

Minutes

Vermilion River Stewardship

Wednesday, June 13, 2012

7:00-9:00 pm

Beaver Lake Sports & Cultural Centre

Present: Linda Heron, Lesley Flowers, Terry Little, Ron Basso, Dale Kilbey, Ken Makela, Byron Basso, Mark Samson, Ruth Svensk, Sheri Johnson Purdon, Eija Hietaharju

1. Adoption of Agenda:

Moved by Sheri Johnson Purdon

Seconded by Ron Basso

Adopted

2. Adoption of Minutes of 11 January, 2012

Moved by Ron Basso

Seconded by Byron Basso

Adopted

3. Reports

- **Executive Report – Attached as Addendum 1 – Highlights below**

- a) Jan 19th presentation to NDCA board. When more information is available, NDCA will address Xeneca's dam proposal at Cascade falls to see if it interferes with the intake of public water below the falls. They have authority under the Conservation Authorities Act.
- b) Feb 22nd – Vermilion Stakeholders Advisory Committee (VSAC) meeting. Xeneca is focusing on the Wabagishik proposal for now. Mark Holmes stated that the McPherson proposal is off while action on At Soo Crossing and Cascade proposals is deferred to 2013. Irregularities from this meeting are discussed in Business Arising from Previous Meeting.
- c) March 5th – Meeting with Jacques and Mark Simioni. The city has not given permission for use of its land At Soo Crossing dam proposal site.
- d) March 28th – Sheri attended Our Community, Our Climate seminar at Science North. Met Nick Benkovich who said tertiary treatment is going forward for Walden plant. Also the new bylaw officer will be focusing on contaminants (oil, antifreeze) instead of disconnecting downspouts.

- **Correspondence:**

[March 1st – VRS to Hutchinson Environmental Sciences](#). Request to confirm that the Grassy and Ella Lakes are included in the Spring Lake Water Quality Model sampling program.

- **Finance:** Balance of \$777.77. Income from membership of \$240. Expenses of \$107.38 for web site and domain name.

- **Biodiversity:** Pictures of any wildlife in the area (not necessarily on the river) are requested with date imprinted on the photo with the location emailed to Linda
- **Film Committee:** Meeting required to source equipment and get organized.
ACTION: Motion by Ron that Sheri will contact Eric Harju to assist with film committee. Seconded by Ken. **Carried**
- **Strategic Planning Committee:** Budget has been struck for the VR source water quality monitoring project. A Trillium Grant for \$94,000 is being submitted by July 1st to take, analyze and collate 294 samples from six sites along the Vermilion in 2013-14. Conservation Sudbury is willing to partner with VRS for this project by providing a technician to do the sampling and data analysis – funded through the grant.

4. Old Business

1. Dam Proposals Update:

- Xeneca has stated that the longest they will hold back water on a 'modified run of river' dam has been reduced to 24 hours from 48 hours due to negative reaction from the MOE on the Chute proposal.
- Ontario Power Generation (OPG) has several dams that are no longer in use due to lack of funding for repair, while funds are available for green energy projects.
- The Misema hydroelectric project, which Mark Holmes was involved with under Canadian Renewable Energy (now Xeneca), was approved as a run of river project but now appears to be cycling.
- Lake Sturgeon were found by the Vale's consultant Bruce Kilgore, approximately 1 km below the Wabagishik dam proposal site, and within the zone of influence.

2. Vermilion Stakeholders Advisory Committee (VSAC)

[The Minutes of the VSAC meeting on April 26th](#) revealed two incidents that question the integrity of this committee:

- a. Proper meeting protocol was not followed when Terms of Reference for VSAC was given out to its members, and "most people signed" and handed them back to the chairperson (Erin Calder), without discussion or a motion to accept. Linda had informed the Committee she would forward to her lawyer for review, and was unaware that some members had signed the Terms of Reference until receiving the Minutes. Contents of the Terms of Reference were essentially a "gag" order.
- b. A member of the committee, Dr. Charles Ramcharan, "discussed research ideas with Graham and potential research projects with Xeneca. Charles is also asking Xeneca for sponsorship for a seminar series and scholarship for a new environmental science program". The Board felt this was a clear conflict of interest.

ACTION: A motion was put forward by Sheri Johnson Purdon to send a letter to the VSAC stating:

“We the members of the Vermilion River Stewardship call for the resignation of Dr. Charles Ramcharan from the Vermilion Stakeholders Advisory Committee (VSAC), as a result of the Minutes of Meeting #2, April 26, 2012, where it was recorded, ‘Charles discussed research ideas with Graeme and potential research projects with Xeneca. Charles is also asking Xeneca for sponsorship for a seminar series and scholarships for a new Environmental Science Program.’ If this resignation does not occur we will have our Chair, Linda Heron, resign from the Vermilion Stakeholders Advisory Committee. We also have concern over the lack of meeting protocol (i.e., some VSAC members signed the proposed Terms of Reference without a vote or formal approval by all members of Committee). We request formal meeting protocols be followed as we are amongst the stakeholders of the Vermilion River and need to have clarity of the meeting procedures.”

Seconded by Ron Basso

Carried unanimously

3. Lower Vermilion Source Water Quality Monitoring Project:

Budget has been struck for this proposed project. A Trillium Grant for \$94,000 is being submitted by July 1st to take, analyze and collate 294 samples from six sites along the Vermilion in 2013-14. Conservation Sudbury is willing to partner with VRS for this project by providing a technician (with our grant money) to do the sampling and data analysis.

