

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Box 599, 3889 Rideau Valley Drive
Manotick, Ontario, K4M 1A5
(613) 692-3571, 1-800-267-3504

APPROVED MINUTES

Board of Directors

September 27, 2012

6/12

Present:

Jim Anderton	Alan Arbuckle
Lee Armstrong	Gerry Boyce
David Crowley	Tom Dewey
Rob Dunfield	Ken Graham
Ed Hand	Andy Jozefowicz
Magda Kubasiewicz	John H. Miller
Lyle Pederson	Ray Scissons
Mark Tinlin	

Staff:

Ferdous Ahmed	Dan Cooper
Martin Czarski	Rudy Dyck
Kristy Giles	Dell Hallett
Don Maciver	Claire Milloy
Michelle Paton	Bruce Reid

Guests:

Dan Grunig, Councillor, Village of Westport
Kerry Coleman - Leeds and Grenville Stewardship Council
Tom Scott, RVCA Alternate Board Member
Dwayne Struthers - Leeds and Grenville Stewardship Council

Regrets:

Vince Carroll	David Chernushenko
Barclay Cormack	Steve Curtis
Steve Desroches	Sharon Mousseau
Brad Wing	

1. **Declaration of Interest** None.

2. **Consent Agenda**

Motion 1	Moved by:	Andy Jozefowicz
	Seconded by:	Tom Dewey

That Agenda items 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 16 be approved by mutual consent.

Motion Carried

3. Approval of Minutes, July 26, 2012

The Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting, #5/12, July 26, 2012 were approved by consent.

4. Business Arising from Minutes None.

5. Accounts Paid, July 1 – 31, 2012 and August 1 – 31, 2012

The Accounts Paid, July 1 to 31, 2012 and August 1 to 31 were approved by consent.

6. Meetings

a) 2012 Conservation Authorities Biennial Tour, September 16-19, 2012

Ken Graham, Dell Hallett and Magda Kubasiewicz attended the 2012 Conservation Authorities Biennial Tour co-hosted by the Grey Sauble and Saugeen Conservation Authorities. All agreed that it was a successful and informative tour.

Ken Graham highly recommended Board participation in the 2014 Biennial Tour.

b) Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation Meeting, September 17, 2012

Dell Hallett provided the following update on the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation's Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting held September 17, 2012:

1. At the Annual General Meeting, Jason Kelly was re-elected as Chair, Mary Bryden as Vice-Chair, and Angela Deguire as Secretary-Treasurer.
2. The Foundation approved a new Dissolution Clause to satisfy requirements under the Eco-Gifts Program.
3. Three rain barrel sales are scheduled for 2013 – in Manotick, Smiths Falls and Westport.
4. Mississippi Valley Conservation, South Nation Conservation and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority have agreed to change the Tri-Valley Conservation Awards from an annual event to a biennial event. Committee Members are hopeful that this will result in enhanced project submissions.

7 Staff Report – 2012 Group Benefits Renewal

The following motion from the Staff Report – 2012 Group Benefits Renewal was approved on consent:

That the RVCA accept the 2012 Group Benefit Renewal, the terms of which have already been accepted by the Group Insurance and Benefits Committee.

8. Staff Report – Emerald Ash Borer

The following motion from the Staff Report – Emerald Ash Borer was approved on consent:

That the RVCA Board of Directors endorse the Conservation Ontario Urban and Watershed Forestry Proclamation related to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) prepared by the Ontario Urban Forest Council and modified by conservation authorities, and Conservation Ontario. (see attached 12_Urban and Watershed Forestry Proclamation.pdf)

9. Staff Report – Proposed Policies regarding the Operation and Maintenance of RVCA Flood Erosion and Water Control Structures

Magda Kubasiewicz questioned which of the “Other Water Control Structures” would fall under Policy 2 and which would fall under Policy 3. Bruce Reid responded that the determination would be made on an as needed basis.

Motion 2	Moved by:	Alan Arbuckle
	Seconded by:	Magda Kubasiewicz

That the RVCA Board of Directors approve the policies attached hereto as Annex 1, and their implementation, beginning in January 2013.

Motion Carried

10. Staff Report – Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network – Renewal of Agreement with MOE for 2012-2016

Claire Milloy, RVCA’s Groundwater Scientist, responded to questions regarding the proposed Letter of Agreement between RVCA and Ontario Ministry of the Environment. Ms. Milloy confirmed that RVCA obligations can be met through current staffing levels but progress on other initiatives of local watershed interest would be limited unless additional sources of funding can be found. Ms. Milloy noted that there is a moratorium on rural development in place at the moment.

Motion 3

Moved by: Jim Anderton
Seconded by: Lyle Pederson

That the RVCA Board of Directors approve of RVCA's continuing participation in the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN), and authorize the General Manager to sign the proposed Letter of Agreement between RVCA and Ontario Ministry of the Environment for the period April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2016.

Motion Carried

11. Staff Report – Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act

The following motion from the Staff Report – *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* was approved on consent:

That the Board of Directors approves the recommended changes to the RVCA's Accessibility Standards for Customer Service training requirements – where all Board Members, Staff and volunteers will use the free, online Serve-Ability Training.

12. Staff Report – Hutton Creek Wetland & Motts Mills Dam Restoration and Management Plan

Bruce Reid, RVCA's Director of Watershed Science and Engineering, gave a verbal report and slide presentation (attached) on the Hutton Creek Wetland & Motts Mills Dam Restoration and Management Plan.

Mr. Reid noted that the dam controls 285 ha of marsh. Nine properties are located within the area and staff have been successful in negotiating agreements relating to flooding rights with eight of the affected property owners.

