

STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)
Minutes of Meeting #13, March 23, 2022
Via Zoom

Attendees: VIA Zoom

SAC: Rob Norris (KHR), James Brose (NAW), Steve Osipenko (Horton Twp.), Kevin Legris (A/B Twp.) and Don Eady (Mayor of Renfrew).

Waterpower Producers: Shawn Cameron (RPG), Jack Roesner (Eganville Generation Corporation) & (Multistream Power Corp).

Regrets: Cairine Cybulski (Bonnechere Valley Twp.) and Steve Benoit (Pikwàkanagàn)

Secretary: Channa McEachen (RPG)

Rob Norris welcomed the group to the Zoom call; roll call was completed and a quorum was noted.

2. Walk on Items

None noted.

Meeting #12– Approval of minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from March 3, 2021, SAC committee meeting.

Moved by: Steve Osipenko

Seconded by: James Brose

Carried

Chair position – annual renewal

A motion was made by James B (NAW) to nominate Rob N (KHR) for another term as Chair of the SAC. Seconded by Steve O (Horton Twp). All in Favour by a show of hands. **Carried.**

Communication –Power Producers

Jack R (EGC & MPC) gave the SAC a report on the operations in both Eganville and Douglas. Eganville - River just opened and starting to see some flow increase. Flows are quite a bit lower compared to last year's. We currently have 2 units running right now, normally at this time of year we would have 3 units running. There are no issues in Eganville.

Douglas – Everything is still frozen. We haven't been able to get into the trash racks. There is still about 8 inches of ice in front of the trash racks. Not spilling over the dam, units using so far.

Shawn C (RPG): Project to rehab Dam #1 and install a spillway gate is now complete. There was a coffer dam put in and there were 3 spillways repaired, new deck and a spill way gate installed. TLGS is at capacity for about a week now, it's the local water we are getting so the gate is working out well to spill the extra. As Jack R (EGC & MPC) mentions spring has been slow, our river is open in spots, we haven't had to face any debris or crazy run off yet. As far as the lakes go (Shawn displayed a chart for the group to see where the water level lines are presently).

Round Lake – Starting to rise slowly.

Golden Lake – Rising the same rate as Round Lake. Golden Lake has less capacity and normally rises first.

Lake Clear – expected to be up a bit. Lake check not completed yet.

Snow in the park – schedule to go again on April 1st. Chart from RPG website was from March 15th at that time there was 40cm of snow and a snow water equivalent of 82. Very similar to last year currently.

We were able to achieve the lower limit at Round Lake. We are at 6 logs left in the dam as opposed to 7 logs last year. We will certainly continue to watch the levels as we did last year and add logs if we think Freshet is over to achieve summer levels. Historically filling the lake was never an issue.

Rob N (KHR) are we are running about 2 weeks later than the last the couple of years?

Shawn C (RPG) yes, we are still early about a week or two. Last year we were about a month early based on averages.

Rob N (KHR) questioned if the extra 50cm from the amendment produced more revenue.

Shawn C (RPG) We see more flow in the fall now. We get a little less over the winter. The timing of flows has changed a bit, but we do see a benefit, nothing is wasted. We have only had one full year operating with the amendment as a comparison.

Rob N (KHR) comparing last year to the heavier flow years was there a considerable difference in water you needed to spill.

Jack R (EGC & MPC) last year I had the sluice gate open a little over 4 feet, prior years I would go for the full 10 feet to keep the head pond within the limits. More production out of the units when there is less water going through the sluice gate because of a lower tailrace level.

Jack R (EGC & MPC) asked Shawn C how much snow is there compared to last year in the park.

Shawn C (RPG) answered that it is almost the same as last year, 38cm on March 15th, 2021, vs 39 cm this year. There was more water content last year.

Jack R (EGC & MPC) freshet last year was quick, a week to 10 days.

Concerns Received – All

James B (NAW) any comments that have been received are people are pleased with the water levels in the fall and not anticipating having to deal with flooding.

Steve O (Twp Horton) no comments but we did have our first freshet call last week. Next one is tomorrow.

No other concerns received with Admaston/Bromley, Bonnechere Valley, or the Town of Renfrew.

Shawn C (RPG) reported to the group that he has received a few emails sporadically throughout the summer congratulated us for the amendment being finalized, people are very supportive. Just in the last couple of days I have a couple of concerns with filling Round Lake. It is a little early, 3-4 days into spring, we must give it a little bit more time to see what Freshet brings then act accordingly.

Shawn C. updated the SAC on an amendment from an individual, a cottager on Round Lake. A basic overview of his amendment was he wanted to reverse everything completed from the KHR amendment. It didn't follow the format of the bulletin, but I followed the guidelines and treated it as an amendment. My comments are sent to the submitter and NDMNRF for their review. NDMNRF completed a review and concurred with RPG that submission did not have the information required by the bulletin to decide if the amendment proceeds to the next step.

Steve O (Twp of H) what is the concern with the KHR amendment, is it his well or does it impact his property in some way.

Shawn C (RPG) the individual feels the drawdown shortens the summer and makes launching his canoe in the fall difficult because the water is too far from shore.

Rob N (KHR) communicated that people he talks to like what RPG is doing, they aren't worried right now about flooding the way they use to. That was putting a lot of stress on people, ice push, property damage and shoreline damage. There were some concerns on getting boats out. This was identified in the amendment process. KHR Council is currently looking at and unanimously supportive of adding some extensions to the dock and looking at putting in some matting so as the water goes out, they can get farther into the lake at the Round Lake center boat launch.

Steve O (Twp H) commented that he didn't hear any complaints all winter about the lower water level. He did hear that the boat launch needs to go a little bit further out. He felt that would solve the issue.

Rob H (KHR) KHR was waiting for the amendment to be approved before committing funds to alter the boat launch.

KHR Amendment – up-date, finalized.

Shawn C (RPG) updated the group on the amendment, we were waiting on MECP to give their comments. RPG gathered some data for the turtles over wintering in Bonnechere Provincial Park. We assisted the BOWFIN the biologist firm hired by KHR, and went out and measured ice, and water depths at specific sites along the river. BOWFIN concluded that the turtles would not be impacted by the lowering of the water in the fall if the Oct 19th target is met. MECP completed a review of the findings and responded a permit for annual drawdown is not required. It was a collaborated effort which I believe will make a difference. Certainly, will not prevent all flooding.

Freshet: Snow Data, System Water Levels

Rob N (KHR) suggested adding last 2-5yrs on the water charts to be able to compare. People would clearly be able to relate the current year to previous years.

Shawn C (RPG) didn't want to make the charts confusing but agreed to add previous year line to all the charts. Shawn felt most people relate to the last year as it easiest to remember so felt this might be most beneficial. Since Round Lake operation has changed RPG eliminated the average line and went with the previous year until enough data is gathered to produce an average.

Date of Next Meeting

To be determined.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2:00pm by Don Eady (Town of Renfrew) and seconded by James Brose (NAW)

All members in Favour. **Carried.**