

BONNECHERE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)
FINAL Minutes of Meeting #7 – September 27, 2006
Bonnechere Valley Township Office, Eganville

Attendees:

SAC: Don Pouliot, Ross Campbell, Murray Bimm, Murray Borer, Kevin O'Connor, Niall McArdle

Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn: Jan Leroux

MNR: Michael Radford, Joanna Samson

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

Regrets:

Aurel Boucher, Steve Munger, Lucy King

1. Housekeeping Items

1.1 Review of Agenda

No items were added to the agenda.

1.2 Expense Claims

Michael handed out copies of the new expense form to the SAC members for claiming mileage. The mileage rate has gone up to 40cents/kilometre effective August 14, 2006. If mileage is being claimed for meetings prior to this date it must be submitted on a separate form at the old rate of 33.75 cents/km.

1.3 Erosion Speaker

We are still attempting to find an erosion speaker for an up-coming SAC meeting. Peter Boldt suggested Karen Landman who spoke at the Bonnechere Watershed Group's Erosion Workshop last year and Kevin suggested possibly Barbara King from Dock Talk (FOCA).

1.4 Follow-up Ice Damage Study – BMT Fleet Technology

MNR has commissioned BMT Fleet Technology to do a follow-up to their 2005 ice push study. The follow-up study, which a draft report is expected this week, will model the 2005-2006 winter data and look at information that RPG collected over the winter.

Peter asked Don if he had any pictures of the ice push from this winter and if he could send them to him asap. Don indicated that he should be able to send him pictures by Friday, September 29th. Peter indicated that George Comfort is looking for pictures reflecting the actual date of the freeze-up, something that's more precise than what pictures Peter & MNR had.

2. Review & Approval of Minutes of Meeting #6 – May 31, 2006

A number of small corrections were made to the Amended Minutes of Meeting #6:

- P.1 – 2.0 Approval of Minutes of Meeting #5 – April 12, 2006
- P.2 – 3.0, last paragraph – ...freshet is over, however, it continues in terms of precipitation and usually isn't finished until after the 14th or 16th of June.
- P.2 – 4.0, last paragraph - ...eggs were found (via snorkelling) on the flat – offshore towards Gull Island (0-1m).

Minutes were approved by all SAC members present with the above noted changes. A copy of the finalized minutes will be sent by email.

3. Recap of Round Lake Boat Trip

Joanna handed out a copy of the summary of the August 12th, 2006 boat trip.

- Michael recapped that on the boat Darwin Rosien, A/Senior Fish & Wildlife Specialist, gave an overview of the work he had been doing to date and will continue do to throughout the fall in terms of bathymetry, the Lake Trout population and the Victoria Island spawning shoal assessment.
- Michael also explained that Darwin had been on Round Lake the previous night and will be there the following week assessing the spawning habitat using an aquaview device as opposed to snorkelling the shoal. Darwin and Erin Malloy (Biologist Intern) will be monitoring the shoal closely and once the spawn occurs, a scuba club will be diving the shoal to look for eggs.
- Overall SAC members felt that the trip was informative and worthwhile, as it was the first time on the lake for some, however, it could have been longer. Comments were made about the issue/problems with homes being built too close to the shoreline and that the trip gave a different perspective. Peter explained that new lots create a lot of the problems because they remove all of the vegetation.
- Kevin O'Connor brought up the concept of Lake Planning, although a great idea, very expensive and a huge undertaking to produce the plan.
- The suggestion was made that a boat trip of Golden Lake be planned for next summer.

4. Operations Update – Power Producers

Peter Boldt - RPG

- There was a lot of rain this summer
- Already plotting (backwards plot) for next spring as so that distance isn't lost
- Currently bringing the level down to follow the water management plan
- The plan is to pull logs this Friday
- September 4/06 – new milestone. Power producers had to pay to be on-line
- I want to make sure we have enough water in the spring as we don't want a panic situation. A smooth transition is much more preferable.

- We are sticking to the plan/staying within the lines.

Peter mentioned that hasn't received any calls from the public. Don Pouliot has received comments that the water is high, however, the most complaints he had were in the spring (9 comments with respect to ice and 3 to high water). Kevin O'Connor hasn't received any complaints this year. Kevin mentioned that Peter had attended their August cottage association meeting as a speaker and that he did a good job. Peter mention that the concerns from this meeting were with respect to ice damage and shoreline comments. He noted that many of the residents on Golden Lake stayed until October, if not year round permanent residents.

