



**Minutes of the meeting of the
Quinte Conservation Executive Board Meeting**

Date: January 19, 2017, 3:30 pm

Location: Joe Eberwein Room, Quinte Conservation office

Members Present: Henry Hogg, Mike Kerby, Jackie Denyes, Paul Carr, Mitch Panciuk, Allan DeWitt, James Flieler, Irene Martin, Penny Porter, Phillip Smith, John Wise, Steven Everhardus, Roger Cole, Heather Lang, Janice Maynard, Jim Dunlop, Jamie Forrester, Ray Hobson, Tom Livingston, John Hirsch

Members Absent: Sandy Fraser, Dale Grant, Carrie Smith, Norm Roberts, Peter Keizer

Also Present: Terry Murphy, Christine McClure, Brad McNevin, Lynette Lambert, Tim Trustham, Catherine Sinclair, Jennifer May-Anderson, Kirsten Geisler, Tammy Smith, Brittany Thompson, Liping Kong, Curtis Vance, Amy Dickens

Visitors: Darcy Clow (Napane Region Field Operations),

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

1.a Notice Regarding Cell Phones and Pagers

Cell phones and pagers are not permitted to be turned on during the meeting, except in an event of an emergency. If the device is to be left on, it must be announced at the beginning of the meeting.

1.b Collection of Personal Information for Board Minutes

This is addressed to anyone that is not a board member and/or staff person of Quinte Conservation: Your name will be used in the board meeting minutes and the minutes will become public information after review and approval of the board. If you are present for a delegation or hearing, the context of your presentation will be recorded in the minutes of the board meeting.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

There was no discussion.

MOTION QC 81/16

Moved By: Henry Hogg

Seconded By: Steven Everhardus

THAT, the agenda for January 19, 2017 be approved.

CARRIED

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Quinte Conservation Executive Board meeting of October 20, 2016.**

There was no discussion.

MOTION QC 82/16

Moved By: Jim Dunlop

Seconded By: Roger Cole

THAT, the minutes of the Quinte Conservation Executive Board meeting of October 20, 2016 be approved.

CARRIED

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. **Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

6. **Delegations**

There were no delegations.

7. **Review and Approval of the Section 28 Regulations and Permits**

There was no discussion.

MOTION QC 83/16

Moved By: Phillip Smith

Seconded By: Mike Kerby

THAT, the Section 28 Regulations and Permits be approved.

CARRIED

8. **Plan Review Summary**

There was no discussion.

MOTION QC 84/16

Moved By: Heather Lang

Seconded By: James Flieler

THAT, Plan Review Summary be approved.

CARRIED

9. **Budget Control**

There was no discussion.

MOTION QC 85/16

Moved By: Steven Everhardus

Seconded By: Ray Hobson

THAT, the Budget Control be approved.

CARRIED

10. Communications Report

MOTION QC 86/16

Moved By: Mike Kerby

Seconded By: John Hirsch

THAT, the Communications Report be received.

CARRIED

11. Hydro Report

Staff reported that \$51,000 worth of hydro was produced in December and the same should be produced in January after several months of no production.

Staff said the tailwater project has been completed under budget and should improve revenues.

Staff noted that an application to use money from the reserve fund to cover the loss of revenue in the summer of 2016 has been made.

Staff said they are looking into the possibility of drought insurance for the dam.

Staff noted the dam operator is nearing retirement and a backup is being trained.

A board member asked about the amortization period of the loan.

Staff said it is twenty-five years and there are twelve more years left.

MOTION QC 87/16

Moved By: Roger Cole

Seconded By: Ray Hobson

THAT, the Hydro Report be received.

CARRIED

12. 2016 Low Water

Staff reviewed the low water situation of 2016 and the low water warning program.

Staff reported that the late fall and winter rain has improved groundwater levels and added that people should still be using water wisely.

Staff noted that the low water warnings had been removed as of January 6.

A board member asked how the rainfall in December and January instead of snowfall would affect the low water situation.

Staff said that streamflows are higher than normal because the rain fills the rivers and creeks up instead of it being stored on the ground as snow. Staff said this could mean a less pronounced spring runoff and less groundwater recharge in the spring.

Staff reported that a letter had been sent to all municipalities suggesting that they create drought response plans.

MOTION QC 88/16

Moved By: Heather Lang

Seconded By: Irene Martin

THAT, the 2016 Low Water Report be received.

CARRIED

13. 2016 Capital Projects

There was no discussion.

MOTION QC 89/16

Moved By: Ray Hobson

Seconded By: James Flieler

THAT, the 2016 Capital Projects Report be received.

CARRIED

13.a Public Safety Around Dams - Risk Evaluation Criteria

Staff reported that one of the 2016 capital projects was to do a public safety assessment on Quinte Conservation's dams and as part of that the board needs to decide Quinte Conservation's tolerance for public risk at authority owned dams.

Staff gave a presentation on the different risk tolerance scales.

A board member asked staff to give a scenario that might involve risk.

Staff said an example might be someone kayaking downstream of a dam when it was being operated would be an example that would then be studied and the likelihood and possible damage of that situation would be assessed.

A board member asked what the results of the study would mean to Quinte Conservation.

