

**BONNECHERE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)**  
**FINAL-Minutes of Meeting #18 – November 26, 2008**  
**Eagles Nest, Eganville**

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**Attendees:**

**SAC:** Don Pouliot, Ross Campbell, Murray Borer, Murray Bimm, Niall McArdle, Lucy King,

**Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn:** Jan Leroux

**MNR:** Mike Radford, Joanna Samson, Tom Giesler

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

**Guest:** Wendy Engel (RLPOA President)

**Regrets:**

Steve Munger, Don Pouliot

**1. Housekeeping Items**

1.1 Introduction

Mike introduced Wendy Engel to SAC. Don Pouliot couldn't make the meeting and inquired if Wendy could be his alternate.

1.2 Review of Agenda

No items were added to the agenda.

**2. Review & Approval of Minutes of Meeting #17 – June 25/08**

One minor editorial comment was provided.

Jan asked if Joanna has sent out the copy of Tom Giesler's compliance presentation after last meeting. Yes – Action complete.

**3. Operations Update – Power Producers**

**Vornweg Waterpower - Andreas:**

- Things are nice and steady; flows were good through the summer
- Currently close to the lower limit and will likely stay there until spring

**Multistream (Douglas) - Janusz:**

- Summer was very good
- The deck has been raised and the dam has been anchored. Everything is running.
- Getting a lot of beaver sticks/debris
- The pond is frozen and snow covered
- Notice of Completion for the upgrade to the Douglas GS has been issued this week. There's a 30 day formal agency and public review. The deadline has been extended to January 9, 2009 because of the holidays.

- Jan Leroux said that she will be looking at it and providing comments for her council.

**Eganville – Frank:**

- Good summer; Upgrades to the plant – boom/gate is going forward.
- J.L. Richards has been hired to do a work plan.

There was some discussion about the roll out of the dam safety piece. All dams in the province above a metre in height will be affected. It hasn't been rolled out yet but will be sometime next year most likely. Further information will follow.

**RPG – Jeff Featherston:**

- Lakes are pretty much where they should be.
- Legal proceedings have been launched against RPG by Coalition 108
- A Statement of Claim has been registered with the courts but hasn't been served to RPG yet. Jeff indicated that SAC members could take a look at it if they wished and that he would share it with MNR.
- RPG Board of Directors have taken the position of suspending any new issues on Round Lake by the advice of legal council.
- Jeff encourage MNR to give priority to the Lake Trout Study.
- The 4 power producers had their annual meeting tonight in advance of the SAC meeting

There was some discussion about the claim and coalition 108. Jeff indicated that the gist of the claim is that in 1990 RPG trespassed their properties with water. Wendy Engel indicated that Coalition 108 is not the RLPOA. They have some members in common but they are not the same group. They have a different approach than the RLPOA. Tom Giesler indicated that RPG has the right to flood to the 108 contour line on private property, and 107.5 on Crown land.

Murry Bimm asked Wendy about RLPOA membership. She responded that 56-60% of the property owners on Round Lake pay the membership fee, this percentage being a little over the approximate average for waterfront associations, but that the RLPOA provides representation for all property owners on the lake by including all in newsletter distribution and surveys.

**4. Update on Amendments**

**RPG Amendments:**

- Currently with Doug Skeggs for making changes to the plan.
- Golden Lake lower limit is a minor amendment and will require public consultation.
- We hope to ship the amendment summaries outlining the 4 amendments prior to Christmas, with a 2-3 week turn-around time for comments.
- The process for the minor amendment will include a mailout of the amendment summary to the mailing list and advertisement in the newspapers. If we don't hear anything from the public, the Regional Director can approve the minor amendment. However, if there are serious concerns, it could be bumped up to a major amendment.
- We are aiming for mid-to end of January for the notice in the papers, however this will depend on when they are sent to the SAC for comment.

### **Round Lake Amendment Request:**

- Package from RLPOA, GLOPOA & RPG was handed out at the last meeting.
- Both proposals come in 30cm lower than the existing lower limit in the operating regime. RPG's proposal calls for a long and steady drawdown while the property owners' proposal suggests a quick drawdown.
- Some populations have been known to respond by spawning lower when water is lowered even though the area has not been de-watered to force them to spawn lower. There is the possibility that this could happen for Round Lake's population. It's a long shot but worth a try.
- Based on this, MNR is currently looking into the possibility of a 3-4 year trial amendment to the plan if it's acceptable to the Minister of Natural Resources and DFO. If acceptable, the proposed trial amendment would follow the amendment process to see if the public would support the idea of the amendment with a "sunset clause". If so, at the end of the trial, the plan would be amended again to accept the changes or revert back to the original operating regime if the fish did not respond by spawning lower.
- The trial amendment would allow for a sharp drawdown in the fall, starting after Labour Day. The lower limit would decrease by 67cm in the fall and 30 cm winter.
- If this becomes a major amendment it could take 4-6 months to process and ideally we would want it in place by next Labour Day.
- MNR did meet with the MPP, and reps from RLPOA & GLPOA to discuss their concerns and the potential for a trial amendment.

### **5. Walk-on Agenda Items**

#### **SAR Legislation (Endangered Species Act 2007)**

- Jeff Featherston suggested a presentation to the SAC by MNR with respect to the new Species at Risk legislation.
- Joanna indicated that it's too soon for such a presentation but sometime down the road when the regulations are more concrete, this would definitely be a topic that could be presented to the SAC.

#### **Lake Trout Study (Mike Radford)**

- Most sections have been written
- Rob Steele still has a section to complete
- We are hoping to have a preliminary draft sometime in January for MNR and the waterpower producers to review.

### **6. Next Meeting Date**

Wednesday Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 @ Eagles' Nest in Eganville.

### **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.