Mr. Reid reviewed cost estimate projections associated with both rehabilitation and reconstruction noting that reconstruction was the more cost-effective approach. Martin Czarski, RVCA's Watershed Ecologist, added that the cost may be reduced if it is determined that there are alternatives to a concrete structure. Lyle Pederson suggested that further investigation may identify funding opportunities and/or cost-sharing options.

Lyle Pederson acknowledged that the Hutton Marsh, a Provincially Significant Wetland located in the Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley, is biologically, ecologically, and hydrologically important. Mr. Pederson added that Members of Council of the Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley supports and endorses the Management Plan.

Mr. Reid advised that a private donor has pledged \$250,000 to the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation for the “Motts Mills Dam and Hutton Marsh Restoration Project”.

Motion 4 **Moved by:** Lyle Pederson
 Seconded by: Ed Hand

1. That the RVCA endorse the Hutton Creek Wetland Restoration and Management Plan, and commit to the reconstruction of the Motts Mills Dam at a capital cost of approximately \$550,000 as RVCA’s primary contribution to implementation of that Plan and that the Technical Committee (the working group) be recognized as the group for providing technical guidance and support to the Board during the implementation of the Management Plan.
2. That RVCA take steps to enable reconstruction of the Motts Mills Dam during 2015 – Year 3 of the Hutton Creek Wetland Restoration and Management Plan’s implementation – as follows:
 - 2013 – finalize agreements with riparian landowners and secure ownership of all lands occupied by the dam
 - 2014 – engage engineering consultants to prepare a design for reconstruction and obtain all regulatory approvals
 - 2015 – undertake construction
3. That RVCA consider raising a portion of the required funding for dam reconstruction from the RVCA’s General Levy in 2013, 2014 and 2015.
4. That RVCA continue its efforts to secure additional funding for dam reconstruction, from all potential external sources, including but not limited to non-governmental organizations and programs of the Provincial and Federal Governments.

Motion Carried

13. Staff Report – Haggart Island Dam

Bruce Reid, RVCA’s Director of Watershed Science and Engineering, gave a verbal update on the Haggart Island Dam project. Mr. Reid noted that the project involves the reconstruction of two dams with Phase 1 directed to the replacement of the existing dam under the Rainbow Bridge. Staff are waiting for feedback from the engineers.

In response to a question from Ken Graham, Mr. Reid confirmed that the need for additional environmental assessments is avoided if the dam is reconstructed on its original footprint. However, reconstruction costs actually increase by using the original footprint. Mr. Reid advised that it

would be premature to go to tender without determining if more cost-effective alternatives/materials exist.

Mr. Reid confirmed that the condition of the dam is contributing to erosion control problems downstream and the proposed reconstruction would balance the flow split between the north and south channels. Mr. Reid agreed that, as the dam design does not regulate flows, a less elaborate design may suffice.

Motion 5 **Moved by:** Dave Crowley
 Seconded by: Ray Scissons

That the Board of Directors receive the report on the Haggart Island Dam.

Motion Carried

14. Staff Report – SAR Program

Dan Cooper briefed the Board, through a slideshow presentation (attached), on the Species at Risk (SAR) program.

Alan Arbuckle thanked the General Manager and staff for designing and implementing an innovative project.

Motion 6 **Moved by:** Ed Hand
 Seconded by: Lyle Pederson

That the Board of Directors receive the report on the SARS Program.

Motion Carried

15. Staff Report – 2013 Budget

Dell Hallett spoke to 2013 budget pressures noting the following:

1. No reductions to transfer payments are anticipated
2. Watershed Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) funding will be cut by 50 percent. This will affect funding for the Haggart Island Dam project.
3. Notification has been received regarding the availability of funding for Source Protection.
4. The cost of living index (CPI) is running at 1.2 percent
5. Municipal assessment is expected to rise by 1.02 percent.

Mr. Hallett advised that he has asked staff to submit budget projections based on a 3 percent increase to levy. The preliminary budget will be presented to the Board at the meeting on October 25, 2012.

Alan Arbuckle encouraged the continuation of merit increases to establish wage parity noting that it would be more costly for the RVCA to have to replace experienced staff. Mr. Hallett explained that merit increases relate to movement within a salary scale and recognize growth from the lower end to the higher end of the wage scale as the employee's abilities and experience increase.

Lyle Pederson suggested that a salary equivalency study be conducted as it is important for the Board to understand compensation issues.

The Board noted that infrastructure costs will continue to increase and impact municipal and Authority budgets.

Motion 7 **Moved by:** Rob Dunfield
 Seconded by: Alan Arbuckle

That the Board of Directors receive the report on the 2013 Budget.

Motion Carried

16. September Activity Reports

The following motion was approved on consent:

That the RVCA Board of Directors receive the September Activity Reports.

17. Member Inquiries

Tom Dewey inquired about the status of the boardwalk at Meisel Woods. Kristy Giles responded that funding opportunities continue to be investigated.

Dave Crowley asked about the Silversides Barn. Kristy replied that the barn is in place and is already being used. The Friends of Foley Mountain have applied for funding to install solar panels which, in addition to supplying the barn with solar power, would support an application to the Enabling Accessibility Fund to provide wheelchair access to the barn.

Dell Hallett, in responding to a question from Dave Crowley, advised that the current application to install solar panels at the Rideau Valley Conservation Centre is still in the queue.

18. New Business

Members were asked to complete the Fall 2012 Board of Directors Survey. Results will be presented at the October 25, 2012 meeting.

