

MINUTES OF MEETING

Vermilion River Stewardship

Wednesday, 9 October 2019

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

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

Present: Linda Heron, Terry Little, Ron Basso, Byron Basso, Sheri Johnson, Ken Makela, Helen Makela, Marc Samson, Dale Kilbey, Margret Laframboise, Wayne Laframboise, Marita Duffy, Andy Punkkinen, Harry Sandstrom, Brenda Sandstrom, Alan Basso, Laura Basso, Aaron Basso, Jim Pomerleau, Patrick O'Neil, Norm Duffy, Tom Clark, Liz Clark, Debra Bennett, Jordan Lund (Vale), Allison Merla (Vale), Danica Pagnutti (Vale)

Regrets: John Reid, Marty Holouka, Betsy Little, Marc Fournier

1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Ron Basso

Seconded by Marc Samson

Carried

2. Keynote Speaker: Wabagishik Generating Station Upgrade – Addendum 1

Allison Merla, Advisor, Vale Environment Group, provided an update on the modifications and Environmental Assessment taking place at the Wabagishik Generating Station.

- The dam and gates are being rebuilt over three years
- Water levels will remain at the current low level until 2021
- Requests to temporarily raise the lake level will be considered
- Jim Pomerleau's request was accommodated this summer
- Lake residents are encouraged to register for email updates by sending an email to environment.ontario@vale.com or calling 705-222-8253

3. Adoption of 10 April 2019 Minutes of General Meeting

• Follow up to Action Items:

- John, Andy and Chair determined the best prospect for a parking area
- John, Andy, Colin and Chair met at Ella Road to do GPS survey
- Chair sent letters Re: Wabagishik & Ella Roads to Michael Vagnini
- Ron Basso wouldn't accept the \$100 for his family's contribution to the VR clean-up
- Helen didn't investigate the cost of Wood Duck boxes
- Chair didn't follow up on investigating the cost of Turtle Crossing signage.
- Chair delivered a cheque to Brenda Salo as a donation to the Beaver Lake Sports & Cultural Club in the amount of \$100 for our use of the Club.

Moved by Byron Basso to adopt 10 April 2019 Minutes of General Meeting

Seconded by Andy Punkkinen

Carried

4. Reports

• Executive - Addendum 2

- Letter sent to Michael Vagnini re Ella/Wabagishik road access.

Motion to adopt Executive Report by Andy Punkkinen
Seconded by Ron Basso

Carried

- **Finance – Addendum 3**

- Balance is \$2623.74
- \$100 cheque was given to Beaver Lake Sports and Culture Club
- \$100 cheque given to Ron Basso for food at river clean-up, but would not accept it – donated it back to VRS
- *\$500 of the balance is set aside for sediment core study on Simon Lake - Watershed Advisory Panel grant. (See Old Business below)*

Motion to adopt Financial Report by Dale Kilbey

Seconded by Marc Samson

Carried

- **Roads Committee VRS/CGS May 10/19 Meeting Notes – Addendum 4**

Motion to adopt 10 May 2019 Meeting Notes by Andy Punkkinen

Seconded by Dale Kilbey

Carried

4. **Old Business**

- **Wood Duck Boxes**

- Wood Duck Boxes are not feasible due to flooding on the Vermilion River from time to time

Action: Chair will check with CGS for availability of turtle crossing signs

- **Vermilion River Access**

- **Wabagishik Road**

- Waiting for response from Claude Lacroix

- **Ella Road – Andy**

- The east side of Ella Road is not feasible for a parking lot – too steep and rocky
- Michael Vagnini didn't attend the VRS meeting with City staff – see Addendum 4
- Chair met with Councillor Vagnini on 7 June and he said he would follow-up with the City
- No response from my attempts to contact him

Action: Roads Committee and Colin to complete a GPS survey on west side of Ella Road to determine how much fill and approx. cost to develop private parking lot

Action: Chair to contact Michael Vagnini for a status update on our 17 April 2019 recommendations and 10 May 2019 VRS/City meeting Re: recommendation for a short-term solution of issuing parking permits to local camp owners at Ella and Wabagishik Roads.

