



**Minutes of the meeting of the
Quinte Conservation Executive Board Meeting
AGENDA FOR 2019 BUSINESS**

Date: September 19, 2019, 3:30 pm
Location: Quinte Conservation - Joe Eberwein Board Room
2061 Old Highway 2
Belleville ON

Members Present: **Bob Bridger** (Tudor and Cashel Townships), **Carrie Smith** (Township of Madoc), **Chris Malette** (City of Belleville), **Dale Grant** (Stirling and Rawdon Township), **Ellen Johnson** (Town of Greater Napanee), **Heather Lang** (Tyendinaga Township), **Henry Hogg** (Addington Highlands Township), **James Flieler** (Municipality of Tweed), **Janice Maynard** (County of Prince Edward), **Jim Dunlop** (County of Prince Edward), **John Hirsch** (County of Prince Edward), **John Wise** (Stone Mills Township), **Kate MacNaughton** (County of Prince Edward), **Les Stanfield** (County of Prince Edward), **Mike Kerby** (Centre Hastings Municipality), **Nicki Gowdy** (Township of Central Frontenac), **Norm Roberts** (Township of South Frontenac), **Paul Carr** (City of Belleville), **Ray Hobson** (County of Prince Edward), **Ronald Carroll** (Tudor and Cashel Townships), **Sean Kelly** (City of Belleville), **Steven Everhardus** (Town of Deseronto), **Tom Livingston** (County of Prince Edward)

Members Absent: **Don Kuntze** (City of Quinte West), **Ron Derry** (Marmorata and Lake Municipality)

Also Present: **Brad McNevin** (CAO), **Amy Dickens** (Source Water Protection Coordinator), **Christine Jennings** (Resource Technician), **Darcy Clow** (Napanee Region Field Operations), **Dave Eastcott** (Water Resources Technician), **Kelly Maher** (Water Resources Technologist), **Kirsten Geisler** (Communications Specialist), **Lynette Lambert** (Water Monitoring Coordinator), **Paul McCoy** (Planning and Regulations Manager), **Samantha Carney** (Technical Administrative Assistant), **Sharlene Richardson** (Regulations Officer), **Tammy Smith** (Corporate Services Manager), **Tim Trustham** (Lands Operations Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

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

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.

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-19-69

Moved By: Steven Everhardus (Town of Deseronto)

Seconded By: Les Stanfield (County of Prince Edward)

THAT, the Agenda for the September 19, 2019 Executive Board Meeting be approved

CARRIED

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Quinte Conservation Executive Board meeting of June 20, 2019

There was no discussion.

MOTION QC-19-70

Moved By: Dale Grant (Stirling and Rawdon Township)

Seconded By: Tom Livingston (County of Prince Edward)

THAT, the Minutes from the June 20, 2019 Quinte Conservation Executive Board Meeting be approved.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business

5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

There were no Pecuniary Interests

6. Delegations

There were no delegations

7. Review and Approval of the Section 28 Regulations and Permits (Motion to Approve)

There was no discussion.

MOTION QC-19-71

Moved By: Henry Hogg (Addington Highlands Township)

Seconded By: John Hirsch (County of Prince Edward)

THAT, the Section 28 Regulations and Permits be approved.

CARRIED

8. Plan Review Summary (Motion to Approve)

There was no discussion.

MOTION QC-19-72

Moved By: Heather Lang (Tyendinaga Township)

Seconded By: Chris Malette (City of Belleville)

THAT, the Plan Review Summary be approved.

CARRIED

9. Budget Control (Motion to Approve)

There was no discussion.

MOTION QC-19-73

Moved By: Mike Kerby (Centre Hastings Municipality)

Seconded By: Kate MacNaughton (County of Prince Edward)

THAT, the Budget Control be approved.

CARRIED

10. Media Releases and Communications Report

There was no discussion.

