

BONNECHERE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)
DRAFT Minutes of Meeting #14 – Jan 16, 2008
Eagles Nest, Eganville

Attendees:

SAC: Don Pouliot, Ross Campbell, Murray Borer, Lucy King, Murray Bimm, Steve Munger

Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn: Jan Leroux

MNR: Paul Moreau, Joanna Samson, Darwin Rosien

Waterpower Producers: Peter Boldt (RPG), Jeff Featherston (RPG), Frank Scheer (Eganville Generation Corporation), Janusz Rydel (Multistream Power Corp.)

Invited Speakers: Rob Steele, Deanna Calhoun (Natural Resource Solutions Inc.)

Regrets:

Niall McArdle, Aurel Boucher, Andreas Vornweg (Vornweg Waterpower), Michael Radford

1. Housekeeping Items

Review of Agenda

Paul Moreau chaired the meeting for Michael Radford, who was unable to make the meeting. No items were added to the agenda

Introductions

Jeff Featherston introduced Rob Steele and Deanna Calhoun from Natural Resources Solutions. The consultants were hired by RPG to work on Lake Trout with MNR. Deanna was the field studies lead.

Resignation

Kevin O'Connor submitted a letter of resignation which was passed around to the SAC. Kevin felt that he was missing too many meetings and felt he should resign as he is often away during the winter months.

2. Review & Approval of Minutes of Meeting #13 – Nov 21, 2007,

No changes were made to the minutes.

Joanna re-capped the “selection of a chair” discussion in which Lucy brought the SAC decision forward to MNR. The group decided to keep things status quo with Mike as the chair, but would like ability to re-visit this decision in a year.

Jan Leroux asked if the meeting with the property owners of Round & Golden Lakes took place in December. Peter replied that it had.

3. Operations Update – Power Producers

RPG – Jeff Featherston:

- Renfrew was seeing 94cms, comparable to spring conditions
- No complaints have been heard
- Round Lake was set up perfect for winter drawdown at the end of December, but it went up 6 inches with the melt and just finished peaking and is now starting to go down
- Golden Lake was also up 6 inches. All logs are now out of the dam. It peaked two days ago and is coming down slowly.
- Planned to go out with volunteers for the ice study, but didn't get the opportunity due to the thaw. There was no shoreline bond and we are not sure what we will do. We will likely check with the consultant (BMT Fleet Tech.) to see what they recommend in the absence of a bond.
- There has been lots of generation, but currently one unit is down at the moment.

Steve Munger asked if there had been any wind blown ice push. No evidence had been noted.

Lucy commented that she had walked some of the shoreline and had seen no evidence of shoreline bond, and noted minimal push a little out from the edge. Paul commented that this could have been a pressure crack, which is not a bad thing. Darwin Rosien commented that there had been a pressure crack off of Victoria Island Shoal

Peter Boldt mentioned that prior to Christmas, he had received a call about snow being driven up, not ice. He noted that having the low water level in Golden Lake has been beneficial in terms of ice push because there wasn't firm ice.

Eganville – Frank:

- Residual to all log pulls
- November was the lowest production month
- Water is still coming up
- Frank stated that the thaw that we experienced lately was causative of normal weather patterns (January thaw) and not the result of global warming.

Multistream (Douglas) - Janusz:

- November was low water and low production
- December saw more water
- Very good freeze-up, no frazil ice formation
- Had a couple of power outages
- 1/3 of the deck was raised by the end of December, unable to finish the work. Will talk to Tom Giesler regarding an extension (or new) to the work permit. No ice build-up on the beam of the deck.

Paul asked how the communication between the power producers went during the melt and high flows. The response from the producers is that the communication worked well.

4. Status of Lake Trout work on Round Lake

Darwin Rosien & Rob Steele presented a power point presentation on the Lake Trout work undertaken last fall and this winter on Round Lake. A copy of the presentation was handed out to the group.

It was indicated that the final report will be prepared; however, it may not be ready until June at the earliest due to competing demands and ongoing data collection/studies over the winter.

Paul Moreau referenced the flow chart at the end of the presentation. He indicated that MNR will need to continue to work with DFO and RPG and factor in our mandate as it relates to renewable energy, fishery values, and recreation in any decision that is made. This case is difficult due to the competing demands and competing policy direction.

Steve Munger asked if any juvenile Lake Trout were caught during SPIN. Darwin responded that no because the SPIN gear doesn't catch fish under 25cm. However, some juveniles were caught on the shoal during netting indicating some level of recruitment.

Further discussion took place at the conclusion of the presentation:

Steve M. inquired about the spring trap net study (ESTN) on Golden Lake and the status of the report. **ACTION: Joanna** – Talk to Erin Malloy to get status of study and inquire about the possibly bringing it forward as an information item at the next SAC meeting.

Steve M. asked if information on other species collected during the SPIN would be a part of the final report. Darwin responded that yes, greater detail will be presented in the final report.

Lucy thanked Darwin, Rob and Deanna for the presentation. Murray Borer commended MNR and RPG for the work.

Joanna indicated that Don Pouliot will be sent the information.

Peter indicated that he still feels that RPG can gain a few inches of water to help in the drawdown. He commended both Darwin and Rob for the work that they have done. He anticipates that a decision can be made as a result of the work. Whether in the form of an amendment or not, something that has Lake Trout survive and yet do something to help protect the shoreline properties.

Further discussion took place regarding the genetics and how the DNA results will be starting point to the management decision.

5. Other Business

RPG Plan Amendments

Steve Munger inquired about RPG's amendments and at what stage they were currently at. Joanna and Peter explained that MNR and RPG had met and had a very productive meeting in terms of wordsmithing for the amendments and how they will fit into the plan. Graphs are currently being worked on and summaries are being filled out. The changes/wording will come to the SAC via email prior to the consultation on the minor amendment and approval of the administrative amendments.

4th Chute – Waterpower Site Release Proposal

A question regarding the status of a potential waterpower proposal at the 4th Chute (Bonnechere Caves) was raised. Janusz Rydel explained that the Municipality, who owns the shoreline Road Allowance fronting Multistream's property, is not willing to entertain leasing or selling the property at this time. Joanna explained that the MNR cannot accept an application for Direct Site Release at this location until there is an agreement with the adjacent riparian landowner.

1st Chute – RPG Waterpower Proposal

Peter explained that RPG is looking at the First Chute and are currently in the final stages of their environmental assessment. He explained that they had an initial open house and have responded to most inquiries thus far. They may need to alter the design based on comments they've received. People have expressed that the dam will be an eyesore and RPG is considering changing its position, having it turned and not flat so that people will not be able to actually see the dam. They are also looking into the cost of having a walkway/lookout as people still want to use the land.

Peter explained that RPG is also looking at putting in another generating plant in the Town of Renfrew, as well they are working on an incineration project for Municipal waste/biomass.

6. Next Meeting Date & Agenda

Feb 13, 2008 – 6pm Eagles' Nest.

Erosion Speaker: Julie Smith from Parrish Geomorphics

Joanna informed the group that the presentation will be pretty general in terms of shoreline erosion dynamics (factors affecting/influencing erosion), however, asked the group that if they had any questions in particular they would like answered to please put them forward to her by next week.