

Minutes

Vermilion River Stewardship

Wednesday, September 10, 2012

7:00-9:00 pm

Beaver Lake Sports & Cultural Centre

Present: Linda Heron, Lesley Flowers, Terry Little, Dale Kilbey, Ken Makela, Mark Samson, Sheri Johnson Purdon, Eija Hietaharju, Eric Oja, Joyce Lefebvre, Denis Lefebvre, Denis Leblanc Yvonne Leblanc, Dan Whalen, John Healy, Bob Little, Betsy Little, Ken Shames, Jacques Barbeau

1. Adoption of Agenda:

Moved by Lesley Flowers

Seconded by Dale Kilbey

Adopted

2. Adoption of Minutes of 13 June, 2012

Moved by Terry Little

Seconded by Dale Kilbey

Adopted

3. Lower Vermilion Source Water Quality Monitoring Project Update

- Leslie Flowers gave a power point presentation outlining the project.
- Trillium proposal has passed first level of acceptance and has been forwarded to the review panel in Toronto. Franco Mariotti and Jacques Barbeau agreed to be our references in support of the project.
- NDCA has agreed to provide two technicians to take samples and collate data - will be paid out of Trillium funding if approved.
- Project equipment will be stored at the Penage Road Community Centre.

4. Jacques Barbeau Q & A

- Jacques thanked Linda and Leslie for their leadership in the VRS and GSWA.
- Reaffirmed his past and ongoing support for watershed stewardship.
- Affirmed his support in opposition to the hydroelectric dams.
- Urged the GSWA and VRS to support budget increases to the Greater Sudbury environmental department administered by Stephen Monet.
- Encouraged GSWA to advocate for \$130K machinery to harvest milfoil and associated algae on Simon and McCharles Lakes as an interim measure to control adverse conditions on those lakes.
- Water clarity downstream on the Vermilion has improved noticeably this year without the reoccurrence of the blue green algae seen last year.
- Jacques is gathering councillors' support for a motion to oppose hydroelectric development on the Vermilion - similar to that passed by Nairn (see June minutes) and plans to bring it to Greater Sudbury council in October.

- Cliff's chromite smelter environmental assessment proceeding, but is 5 to 10 years from completion.
- Tertiary treatment for Naughton wastewater plant.
- Solar and hydroelectric projects under the Green Energy Act are administered by the province and out of the direct control of the municipality; therefore strong local opposition is needed during the approval process if a project is to be stopped.
- Calcium is put on roads to control dust. It adversely affects plant life in ditches. Use of calcium and salt on roads has been curtailed especially near waterways. Further reductions are possible.
- Green energy projects appear to be putting a strain on the electrical grid when it comes to fusing. The current grid was designed for a few large generating inputs. The change to allowing a number of smaller inputs appears to be beyond the current design. This may further impact the efficiency of the hydroelectric proposals and lead to the project being uneconomical. Jacques will supply Linda with a contact at Sudbury Hydro.

5. Reports

- **Executive Report – Attached as Addendum 1 – Highlights below**
 - a) GSAP is recommending setting aside Crown land where old growth red pine forest around Margaret, Three Corner and Anne lakes as green space under the new Official Plan.
 - b) Native artifacts have been found at the Wabagishik site and the archaeologists are moving to a Stage III Archaeology Study.
- **Correspondence:**
 - a) Letter of resignation sent to Xeneca's VSAC. Charles Ramcharan and Graham Speers urged Linda to reconsider, but did not offer to rescind their funding requests to Xeneca.
 - b) Trillium grant application was submitted for \$103K for a two year study collecting, analyzing and collating 280 samples from 25 sites along the VR.
- **Finance:** Balance of \$917.80. Income from membership of \$210.
- **Film Committee**
Eric Harju to be contacted for a meeting. Possible synergy with a planned site visit to Wabagishik in October.

6. Old Business

- **Dam Proposals Update:**
 - a) The city has confirmed that they own land adjacent to the proposed At Soo Crossing dam site.
 - b) Xeneca is concentrating on the Wabagishik proposal - the Environmental Report should be out for comment sometime in October.
 - c) McPherson still appears to be on Xeneca's list of current projects.

d) ORA commented on a proposal to amend the Class EA for Waterpower - to remove the requirement for an EA on a project of 2MW and under, where there is an existing water control structure or hydroelectric dam.

