

BONNECHERE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)
FINAL - Minutes of Meeting #29 – June 7, 2012
Eagle’s Nest, Eganville

Attendees:

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

Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn:

MNR: Joanna Samson, Tom Giesler, Jeremy Jones

Waterpower Producers: Peter Boldt (RPG), Shawn Cameron (RPG), Janusz Rydel (Multistream); Andreas Vornweg (Vornweg Waterpower), Frank Scheer (Eganville Generation Corporation)

Regrets: Jan Leroux, Danny Sarazin

1. Housekeeping Items

1.1. Expense Claims

- Expense claims were handed out to the group. Joanna informed the group to please submit their expenses every meeting from now on.

1.2. Review of Agenda & Walk-on items

- Two walk-on agenda items were added:
 - 5.2 Update on the Round Lake Lake Trout Study.
 - 5.3 Update on American Eel work at the dam in Renfrew

2. Review & Approval of Minutes of Meeting #25– March 31, 2011

Two changes were made to the previous minutes.

- Page 1 – 3.0, 2nd bullet under Janusz’s updated – to read “Permit for dredging the river channel is still pending with the MNR, although it seems to be **difficult to explain.**”
- Page 4 – KLPOA was corrected to **GLPOA**

Update to ACTION item on Page 4 – MNR to look into the L.O. on Golden Lake and whether or not it can be changed.

Tom Giesler explained that the dam is engineered to the level of the L.O.. There could be a huge impact, both environmentally and through engineering costs associated with re-doing a L.O. level. The legal right of flooding would need to change. The reality is that this likely would not happen considering the work required and that this type of project would require private agreement with landowners’ or potentially land expropriation; which is not something that the MNR entertains. In addition the L.O. is at the dam. It is not all around the lake.

The minutes were approved.

3. Power Producers Update

Andreas:

- Not much to report; not running turbines as they are not living on site anymore.
- Keeping it at a certain level close to the upper limit.

Frank (Eganville Generation Corporation)

- 1 unit is currently running
- Freshet abruptly ended
- Booms went in on the 29th of May
- 1st complaint of low water came from above the dam – indicated that the water intake was bone dry
- Caught a turtle – which turned out to be a red eared slider (pet store variety) and not a Species at Risk Turtle.

Q: Niall – (referring the graph) what happened in the middle of April?

A: Natural flow, received 33mm of rain

Janusz (Douglas/Multistream)

- Spring was really poor in terms of water – there was good flow but that was about it.
- No issues with debris this year
- Noticed green algae
- All logs are in, 1 turbine is running
- Working on a permit to dredge from the MNR; draft Addendum to the Douglas EA is currently with agencies for comment. This includes the Algonquin's of Ontario (AOO) and the public.
- The work itself should take about a week but the timing all depends on when the permits are issued. Hoping for September at the latest.

Shawn (RPG)

Round Lake:

- We were looking to achieve bottom this spring and we were there on March 6th
- We were 30days ahead of the normal peak this year (ie. freshet was a full month early)
- We did keep under the lines
- Currently full for this year; planning weir work this summer

Golden Lake:

- logs have been out of dam since December 12th
- we were over the L.O. by 6cm for 12 days
- we are currently full with 21 logs, the level is where we want it for this time of year.

Lake Clear:

- it has been a good spring and all logs are in

Renfrew:

- no significant rainfall event or high flows
- easier to control this year but the system is dry

- only running at half capacity – 2 turbines running – showing signs that we are a full month ahead
- early in the game we weren't sure of what kind of spring rains we would get so we didn't put a log in.

Q: Lucy – do you take the forecast into consideration?

A: Peter – yes. Typical peak in the spring is around day 118. This spring the peak happened on day 85. There was not much done to manipulate levels until day 188. We didn't receive the spring rains.

Joanna handed out a map and gave the group a heads up that we were potentially going to have to declare a Level I low water condition and form a Water Response Team County wide. She indicated things are very dry across Renfrew County and southern Ontario. The anticipated spring rains have not come.

4. SAC Member Recruitment

Joanna informed the group that all existing SAC members have indicated that they wish to remain on the committee throughout the plan review process.

Joanna explained that, although delayed from our initial time frame, SAC member recruitment is still essential and our intentions are to have new members in place for the fall, with the recruitment of the 3 new members occurring in the summer.

5. Walk-on agenda items

5.1 Safety Booms Update

Niall updated the group that he contacted Tim Markus with Transport Canada. He informed him that the residents in Eganville really don't like the look of the booms and were interested to know if they could add something to them to make them appear more pleasant to the eye (ie. decal, logo, wording). Tim Markus indicated that he had never had that type of request before but that it would be possible but some stipulations on the size of lettering would be required. Niall indicated that they will make a formal petition to Town Council to have something written on the booms. Stay tuned!

5.2 Round Lake Lake Trout Study Update

Joanna updated the group on some of the work that Darwin Rosien has been able to do over the last year or so as it relates to Round Lake.

- Lake Trout Egg collection occurred on the lake last fall
- 5000 Round Lake fish are being reared at a private hatchery near Bancroft
- They need to be about 6-7inches long so they won't be eaten, i.e. minimum mortality
- The plan is to stock them in October. Darwin will plan a media event for this. Both the RLPOA and the Municipality are supportive.
- This is a long term stocking project – three year contract was established last fall and we are still looking for long term funding.
- Lake trout are slow growing so it will be a long time before the stocked fish are at maturity. They are a long lived species so results won't be immediate.

ACTION: RPG and MNR will have a follow up discussion regarding stocking program based on comments from RPG.

Murray Borer articulated that this is really good news and a great step forward. He commended Darwin on the work.

ACTION: invite Darwin to the next meeting for an official update on the project

5.3 Eel work at Renfrew

Peter gave an update regarding the American Eel work they have been doing at the dam in Renfrew as a part of the Agreement process they are engaged in under the Endangered Species Act. The Thomas Low project is at the permitting stage and RPG is pioneering the eel work. There is a good partnership between the AOO, RPG, and MNR.

ACTION for a future meeting: Have Kirby Punt present on eels and Peter can walk through the work they are doing at Renfrew to help recover the species.

6. Next Meeting Date

~~Thursday September 27th, 2012-6:30pm, @ Eagles' Nest in Eganville~~
Meeting was re-scheduled to Thursday October 18th, 2012

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.