- **Ella Lake Water Levels**

- Jim Pomerleau made arrangements with Vale to raise water levels so they could remove their docks
- Membership was pleased and thanked Vale representatives for accommodating them

- **Lively/Walden Wastewater System**

- City is moving forward with implementing their Lively Infrastructure Upgrades

- There was an Open House on the 1st of October - Chair was away and could not attend
- Included: New watermain, storm sewer, sanitary sewer and road upgrades on several streets in Lively.

5. New Business

- **Blue-green algae**
 - Blue-green Algae bloom has cleared up
 - No instances of blue-green algae on Ella Lake
 - McCharles Lake: water sample did not confirm Blue-green Algae
 - Grassy Lake: no sample could be obtained
 - **Draft Forest Management Plan**
 - This is Stage 4 of the process
 - Draft FMP and summary are available on the web at www.ontario.ca/forestplans and at the Forest Management Company office at 311 Harrison Drive in Sudbury and online after 28 October. Contact: 705 752-5430 – ext. 23
 - If anyone is interested contact the Chair at linda@theherons.ca
 - Comment deadline is 26 December 2019
 - This could impact on the Vermilion River
 - **Poster Board at Wabagishik Road**
 - Need a place to post notices for blue-green algae and other key issues
 - A small board could be attached to the invasive species post
- Action:** Helen and Ken Makela will provide more information on the type of board that could be attached to the existing post.

6. Next Meeting - Wednesday, 13 November 2019, 7:00 pm

Addendum 2
Vermilion River Stewardship
EXECUTIVE REPORT
9 October 2019

Report from Chair:

Meetings:

- 16 April 2019 – Great Lakes Protection Act Alliance - Online Meeting
- 28 April 2019 – Ella Lake site visit for Topographic mapping
- 10 May 2019 – Modernizing Ontario’s Environmental Assessment Act – Webinar
- 10 May 2019 – VRS met with City staff regarding Ella Lake Road Access
- 16 May 2019 – Modernizing the Conservation Authorities Operations – Webinar
- 23 May 2019 - Great Lakes Protection Act Alliance - Online Meeting
- 28 May 2019 – City Council considering Climate Emergency – Council Chambers
- 7 June 2019 – Met with Michael Vagnini at his office, Re: Ella Lake Parking
- 10 June 2019 – Official Plan collaboration meeting – Laurentian University
- 9 July 2019 - Great Lakes Protection Act Alliance - Online Meeting
- 27 August 2019 – IESO Webinar – Regional Electricity Planning
- 8 October 2019 – Vale Open House – Nairn Hydroelectric Dam Upgrade - EA

Event:

- 29 June 2019 – Vermilion River – Wabagishik Lake Clean-up

Correspondence:

- 17 April 2019 – VRS to Michael Vagnini - Parking at Ella Road Boat Launch
- 17 April 2019 – VRS to Michael Vagnini - Parking at Wabagishik Road Boat Launch
- 15 May 2019 – VRS Supports City of Sudbury Declaring a Climate Emergency
- 15 May 2019 – Junction Creek Subwatershed Study and Stormwater Master Plan
- 23 May 2019 – EBR-013-5101-5102 - Modernizing the EA Program – Discussion Paper
- 17 June 2019 – Official Plan Review – Phase 2
- 27 June 2019 – Improving the Provinces Resilience to Flooding
- 29 June 2019 – Thank you letter to Whitefish District Lion’s Club for donation
- 1 July 2019 – Thank you to HiaMedia for donating our VRS River Cleanup Signs
- 4 August 2019 – Spanish & Vermilion Rivers Water Management Plan
- 10 September 2019 – Review of Parks, Open Space & Leisure Master Plan
- 14 & 15 September 2019 – Temporary Forebay Water Level Raise at Wabagishik GS

Linda Heron
Chair