



Minutes of the meeting of the

Quinte Conservation Executive Board Meeting

Date: June 15, 2017, 3:30 pm
Location: Quinte Conservation - Joe Eberwein Board Room
2061 Old Highway 2
Belleville ON

Members Present: Allan DeWitt (City of Quinte West), Dale Grant (Stirling and Rawdon Township), Heather Lang (Tyendinaga Township), Henry Hogg (Addington Highlands Township), Irene Martin (Tudor and Cashel Townships), Jackie Denyes (City of Belleville), John Hirsch (County of Prince Edward), John Wise (Stone Mills Township), Norm Roberts (Township of South Frontenac), Phillip Smith (Township of Central Frontenac), Ray Hobson (County of Prince Edward), Roger Cole (Town of Greater Napanee), Sandy Fraser (Marmora and Lake Municipality), Steven Everhardus (Town of Deseronto), Tom Livingston (County of Prince Edward)

Members Absent: Carrie Smith (Township of Madoc), James Flieler (Municipality of Tweed), Jamie Forrester (County of Prince Edward), Janice Maynard (County of Prince Edward), Jim Dunlop (County of Prince Edward), Mike Kerby (Centre Hastings Municipality), Mitch Panciuk (City of Belleville), Paul Carr (City of Belleville), Penny Porter (Loyalist Township)

Also Present: Terry Murphy (General Manager), Christine McClure (Water Resources Manager), Brad McNevin (Watershed Science and Monitoring Manager), Lynette Lambert (Water Monitoring Coordinator), Christine Jennings (Planning and Regulations Technician), Paul McCoy (Planning and Regulations Manager), Tim Trustham (Ecologist and Planner), Catherine Sinclair (Regulations Officer), Jennifer May-Anderson (Communications Manager), Tammy Smith (Corporate Services Manager), Curtis Vance (GIS Technician), Darcy Clow (Napanee Region Field Operations)

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Janice Maynard, was unable to attend the meeting. Vice Chair, John Wise, chaired the meeting in her absence.

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 3:31 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-17-25

Moved By: Ray Hobson (County of Prince Edward)

Seconded By: John Hirsch (County of Prince Edward)

THAT, the agenda for June 15, 2017 be approved.

CARRIED

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Quinte Conservation Executive Board meeting of April 20, 2017.

There was no discussion.

MOTION QC-17-26

Moved By: Steven Everhardus (Town of Deseronto)

Seconded By: Ray Hobson (County of Prince Edward)

THAT, the minutes of the Quinte Conservation Executive Board meeting of April 20, 2017 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-17-27

Moved By: Allan DeWitt (City of Quinte West)

Seconded By: Sandy Fraser (Marmora and Lake Municipality)

THAT, the Section 28 Regulations and Permits be approved.

CARRIED

8. **Plan Review Summary**

There was no discussion.

MOTION QC-17-28

Moved By: Henry Hogg (Addington Highlands Township)

Seconded By: Jackie Denyes (City of Belleville)

THAT, Plan Review Summary be approved.

CARRIED

9. **Budget Control**

There was no discussion.

MOTION QC-17-29

Moved By: Heather Lang (Tyendinaga Township)

Seconded By: Steven Everhardus (Town of Deseronto)

THAT, the Budget Control be approved.

CARRIED

10. **Media Releases and Communications Reports**

A board member noted that a considerable number of messages had gone out regarding flooding and inquired as to how many social media followers there are on Quinte Conservation's accounts.

Staff replied there are several thousand on Twitter and approximately 2,000 on Facebook.

MOTION QC-17-30

Moved By: Tom Livingston (County of Prince Edward)

Seconded By: Ray Hobson (County of Prince Edward)

THAT, the media releases and communications reports be received.

CARRIED

11. Hydro Report

Staff reported that the hydro plant is working well and the computer upgrades have been completed.

MOTION QC-17-31

Moved By: Norm Roberts (Township of South Frontenac)

Seconded By: Tom Livingston (County of Prince Edward)

THAT, the hydro report be received.

CARRIED

12. Flooding Report

Staff gave a verbal report on the current flooding situation that included the following points:

- from January to March there were many freeze and thaw events on the St. Lawrence River and this meant outflows into the river were lowered to prevent ice jams
- the Ottawa River watershed received 50% more snow than normal and it all entered the St. Lawrence as runoff in the spring
- an excessive amount of rainfall, 200% more than normal in some areas, caused Lake Ontario to rise
- in Belleville the shoreline flooding on the Bay of Quinte was more severe than the river flooding this year
- in the Napanee River system the Second and Third Depot Lake Dams were close to overtopping and a road had to be closed for a few days until water levels receded

There was general discussion on the effects of the current flooding situation such as shoreline erosion and the potential contamination of private wells.

A board member asked how the current water levels on the ground match up to the floodplain mapping.

Staff said that some locations are more accurate than others.

A board member asked what effect the flood was having on wetlands.

Staff noted that flooding can be beneficial to wetlands as it curbs cattail growth and allows for the creation of channels that are habitat for other wildlife.

Staff said that some shoreline nesting birds may have been affected by the flood.

MOTION QC-17-32

Moved By: Ray Hobson (County of Prince Edward)

Seconded By: Heather Lang (Tyendinaga Township)

THAT, the flooding report be received.

CARRIED

13. Post Flood Permits

Staff reported they have been going on numerous site visits regarding erosion problems, especially in Prince Edward County.

Staff noted they expect to receive a considerable amount of permit applications for erosion control measures.

Staff said these types of remediation efforts are costly and suggested that a reduction in permit fees for those affected by the flood might be a good idea.

A board member asked if this price reduction would be limited to property owners on the shorelines of the Bay of Quinte and Lake Ontario and if there would be a cut-off date.

