

Association pour la protection du Lac Heney
 Association for the protection of Lake Heney
 Directors' Meeting
 7:00 pm, Dec 6, 2010
 Hartman's Grocery,
 Somerset Street, Ottawa

Minutes

Attendance		
Present:		Absent:
Chuck Gaudreau, Chair		
Shawn Aaron Denis Levesque Kevin Bell Colin McCorriston Gerry Holt Michael Wolfson Gerry Webb	Allan O'Brien Allan Darling Erin Stratton Pierre Séguin	Don Ford Joan Traversy Andrée Bertrand (resigned) Tom McKenna Ray Moffatt

1. Introduction of Guests

Michael Wolfson was welcomed for his first meeting in his role as a director. Andrée Bertrand had to resign from the board of directors as she is presently overcommitted.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted as circulated. Kevin Bell has some additional comments under municipal affairs.

3. Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of the meeting held on October 18th were approved on a motion by Allan Darling, seconded by Allan O'Brien.

4. Business Arising from previous meeting

- Mineral rights: Gerry Webb has begun to research the issue of mineral rights claims as there seems to be increasing interest in the Gatineau in last few months. It is possible that rare minerals may become of economic importance in the future; however, he indicated that there has been no thorough prospecting for mineral production in the area around Heney Lake (cited a Geology report from 1956). He indicated that there are deposits of iron ore in the Baie de la Mine area and zinc deposits around the lake. Crystalline limestone is also abundant in the area, but Webb concluded that he did not find any information on minerals in sufficient quantity for economic development purposes. In terms of background on this issue, Chuck Gaudreau indicated that he was approached by a Geologist to try to solicit funding (\$160K) for conducting geological surveys around Heney Lake and processing landowner claims to the mineral rights (\$2K per sector protected and the claims last approximately 18-20 years) . This information could be used potentially to

protect landowner claims to mineral rights should an economic development interest arise. There was discussion about whether this is a legitimate issue. Gaudreau indicated that there were no examples in Quebec, but in Ontario there have been examples of personal infringement on landowners mineral rights by mining companies. Pierre Séguin noted that in Quebec if a municipality was incorporated before 1835 it has subsurface rights to the minerals. Michael Wolfson suggested that we could maintain a watching brief on the Geologist's work in other areas and Heney need not be the guinea pig.

- Review of Carignan's 2009 report and summary: Kevin Bell indicated that a summary of Carignon's report has been posted on the website. The formal review of responses from the scientific reviewers will be undertaken soon.
- Foundation investments (refer to Foundation Investment Policy and Foundation Investments as of October 29 2010): Allan Darling indicated that the Quebec government was adamant that the capital be invested in nothing speculative to ensure adequate return on funds. It is dictated by policy as part of the protocols for establishing the Foundation that specific investment guidelines be observed; this is why all investments were to be placed in bonds, GICs, term deposits, and not stock or funds, as mandatory policy. All the Foundation funds are in two separate accounts. It is invested very conservatively to ensure we protect the capital, and there has subsequently been zero loss of capital. The Caisse Desjardins offered another proposal, but there was a risk in staying with one institution. They proposed a 5 year certificate for 3.22%. It was reviewed by the directors of foundation and they decided to stay with the present advisor (RBC Dominion Securities) and to invest in GICs on a rolling basis. The lake monitoring work has all been funded from the foundation accounts.
- Input for "What's New" section of website and e-bulletin: Gerry Holt proposed the next e-bulletin contain 3 issues: state of the lake, property assessments, and the Lake History Project. The first two items will be for information purposes, while the third item will solicit information and interest from Association members. On a motion by Denis Levesque, seconded by Gerry Webb, it was approved that the e-bulletin be circulated before Christmas.
- Tree cutting on Chemin Lac-Desormeaux: There has been clear-cutting where Chemin Lac-Desormeaux meets up with Heney (to the north of the culvert on Heney side). Pierre Séguin has looked into it, but has not received any further information from the municipality. It appears to be one individual with 2 lots who is building a cottage there. Gerry Holt indicated we should be targeting contractors because landowners may not be aware of all the rules with respect to tree cutting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Denis Levesque reported that as of end of November there was \$9,749.12 in the Association account, representing 167 paid memberships. A second mailing this week will solicit 38 more people. Levesque indicated that the Association bought 2 copies of a UQAM documentary on issues affecting Quebec Lakes, entitled "Nos lacs sous la surface", and he can bring them to the next session. Charles Gaudreau indicated these DVDs and the other DVDs from WESSA should be made available for loan.

6. Association Committees

a. State of the Lake (Comité paritaire)

Kevin Bell reported that the latest total phosphorus levels were 17.5 and 17.8 µg/L for October and November. This is up from 15 µg/L for June, July, August and September. It is a

little bit higher than last year at this time. The interpretation of these results is uncertain. A detailed analysis of the entire year will be provided by Dr. Carignan after his sampling of the lake in March 2011.

