

Minutes

Vermilion River Stewardship

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

7:00-9:00 pm

Beaver Lake Sports & Cultural Centre

Present: Linda Heron, Sheri Johnson Purdon, John Purdon, Lesley Flowers, Terry Little, Ron Basso

1. Adoption of Agenda:

Moved by John Purdon
Seconded by Ron Basso

Adopted

2. Adoption of Minutes of 9 November 2011

Moved by Ron Basso
Seconded by John Purdon

Adopted

3. Election of Secretary Treasurer

- a. Ron Basso resigned as treasurer
- b. Nominations for the position of secretary treasurer opened by Linda
- c. Leslie nominated Terry Little, Terry stood
- d. No further nominations, Nominations closed by Linda, Terry acclaimed

4. Reports

- a. **Executive Report – Attached as Addendum 1 – Highlights below**
 - France Gelinis lends support to VRS per teleconference Nov. 22, 2011
 - Jacques Barbeau lends support to VRS per meeting Nov 23, 2011
 - Linda invited to join Stakeholder’s Advisory Committee. She told them that she would not sign a GAG order
 - Wabagishik Site Release extended to March 2012; Memorandum of Understanding has only been signed by Sagamok FN. Whitefish River and Whitefish Lake FN have issued letters from their lawyer – Xeneca has a duty to consult before any proposal can proceed or Site Release is issued.
 - Soo Crossing - Site Release rules require Xeneca get a signed agreement from the City as they own the land surrounding the falls. The City planner, Mark Simeoni, is unaware, as of Jan 11th, that this was required for the project to proceed.
 - Chiefs of the Robinson Huron Treaty Act will meet with Harper in January. One of the issues will be the breach of FIT Rules & Site Release Policy, particularly regarding consultation and agreements with First Nations that could be impacted by the projects.
- b. **Correspondence: - Attached as Addendum 2 – Highlights below**
 - Requests to NDCA re water quality of the Vermilion River

- i. Increase Onaping Lake drawdown in low flow months to dilute phosphorous loading.
 - ii. Extend Ramsay Lake Algae Watch to VR shoreline residents,
 - iii. Add VR and connecting lakes to the Clean Water Act
 - iv. Develop a plan to reduce the source water risk for the VR
- c. **Finance:** Balance of \$645.11
- d. **Meeting and Tour of Sudbury Wastewater Treatment Facility – Attached as Addendum 3 – Highlights Below**
 - Effluent discharge targets and internal limits are well below MOE guidelines of 1 mg/L
 - Use of Lively tunnel during heavy rain events has reduced number of bypass events.
 - Phosphorous discharges are normally below MOE limit of 0.5 mg/L, even in low runoff months like September.
 - VRS advocates increasing the number of by-law enforcement officers (currently one) as a more effective way to move forward on illegal downspout hook-ups and decrease number of bypass events.
- e. **Strategic Planning Committee Meeting – Attached as Addendum – Highlights Below**
 - Established a Vision, Scope and a six phase plan to make the lower Vermilion River water quality safe for drinking, bathing, fishing and sauna.
- f. **Biodiversity Committee**
 - Request for more SARS animal sightings – pictures, along with date of siting would be very helpful & could also be displayed on VRS website. Siting must be documented with date & location – GPS coordinates would be helpful – along with picture if possible. Send to info@VermilionRiverStewards.ca .

3. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

- a. **Dam Proposals**
 - Currently none of the Xeneca Environmental Reports (ER) has included provisions for decommissioning. Should propose a private member bill to include these provisions.
 - Three of Xeneca’s Environmental Reports issued so far were very lacking and are awaiting Minister of MOE’s decision on a Part II Order Request.
 - Two dam proposals (McPherson & Cascade Falls) are in NDCA’s Level One Protection Zone.
 - After a request for unsecured documents on Xeneca’s ER’s, 117 pages were removed from Xeneca’s Serpent River ER supporting documentation. A letter was sent to the Minister of the Environment detailing this incident – Part II Elevation Requests.

- Linda will sit on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee, provided there is no gag order.

Action: Linda will pursue possibilities of a Private Members Bill through France Gelin as to address decommissioning provisions being mandatory for all hydroelectric dams – will pursue on behalf of ORA.

4. New Business

- a. The Fielding Road Industrial area water and wastewater Municipal Class EA study is underway – will increase effluent to Walden plant.
- b. A presentation to the NDCA is scheduled for Jan 19th. Focus will be on requests outlined in the letter to the NDCA above.
- c. A presentation to City Council for the Official Plan will be made on Jan 23rd. Focus will be on declaring the VR as a significant Natural Heritage Feature in order to establish a sense of pride and value to this important resource.

Action:

A Waste Water and Storm Water Forum will be scheduled in mid-February to obtain current information on status of these systems, and suggestions on how we might improve – media to be invited.

- 7. Next Meeting** – Wednesday, February 8th, 2012 at the Beaver Lake Sports & Cultural Centre.