

Minutes
Vermilion River Stewardship
Tuesday, May 8, 2013
7:00-9:30 pm
Beaver Lake Community Centre

Present: Linda Heron, Terry Little, Marc Samson, Dan Whalen, Leslie Flowers, Eija Hietaharju, Dale Kilbey, Al Stanley, Sheri Purdon, Paul Sajatovic (NDCA), Anoop Naik (NDCA)

1. Adoption of Agenda:

Moved by Dale Kilbey

Seconded by Leslie Flowers

Adopted

2. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

• **March 26, 2013**

Moved by Mark Samson

Seconded by Dale Kilbey

Adopted

3. Reports

• **Executive Report – Attached as Addendum 1**

• **Finance**

The general account has \$623.84 after receiving \$245 in memberships. The Trillium account is on track with \$26,485 with no activity in March or April.

4. Old Business

Lower Vermilion Source Water Quality Monitoring Project

- Conservation Sudbury (Paul and Anoop) presented the monthly sampling schedule for 28 sites along the Vermilion next week from Milnet to the confluence with the Spanish River. There are 11 new partners that will help with the sampling by providing boat transportation on the connecting lakes.
- Sheri will contact the partners by email and phone to let them know when to expect the sampling team. **ACTION ITEM**
- Al will accompany the team on the first sample run.
- Anoop explained that the addition of free phytoplankton analysis will allow correlation of what species are present at the various sites and the level of potential toxicity.
- Sediment sampling was discussed. The scope of this part of the project will be refined by Dale, Sheri and Linda. Linda will contact Brad Bowman who did the original Wabagishik sampling for MOE, and John Bailey of the Living with Lakes Center for resource information. **ACTION ITEM**

Blue-green Algae on Ella Lake

- Letter to Medical Officer of Health requesting signage for Blue-green Algae on Ella Lake – no response. Beaver Lake Sports and Cultural Club also sent a letter requesting signage, and their request was denied because toxin levels did not exceed the provincial standards, and locals would be aware because of media coverage that has taken place. Dan will monitor Ella and collect samples when necessary.
- GSWA is following up on working towards obtaining protection for private water intakes under the Clean Water Act. Linda will chair a Committee to

address strategies and models to achieve protection. They will look at the Lake Simcoe model, as well as other possibilities.

Vermilion River Hydro Projects

- The Green space Advisory Panel's request to the city to protect the At Soo Crossing proposed dam site has support from Jacques Barbeau.
- Linda will visit the Cedar Rapids site on May 21st with Waterpower group.
- Xeneca's Wabagishik Draft Environmental Report has many errors and omissions.
- At a recent meeting of the Walleye Club, John Casselman a retired MNR scientist stated that the effect of hydroelectric dams on fish populations and riverine ecosystems is "devastating".

Fundraising

- Membership cards were printed and distributed to members present. They are to be handed out at events and distributed to local residents to promote membership
- VRS made an application to the Lake Advisory Panel for a \$500 grant towards a promotional brochure.

5. New Business

Xstrata Zinc

- Linda, Al, Sheri and Dale met with Xstrata Zinc representatives – Brad Ryder, Corporate Affairs; and Aline Cote' – Project Director – See Meeting Notes – Addendum 2
- Exploratory phase for 2 brownfield sites – Vermilion Mine next to Vermilion Lake, and Errington Mine – at the confluence of the Whitson and Vermilion Rivers
- Xstrata Zinc will have a technical meeting with the VRS on the morning of June 12th, and the next VRS meeting will be moved to June 19th

Terry Kett's Motion - Watershed Studies

- Requesting that our members attend a Council meeting on 14th of May, to support a motion put forward by Terry Kett directing watershed studies to be completed when development impacts on lakes

Our Lakes, Rivers and Creeks: Ask a Scientist

- The "Ask a Scientist" conference put on by GSWA will feature Charles Ramcharan as a speaker. A question arose as to whether VRS should support this event in light of Charles' ethics being the reason for Linda's resignation from the Vermilion Stakeholders' Advisory Committee. Consensus was that VRS should support this event as there are two other excellent speakers, and the topics will be of relevance to our members.

Dalron Development – Bennet Lake

- The proposed Dalron development on the shores of Bennet Lake has been approved by Council - it was agreed that storm water would be directed into the Vermilion River system rather than into Bennet Lake. There will be no watershed study for this development.

