

MINUTES OF MEETING
VERMILION RIVER STEWARDSHIP
THURSDAY, 13 JANUARY 2011, 6 TO 9:00 PM
BEAVER LAKE SPORTS & CULTURAL CLUB – CLUB ROAD, WORTHINGTON

Present: 63 people in attendance

1. Introduction

Linda Heron introduced herself and shared some of her past job, volunteer and eco-related experience. She also shared her reasons for creating the Vermilion River Stewardship were spurred on by

- Her attendance at the public meeting hosted by Quadra FNX – Victoria Mine;
- Xeneca’s announcement of 4 proposed dams being constructed on the Vermilion River; and
- The fact that nine sewage treatment facilities, 3 holding ponds, and 1 lift station are located within the Vermilion River Watershed.

2. Shared a Powerpoint Presentation to Discuss:

a. The Vermilion River Stewardship

- Vision, Mission, Goals & Objectives – see attached

b. Xeneca Power Development

- Xeneca were awarded 19 Feed-in-Tariff contracts (4 of which are on the Vermillion River) by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) – rumor of many more dams in the cue
- The purpose of the dams is to create “Green Power” as per the McGuinty Government -- large incentives are offered for companies to create green power
- Much discussion and concern regarding the impact of the dams on water quality, fish spawning and habitat, aquatic life, water levels, soil erosion, etc.

c. Sudbury WasteWater Treatment Facilities

- Vermilion River Watershed contains 9 wastewater treatment facilities, 3 sewage lagoons & one lift station
- In 2009 an EcoJustice Report, stated Sudbury was 4th highest in Ontario for bypassing partially treated and untreated sewage into the environment
- There were no bypasses or spills reported in 2010 from the Naughton/Lively plants
- City of Sudbury WasteWater Management are working on several solutions to alleviate the pressure on the environment and the need for sewage bypasses
 - New by-law with stronger penalties for illegal downspout hook-ups, smoke testing to find illegal hook-ups, and education and outreach program
 - Reviewing the Walden & Lively Sewage Treatment Plants to update, upgrade & improve sewage treatment
 - Bio-solids management study to look at making fertilizer out of sewage
- This is a perfect opportunity to get involved in the public consultation process – this Stewardship sent in its Letter of Interest

- An enquiry was sent to Nick Benkovich to see if any other Wastewater Treatment Facilities are going through the reviewal, improvement and upgrade process – no response yet
- These wastewater facilities all add a significant burden to water quality on the Vermilion River

d. Quadra-FNX - Victoria Mine Exploration

- Quadra-FNX are entering an advanced stage of exploration at Victoria Mine
- FNX will be partially processing their ore at this site
 - Using caustic chemicals to process ore
 - Treatment of effluent before being released into either
 - The Vermilion River Watershed, or
 - The Spanish River Watershed
- If this treated effluent goes into the Vermilion Watershed, how will it affect the flora, fauna and aquatic life of the River – this adds more pressure to the river – more information is required
- FNX offered to come to this meeting, and will be holding public meetings every 6 months

e. Other Major Challenges

- Algae
 - Maintain your septic systems
 - Use phosphate free soaps and detergents
 - Use of phosphate free fertilizers (10-0-10), only use phosphate for new seedlings, and use sparingly
- Eurasian Milfoil & Other Invasive Species
 - Clean all weeds and debris from your boats & motors,
 - Empty fish wells & bait buckets at least 30 meters from shoreline
 - Obtain free Signage from OFAH to post at boat launches – let Stewardship know if you need signage for your local boat launch

f. Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance (GSWA)

- Now brings approximately 14 Lake Stewardships into an Alliance – Vermilion River Stewardship is a member
- Creates one BIG VOICE to provide a stronger, more economical and focused strategy
- Current projects are:
 - Eurasian Milfoil Abatement Program
 - Weevil Project – Applying for grant & funding
 - Phosphorus Reduction Program
 - Working on a Phosphorus Reduction By-law
 - Education and promotion of phosphorus free fertilizers, soaps and detergents

g. How you Can Help

- Join the Vermilion River Stewardship so your voice can be heard
- Donations to help with the work of the Stewardship
- Share your knowledge, expertise, energy, and time

3. Open Discussion

- Mr. Clary Gatien took the floor to assure everyone of the necessity for
 - local MOE and MNR involvement in the planning and approval process;
 - local public approval and endorsement is vital to Xeneca and the final outcome; and
 - Hydro Electric Power Generation is the cleanest, greenest and most economically and environmentally sensitive and affordable
- Linda pointed out with the new Green Energy Act that many government and public processes are being fast-tracked and/or side-stepped to get new green energy sources up and running quickly
- Comment was made that our deeds contain a clause stating water levels are allowed to be raised or lowered, and we have no financial or lawful comeback
- Taxes can be adjusted if water levels are lowered or raised permanently
- Linda invited others to travel with her on Monday, the 17th of January, to the Xeneca public meeting held at the French River Inn -- regarding the Wanapitei River Dam.

4. Membership

- a. Attendees were asked to place their names and contact information on a mailing list and indicate whether they were interested in becoming a working member of the Stewardship
- b. Several people indicated their interest in helping out with the Stewardship

5. Adjourned – 9:15pm

Note: The next Stewardship meeting date will be announced shortly.

