

Minutes

Vermilion River Stewardship

Wednesday, December 11, 2012

7:00-9:30 pm

Beaver Lake Sports & Cultural Centre

Present: Linda Heron, Terry Little, Eija Hietaharju, Ken Shames, Marilyn Shames, Ron Basso, Byron Basso, Marte Holouka, Rosalind St. Pierre, Larry Beck, Ruth Svensk, Margaret Laframboise, Jim Shames, Lisa Laframboise, Wayne Laframboise, Helen Makela, Eric Harju (videographer)

1. Adoption of Agenda:

Moved by Leslie Flowers

Seconded by Eija Hietaharju

Adopted

2. Adoption of Minutes of October 11, 2012

Moved by Ron Basso

Seconded by Terry Little

Adopted

3. Reports

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

- a) Cliffs amended their terms of reference after input from VRS on the original Terms of reference. Linda will respond to the amended terms by Dec. 14th.
- b) Linda met with three Directors and several upper management MOE staff to discuss ORA concerns. It was a very productive meeting, and ORA was invited to contact them anytime clarification was needed on an EA process.
- c) MNR response to the ORA concerns about MNR's economic impact study on waterpower being very one sided and faulty has resulted in a meeting being scheduled between the ORA and the MNR on Dec 18th.

- **Correspondence:**

- a) ORA recently posted comments on Environmental Bill of Rights postings for proposed changes to MNR policy – a streamlining of the approvals process.
- b) Cliff's Terms of Reference revealed that they will be requesting a Permit To Take Water at +200,000 cubic meters of water annually from the Vermilion for the chromite smelter.
- c) First cheque for \$30,300 has been received from the Trillium Foundation for the Vermilion River water quality study.

- **Finance:** Balance of \$1017.81.

- **Film Committee**

Erik Harju ran the 30 minute film shot during the Wabagishik site visit. It was very well received by all present. Ruth recommended that a quote from Robinson Jeffers (“The beauty of things was born before eyes and sufficient to itself; the heartbreaking beauty will remain when there is no heart to break for it”) would follow the credits. There were some discussions regarding music, but it was decided to leave the river sounds as the natural music. It was recommended that an OPG (Ontario Power Generation) subtitle should be amended to note that it is “owned by the people of Ontario”.

Motion: Leslie moved that once approval is granted from Roger (First Nations representative) and the two additions made it be uploaded to YouTube along with a 3 minute out-take “teaser”.
Seconded by Marte. **Carried**

4. **New Business**

- Xeneca is not proceeding with a stage three archaeological study and it appears that no other areas have been investigated in the current area to be flooded. VRS will note this deficiency in our comments once the Environmental Report comes out.
- Xeneca undertook geotechnical blasting on the Wabagishik dam site in November. The Quebec company contracted to do the work accessed the site through the property of Larry and Rosalind Beck, located close to the site. Mark Holmes of Xeneca maintained that only “shotgun sized charges” were used to create the shock waves necessary to complete the study. In discussions with the crew doing the blasting they said blasts were up to 5 or 6 sticks of 80% dynamite - 1” x 6 or 7” in size. Wayne estimated that three cases (100 sticks) were taken into the site. Linda called the MNR and Xeneca to stop the blasting with no success, but notifying First Nations resulted in the blasting being stopped, and the crew pulled all their equipment out the next day. The explosions were heard and felt up to 16.7 kilometres away. Linda will write to Xeneca and the MNR on this issue in January.
- The At Soo Crossing generating station is planned to be put on the island in front of Centennial Park beach. The Greenspace Advisory Panel is writing a letter to Greater City of Sudbury requesting that the city look into protecting this site from development.
- Vale is rumoured to be doing a study on the effect of dams on Sturgeon, and is looking at a silt study previously done by MOE on the Wabagishik.
- Waterpower Group is planning a fifth dam on the Vermilion near Capreol.
- Cliff’s has changed the location of the smelter site closer to the Vermilion, and from being on a Brownfield site (old mine site) to a Greenfield site.

- The Strategic Planning Committee will meet with Conservation Sudbury in early January regarding their partnership with VRS and Trillium.
- Terry volunteered to be the second contact person with Trillium and attend Strategic Planning Committee meetings.

Motion: Margaret moved that a \$100 honorarium be given to Erik Harju for his volunteer work to film and produce the Wabagishik site visit.