Staff said that the price reduction would only be for those shoreline property owners and suggested a cut-off date of December 31, 2017.

There was general discussion on the merits of the proposal.

MOTION QC-17-33

Moved By: Sandy Fraser (Marmora and Lake Municipality)

Seconded By: Dale Grant (Stirling and Rawdon Township)

THAT, staff be directed, at their discretion, to reduce permit fees by 50% until December 31, 2017 for Bay of Quinte and Lake Ontario shoreline property owners who are requesting permits for work to remediate severe shoreline erosion on their properties caused by the flood.

CARRIED

14. Personnel Policy

Staff reported that all proposed changes to the Personnel Policy benefit the authority and remove financial liability.

A board member noted that buying 30 vacation days seems excessive and presents a problem to the budget process and adds a payroll burden.

A board member asked what extra vacation days mean in regards to the need for more staff as the board are told more staff are needed and then are told staff are able to have extra vacation time.

Staff replied that this policy ensures that only a maximum of 30 vacation days can be taken by any individual, whether they are earned or bought back.

Staff noted that this program actually reduces payroll costs and is a benefit to the budget as payroll is reduced by the amount of vacation days that staff buy back.

Staff said that in general vacation days are bought back so that staff can deal with family situations and emergencies and are always approved by the supervisor and General Manager.

A board member asked if this is a common practice.

Staff replied that it is common and gave an overview of sick and short term and long term disability benefits.

A board member said they would like to see it deferred.

A board member said that they thought this matter should be discussed *in camera* because it is a personnel matter.

The Chair noted that *in camera* sessions are only held when the matter deals with an individual staff member and this is a general policy and could be discussed in an open forum.

A board member wanted it noted that they did not agree with the proposed amendments and intended to vote no.

A board member asked for a recorded vote.

A board member said they would be voting no because it is not vacation time it is a leave of absence.

Several board members suggested taking the proposed amendments back to their municipal human resources departments for comment.

Staff suggested that the vacation buy back amendment could be deferred and board members could submit their concerns to staff.

A board member asked if the concerns were being taken down for the record.

Staff said the concerns were being recorded.

There was general discussion on the merits and faults of the proposal.

The Chair called for a recorded vote.

MOTION QC-17-34

Moved By: Allan DeWitt (City of Quinte West)

Seconded By: John Hirsch (County of Prince Edward)

THAT, the amendments to the Personnel Policy be approved.

VOTING IN FAVOUR

Allan DeWitt, Irene Martin, John Hirsch, Dale Grant, Tom Livingston, Roger Cole, Henry

Hogg, Sandy Fraser, Heather Lang

VOTING AGAINST

Norm Roberts, Jackie Denyes, Steven Everhardus, Ray Hobson, Phillip Smith

CARRIED

15. Conservation Authorities Act Review Report

Staff reported that Conservation Ontario has been going over the proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and so far the changes are positive for Conservation Authorities, such as the proposal that Conservation Authority staff will be able to issue stop work orders.

Staff noted that the board members have been circulated several emails discussing the changes and board members were encouraged to read the emails and respond to the opportunities to comment.

MOTION QC-17-35

Moved By: Heather Lang (Tyendinaga Township)

Seconded By: Jackie Denyes (City of Belleville)

THAT, the Conservation Authorities Act Report be received.

CARRIED

16. Report on Visit by the Environmental Commissioner

Staff noted that the Environmental Commissioner, Dianne Saxe, had recently paid a visit to Quinte Conservation to learn about local environmental issues and to hear about the history of the Conservation Authority movement.

Staff reported such items as continuing work on the Bay of Quinte and working relationships with provincial ministries were discussed.

MOTION QC-17-36

Moved By: Ray Hobson (County of Prince Edward)

Seconded By: Tom Livingston (County of Prince Edward)

THAT, the report on the visit from the Environmental Commissioner be received.

CARRIED

17. Other Business

Staff reported work on the Foxboro Flood Reduction Study has begun and some early recommendations should be available by the late fall.

Staff noted the Stoco Lake Report, worked on by Quinte Conservation staff and Friends of Stoco Lake, will soon be available on the Quinte Conservation website.

Staff announced the retirement of Forestry and Field Operations Manager David Smallwood and noted that field supervisory duties would be assumed by Field Operations Supervisor David Dies and forestry work may be contracted out if required.

Staff reported that Mark Boone has re-joined the staff in the role of Planning and Engineering Project Coordinator.

Staff said that Quinte Field Naturalists volunteers are in the process of installing decals to bird proof the windows of the office building.

A board member asked how the electric car was working.

Staff replied that it is working well and fully charges in less than three hours. Staff noted many local places are now getting electric car charging stations.

A board member asked if Quinte Conservation should build a photo library of flooded homes to show real estate agents.

Staff replied that Quinte Conservation has an extensive library of flooding photos and have been doing annual presentations to real estate agents about flooding in the area.

Staff noted that many real estate agents refer their clients to Quinte Conservation to see if properties are in the floodplain.

18. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The date and the time of the next meeting is September 21, 2017, or earlier at the call of the Chair.

19. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

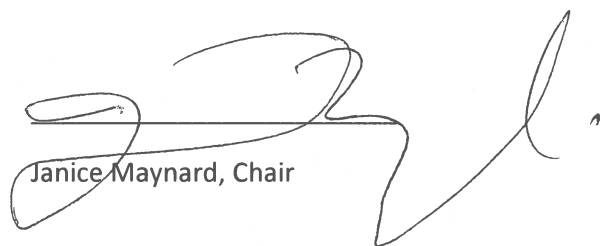
MOTION QC-17-37

Moved By: Ray Hobson (County of Prince Edward)

Seconded By: Steven Everhardus (Town of Deseronto)

THAT, the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED


Janice Maynard, Chair