Niall asked if the drawdown date will change for this winter.

Peter responded that discussions need to occur and that there is still external information that needs to be addressed.

Janusz Rydel

- water was high through the summer, lots of water in comparison to last summer
- will be replacing bottom log this coming weekend or the next one

Andreas Vornweg

- it's been a good year so far, lots of water
- data for operation can now be found on Peter's website, posted weekly (http://www.renfrewpg.ca/vornwegwp/vornwegwp_index.htm)

Frank Scheer

- Not on website
- Year has been a good one as there has been a lot of water.
- Seeing a lot of debris from duck hunters

5. Information Needs – Prioritization Exercise

Michael described the exercise;

- Information Needs (P81-83 in the water management plan) were displayed in the room
- Each SAC member were given 5 stickers and were asked to prioritize there top 5 information needs to assist MNR & the waterpower producers.
- The prioritization list does not negate the importance of any of the Information Needs identified; however, it may help in work planning.
- Some info needs identified may be easy and fast, however, others may be more difficult, time consuming and require dollars to pursue. How fast they will be investigated will depend on the complexity and the cost.
- The following Information Needs were removed from the voting as they are currently being investigated and are already high priority:
 - o 7. Status of lake Trout Population on Round Lake (Reach 8, Issue 8.8)
 - o 8. Lake Trout and Walleye spawning areas (Reach 8, Issue 8.8)
 - o 9. Lake Trout spawning at lower levels (Reach 8)
 - o 11. Ice effect on shoreline (Reach 8, Issue 8.3)

- The following 2 information needs were removed from the list as they are no longer information needs.
 - o 21. Brown Trout Survival (Reach 5)
 - o 23. Brown Trout Survival (Reach 6)

The results of the prioritization exercise will be taken up at the next SAC meeting due to the fact that 3 SAC members are not present. They will be given the opportunity to participate.

ACTION: Joanna – Follow up via Email with Lucy, Steve, and Aurel and have them select their top 5 Information Needs.

Kevin was interested in knowing about the status of the Lake Trout population as its been a discussion point since the formation of the committee and he was interested in knowing if there will ever be a solution. He was concerned that this issue may end up being over-looked to pursue other information needs.

Peter indicated that Lake Trout may be something that we debate for a while until we have some answers.

There was some discussion around stocking and Lake Trout recruitment.

Michael indicated that information from the work that Darwin is doing may be available for a January meeting. Darwin is setting appropriate size nets to determine what is there. In response to Kevin’s question – Michael explained that we may need to have more than one year (this year’s work) of data to make a decision. Our position on the Lake Trout & the Lake Trout Box in the operating regime may not be as far apart as Peter believes; however, more discussion will most definitely be needed. This is not something that will be falling off the plate as it remains a high priority.

6. Agenda Topics for Upcoming Meetings

- Shoreline Erosion Dynamics
- Non-compliance summary
- Darwin’s work on the Lake Trout population
- Further investigation into ice damage/ice push
- Information Needs Feedback
- Potential plan amendments

Michael indicated that Darwin Rosien, Acting Senior Fish & Wildlife Technician was done a lot of work in mapping suitable habitat/good spawning habitat for Lake Trout on Round Lake. He is going to continue to do some short net sets. He has lined up the Deep River Dive Club who will be diving the shoals once the spawn has occurred. They will be using sampling methodology from previous assessments done in Dryden & Kenora to determine presence/absence of eggs.

Future meetings:

November: Erosion, ice push follow up study, summary of Information Needs exercise

Murray Borer indicated that Holly Gardner, who use to be with the Bonnechere River Watershed Group, filmed the Healthy Shoreline Seminar in which Kevin Hall and Karen Landman (University of Guelph) presented. Peter indicated that Karen's presentation focused on urban/rural cottages and the implications of shoreline development & presented solutions for living on the water's edge.

Kevin asked about the Walleye closure on Golden Lake. The closure comes off January 1st. A news release is planned and posters will go up around the Lake. There will be a mini State of the Resources Report which will summarize the stocking assessment & the netting/sampling for next year.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Date of Next Meeting:

November 29, 2006 – @ 6pm at the Bonnechere Valley Township Office

ACTION: Frank to Book Township Office

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.