

**MINUTES OF MEETING
VERMILION RIVER STEWARDSHIP
GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, 2 May 2018 – 7:00 to 9:00 pm
Beaver Lake Sports & Cultural Club – 45 Club Road, Worthington, ON**

Present: Ron Basso, Sheri Johnson, Linda Heron, Marc Samson, John Reid, Marc Fournier, Margaret LaFramboise, Helen Makela, Jodi Armstrong, Eric Myre, Debbie Somek, Tom Price, Michael Vagnini, Bob Nedjelski, David Gattoni, Rita Gattoni, Darlene King, Ray Bennett, Ken Makela, Andy Punkkinen, Antonella Bellrose, Lesley Flowers, James Whissell, Laura St Amand

Regrets: Marte Holouka, Betsy Little, Byron Basso, Terry Little, Dale Kilbey

Note: Margaret LaFramboise will stand in for Betsy Little until she can return.

1. Vermilion River Access – moved to top of Agenda for Councillor

- Councillor Michael Vagnini and Tom Price attended
 - There is a temporary moratorium on parking tickets for the Ella Lake and Wabagishik Lake boat launches
 - Has a motion before Council to collect data on all water access only properties to look at the big picture
 - Will look into an exemption and parking permits for those who have camps on the lakes
- **Improvements in Signage**
 - Consensus that signage wouldn't stop illegal parking
- **Wabagishik Road – John Reid, Helen & Ken Makela**
 - John & Linda Met with Claude LaCroix back in January
 - Lacroix is consulting with family to consider having the property surveyed and sold

Action: John Reid will set up a new meeting or inquire into what the family has decided.

- **Ella Lake Road – Andy Punkkinen**
 - Roads Committee has requested a meeting with Paul Leale (MNR) to discuss a remedy to parking issues
 - Linda was informed that Joe Rocca and Paul Leale want to meet without the Committee first

Action: Linda to forward Paul Leale's email response to Councillor Vagnini.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved to adopt by Marc Samson, seconded by Ron Basso.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

- **10 January 2018 - General Meeting**

- Action item follow-up:
 - Met with LaCroix
 - Arranged for Bob Florean to speak at our AGM
 - Haven't called a Strategic Planning Committee Meeting – too busy

Moved to adopt by John Reid, seconded by Helen Makela

CARRIED

- **28 March 2018 - Special General Meeting**

- Action items for follow-up:
 - Councillor was to arrange for additional no-parking signage to be placed at Wabagishik and Ella Lake Roads
 - Linda & Councillor awaiting MNR response on meeting between City staff, MNR & VRS.

- Linda & Councillor awaiting MNRF response on meeting between City staff, MNRF & VRS.

Moved to adopt by Marc Fournier, seconded by Marc Samson

CARRIED

4. Reports

- **Executive – Addendum 1**

- 4 EBR postings, comments on Junction Creek Subwatershed Study, proposed federal Impact Assessment Act, our 2017 Annual Report, and comments on Part II Order Request Guidance
- GSWA General Meeting – Sheri and Chair made a presentation of the VRS Water Quality Study

Moved to adopt by Marc Fournier, seconded by Sheri Johnson

CARRIED

- **Finance – Addendum 2**

- Exceeded our budget in memberships by \$75
- Paid out \$200 to Beaver Lake Club for use of Club for our meetings
- Carrying Grant money over: \$500.00

Moved to adopt by Marc Samson, seconded by Ron Basso

CARRIED

5. Old Business

- **Wabagishik Generating Station Site Visit**

- 26 February 2018 Meeting Notes – Addendum 3
- Chair followed up - called Bruce Richards, MNRF and was told WMP has been signed by Vale & MNRF – not released yet
- WMP will be listed on the Environmental Registry once it's released
- Chair will likely be on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the WMP
- Encouraging they aren't changing the operating strategy
- Vale encouraged VRS to stay in touch throughout the project and can have another tour within the project timeline to see their progress
- Photos and Meeting Notes on our website Blog

- **Vermilion River Clean-up – Ella Lake - 26 May 2018, 10:00 to 3:00**

- Gear: life jackets, lawn chairs, dress warm
- Lion's Club donating \$100 for food.
- Boats: Bassos & Makelas

Action: Chair will contact the Pomerleaus and Whalens to see if they will take participants out to clean-up Ella Lake.

Action: Ron Basso will arrange for the food - hamburgers and sausages.