Bell reported that the CP has finally received the responses from the three scientific reviewers on two reports by Dr. Carignon. They all like the reports, have no concerns about the monitoring, and agree there is no long term impact on benthic invertebrates. All the scientists agreed that there are clear benefits from treatment, but it is too soon to see if the Lake has reached an equilibrium. More analysis is needed on iron. Dr. Pick said that last year's bloom could have been the result of the weather. Dr. Campbell discusses the iron analysis. Dr. Nurenborg discusses the release of phosphorus. The CP is meeting on Dec. 17th to discuss the reports and implications. After that, the CP will meet with Dr. Carignon to discuss future monitoring requirements.

b. Communications

Gerry Holt presented the proposal for the Lake Heney History Project, which has been developed by the History Project sub-committee (Gerry Holt & Al O'Brien (co-chairs), Heather Gaudreau, Pierre Calvé, Roly Davis and Peter Harris). The Committee has had two meetings and the project is moving more quickly than anticipated. Pierre Calvé had already approached some professors at the University of Ottawa and the history department sent out the proposal, resulting in four responses from interested students. Two of the students are Phd candidates with potentially more flexible schedules. In order to move forward with interviews a budget commitment of \$5,000 was requested. The committee may come back in 2011 for another \$5,000. Other possible sources of funding include: using the e-bulletin to solicit donations from members of the Association, potential sponsorship from businesses, or to solicit contributions from the two municipalities. The proposal includes \$3,200 for initial research. It was discussed that we should have some deliverable for the next AGM if we are going to ask for contributions. The committee is expecting the first deliverable by the end of May.

Kevin Bell moved to approve an initial investment of \$5,000 to get the project started, which was seconded by Colin McCorriston. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was some discussion about the implications of having sponsors advertise on the website and how the events relating to the fish farm were to be presented in a purely historical context with no finger pointing.

c. Environment

No report

d. Social Committee

No report

e. Municipal Affairs

- Interim control on boathouses: Charles Gaudreau indicated that Lac Ste. Marie (LSM) approved a motion (on Oct 6th) to ask the MRC to revise article 5c of the interim control regulation which applies to boathouses so that rights are grandfathered. It will

be brought up at the MRC council of mayors and still needs to be voted on. Gracefield also supports this initiative. There is no information on the interim control regulation being revised for Lake Heney.

- Offer of services for the prevention of damage caused by beavers: Kevin Bell mentioned that the Société Sylvicole de la Haute Gatineau in Maniwaki is offering this service.
- Tree planting: Kevin Bell mentioned that Association members should be made aware of a program related to shoreline reforestation: Fonds SEAUvegarde Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, in conjunction with the Federation of Associations of Lakes and Rivers of the Gatineau Valley. This could be an item for a future e-bulletin.
- Lac Ste. Marie (LSM) Strategic Planning Session: Kevin Bell reported that Lac Ste-Marie held a public consultation session on the Future of Economic Development at Lac Sainte-Marie on Dec 4th, when a vision was proposed for the municipality in 2010 with the intention of developing an Action Plan and proper planning tools to stay in control of its development, which must be sustainable for present and future generations. Twelve economic development issues were presented which included integration with the MRC's plan expected in the coming year, involvement of the local population through consultation, protecting the environment, improved access and signage, etc. A summary of the proposal is available on the LSM web site (http://www.lac-sainte-marie.com/vEn/index_en.php).
- Municipal Assessments: Allan Darling indicated that the opportunity to appeal your assessment opens with the next tax bill and property owners must file by May 1st. Allan Darling and Charles Gaudreau have been assisting people with this process of appealing the inflated tax assessments. Some people who appealed their tax assessments have been successful in receiving significant reductions from the original amount (i.e., reduced from 200% to a 49% increase over 2009 on average). At the MRC, Charles Lepoutre is the certified assessor for the purposes of establishing property tax valuations. Charles Gaudreau received a call back from, who has been issuing the certificates of re-evaluation. Gracefield has been processing these refunds for successful property tax appeals, which are to be issued in December. It was suggested that the spring e-bulletin provide guidance for how to go about filing an appeal of an assessment, what the process is and what to expect.
- Municipal action on Septic Systems: Allan Darling reported that in Gracefield everyone on Lac à la Barbué had to have their systems inspected.

7. Other Business

- Stocking the lake: Pierre Séguin is stepping down from the committee.

8. Date of the next meeting.

The next meeting will be on February 7th, 2011.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

EKS
2010-10-18

Action Items:

DRAFT

- Discuss with the mayors about whether any mining interests have submitted a claim for mineral rights and indicate the Association would like to be kept informed of any future claims submitted (Webb).
- Follow up about whether subsurface rights are embedded in land ownership with Yvon Blanchard and Jean Marie Gauthier (Webb).
- Contact other lake associations to see if mineral rights' claims are an issue (Gaudreau).
- Information for the e-bulletin be provided to Gerry Holt so that it can be sent out to members before Christmas (Bell-State of the Lake, Gaudreau-municipal property assessments)
- Locate a copy of the Somer Report to be referenced in the Lake History Project (Bell, Stratton)
- Information for a spring e-bulletin, including guidance on appealing tax assessments other items under municipal affairs (Gaudreau, Bell, Darling)