MOTION QC-19-74

Moved By: Steven Everhardus (Town of Deseronto)

Seconded By: Tom Livingston (County of Prince Edward)

THAT, the Communications and Media Releases be received.

CARRIED

11. Hydro Report (Motion to Approve)

Staff brought to the attention of the Board, that some repairs have been happening at McLeod Dam. They explained that issues with the gear box had been corrected, that the main turbine shaft was realigned, and that the generator had to be rebuilt/refurbished.

A Board Member asked if any of the parts were still under warranty.

Staff explained that unfortunately none of the parts were under warranty. They added that the gear box was switched out for one that the Authority already owned, which was 8 years old already. Staff went on to say that the same contractors will be back at the site for other work.

A Board Member asked if the vibration issue was resolved.

Staff confirmed that the vibration sound was gone; however, a squeaky sound has been heard.

There was no further discussion.

MOTION QC-19-75

Moved By: John Hirsch (County of Prince Edward)

Seconded By: Steven Everhardus (Town of Deseronto)

THAT, the Hydro Report be approved.

CARRIED

12. McLeod Dam Servicing Repairs

There was no discussion.

MOTION QC-19-76

Moved By: Steven Everhardus (Town of Deseronto)

Seconded By: Henry Hogg (Addington Highlands Township)

THAT, the McLeod Servicing Repairs be received.

CARRIED

13. Low Water Update

Staff briefed Board Members on the Low Water Response Meeting held at Quinte the week before. They said the decision was made to move the Moira, Napanee, and Salmon River Watersheds into a Level 2 Low Water Condition and to leave Prince Edward County in a Level 1.

A Board Member asked if Consecon Creek will recover soon.

Staff explained that the gauge was replaced and it will take some time to re-establish and collect enough data to read accurately. They added that it could take a few years to do this.

There was no further discussion.

MOTION QC-19-77

Moved By: Norm Roberts (Township of South Frontenac)

Seconded By: Dale Grant (Stirling and Rawdon Township)

THAT, the Low Water Update be received.

CARRIED

14. 2019 Lake Ontario and Bay of Quinte Flood Report

A Board Member spoke to the Executive on behalf of their municipality's mayor in regards to Quinte Conservation's stance on Plan 2014. They expressed that their mayor and other local mayors believe that Plan 2014 is the reason for flooding on the Bay of Quinte and Lake Ontario and would like to see the plan changed or removed.

Staff commented that this item will be addressed in other business.

There was no further discussion.

MOTION QC-19-78

Moved By: Sean Kelly (City of Belleville)

Seconded By: Dale Grant (Stirling and Rawdon Township)

THAT, the 2019 Lake Ontario and Bay of Quinte Flood Report be received.

CARRIED

15. Quinte Conservation Dams Update

A Board Member commented that a majority of dams seem to be in disrepair. They asked if staff have considered turning them into rocky ramps to help with the ecology of the area.

Staff commented that for most of the structures, an environmental assessment will need to be completed for consideration of rocky ramps.

A Board Member commented that staff should keep this idea in mind as there are grants available that will assist with the cost.

Another Board Member added that before turning dams into rocky ramps, it needs to be made sure that by doing this, the Authority does not impede the flood mitigation process.

There was some general discussion on what type of dam could be considered for this change.

Staff spoke to the group about the Foxboro Flood Mitigation Plan Open House and said that some residents were opposed to removing the dam at Corbyville because it helps with recreational water levels upstream.

A Board Member asked why two projects in the report weren't funded.

Staff explained that McLeod dam has not had a safety review completed since it became a hydro structure and that the two projects outlined are quite expensive. They explained that WECI funding is really only enough to support dam safety projects like signage and booms rather than structural projects.

A Board Member asked if the Skootamatta Dam could be given back to the MNR.

Staff commented they have reached out to MNR for the agreement between Quinte and the Ministry. They said that they received a letter back that was dated from 1985 and that it was very vague. The letter said that the Ministry is responsible for capital projects and annual reports. Staff added that no annual reports on this structure have been received.