- **Vermilion Stakeholders Advisory Committee (VSAC)**

- a) Linda submitted her resignation and did not hear anything other than the emails from Charles and Graham requesting that she reconsider. VRS responded by confirming Linda's resignation.

- **Phone Tree Algae Alert:**

- a) Phone tree has been set up with 35 people. Lesley did an excellent job of organizing and carrying out this project.

- **Cliffs Chromite Mine Update**

- a) VRS commented on the Terms of Reference, however, no response has come from Cliffs, either in response to our request to be registered as a stakeholder, or to our letter commenting on their Terms of Reference.

7. **New Business**

- Linda received an invitation to be on the Whitefish Lake first Nations AART as a resource person concerning the proposed dams.
- Proposed visit to the Wabagishik site on October 13th. Chief Miller and Chief Shining Turtle and/or their representatives to be invited.
- GSWA comedy night fundraiser to be held on Nov 8th 7PM for \$20/person.

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

Addendum 1

Vermilion River Stewardship

EXECUTIVE REPORT

10 September 2012

Report from Chair

Presentation:

- **30 June 2012 – Water Advocacy Festival, River Run, Ottawa River Valley**

Meetings:

- **15 June 2012 – Strategic Planning Committee**
- **18 June 2012 – GSWA General Meeting**
- **21 June 2012 – Green Space Advisory Panel (GSAP)**
 - Panel to recommend Crown Land along Vermilion River as green space
 - River creates connectivity & is prime green space
 - Large section at Margaret Lake, 3-Corner Lake & Anne Lake
 - Old growth red pine & wetlands
- **22 June 2012 – Strategic Planning Committee**
- **25 June 2012 – Met with Jacques Barbeau**
 - Jacques is working on support for a Motion
- **25 June 2012 – GSWA Fundraising Meeting**
 - To plan a fundraising event to raise money for GSWA.
- **27 June 2012 – GSAP – Sub-Committee Meeting**
 - Sub-Committee preparing submission to the City of Sudbury Official Plan.
- **9 July 2012 – GSAP – Sub-Committee Meeting**
- **19 July 2012 – GSAP – Sub-Committee Meeting**
- **25 July 2012 – Wabagishik PIC – Espanola**
 - An excellent turn-out of concerned VRS members.
 - The proposed dam location has changed yet again.
 - Still no engineered drawings – only very basic conceptual design shown on map.
 - Typical operating flows and levels were averaged over 100 years
- **16 July 2012 – GSAP – Sub-Committee Meeting**

Correspondence:

- **1 July 2012 – Trillium Foundation Application – Lower Vermilion Source Water Quality Characterization Project – Requested \$103,200 for a 2 year study.**

- 10 July 2012 – VRS to Xeneca & Erin Calder – [Re: Motion Requesting Charles Ramcharan's Resignation](#)
- 18 July 2012 – Erin Calder, Chair, VSAC response to VRS – [Re: Conflict of Interest](#)
- 25 July 2012 – VRS to Xeneca & Erin Calder – [Re: Resignation from VSAC](#)
- 30 July 2012 – VRS to Trillium Foundation – Additional Information
- 3 August 2012 – VRS to Xeneca – [Re: 25 July 2012 PIC – Comments & Questions](#)
- 7 August 2012 – VRS to Xeneca – [Re: Further to 3 August 2012 Comments & Questions](#)
- 8 August 2012 – VRS to Conservation Sudbury – [Re: Comments on the Proposed Source Protection Plan for Greater Sudbury Protection Area.](#)
- 9 August 2012 – VRS to Xeneca – [Re: Formal Request for Silt & Sediment Sampling in Wabagishik Lake.](#)
- 13 August 2012 – VRS Submission to Cliffs – [Re: Comments on Terms of Reference for Ferrochrome Processing Facility](#)
- 17 August 2012 – NDCA to VRS – Re: [Draft Drinking Water Source Protection response](#)

Linda Heron