Seconded by Marte.

Carried

Motion: Leslie moved to pay the annual \$100 membership to ORA.

Seconded by Marte.

Carried

Motion: Margaret moved that the Strategic Planning Committee be authorized to disperse funds as outlined in the Trillium Grant.

Seconded by Marte.

Carried

Motion: Eija moved that VRS purchase Directors Insurance as per Trillium's direction.

Seconded by Leslie.

Carried

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 9th, 2013, 7PM at the Beaver Lake Sports & Cultural Club, Club Road, Worthington.

Vermilion River Stewardship

EXECUTIVE REPORT

11 December 2012

Report from Chair

Presentation:

- 20 November 2012 – Presentation to Environmental class, at University of Waterloo

Meetings:

- 11 October 2012 – Green Space Advisory Panel Meeting
 - Requested the Panel help obtain land to protect Centennial Park and beach
 - To prepare draft letter to City from Panel
- 13 October 2012 – Wabagishik Site Visit – 20 people braved rain and cold. Erik Harju filmed the visit
- 15 October 2012 – GSWA General Meeting
- 17 October 2012 – Green Gathering Planning for 2013
- 19 October 2012 – Water Management Plan Review – MNR – Parry Sound
 - An opportunity for input into the WMP Review – there will be more input opportunities before it is finalized.
- 25 October 2012 – Cliff's Open House, in Capreol
 - Cliffs will be using Vermilion River water for their processing
- 28 October 2012 – ORA Annual General Meeting, in North Bay
- 30 October 2012 – Wabagishik Film Committee – Erik Harju, Sheri & Linda
- 5 November 2012 – GSWA Fundraising Committee Meeting
- 8 November 2012 – GSWA Fundraiser
 - A very successful fundraiser that raised over \$7,000
- 15 November 2012 – CBC Radio – Interview about Navigable Water Protection Act
- 15 November 2012 – Green Space Advisory Panel
 - Finalized draft letter to City from Panel
- 16 November 2012 – Met with Mark Holmes & Uwe Roeper – Xeneca
 - Updated me on status of all projects
 - Environmental Report will come out for comment early in January
- 19 November 2012 – CBC Morning North – [Interview regarding Cliffs FPF](#)
- 22 November 2012 – Not for Profit – Changes due to be in effect July 2013

- 23 November 2012 – AART, Atikameksheng First Nation, Whitefish Reserve
 - Invited as a resource person
- 26 November 2012 – Wetland Evaluation, Living with lakes Centre
 - Students presented three wetland study projects
- 28 November 2012 – How's My Waterway – Webinar
- 29 November 2012 – Minnow Lake Meeting – Storm Water Management
- 3 December 2012 – Trillium Grant Orientation Session
- 3 December 2012 – MNR meeting regarding fish huts - GSWA
- 4 December 2012 – Met with 8 MOE staff, including 3 Directors and 1 Assistant Director to discuss policy and process and it was a very productive meeting – Toronto
- 6 December 2012 – Met with Erik Harju – Edit Wabagishik film

Correspondence:

- 10 October 2012 – ORA Comments – EBR #011-6005, [Renewable Energy on Crown Land](#)
- 12 October 2012 – ORA to Deputy Minister David O'Toole, Re: [Request for a Provincial Strategy on Waterpower Development](#)
- 6 November 2012 – ORA to MNR – [Economic Impact of Waterpower on Crown Land in Ontario](#)
- 9 November 2012 – ORA Comments – EBR #011-6751, [Modernizing Approvals](#)
- 16 November 2012 – VRS to OTF – Thank you letter
- 23 November 2012 – ORA Comments – EBR #011-7070, [Provincial Policy Statement](#) – 5 Year Review
- 6 November 2012 – ORA Comments to Cliffs, Re: [Cliffs FPF Open House](#), Capreol
- 8 November 2012 – Trillium Grant Approval – Lower Vermilion Source Water Quality Project
- 28 November 2012 – Cliffs Natural Resources to VRS, Re: [Comments Received on the July 2012 Terms of Reference for the Cliffs Chromite Project](#)
- 10 December 2012 – [VRS response to Cliffs Natural Resources, Re: Amended Terms of Reference for Cliffs Chromite project](#)
- 11 December 2012 - Ontario Trillium Foundation – OTF to VRS – First installment.

Linda Heron