There was some general discussion on the Skootamatta Dam.

A Board Member asked what the approximate cost of an Environmental Assessment would be.

Staff responded that \$100k would likely be on the low end because there are many factors the consultants would have to evaluate.

There was no further discussion.

MOTION QC-19-79

Moved By: Mike Kerby (Centre Hastings Municipality)

Seconded By: Paul Carr (City of Belleville)

THAT, the Board receives the September 2019 QCA Dam Updates report and consider the information presented for approval of future projects.

CARRIED

16. ECCC AWS Proposal 2019

Staff explained to the Board that Environment Canada is looking to place a weather gauge in Belleville and that the back fields of Potter's Creek would be a prime location. They explained that this opportunity would benefit the Authority because staff will be able to improve data collection and monitoring at no additional cost. They added that the data is key to Quinte's core programs.

A Board Member asked if the weather station at CFB Trenton was providing the same information and why wouldn't we be able to use that data.

Staff explained that the data collected at that gauge is different from the one with Environment Canada. They added that the Environment Canada gauge is automatic, which means the data is delivered sooner.

A Board Member asked if the (draft) improvement plans for Potter's Creek north were considered when approached about the idea of a weather gauge.

Staff commented that they are taking in to consideration any potential changes to the area/landscape.

A Board Member asked if Quinte would share the data from the gauge.

Staff replied by saying the information is publically available.

A Board Member asked if there was an approximate timeframe for the project.

Staff explained that Quinte first needs to enter a lease agreement before the project could commence. Staff believe that once the agreement is signed, the project can start in the spring.

There was no further discussion.

The Staff Recommendation is as follows: Staff recommends engaging ECCC to place a weather station at the chosen site.

MOTION QC-19-80

Moved By: John Hirsch (County of Prince Edward)

Seconded By: Tom Livingston (County of Prince Edward)

THAT, the staff recommendation be approved.

CARRIED

17. Property Purchase

There was no discussion.

MOTION QC-19-81

Moved By: Kate MacNaughton (County of Prince Edward)

Seconded By: Steven Everhardus (Town of Deseronto)

THAT, the Lands Committee recommend to the QC Executive Board to purchase the property (being the NE ¼ of Lot 13, Con 14, of Rawdon Township) which has been offered for sale to our office for \$25, 000 plus a \$5000 charitable donation receipt using the Hydro One donation made to our office for wetland habitat securement.

CARRIED

18. Lands Committee

A Board Member who sits on the Lands Committee commented that the field investigations have been extremely productive and that a lot of valuable work has been done so far. They continued to praise staff who have been working with the committee to develop a draft Conservation Area and Lands Plan. They explained that the group has been taking a landscape approach when considering the future of the areas, while still considering the work Quinte Conservation does to protect and manage the properties.

There was some general discussion of the selected areas for decommission. A few Board Members expressed their concern over the use of the word decommission and felt that the areas listed were valuable to the local communities within their municipalities. Board Members asked to clarify the expectations for a decommissioned property.

Staff explained that the intent was not to upset anyone by using the word decommission. They explained that the plan is to focus capital on the areas that are deemed tourist/high traffic attractions. They continued to explain that areas under decommission would eventually become natural spaces and that public access was not necessarily going to be restricted. Staff continued to explain that Quinte has more conservation areas than they can afford to maintain at a standard which is expected. They said that by focusing capital on a select group of areas, they can make a better experience for the visitor. Conservation areas listed under local use or decommission would mean less maintenance and less liability for insurance purposes as very minimal work would be required on an annual basis and it would state that in a standard annual maintenance policy.

A Board Member suggested that the group find creative ways to keep the areas that are listed under decommission and that one option could be allowing the municipality to take over maintenance. They added that the public should be consulted on this process, along with the municipalities.

Staff explained that the plan was only draft and that the municipalities would be involved with any decisions. They added that staff and Board Members are welcome to comment.

