Vermilion River Stewardship
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, 12 November 2014
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Beaver Lake Sports & Cultural Club, 55 Club Road, Worthington, ON

Present: Marc Samson, Terry Little, Ron Basso, Byron Basso, Linda Heron, Helen Makela, Ken Makela, Erik Oija, Brad Ryder, James Cormier, Stephen Kaufman

Regrets: Sheri Purdon, Eija Hietaharju, Dale Kilbey, Marte Holouka

1. **Adoption of Agenda**
   Motion to adopt Agenda: Ron Basso
   Seconded: Marc Samson   **CARRIED**

2. **Errington-Vermillion Mine Project – Presentation by Glencore:**
   Brad Ryder and James Cormier, Golder; and Stephen Kaufman, Golder Associates
   - Stephen is the lead for hydrology and baseline data
   - James is in the process of closing the Brunswick Mine, and at the same time working to get this project off the ground
   - Reaching out to VRS before news goes out to the media
   - A significant change to the scope of the projects
   - Zinc is in demand as there is a deficit of availability
   - Glencore's decision driven by most economical approach
   - Both mines will go into operation concurrently now
   - Increase from 2900 to 4500 t/day
   - 4500 t/d has triggered the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act
   - Build in 2018 or 2019 - 7 years of operation in total
   - Concentrator and a 32 hectare tailings containment pond at Errington
   - 10,000,000 tons of tailings and waste rock
   - Treated tailing water will be released into the Vermilion River
   - Tailings containment area will be created in a wetland that drains to Whitson creek
   - Water on top of tailings to cap at closing
   - Draft Project Description by early January – 60 day comment period
   - Follow up with Terms of Reference, and then Environmental Report
   - Public and First Nation consultation throughout the process
   - With milling and concentrator processes on site there will be fewer trucks on the road than in the previous design where all the ore would have been trucked to Onaping
   - Road between Errington – Vermilion mines is a partially paved private road, and partly public, which will truck ore from the smaller deposit at Vermilion to the mill at Errington
   - 450 to 500 direct jobs
   - Hydrology and baseline study will encompass upstream north of Onaping/Vermilion confluence to about 2 km downstream of Whitson River confluence with the Vermilion
   - Water taken for processing:

- 150 m^3/hr for Errington
- 14 m^3/hr for Vermilion
- If more ore is discovered Glencore would not proceed without additional tailings disposal
- Enough freeboard will be built into the tailings pond dam to withstand three times the most severe weather event in Northern Ontario history which was the Timmins storm in 1961 that saw 140mm of rain in 12 hours. In southern Ontario in 1954, hurricane Hazel rained 210mm in 30 hours
- Concerns were raised about the possibility of phosphate contamination from unused explosives and the effluent treatment plant's ability to remove phosphate Stephen Kaufman said he would get back to VRS as he was unprepared for this question

Action Item – Follow up with Stephen on plant's ability to remove phosphates

- The tailings pond would not be able to support aquatic vegetation once the mine is closed but the water maintained on top by the dam would prevent oxidation of the tailings
- In Ontario a mining company must provide a closure plan and funding sufficient enough to close the mine and provide for maintenance of the site in perpetuity before development commences
- A jarosite pond at the Kidd Metallurgical site in Timmins was covered with a 60 mm polyurethane liner as part of a remedial and reclamation project.

Action Item - What is the difference to this site?

- *Forgotten Mines of Chelmsford* – a good book about the history of the mines

3. **Adoption of 8 October 2014 - Minutes of Meeting - Deferred**

4. **Reports - Deferred**
   - **Executive** – Linda
   - **Finance** – Linda
   - **Constitution Committee**

5. **New Business - Deferred**
   - ORA Membership Renewal

6. **Old Business**
   - **Sewage Bypass Alert – City Council Motion**
     - ORA wrote a letter to MOECC in support of Lake Ontario Waterkeeper's Application for review under the EBR to look at sewage bypass alerts in Toronto and requested it be applied across the province
     - Message sent to Nick Benkovitch about the high volume wastewater sewage bypasses and copied Jacques
     - Jacques asked me to draft up a motion for a sewage bypass alert
     - City Council passed the Motion with small amendments on 4 November
     - Alert will follow the Kingston Model – public notified through real-time website entries – consider Twitter notifications
     - Jacques will continue to support VRS and the GSWA and help with our water related issues and concerns
   - **Lower Vermilion Source Water Quality Monitoring Project – Update**
     - Linda attended the final sampling run on McCharles Lake
     - Took lots of photos for our final report
     - Carrie Strangway has picked up the final phytoplankton samples

- o We are on track to meet our schedule – will be intense after January 1
- **Wabagishik Rapids Part II Order request – Update**
  - o Visited the MOE Public File on 29 October 2014
  - o MOECC will be responding to VRS within the month
    - Thinking of setting up a committee to move things forward
    - Mercury assessment has been done
  - o Xeneca is pushing hard to move forward on Wabagishik
  - o MOECC are looking for ways to move project forward
  - o MOECC are aware that Xeneca is having financial challenges
  - o Met with CELA lawyer at a Legal Toolkit workshop – was interested in our case
  - o Suggested making application to CELA for Legal Aid to represent ORA – 2 possibilities
    - Wabagishik Proposal
    - Challenging the Waterpower Class EA for all waterpower development
  - o Made application on 6 November – CELA response letter is in progress
- **KGHM Grant Application**
  - o Sarah Antonioni said team's response was not encouraging as it would take a large percentage of their annual budget
  - o I wrote back to ask them to consider reducing our application to 1 year, and the potential of cutting out the UOIT contribution
  - o Sarah will let her team know
- **Membership Renewal**
  - o Memberships must be renewed before the AGM for voting privileges

7. **Next Meeting** – AGM - 14 January 2015, Beaver Lake Sports & Cultural Club