

**Minutes:** Beaver River Watershed Advisory Committee



**MEETING DATE:** November 13, 2012  
**MEETING TIME:** 6:30 pm to 8:30pm  
**LOCATION:** Town Hall (Engineering Meeting Room)

## A. Call to Order

**Present:** John Ardiel, Brian Goodings, Jay Kivell, Alex Maxwell, Norman Ragetlie, Mike Hammond, Bill Remus

**Regrets:** Sean Brady, Brian McAteer, Pat McGirr

### A.1 Previous Approval of Minutes

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

The Committee reviewed the minutes. Jay Kivell and John Ardiel motioned to approve the minutes; the Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

Jay spoke regarding the action item outlined under B.2 Speaker Forum Update in the minutes. Jay said that he met with Shawn Everitt, Adam McMullin and Brian Goodings regarding the discussion forum and the general direction of the Committee. A newly formed group, the Blue Mountain Watershed Initiative (BMW), is partly focused on public awareness and engagement. Due to this it was recommended that the Committee step away from conducting the discussion forum.

Bill Remus provided some background on the BMW. The group is a sub-committee of the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and funding is provided by some of the members. The group is applying for provincial funding. John asked what is the committee about. Bill responded that the group is project oriented, focused on conservation and outreach.

Brian asked for an update on the Official Plan (OP). Adam said that Cindy Welsh has moved on from the Town which has put the work on the five-year OP review on hold in the interim. Norman indicated that he had provided comment on the discussion paper and generally it looked like things were moving in a positive direction. Brian said that the committee was waiting on the first draft of the OP to comment on.

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

## B. New and Unfinished Business

### B.1 Committee Mandate / Role Review

Adam reviewed part of the committee's terms of reference, outlining the basic role of the committee. Adam said that it seems that the committee got off track and wants the group to re-focus, potentially by identifying issues to focus on.

Brian noted concern that the committee members may not have the time or expertise to provide recommendations on some of these issues such as Clendenin dam. Brian said that maybe the committee could serve as an information hub, gather information from the public and organizations and provide the information for Council and Staff's consideration.

Alex said that the group should not over extend itself. John agreed and said that the group should focus on a few items, things of interest to the committee.

Brian asked how the committee could do that. Norman said that the committee should focus on the key aspects of the terms of reference, specifically, what are Council's expectation of the Committee and that there is very little communication between the committee, Staff and Council. Norman added that the group should have a discussion with a Council rep, likely the Council rep that sits on the conservation authority board.

Alex said that this is an opportunity to develop synergies with other groups. Brian said that there are many groups working on the Beaver River, academics, recreational users, institutions and the committee could serve as a sounding board for these. Norman said that the committee already circulated an informational request letter, with somewhat mixed results. Bill recommended distilling the information already received by the committee. John said the committee should re-focus on what is happening on the river. Bill said that an informative summary would be a good start.

Jay asked how the agricultural advisory committee (AAC) operates. Adam said that the AAC meets, discusses and focuses on particular issues impacting local farmers. Brian said that each committee member could focus on an aspect of the river and gather information to report back to the committee.

The committee divided up different topics to be researched as follows:

- Government Agencies/University of Guelph/Free Spirit Tours (**Brian Goodings**)
- Agricultural Action/Initiatives (**John Ardiel**)
- Recreational and Outdoor Organizations (**Jay Kivell**)
- Rehabilitation, Conservation Projects (**Alex Maxwell**)
- Elephant Thoughts, Blue Mountain Watershed Trust, Stu Hiltz (**Norman Ragetlie**)
- Blue Mountain Watershed Initiative/WWW (**Bill Remus**)
- Municipal Activities (**Adam McMullin**)

Adam reviewed the committee's discussion. The committee is going to re-focus on gathering information to distill and present to Council in conjunction with requesting Council to clarify the committee's role. Adam added that having a deputation may be an effective method to communicate with Council.

**Action: Committee members to research aspects of the river and report findings back to Adam**

### **C.1 Trees Canada – 50 Million Tree Program**

Adam said that he included this in the agenda for the committee's information. Alex said that he will forward to the BRWI group. Brian said that this correspondence does not directly impact the committee and no particular action is needed.

### **B.3 Other Business**

Alex asked the committee how the regulatory structure works relating to watershed projects. Norman said that it is very convoluted, but that the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) can provide clarity and there may be an opportunity for the committee to communicate with the group.

### **D . Next Meeting Date**

December 18, 2012. 4:00 – 6:00.

### **E. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.