Staff said that the consultants hired would produce a report that would outline actions to be taken for each risk factor.

A board member noted the safety measures could affect the budget.

Staff said a low to no risk tolerance could mean expensive safety measures.

A board member asked what the liability of Quinte Conservation would be if the measures were not adopted.

Staff said they are working with the insurance company to find out some information and would work with municipalities to create necessary solutions.

A board member inquired about education and outreach regarding public safety around dams.

A board member said that would likely be an outcome of the consultant's report.

Staff noted that most Quinte Conservation dams are safe and have no swimming and warning signs.

MOTION QC 90/16

Moved By: Mike Kerby

Seconded By: James Flieler

THAT, Quinte Conservation adopt a medium risk tolerance scale to evaluate public safety around dams and use a gradual approach to implement public safety control measures.

CARRIED

14. 2017 Capital Projects

There was no discussion.

MOTION QC 91/16

Moved By: Ray Hobson

Seconded By: Heather Lang

THAT, the 2017 Capital Projects Report be received.

CARRIED

15. 2017 Draft Budget

A board member asked if the loss of the hydrogeologist was in the budget.

Staff said there may be a chance to share the cost of a hydrogeologist with neighbouring conservation authorities.

Staff gave a review of the strategic planning and budget process.

Staff noted that the Source Water Protection Program used to bring in \$1,000,000 and now brings in \$200,000 and may bring in less this year.

Staff said the main issue for 2017 is the reduction of revenues.

Staff reported that two staff members retired in 2016 and one resigned and in order to keep the remaining programs and staff the need is for approximately \$62,000.

Staff noted that last year with the 0% increase Quinte Conservation went behind by \$30,000 and this year Workplace Safety and Insurance Board and insurance costs will be going up.

Staff said that the organization can't afford to lose another staff person.

A board member said that they had supported the 0% increase last year and commends staff for doing an excellent job of working with that.

The board member noted they will be supporting the budget in recognition of the costs of the flood in 2014 and the drought in 2016 and increased hydro costs.

A board member noted they had supported the 0% increase in 2016 and would be supporting this budget because of loss of revenue.

The board member said they thought the funding formula is broken.

A board member asked if loss of revenue has been a problem how will staff try and increase revenue.

Staff said that they are seeking funding for projects.

A board member noted that the drought cost Quinte Conservation \$70,000.

Staff noted that the actual cost is higher because when staff were working on the drought they were not able to seek new revenue generating projects or work on them.

A board member said they would be supporting the budget because it is to maintain existing programs.

MOTION QC 92/16

Moved By: Mike Kerby

Seconded By: John Hirsch

THAT, the 2017 Draft Budget be approved.

CARRIED

16. Other Business

16.a Funding Formula

A board member noted that the current funding formula means that some municipalities have their levy go up by 7% while others see theirs reduced and suggested that a letter be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Conservation Authorities asking for a review of the funding formula.

A board member asked what would be the proposed alternate formula.

The response was that the province should do that and the letter was to serve to start the conversation.

Staff noted that they had taken this issue to Conservation Ontario and the province last year and also made comments on the Conservation Authority Act review survey.

Staff noted that incorrect data may be an issue in the formula and should be focused on.

A board member noted that the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation numbers were wrong for their municipality.

A board member said this motion should be taken back to municipal councils.

A board member said all councils should also send a similar letter to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

A board member noted the root of the problem is incorrect information from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation and noted that to change the funding formula would require a legislative change and so this board should focus on asking the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation to provide correct data.

A board member said a new formula is required that doesn't rely on data from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation.

A board member noted that just because assessments go up the cost of running Quinte Conservation doesn't automatically go up.

Staff noted that in the past an equalized assessment was used based on population which evened things out across municipalities.

Staff said that the formula comes from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the data comes from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation.

MOTION QC 93/16

Moved By: Allan DeWitt

Seconded By: Janice Maynard

THAT, Quinte Conservation staff be directed to write a letter to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Conservation Authorities asking for a review of the current funding formula.

TABLED

16.a.a Tabling of Motion QC 93/16

There was general discussion on the merits of Motion QC 93/16 being tabled until the next regular meeting.

MOTION QC 94/16

Moved By: Allan DeWitt

Seconded By: Heather Lang

THAT, Motion QC 93/16 be tabled until the next regular meeting.

CARRIED

16.b Electric Car

A board member inquired on the status of the electric car.

Staff said that the charging station is going in on January 20 and car should arrive in March and is a Ford Focus with a range of 200 kilometres.

16.c Meeting Attendance

The chair noted that it should be the responsibility of the board members to notify staff if they will not be attendance for a meeting and that the staff should not be required to call to verify attendance.

MOTION QC 95/16

Moved By: Jackie Denyes

Seconded By: Ray Hobson

THAT, all board members are to notify Quinte Conservation of any planned absences from a meeting one week before the meeting or as soon as possible.

CARRIED

17. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The date and the time of the next meeting is February 16, 2017 at 3:30 pm, or earlier at the call of the chair. The meeting will begin with elections for each of the Watershed Advisory Boards.

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

MOTION QC 96/16

Moved By: Ray Hobson

THAT, the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Jackie Denyes, Chair / Janice Maynard, Vice-Chair