tail race to remove debris/silt left behind from high flows of spring 2017. Work anticipated to be completed this Wednesday and Thursday (Sept 19 & 20<sup>th</sup>).

Rob N (KHR) questioned how EGC will manage the water during this time.

Jack R (EGC) replied that he will utilize the spillway gate to pass water to maintain BRWMP limits.

#### Questions

Michael D (A/B Twp) in dry years, such as the 2012 drought, is RPG pulling water out of upstream reservoirs?

Shawn C (RPG) answered that during the 2012 drought, RPG generation was minimal. RPG took a hit financially. During 2012 RPG was part of the low water response team and reported regularly to the MNR the conditions. RPG did its best to maintain minimum flows.

Michael D (A/B Twp) asked if the channel between Lake Clear and the RPG dam is filling part of the BRWMP.

Shawn C (RPG) replied that RPG is responsible for the lake levels by use of the dam as per the BRWMP.

A portion of reach was dredged in 1950's. Proved to be counterproductive as it filled up 2 years later.

RPG is planning some repair work to the Lake Clear Dam in 2019. This could involve some lower levels during the first part of the summer.

Lake Clear is not a high operation dam. All logs are in Lake Clear in June and removed in October.

## **5. Concerns Received /Information share**

Shawn C (RPG) mentioned two concerns received from residents on Round Lake in regards to possible dry wells if amendment as presented is accepted. Shawn C (RPG) also referenced the Eganville Leader article. Another was received with concern for the start of Golden Lake drawdown. It was communicated drawdown will commence after Thanksgiving for 2018. Individuals with Bonnechere River System concerns should their concern to their municipality which will then forward to the necessary SAC member to discuss at the next scheduled meeting.

## **6. Killaloe Mill – Letter**

A letter was forwarded to the SAC members prior to the meeting that Rob N (KHR) drafted requesting information from MNRF on who is the responsible party operating the Vornweg Dam and if MNRF has any information on the Dam's integrity. This is of great concern after the events of 2017 spring freshet. All were satisfied with the wording of the letter. Channa (RPG) will mail out.

At 3:04 pm. attendance was not enough to constitute a quorum as per the terms of reference.

Shawn C (RPG) displayed water level charts requested from last meeting which displayed average levels, before the BRWMP vs after BRWMP. The comparison charts for both Golden Lake and Round Lake show trends. It was further discussed how much is changes in weather have influenced the trend or is it the limits imposed in 2005 by the BRWMP.

A tour of all the dam sites will be scheduled for October.  
A next date was not set at this time.