

BONNECHERE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)
DRAFT - Minutes of Meeting #23 – June 16, 2010
Eagles Nest, Eganville

Attendees:

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

Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn: Jan Leroux

MNR: Mike Radford, Joanna Samson, Tom Giesler, Darwin Rosien

Waterpower Producers: Peter Boldt (RPG), Shawn Cameron (RPG), Janusz Rydel (Multistream)

Guests: Bill Goderre (RLPOA), Rob Steele (NRSI)

Regrets: Kevin O'Connor; Andreas Vornweg (Vornweg Waterpower), Frank Scheer (Eganville Generation Corporation)

1. Housekeeping Items

1.1. Review of Agenda

- Nothing was added to the agenda

1.2. Expense Claim Forms were handed it out

1.3. Introductions:

1.3.1. Sean Cameron was introduced to the SAC by Peter Boldt. Sean will be doing the day to day operation of the lakes. Peter announced that Jeff Featherston was no longer with RPG.

1.3.2. Peter also re-introduced Rob Steele, from Natural Resources Solutions, to the group. Rob worked with Darwin on the Lake Trout Study.

2. Review & Approval of Minutes of Meeting #20 – April 29/09

The wording in red in the draft minutes reflected changes that had been submitted via email from Wendy Engle and Peter Boldt.

The word “trial” was added to the minutes on page 2:

“Mike clarified that the Lake Trout **trial** amendment proposal was not an MNR proposal.”

The minutes were approved with this editorial change.

3. Power Producers Update

Janusz

- No changes to report, the plant is still non-operational.

- Anticipate operation to start up next month

Peter

- The lakes are full. Based on the weather patterns (ie lack of spring rain), weren't sure if we would fill the reservoirs, but they have. Cut back on production. Kept it a minimum.
- Currently inspecting the lower canal
- Set the river at 1.5cms in 2002
- Pulled logs from Golden Lake so some production should start next week (3-4cms)
- Update on First Chute: Economic Transmission Test (ECT) set for August. Project could still be 5-7years away.

4. Lake Trout Report (FINAL)

A copy of the Lake Trout study had been sent to all SAC members in advance of the meeting. A formal presentation was not given by Darwin; instead a question/answer period between the group, Darwin Rosien and Rob Steele ensued.

Generally, the discussion focused on the study methods, size of fish caught, area on shoal where the fish were caught, and location of where they spawn.

It was also noted that a number of recommendations have come out of the study including; recruitment issues that still need to be looked into. Mike Radford noted that a fair amount of Darwin's time has been focused on Round Lake but there other lakes in the district that MNR needs to look at as well. MNR will need to look at prioritizing those recommendations and it's not likely that they will all be looked at this year. Darwin indicated that some mark-recapture work was done this year, resulting in tagging 205 fish, exceeding the lower estimate of the SPIN (169 fish).

A question about the recommendation of a closure was also raised. Darwin indicated that a meeting was scheduled for the end of the month to discuss this option and determine if a regulation change was required for a closure. There are mixed feelings regarding a closure. We are bound by due process for putting in a change to a fisheries regulation. It takes time.

Discussion also took place regarding the minimum population density that would be necessary for restocking natural fish as the concern was raised that the fish could disappear before action is taken. Darwin explained that with a SPIN estimate of 169-7000; what is there now is irrelevant to stocking. There is limited capacity to grow fish. There is a formula in the stocking guidelines that is based on the size of the fish, not the number of fish.

Discussion around juveniles took place. Rob Steele indicated that just because we didn't get juveniles, doesn't mean that they aren't there. We would need to focus efforts on catching juveniles. However, MNR doesn't currently have a methodology to catch juveniles. Rob Steele indicated that new methodology would have to be tested. An academic might have good ideas on how to target juveniles.

Michael Radford indicated that MNR could make a pitch to our Fisheries Section to attempt to get this project moving. Rob Steele also indicated that academics could be interested in Round Lake.

Some discussion also took place on what exactly this report means as people may not understand the significance of it. It was explained that this is a report of all the work that has been done to date. Peter Boldt explained that this report outlines the study to show where water levels can be. It has answered a number of questions for us but has also raised new ones. A lot of good work has come of this report; work that can be applicable to other lakes. However a lot of questions still remain and dollars are limited.

Don Pouliot asked if Darwin would go through the genetic report. Darwin suggested that he contact the author, Chris Wilson, directly. However, he did indicate that the report showed that there was not a lot of intermixing/interbreeding between the hatchery stock fish and the natural population. There is research out there to support that despite the heavy use of a stocked strain, the natural populations still persist. Bancroft District is looking into this. **ACTION:** Darwin to give Don Chris Wilson's contact information.

Any further questions about the work can be directed to Darwin at 613-732-5533.

5. Walk-on Agenda Items

- 5.1. Low Water Update (Joanna Samson) - Joanna indicated to the group that watersheds within Renfrew County were faced a potential level 1 low water situation due to the lack of rain in the spring and a number of other factors. Pembroke District had not declared a level 1 as of yet, however, we are paying very close attention to the situation. MNR has met with RPG and OPG, and is in the process of pulling together the appropriate contacts within each municipality should a level 1 be declared and a Low Water Response Team be established.
- 5.2. Jan Leroux indicated to the group that she has a mentor that should be bringing with her to the next meeting.
- 5.3. Mike Radford informed the group that this would be his last meeting. The new area supervisor replacing Mike will be in attendance at the first meeting in the fall. The agenda for that meeting will include reviewing the Terms of Reference and a discussion around electing a chair from the committee membership if so desired. The SAC thanked Mike for all his work and dedication to the committee and the implementation of the water management plan.

6. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday October 27th - 6:30pm, @ Eagles' Nest in Eganville

** Please note the change in time.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.