The VRS AGM will be held at our October meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 19th, at the Beaver Lake Sports & Cultural Centre

Addendum 1

Vermilion River Stewardship

EXECUTIVE REPORT

8 May 2013

Report from Chair

Meetings:

- 8 April 2013 – Green Gathering
- 9 April 2013 – Strategic Planning Committee
- 10 April 2013 – GSAP Working Committee Meeting
- 13 April 2013 – Walleye Symposium – Mark Holmes Presenting
- 25 April 2013 – GSAP Meeting
- 3 May 2013 – Xstrata Zinc Meeting – Al Stanley, Sheri Johnson, Dale Kilbey & Linda Heron met with Brad Ryder, Corporate Affairs; and Aline Cote, Project Director of Errington – Vermilion Projects. Two brownfield projects located on the banks of Vermilion Lake and the Vermilion River. Will have a follow-up meeting to discuss in finer detail, and Xstrata Zinc representatives will present at an upcoming VRS meeting. See Meeting Notes attached.

Presentation:

- 8 May 2013 – Sudbury Voices – A discussion of community values and the launch of a community voice.

Correspondence:

- 16 March 2013 – Dr. Arlene King – Chief Medical Officer of Health – [Signage – Warning of Toxic Blue-green Algae](#)
- 12 April 2013 – ORA to Wynne – [Urgent Meeting Request](#)
- 26 April 2013 – ORA Comments – EBR #011-6461, [Proposed Great Lakes Protection Act](#)
- 2 May 2013 – VRS to UOIT – Re: [Lower Vermilion Source Water Quality Study](#)

Linda Heron

Addendum 2

**MEETING NOTES
VRS & XSTRATA ZINC
Errington – Vermilion Projects
Jules Restaurant, Copper Cliff
4 May 2013 – 10:30 to 12:00**

Present: **VRS** - Sheri Johnson Purdon, Al Stanley, Dale Kilbey, and Linda Heron.
Xstrata - Aline Cote, Project Director, and Brad Ryder, Corporate Affairs.

Purpose: Xstrata Zinc requested a meeting with representatives of Vermilion River Stewardship to discuss projects they are planning in the Vermilion River Watershed. Glencore & Xstrata have now joined as one.

Project: Errington – Vermilion

- Brownfield mine sites adjacent to the Vermilion River
- Feasibility study ongoing – will be completed by August 2013
- Errington originally mined 1924 to 1928
- Vermilion originally mined 1952 to 1957
- Zinc, Copper, Lead, Silver & Gold
- Some existing infrastructure will be re-used
- Ore will be trucked to a concentrator at Strathcona Complex
- \$350 million current capital cost
- Expected to create 250 direct jobs (500-600 for construction)
- Life of mine – 7 to 10 years
- Will use 147 L/min for 4 months – then 27 L/min after that
- 2,900 tons/day
- Discharge 170,000 m³/s at peak – within a year
- Have started their studies and will share all study data with VRS
- Run-off will be captured in lined ditches, and treated
- Aline assured us:
 - there will be no effluent released into the natural environment
 - water entering will be the same as water leaving operation
- Errington will be the first to be developed
- Located at confluence of Vermilion and Whitson Rivers
- Ramp will be 200 to 250 m from the river, site perimeter is 50 m from the river shore.
- Start-up scheduled for 2014 – production by 2016
- Vermilion is located near Vermilion Lake
- Vermilion will begin after Errington is closed down.

Notes:

- VRS emphasized that Xstrata will be part of our community and must be a responsible and contributing member.

- Should be considered in the Water Management Plan
- Aline will supply us with digital copies of the hand-outs
- Will let us know if we can post hand-outs on our website

Questions for Xstrata Zinc:

- What will be the pH and temperature of the water being returned to the river?
- What is your water management plan?
- When will dewatering occur?
- What is the zone of influence for this project?
- VRS is requesting to
 - See a 3D model of the proposed concentrating containment structure.
 - Visit the site once construction begins.
 - See how and where the transportation of the concentrate will occur.
 - Have access to the full list of studies to be conducted at both sites?

Next Meeting:

- Will try to meet again in mid-June at Beaver Lake Sports & Cultural Club.
- Will also present at one of our meetings to inform our members of the project.
- VRS would like to speak to their experts on effluent, containment, treatment, temperature, ph, and water usage.