

MINUTES

Vermilion River Stewardship

Wednesday, 14 October 2015

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Living with Lakes Centre, 935 Ramsey Lake Rd.

Present: Linda Heron, Terry Little, Byron Basso, Marc Samson, Sheri Purdon, Eija Hietaharju, Al Stanley, Marte Holouka, Ray Bennett, Tom Price, Tim Sauv , Norma Sauv , Michael Vagnini

Regrets: Ron Basso

1. Adoption of Agenda

Motion to adopt by Marc Samson

Seconded by Byron Basso

Carried

2. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting: 13 May 2015

Motion to adopt by Terry Little

Seconded by Marte Holouka

Carried

3. Presentation (via remote link)

Land Use Impacts on Vermilion River Water Quality

By Carrie Strangway (Msc Candidate) and Dr. Andrea Kirkwood

University of Ontario Institute of Technology

- This was an interim report on the phytoplankton and chemical analysis of two years (2013 and 2014) of water sampling from 23 sites on the Vermilion River (VR) watershed.
- Many of the samples exceeded the Provincial drinking water quality guidelines (long and short term) for a range of elements.
- The Junction Creek sidearm sample sites had the greatest concentrations of phosphorus which correlates with the Sudbury waste water treatment plant (WWTP) recorded dumping of the majority (~80%) of the phosphorus load of the 11 WWTP's and sewage lagoons on the VR watershed.
- There were unexplained chemical anomalies upstream of the public WWTP on Junction Creek but, upon investigation, industrial WWTP's were discovered that could account for the anomalies.
- There is a positive correlation between increased road density and chlorine concentration in the water.
- There is a negative (good) correlation between forest density and chemical concentrations in the water.
- Ella Lake has an anomalous abundance of blue-green algae that tend to thrive in low flow conditions.
- Green algae can outcompete blue-green in conditions with high phosphate so there is a concern that, if controls are placed on green algae, blue-green algae growth would be encouraged.
- Dr. Kirkwood was asked if consumption of fish from McCharles Lake on the Junction Creek sidearm would be a concern due to metal contamination. She responded that she was unaware of any study but that this would be a good opportunity for a fish tissue study.
- Marc Samson volunteered that a previous MOECC study on Wabagishik Lake limited fish consumption from that body of water which is in the VR watershed downstream of McCharles. (Fish consumption restrictions vary depending on the size and type of fish, as well as the type of contaminant.)

4. Reports

- **Executive** – Addendum 1
Motion to accept by Sheri Purdon
Seconded by Byron Basso **Carried**
- **Finance** – Addendum 2
Motion to accept by Mark Samson
Seconded by Sheri Purdon **Carried**

5. Old Business

- **VRS River Clean-up**
 - Great success over 30 volunteers attended
 - Thanks to Basso's for the Barbecue
 - No reports of poison ivy
 - Large amount of trash picked up
 - Should look at expanding the scope next year
- **Wabagishik Rapids – Update**
 - Looking promising – MOECC rejected the Blanch River ER
 - Xeneca appears to be out of operation
- **Lower Vermilion Source Water Quality Monitoring Project – Update**
 - One more round of sampling to be done
 - Carolyn Hunt from Vale suggested they could be approached for funding to continue sampling.
 - Strategic Planning Committee will meet with Conservation Sudbury in November to discuss details of meeting the March deadline for OTF report. **Action Item**

6. New Business

- **Hwy 17 Horse farm**
 - Guy Despatie is concerned that the farm is polluting a stream flowing into a bay near his camp on Wabagishik Lake
 - Nutrients seem to be feeding milfoil in the bay
 - Linda contacted the MOECC who said that they could only act if there was evidence of e-coli but it was doubtful that there would be any evidence because sunlight (ultra violet light) destroys e-coli.
 - MOECC wouldn't investigate – likely wouldn't exceed bacteria limits
 - Several Acts that regulate agricultural related issues – Ontario Water Resources Act, Nutrient Management Act, Trade Management Act, Provincial Water Quality Objectives – all have strict guidelines that determine when there an infraction has occurred
 - Unless there has been recent construction on the barn or barn yard, well, etc., animals are causing soil erosion, siltation, standing in deep mud or other extreme conditions, there isn't much that can be done – conditions must contravene one of the Acts
 - It is doubtful the horse farm is contravening any of the Acts with the number of horses present on the site, as well as the condition of the field
 - Chances of E-coli being present at high enough levels to contravene one of the Acts is slim
 - E-coli is neutralized in the presence of ultra-violet light, so the sun