There was general discussion on changing the word decommission to something else as well, it was mentioned that Quinte needs to come up with a communications strategy to explain the potential changes to Quinte's land holdings.

A Board Member suggested asking for corporate sponsorship to support areas.

A Board Member asked about vandalism and what the financial implications would be.

Staff explained that garbage and vandalism at the areas causes a financial burden on the Authority.

A Board Member asked to amend item F in the Motion from approved, to received, as they feel more dialog between Quinte, municipalities, and the public needs to happen and that approving the report would be premature.

The Motion was changed to include items A through E, with item F standing separately as Motion QC-19-82.1.

There was no further discussion.

MOTION QC-19-82

Moved By: Chris Malette (City of Belleville)

Seconded By: Les Stanfield (County of Prince Edward)

A) THAT, the terms of reference for the lands committee (dated August, 2019) be approved;

AND,

B) THAT, the property use policy (dated June 2019) be approved;

AND,

C) THAT, the commercial forest properties report (dated July 2019) be approved;

AND,

D) THAT, the Hydro One donation and proposed property purchase report (dated July 23, 2019) be approved, meaning that the Executive hereby agrees to enter into an agreement of purchase and sale between the owner (Jack Lee Hayward) and Quinte

Conservation to purchase a property (known as the NE ¼ of Lot 13, Con 14, Geographic Township of Rawdon, Hastings County) for \$30, 000 (being \$25, 000 of lawful money donated to this office by Hydro One in 2017) and a \$5000 charitable donation receipt;

AND,

E) THAT, forest certification and carbon offset report (dated August 2019) be approved, meaning that the Executive hereby directs staff to pursue a credit development and marketing agreement with Bluesource, with further details regarding the agreement to be discussed with the Lands Committee and Executive as they become available;

CARRIED

MOTION QC-19-82.1

Moved By: Janice Maynard (County of Prince Edward)

Seconded By: Kate MacNaughton (County of Prince Edward)

THAT, the conservation area assessment (dated August 2019) be received.

CARRIED

19. MECP Letter to Conservation Authorities

Staff discussed the letter received from the MECP back in August. They explained that other CAs are approaching their Executive Boards for support letters be sent to the Minister that formalizes municipal support for conservation authorities.

A Board Member expressed their concern with financial cuts continuing across the spectrum with the current government. They stated that Quinte needs to prove that the authority's programs can be linked to the core mandate the government is concerned about.

Staff agreed and stated that all of Quinte's programs are directly linked to the Conservation Authority Core Mandate and that none of the programs can be deemed frivolous.

There was some general discussion around Quinte's education programs directed at school aged children. There was general agreeance around the table that outdoor education and learning opportunities play a critical role in teaching children about the environment and protection of natural space and that it cannot be taught in a classroom.

A Board Member reiterated their stance on the organization needing to be in a defendable position when facing the provincial government. A Board Member asked if the ministry had explained their expectations for core or mandated programs.

Staff commented that those programs are still waiting to be determined and that Conservation Ontario will be a part of the consultation.

A Board Member commented that Quinte needs to wait for legislature and until the areas are clearly identified, should continue operating as is.

There was some general discussion around this comment. A few Board Members shared their experience from a municipal conference they had recently attended. They commented that other CAs are also looking for direction for their programs. Another Board Member mentioned that they noticed a disconnect between the needs of urban and rural CAs. Other Board Members commented that the province pays for very little and the municipalities need to stand up for the programs they want.

A Board Member asked if there had been any dialogue between Conservation Ontario and the Minister.

Staff explained that Conservation Ontario has requested a meeting but that they haven't heard any other details.

A Board Member recommended that the second part of the motion be changed to prepare a draft resolution to be forwarded to the 18 municipalities and to request that the municipalities send letters of support to the ministry. The second part of the motion was amended.

There was some general discussion on whether to approve the Quinte's letter through email or to wait for the October board meeting. Through general consensus, it was decided to circulate and approve through email.