4. Phone Tree Algae Alert:

ACTION: A motion was put forward by Leslie, that VRS develop a phone tree to alert residents along the VR to outbreaks of blue green algae.

- **Linda will send out an email to VRS members to canvas non member neighbours along the river to see if they want to be notified of a cyanobacteria outbreak.**
- Penage Lake Road will be covered by Ruth, Pine Road by Sheri’s friend, River Road by Betsy and Bob, Kusk Lake road by Dale, Flowers Road by Leslie, Grassy lake Road by Terry and Wabagishik lake Road by Ron.
- **Leslie to contact Simon Lake Stewardship to let them know what the VRS is doing in this regard. Phone numbers and civic addresses of those persons to be forwarded to Leslie.**

Seconded by Dale.

Carried

5. Stormwater Management Background Study:

Terry reviewed the Greater City of Sudbury’s Storm Water Background Management Study published in 2006 in order to get input for the Official Plan. The recommendations were to develop and implement plans to, improve phosphorous removal at waste water treatment plants, inspect and maintain septic systems, encourage residents to reduce nutrient runoff from their properties, reduce the use of road salt, install storm

water management facilities where storm water drains empty into lake that supply potable water, identify and reduce the impacts of other pollutants that reduce water quality.

6. Greenspace Advisory Panel Appointment:

Linda is on the Green Space advisory Panel representing Ward 2. The crown land around Ann Lake, Three Corner Lake, and Margaret Lake has been identified for its old growth red pine, and will be recommended to be set aside as green space under the Official Plan.

7. Petitions:

Three petitions to the government of Ontario are on the ORA website.

- a. Recommendations to add dam decommissioning to future hydroelectric developments.
- b. Removal of modified run of river projects from the Green Energy Act.
- c. Omnibus Bill 55 - Alterations to several important pieces of legislation would be undermined.

Linda requested VRS members read and sign the petitions if in agreement.

5. New Business

a. Nairn-Hymen Town Council:

[Has approved resolution #2012-9-117](#), that strongly opposes the Xeneca dam proposals for Cascade Falls, At Soo Crossing and Wabagishik Rapids.

b. New Board Member Nominations:

Nominations for four board members positions were opened. Dale Kilbey, Eija Hietaharju, Byron Basso and Mark Samson were nominated. All nominees stood.

Motion: Ruth Svensk moved that the nominated members be elected to the board, seconded by Ron Basso. **Carried**

c. Voting Proxies:

Voting Proxy at GSWA meetings for Linda was given to Terry. Voting proxy at GSWA meetings for Sheri was given to Dale.

d. Cliffs Chromite Development:

Cliffs has bought property near the headwaters of the VR north of Caperol in order to process ore from the "Ring of Fire".

ACTION: VRS will comment on the EA for this development.

- e.** Lesley reported via a complaint by a resident of Vermilion Lake, that there is development (i.e.: filling in of wetlands river waterfront) near his property. MNR has fined the developer.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 10th, 2012, 7PM at the Beaver Lake Sports & Cultural Centre.

Addendum 1

Vermilion River Stewardship

EXECUTIVE REPORT

June 2012

Report from Chair

Presentations:

- **14 April 2012 –Northwatch, Sudbury**
- **16 April 2012 – Township of Nairn and Hyman, Nairn Centre**
- **21 April 2012 – Walden Environmental Conference, Lively – 3 Presentations**
- **26 April 2012 – Presentation to VRS Stakeholders Advisory Panel**

Meetings:

- **19 April 2012 – Attended Lake Advisory Panel Meeting, Sudbury**
- **20 April 2012 – Sheri and I prepared Display Panels for Walden Envir. Conference**
- **24 April 2012 – Strategic Planning Committee**
- **26 April 2012 – Attended Green Space Advisory Panel**
 - Representing Ward 2
- **30 April 2012 – Attended GSWA Board Meeting**
- **15 May 2012 – Attended Strategic Planning Committee**
- **15 May 2012 – Lesley – GSWA planning**
- **15 May 2012 – Attended Source Water Protection Open House**
- **22 May 2012 – Attended VRS Stakeholders Advisory Committee Meeting**
 - Xeneca made Presentation
 - Met Uwe Roeper, new COO
 - McPherson Falls proposal withdrawn
 - Wabagishik moving forward
 - Cascade and At Soo Crossing on slow track
 - Terms of Reference to lawyer for clearance
 - Lake Sturgeon confirmed at Graveyard Rapids, on Vermilion River
 - Admits zone of influence will be out to confluence with Spanish
 - No longer bound by EcoLogo
 - Claiming will only hold water back for up to 24 hours

- Xeneca Answers List of Questions about [Wabagishik Proposal](#)
- **28 May 2012 – GSWA General Meeting**
- **2 June 2012 – ORA General Meeting**
- **11 June 2012 – Strategic Planning Committee**

Correspondence:

- **17 May 2012 – [Xeneca to VRS – Response to 26 October 2011 letter](#)**
 - Re: 22 October 2011 PIC – VRS Questions
- **5 June 2012 – [Township of Nairn and Hyman to Xeneca – Motion](#)**
 - Adopted a Motion rejecting the Vermilion River Hydroelectric proposals