- will have killed it off
 - The wetland's nutrient contribution could have a much greater impact on water quality than the horse farm
 - The trailer park will most likely still be having an impact on the bay, as well as the 9 upstream waste water treatment facilities
 - Anoop said he would take water samples upstream and downstream of the farm to confirm. **Action Item**
- **LAP Grant**
 - LAP Stewardship Grant application in amount of \$500 was approved
 - Grant was for a sediment sample on Simon Lake in conjunction with Queens University but no student was available this year.
 - Linda will contact LAP to see if we can repurpose the grant or whether we will need to return the grant. **Action Item**
- **Boat Wakes and Bank Erosion**
 - Marte Houlika raised a concern about power boat wakes causing riverbank erosion near Grassy Lake
 - Canada Shipping Act: Boating Restriction Regulations
 - Regulates speeds near shores, and maximum horsepower regulations in certain areas.
 - Fines up to \$500 or 6 months in jail
 - It is illegal to exceed 10 km/h (6 mp/h) within 30m or 100ft wide – does not apply in rivers under 100m (300ft) wide – nor in the case waterskiing.
 - Another exception is for a boat pulling a water skier away from or landing a perpendicular to the shore
 - Other suggestions included posting "No Wake" signs

7. Next Meeting – 11 November 2015

Addendum 1

Vermilion River Stewardship

EXECUTIVE REPORT

14 October 2015

Report from Chair

Meetings:

- 25 May 2015 – OTF Information Session, Sudbury
- 15 June 2015 – GSWA Board Meeting
- 25 June 2015 – Meeting with Amanda St. Pierre, Re: MaxLight Solar Farm
- 30 June 2015 – Meeting with Guy Despatie, Re: Horse Farm Run-off
- 9 July 2015 – PDWC Meeting, Living with Lakes Centre
- 15 July 2015 – Strategic Planning Committee - project meeting and presentation by Carrie Strangway, Re: Phytoplankton Study Results
- 18 September 2015 – Water Walk
- 18 September 2015 – Living with Lakes Centre, Media Set-up
- 21 September 2015 – GSWA General Meeting
- 23 September 2015 – Rethink Green – NationBuilder
- 25 September 2015 – Living with Lakes Centre, Media Set-up
- 2 October 2015 – Conservation Authorities Act – Consultation Session, Sudbury

Presentation:

- 2 June 2015 – RBC Blue Water Day

Correspondence:

- 8 September 2015 – Received Living with Lakes \$500 grant

Linda Heron

	VERMILION RIVER STEWARDSHIP				
	Income - Expenses - Budget				
	Dec 31 2014	2014 Budget	Dec 31 2015	2015 Budget	Grant Bal.
Revenue					
Contributions	75.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	
Membership Dues	665.00	915.00	295.00	800.00	
Grants - Other	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	
Fundraising	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Interest	1.21	2.00	0.00	0.00	
Other	126.21	0.00	101.70	0.00	
Sub-Total	867.42	917.00	916.70	800.00	\$ -
Project Income					\$ 103,200.00
2012 - December					\$ 72,900.00
2013 - June	0.00	0.00	0.00		\$ 48,600.00
2013 - December	0.00	0.00	0.00		\$ 24,300.00
2014 - June	24,300.00	24,300.00	0.00		\$ 24,300.00
KGHM International - Donation			15,000.00	15,000.00	
Total Grant Proceeds	24,300.00	24,300.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	\$ -
Total Revenue	25,167.42	25,217.00	15,916.70	15,800.00	
Operating Expenses					
Office	21.48	150.00	0.00	100.00	
Website	157.00	111.00	146.32	160.00	
Honorarium	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	
Membership Fees	125.00	120.00	20.00	120.00	
Meeting Expenses	130.80	100.00	326.70	250.00	
Miscellaneous	126.71	0.00	101.70	0.00	
Total Operating	560.99	581.00	594.72	630.00	
Project expenses					
Labs - Sampling	24,501.80	25,000.00	0.00	16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
Conservation Sudbury - Technicians	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	5,691.00	\$ 5,691.00
Travel Expenses	1,140.00	4,200.00	0.00	5,670.00	\$ 5,670.00
Operating Expenses	1,178.43	4,400.00	918.00	2,350.00	\$ 1,432.00
Equipment	1,474.03	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Total Project Expenses	43,294.26	48,600.00	918.00	31,711.00	\$ 30,793.00
Total Expenses	43,855.25		1,512.72		
Current period Surplus/Deficit	-18,687.83		14,403.98		
Previous period Surplus/Deficit	37,902.01		19,214.18		
Surplus/Deficit	19,214.18		33,618.16		
Actual Project Deficit/Surplus	\$17,629.24		\$31,711.24		
Actual VRS Deficit/Surplus	\$1,584.94		\$1,906.92		