Action: Sheri will contact the city for supplies (garbage bags, gloves, safety vests and garbage pickup).

6. New Business

- **Water/Wastewater Master Plan**

- Anyone is welcome to make comments on the plan (document 7)
- Chair is reviewing and working on comments
- Comments are due May 16

Action: Chair to send links for registering for Sewage Bypass Alerts.

7. Round Table Discussion

- Inquiry about if the pickerel eggs are taken from Wabagishik Lake, and whether the fry is released back into Wabagishik Lake

Action: The Chair will check with Rolly Frappier to enquire about where the eggs come from and where the fry are released.

8. Next Meeting: 13 June 2018, 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Beaver Lake Sports and Cultural Club

**Addendum 1
Vermilion River Stewardship
EXECUTIVE REPORT
2 May 2018**

Report from Chair

Meetings:

- 12 January 2018 – John R and Linda H met with Claude Lacroix
- 15 January 2018 – GSWA online Board Meeting
- 16 January 2018 – Great Lakes Protection Alliance online meeting
- 17 January 2018 – ORA online Board Meeting
- 18 January 2018 – Drinking Water Protection Committee – GSWA
- 30 January 2018 – GSWA online Board Meeting
- 1 February 2018 – GSWA online Board Meeting
- 5 February 2018 – GSWA General Meeting
- 26 February 2018 – VRS met with Vale – Wabagishik GS Spillway Project
- 27 February 2018 – Webinar – Engineering Effective Events
- 28 February 2018 – Great Lakes Protection Alliance online meeting
- 1 March 2018 – Drinking Water Protection Committee – GSWA
- 1 March 2018 – Webinar – Engaging Email Campaigns
- 16 March 2018 – John R & Linda H met with Michael Vagnini & Tom Price
- 19 March 2018 – GSWA AGM
- 21 March 2018 – Drinking Water Protection Committee – GSWA
- 21 March 2018 – ORA online Board Meeting
- 28 March 2018 – VRS AGM
- 3 April 2018 – ORA Funding Committee Meeting
- 4 April 2018 – Roads Committee online Meeting
- 5 April 2018 – Drinking Water Protection Committee – GSWA
- 13 April 2018 – Breakfast meeting with Dianne Saxe – Environmental Commissioner of Ontario – GSWA
- 17 April 2018 – Drinking Water Protection Committee – GSWA
- 1 May 2018 – ORA Funding Committee Meeting

Correspondence:

- 20 February 2018 – EBR 013-1839 & 1840 – ORA - Clean Water Act
- 23 February 2018 – City response to VRS Comments – Water/Wastewater MP
- 7 March 2018 – EBR 013-1661 – Protecting Water for Future Generations
- 28 March 2018 – VRS Annual Report - 2017
- 2 April 2018 – Chair awarded Freshwater Heroes Award by Freshwater Future
- 6 April 2018 – ORA submission on the draft federal Impact Assessment Act
- 7 April 2018 – EBR 013-1817 – ORA - Watershed Planning Guidance
- 12 April 2018 – EBR 013-2099 – Updating the Part II Order Request
- 16 April 2018 – VRS comments on Junction Creek Subwatershed Study

Presentations:

- **9 April 2018 – GSWA General Meeting - Presentation of VRS Water Quality Study, by Sheri Johnson and Linda Heron**

**Linda Heron
Chair**

Vermilion River Stewardship Income - Expenses - Budget				
	Dec 31 2017	2017 Budget	Dec 31 2018	2018 Budget
Revenue				
Contributions	150.00	0.00	5.00	0.00
Membership Dues	400.00	800.00	575.00	500.00
Grants - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Project income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fundraising	125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub-Total	675.00	800.00	580.00	500.00
Project Income				
2012 - December				
2013 - June	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2013 - December	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2014 - June	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
KGHM International - Donation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Grant Proceeds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Revenue	675.00	800.00	580.00	500.00
Operating Expenses				
Office	30.00	100.00	7.50	50.00
Website	431.72	200.00	0.00	230.00
Honorarium	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Membership Fees	220.00	120.00	0.00	120.00
Meeting Expenses	180.80	250.00	200.00	100.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
Total Operating	862.52	1,170.00	207.50	1,000.00
Project expenses				
Labs - Sampling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Conservation Sudbury - Technicians	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Travel Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Operating Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Project Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expenses	862.52		207.50	
Current period Surplus/Deficit	(187.52)		372.50	
Previous period Surplus/Deficit	2,166.26		1,978.74	
Actual Project Deficit/Surplus	\$152.24		\$152.24	
Actual VRS Deficit/Surplus	\$1,826.50		\$2,199.00	
Surplus/Deficit	1,978.74		2,351.24	

