

**Minutes:** Beaver River Watershed Advisory Committee



**MEETING DATE:** February 16, 2012

**MEETING TIME:** 6:30 pm to 8:30pm

**LOCATION:** Town Hall (Engineering Meeting Room)

## A. Call to Order

**Present:** Brian Goodings, Norman Ragetlie, Brian McAteer, Alex Maxwell, Bill Remus, Pat McGirr, Mike Hammond, Mary Jane DeCoste (guest), Cindy Welsh (guest)

**Regrets:** Sean Brady, John Ardiel, Jay Kivell,

### A.1 Previous Approval of Minutes

Brian Goodings chaired the meeting. Meeting commenced at 6:35.

Brian asked the committee to review the minutes. Alex Maxwell and Norman Ragetlie motioned to approve the minutes; the Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

Norman inquired about the status of the mapping, Adam indicated that it is available, but is unsure what type of format the Committee would like. Norman said that an overview map of the watershed in tabloid format would be appropriate.

**Action Item / Follow-Up: Adam to provide mapping for Committee members at the next meeting.**

## B. New and Unfinished Business

### B.1 Five-Minute Review

Alex noted his concern regarding green issues and the implication surrounding technology and innovation. He noted ethanol as an example of this issue, indicating that it is unclear if ethanol is beneficial or not.

Brian McAteer reviewed the response letter from the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust (BMWT), and noted that there is an overlapping mandate. Brian wants to ensure that there is not a duplication of efforts.

### B.2 Speaker Forum

Norman discussed the proposed speaker forum and noted that the primary objective is to provide perspective and insight into the issues surrounding the local watershed and to start building a network of interested groups and people. Norman recommended changing the date of the forum to Saturday, April 28 and that a sub-committee should be established to look after the planning and logistics.

Alex asked how many speakers are anticipated and where the event would be located.

Norman said that he would start with the people that responded to the request letter.

Brian Goodings asked the committee if the new date works, committee members responded positively.

Pat McGirr said that the Marsh Street Centre is a potential venue for the discussion forum.

- Beaver Valley Association of Lifelong Learning (BVALL)

Norman welcomed Mary-Jane Decoste and reviewed item B.2. Norman noted that there is an opportunity for the committee and BVALL to work together. Norman said that BVALL could act to promote the discussion forum with its members and the community.

Norman also noted the opportunity to work with the BVALL in the future to host private landowner stewardship workshops and/or a speaker series focused on watershed issues.

Mary-Jane said that the BVALL is a non-profit organization and is looking to collaborate with other groups and the opportunity to focus on watershed education.

Mary-Jane said that the BRWAC could generate a contact listing to assist the BVALL in the speaker series focused on watershed issues.

Norman asked Mary-Jane if the BVALL could assist the BRWAC in promoting the discussion forum planned for April 28. Mary-Jane said she will circulate the information to the BVALL members.

**Action Item / Follow-Up: None.**

### **B.3 Official Plan**

Cindy Welsh presented on the Official Plan Five-Year review process being undertaken by the Town.

Alex asked Cindy if the *Green Energy Act* overrides the *Planning Act*. Cindy responded yes.

Cindy said that there is an Official Plan Review Committee comprised of Duncan McKinlay (Deputy Mayor), David Finbow (Director of Planning and Building), Scott Taylor (Planner County of Grey), John Corrigan (Citizen Representative), R.B Waind (Citizen Representative) and the committee is responsible for oversight in the process.

Cindy said that the Official Plan Draft Discussion and Directions Paper was released in December and two public meetings were held on January 28, 2012.

Cindy reviewed the next steps in the process; The consultants will work to develop a draft of the Official Plan over the spring and summer.

Cindy reviewed Norman's comments (Item B.3). Norman asked Cindy if it would be an expectation that the Committee submit comments to Cindy or directly to Council. Cindy replied that comments be directed to Town Staff. Staff will forward the comments through the Official Plan Review Steering Committee to Council.

Norman commented that Council has discretion to express itself and expand the Official Plan scope to include non-land use consideration. Norman said that the Committee needs to provide formal comment for Council's consideration.

Cindy said that any submitted comments will make it to the Official Plan Review Steering Committee.

Bill Remus asked Cindy what the timeline is for the Official Plan adoption. Cindy said at least a year.

Norman recommended that the Committee prepare a response and circulate comments prior to the next meeting.

**Action Item / Follow-Up: The Committee review Official Plan discussion paper and provide comments for discussion at next meeting.**

#### **B.4 Ponds & Wildlife Corridors**

Alex identified a concern for the impact of development on water quality and wildlife. Alex noted that certain agricultural land uses employ fencing that may impact migration of wildlife and that retention ponds warm water up. Alex asked Adam if the design of retention ponds could be improved to provide shading to help reduce water temperatures. Adam said that he would discuss with colleagues and report back to committee.

**Action Item / Follow-Up: Adam to investigate retention pond design and report back to committee.**

#### **C . Next Meeting Date**

Thursday March 8, 2012. 6:30 – 8:30 Town Hall

#### **D. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.