

**BONNECHERE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)**

**Minutes of Meeting #9, January 16th, 2020
1035 O'Brien Rd, Renfrew ON**

Attendees:

SAC: Rob Norris (KHR), and Steve Osipenko (Horton Twp.), Don Eady (Mayor of Renfrew), and Steve Benoit (Pikwakanagan).

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

Secretary: Channa McEachen (RPG)

Regrets:

Michael Donohue (Mayor of A/B Twp.), Cairine Cybulski (Bonnechere Valley Twp.), and Glenn Bingham (NAW)

1. Walk-on items

2. Meeting #8– Approval of minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended.

Moved by: Don Eady
Seconded by Steve Osipenko
Carried

3. Communication – Power Producers

Shawn C (RPG) gave the SAC group a brief update. There were some concerns on the low water levels at Lake Clear over the summer. Work was done at the Lake Clear Dam and the water levels were purposely kept slightly lower. Levels on other systems were lower than normal due to dry conditions.

The rain event that occurred this past weekend, kept RPG busy. Dam operations in Renfrew were necessary to release water and then logs back in as temperatures went below freezing. System back to normal and running well.

Janusz R (MPC) reported that all was good in Douglas.

Jack R (EGC) reported to the SAC group that the water in Eganville is starting to increase. There are 2 units running full. All units have been repaired and Eganville has been approved to put in tailrace gates this summer.

4. Concerns received/information share – all

Shawn C. (RPG) commented that things have been quiet. He did have some calls in the fall questioning why levels were not being drawdown as the amendment suggested.

Response: we are unable due to the risk of being penalized as all agencies have not signed of yet. Only MNRF to date.

5. Other

KHR Amendment – Update

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has given approval of the Major Amendment to the Bonnechere River Water Management Plan to change the lower operating limits on Round Lake on October 3, 2019. Both, DFO (Department of Fishery and Oceans) and MECP (Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks) still need to sign off on the amendment before RPG can proceed with the drawdown.

DFO's primary concern is Lake Trout and want more information and feel the 2010 Lake Trout study is dated.

KHR has hired Michelle Lavictoire of Bowfin to gather this information. Michelle went out this fall and was able to collect some data. She feels she has enough data to go to MECP and DFO to see discuss what needs to be done in order to not miss critical research times of year.

Steve B (Pikwakanagan) we have a lot of very important people sitting around the SAC table to make this happen. I really feel studies are important so we can better understand but when and how they are completed can be a problem.

KHR, RPG and Laura Lapinski (Constituency Assistant to MPP John Yakabuski) have set dates to meet once a month over the winter to keep moving forward on the amendment.

Shawn C expressed the importance of the February 13th at the Killaloe Council Chambers at 10am. The meeting will include all the stakeholders to discuss if an extra drawdown is needed for 2020. From an operator's standpoint the safest action is to maximize the drawdown. No one can predict Spring.

2020 Drawdown Plan

Drawdown of Round Lake is underway. The intention is to respect the current lower limit of the BRWMP. Although the new lower limit was approved it cannot be implemented until DFO and MECP are onboard.

Snow info – Algonquin Park

11cm – December 13, 2019

22cm – January 3, 2020

43cm – January 15, 2020

Ice thickness -- week of January 13th

Golden Lake – 13-14 inches

Round Lake – 9-12 inches

Lake Clear – 14 inches

All this information gets sent to SWMC - (MNRF) to populate their data base.

Don E (Renfrew) wanted to clarify. Minister John Yakabuski ordered an emergency drawdown for 2019. If we don't get the same order this year, will we go back to what was done in 2017 (170.10).

Shawn C (RPG) answered that decisions are driven by conditions at the time. No years are the same. Our intent this year is to adhere to the BRWMP lower limit of 170.10 until such time as an order is given or DFO and MECP both accept the amendment request in time.

Jack R (EGC) asked who had the authority to call for a drawdown.

Shawn C (RPG), it makes the most sense for MNRF Minister John Yakabuski to issue the order. There is a responsibility that comes with an order. Coordination with MECP and the Department of Fisheries (DFO) in this case.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of SAC meeting #10 will be determined later.

It was suggested a monthly newsletter be sent out to the SAC members.

Shawn C (RPG) will send out a monthly SAC newsletter to keep the group up to date

Adjournment

Be it resolved that the meeting adjourn at 2:23pm.