MOTION QC-19-83

Moved By: Janice Maynard (County of Prince Edward)

Seconded By: John Hirsch (County of Prince Edward)

THAT, the Quinte Conservation Executive Board direct staff to write a letter to the province requesting that the province consult with Quinte Conservation and our member municipalities regarding our programs and services and inform the province that we will be proceeding with business as usual until it is determined (between the Province, municipalities, and CAs) which programs and services should be considered mandatory and non-mandatory;

And,

FURTHER THAT, the Quinte Conservation Executive Board prepare a resolution to be forwarded to each of the 18 member municipalities and ask them to write a letter supporting this position.

CARRIED

20. In Camera

MOTION QC-19-84

Moved By: Les Stanfield (County of Prince Edward)

Seconded By: Mike Kerby (Centre Hastings Municipality)

THAT, the meeting be moved to In Camera.

CARRIED

MOTION QC-19-85

Moved By: Ray Hobson (County of Prince Edward)

Seconded By: Heather Lang (Tyendinaga Township)

THAT, the meeting be moved to Out Of Camera.

CARRIED

MOTION QC-19-86

Moved By: Ray Hobson (County of Prince Edward)

Seconded By: Les Stanfield (County of Prince Edward)

THAT, the decisions made In Camera be approved.

CARRIED

21. Other Business

Staff commented that Schedule 10 of Bill 66 – Open for Business, is no longer being implemented by the Provincial Government. There was no further discussion on this matter.

A Board Member suggested that numbered action items be outlined in the minutes as a way to keep track of tasks between meetings.

There was some general discussion and through consensus, decided that it would be a benefit to include numbered action items moving forward.

A Board Member asked if there was a way to see how much the shoreline gets altered every year. They asked if GIS could do this.

Staff explained that permits issued can be tracked through GIS but that there's no way of knowing if residents followed through with their permits.

ACTION ITEM #1 – That staff provide a numbered list of shoreline permits that have been issued to the Board for review.

Staff asked for an open discussion on the stance that Quinte should take regarding the announcement made by local mayors to overhaul Plan 2014.

A Board Member commented that their council had passed a resolution that requested a review of the Plan.

A Board Member commented that Lake Ontario is going through a natural cycle and it is beyond the control of anyone.

There was some general discussion. A Board Member asked for clarification on Plan 2014. Staff explained the role of the International Joint Commission and Plan 2014 to the group. A Board Member commented that the mayors feel like they aren't being heard and that is why they are speaking up. There were some general comments on the approach Quinte should take.

A motion was put on the table.

THAT, The Quinte Conservation Board ask for a review of Plan-2014 to determine if it's effectively regulating water Levels and flows on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

After the motion was seconded, it was suggested by a Board Member to include a statement on balancing of risk.

There was some general discussion. The seconder would not support this motion as they felt adding balancing of risk was not necessary to the point of the motion.

The motion was tabled and a new one was put on the floor.

MOTION QC-19-87

Moved By: Janice Maynard (County of Prince Edward)

Seconded By: Ray Hobson (County of Prince Edward)

THAT, The Quinte Conservation Board ask for a review of Plan 2014 to determine if it's effectively regulating water Levels and flows on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

TABLED

The New motion is as follows:

MOTION QC-19-88

Moved By: Janice Maynard (County of Prince Edward)

Seconded By: Chris Malette (City of Belleville)

THAT, The Quinte Conservation Board ask for a review of Plan-2014 to determine if it's effectively regulating water Levels and flows on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River and that the review include a section on whether the Plan takes into consideration a balancing of risk.

CARRIED

22. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The date and time of next meeting is October 17, 2019 or earlier at the call of the chair.

23. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.


MOTION QC-19-89

Moved By: Ray Hobson (County of Prince Edward)

Seconded By: Chris Malette (City of Belleville)

THAT, the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

for 
John Wise, Chair