

**Minutes of Meeting
Vermilion River Stewardship**

Wednesday, 8 October 2014

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Beaver Lake Sports & Cultural Club, 55 Club Road, Worthington, ON

**Present: Linda Heron, Sheri Purdon, Terry Little, Erik Oja, Ron Basso, Marc Samson,
Lesley Flowers, Marte Holouka**

Regrets: Dale Kilbey, Eija Hietaharju

1. Motion to Adopt Agenda with ORA AGM & EBR Workshop item added to New Business
Moved by Sheri Purdon
Seconded by Lesley Flowers **Carried**

2. Adoption of 10 September 2014 - Minutes of Meeting
Moved by Mark Samson
Seconded by Ron Oja **Carried**

3. Reports – Addendum 1

• **Executive – Chair**

- Linda reported on the combined ORA AGM and EBR workshop being held at Nipissing University in North Bay
- Election of the ORA executive being held in the AM (see New Business for date and times)
- Guest Speaker at 1:00 pm: Deputy Minister of the Environment
- \$30 registration fee covers lunch and all incidentals, details in e-mails by flyer, Sheri may attend, transport available one way only

• **Finance – Joint presentation by Chair, Secretary and Treasurer**

- Chair purchasing Printer and Projector as per budget, will submit bills for reimbursement or payment as they are received
- **VRS Balance: \$ 1 419.94**
- **Project Balance: \$43 752.73**

• **Constitution Committee**

- The work of this Committee and the report is deferred at this time

Motion to accept Reports: Terry Little

Seconded: Marc Samson

Carried

4. New Business

• **ORA AGM & EBR Workshop**

- 1 Nov. @ 10:00 am; 1 to 2:30 for EBR workshop – Nipissing University

• **Sewage Bypass Alert – City Council Motion**

- MOECC is currently considering an EBR application for review on sewage reporting by Lake Ontario Waterkeeper
- ORA also submitted a letter to MOECC in support of this application
- Sent an email to Nick Benkovich and copied to MOECC & Jacques Barbeau
 - 13 & 14 April 2014 - 262,999 cubic metres bypassed
 - 15th of May 2014 - 59,778 cubic metres bypassed
- Highlighted the public health & safety issue - the public should be notified immediately of a significant bypass
- Jacques supports our request and asked the Chair to draft a Motion to be presented to Council for approval – Addendum 2

- Jacques will first make notice of Motion at Council
- The Motion will go to Council to be voted on the following week
- All are encouraged to attend to show our support
- Lesley will rally GSWA members to attend as well
- **Errington – Vermilion Mine – Project Changes**
 - Xstrata Nickel is now Glencore
 - Significantly changed scope of the project
 - Errington and Vermilion projects will be developed concurrently
 - Resource extraction expanded from 2900 to 4500 tons/day
 - 11,000,000 tons rather than 8,000,000
 - Ore will be milled on site
 - Bermed tailings pond
 - Federal EA probably not out until late 2015
 - Development starting in 2016
 - Aline Cote considers our group to be very knowledgeable and wants to be sure we are aware of the changes before they become public
 - Chair will reschedule a presentation

5. Old Business

- **Lower Vermilion Source Water Quality Monitoring Project – Update**
 - CS said last of sample results by mid-November – excludes UOIT data
 - Collated data, graphs, interpretation, description & report to VRS by 15 January 2015
 - Anoop will arrange for 3rd party review and validation of data
 - Chair plans to go out on next sample run to take pictures for report
- **KGHM Grant Application**
 - Submitted 3-year grant application on 30 September
 - No changes to project
 - Conservation Sudbury & UOIT increased costs
 - 1st Year - \$81,611, 2nd year - \$83,361, 3rd year - \$70,254
 - Total grant application - \$235,226
 - In-kind Contribution by VRS & Partners - \$65,400
 - Sarah Antonioni has acknowledged receipt and is now processing application
- **Wabagishik Rapids – Update**
 - Chair made arrangements to visit the public file again on 28 October
 - Xeneca has not met requirements of the Class EA on any ERs to date
- **GSWA Fundraiser**
 - Comedy Night fundraiser - 5 March 2015 at the Caruso Club
 - Tickets @ \$25
 - Table \$250 for 10 – how many tables do we want
 - Looking for sponsors, donations and ticket sales
- **Eurasian Milfoil**
 - Progress of construction of self propelled cutter to address milfoil infestation discussed by Erik Oja
 - Chair stressed importance of catching any clippings when cutting and observation of individual property rights of owners as well as permits
- **Membership**
 - Need someone to look after canvassing for membership renewal
 - Sheri volunteered
- **Tour of Lorne Falls Hydroelectric Dam**
 - Chair will call in to Carolyn Hunt to reschedule