**Vermilion River Stewardship
Meeting Notes
Wabagishik Generating Station
Spillway Replacement Project – Vale**

Monday, 26 February 2018

9:00 am to 11:45 pm

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

VRS: Linda Heron, Sheri Johnson, Ron Basso, Marc Samson, Byron Basso, John Reid, Lesley Flowers, Debbie Somek, Mike McMahon

Vale: Allison Merla, Carolyn Hunt, Danica Pagnutti, Al Gereghy, Denis Duguay, Jim Jackson, Steve Fournier

Purpose:

Vale provided Vermilion River Stewardship members with an onsite tour of the Wabagishik Generating Station, including the spillway area and power house. After the tour we met at the Beaver Lake Sports & Cultural Club and Vale gave a presentation to inform VRS of the history, safety concerns, proposed new design, and supporting works and studies.

Background:

- Vale has 48 dams connected with their 4 power generating stations, producing approximately 20% of the power required for their mining operation
- Existing dam was built in 1908 by Lorne Power Company
- Main dam with spillway originally had 6 x 10' stop log openings and a log flume
- Modified over the years with ogees and replacing 2 of the stop log openings at the south end with a vertical-lift 'waste gate'
- Water levels and flows at all 4 facilities are monitored and controlled from Vale's Copper Cliff site
- The concrete structure shows significant signs of aging with cracking and checking
- Dam safety is the project driver - the integrity of the concrete structure raises safety and liability concerns, so Vale is proposing to replace the old spillway and gate structure and rebuild a new structure immediately downstream
- Operating strategy, water levels and flows will remain as is

Project:

- All design options were reviewed against goals to
 - Maintain current conditions and operations with no changes to water management or water levels upstream or downstream of the GS
 - It could pass 1:100 year flood and not fail under the 1:1000 year event
- Preferred spillway option was identified:
 - 3 x 17' vertical gates and 1 x 17' flap gate to be built immediately downstream of the existing spillway
 - Upstream stop logs

Proposed Project Timeline:

- 2017: Engineering Options, Supporting Studies and Initial Project Application to MNRF
- 2018: Access & Laydown & Detailed Eng., MNRF and NDCA authorizations and approvals
- 2019: Log Chute Removal – ½ spillway, coffer dams, erosion & sediment control

- 2020: Old spillway removal – ½ spillway
- 2021: West gravity dam, old waste gate removal.
- 2019 - 2021: MNRF Class EA, LRIA, DFO, NDCA & Transport Canada permits & approvals.

Studies:

- **Hydrodynamic modeling**
 - Water levels, flow regimes, sediment transport, Walleye spawning habitat
 - There is predicted to be very little change in the hydrodynamic impact of the new dam because operating strategy will stay the same, and the new dam will be immediately downstream of the old dam
- **Fish Community Study**
 - Kilgour & Associates completed Species at Risk and fish community study
 - Walleye spawning habitat will have minimal impact
 - Fish species: minnows, perch, pike, suckers, sunfish, bullheads
 - Characterized upstream and downstream Wabagishik Lake fish communities to fill WMP data gap and inform construction considerations
 - Electrofishing and shore work
 - Same species captured in both lake environments, silver redhorse sucker the only species that was captured downstream and not upstream
- **Species at Risk Surveys**
 - Survey program developed by MNRF
 - Basking turtle surveys – painted and snapping, no blandings
 - Barn swallow nesting – none
 - Eastern Whip-poor-will – none
 - 7 species of bats recorded
 - Foraging over wooded area, not considered roosting habitat
 - Clearing timelines recommended

It was an excellent presentation, and VRS representatives expressed appreciation for Vale's very open and inclusive approach to this proposed project!

Water Management Plan:

- Vale sent the finalized Water Management Plan to MNRF months ago and is waiting for it to be approved.

Action: Linda will contact Bruce Richards at MNRF for an estimated timeline of approval.

Next Steps:

Vale encouraged VRS to stay in touch throughout the project and perhaps we would have another tour within the project timeline to see their progress.