6. Next Meeting – 12 November 2014, Beaver Lake Sports & Cultural Club

Addendum 1
Vermilion River Stewardship
EXECUTIVE REPORT
8 October 2014

Report from Chair

Meetings:

- 22 September 2014 – Met with Sheri to go over KGHM Grant Application
- 24 September 2014 – Private Drinking Water Committee
- 25 September 2014 – Green Space Advisory Panel Meeting
- 1 October 2014 – Good Green Town Hall – Candidate Forum

Correspondence:

- 30 September 2014 – VRS to KGHM - Grant Application
- 25 September 2014 – VRS to Nick Benkovich – Re: Sewage Overflow/Bypasses into Vermilion River watershed
- 3 October 2014 – Draft Sewage Action Alert - Motion and Model to Jacques
- 3 October 2014 – ORA to MOECC – EBR Application for Review (14EBR004.R) of Alternative Bypass Reporting Procedures

Linda Heron

Addendum 2

Consideration of a Sewage Bypass Alert

WHEREAS the City's wastewater infrastructure includes 13 wastewater systems, 10 wastewater treatment plants, 4 sewage treatment lagoons, 68 lift stations and 793 km of sewers that can release partially treated and untreated effluent into the City of Greater Sudbury's lakes and rivers during malfunctions and/or heavy rain events;

AND WHEREAS extreme rain events, along with illegal downspout hookups, and extraneous inflow and infiltration of stormwater have placed increasing pressure on Sudbury wastewater treatment facilities to fully treat effluent before it is released into the environment, and can result in bypasses and overflows to occur;

AND WHEREAS sewage bypass and overflow events can contaminate receiving lake and river water quality and place the health and safety of those who have private water intakes and/or use it for recreation at risk;

AND WHEREAS the City of Sudbury Water/Wastewater services are actively working to remediate illegal downspout hookups and extraneous inflow and infiltration of stormwater;

AND WHEREAS there must be measures in place to notify the public when bypass and overflow events occur;

AND WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury places public health and safety as one of its highest priorities;

AND WHEREAS we have committed to maintaining honest and open communication, and creating a climate of trust and innovation;

AND WHEREAS the City of Kingston and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change have already developed an effective working sewage action alert model to follow;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Greater Sudbury implement a Sewage Action Alert system, based on the City of Kingston's model, to alert the public and downstream water users in real time of any potential risk to water quality and/or their health and safety;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT communication of this decision will be made to the Premier, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and also published in the local newspaper/s.

MODEL SEWAGE BYPASS ALERT

City of Greater Sudbury issues Sewage Bypass Alert to advise caution in water use: lower Junction Creek and the lower Vermilion River system

The City of Greater Sudbury has called a Sewage Bypass Alert to make water users in Sudbury aware of risks of water pollution from the Sudbury WWTF on lower Junction Creek at Fielding Road, including the lower Vermilion River and its connecting lakes all the way out to the Spanish River. This alert is in effect until further notice.

During a Sewage Bypass Alert

- Sudbury residents are advised to avoid contact with river and lake water in the impacted area.
- Residents who have come into contact with contaminated water and experience mild gastrointestinal discomfort, rash, or other symptoms, please inform Sudbury District Health Unit by calling 705-XXX-XXXX. If symptoms are serious, residents should first consult a medical professional.

The City of Greater Sudbury is issuing this alert to protect public health and safety. An alert is called when there has been a sewage bypass or overflow at one of Sudbury's wastewater treatment plants. Sewage discharges may contain bacteria, chemicals, and other contaminants that pose a risk to human health. An alert remains in effect for 48 hours after the bypass has ended. This is City of Sudbury's XXX Sewage Bypass Alert of 2014.

We provide excellent access to quality municipal services and leadership in the social, environmental and economic development of the City of Greater Sudbury. Greater Sudbury is 3,267 square kilometres in area, making it the geographically largest municipality in Ontario and second largest in Canada. Greater Sudbury is considered a city of lakes, containing 330 lakes.

For information on non-emergency City services and programs, Sudbury residents, businesses and visitors can dial 311, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Media Contact
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