

Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance

General Member Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2012

I. Call to Order

Chair Lesley Flowers called the GSWA AGM to order at 7:00 pm on May 28, 2012 at the Vale Living with Lakes Centre.

II. Participants and Lake Roll Call

- Paul Fredette – Panache Lake
- Terry Fortin – Fairbank Lake
- Larry Hautamaki – Silver Lake
- Jack Fraser – Long Lake
- Ron Swiddle – Long Lake
- Shannon Dennie – Junction Creek
- Linda Heron – Vermillion River
- Lesley Flowers – Vermillion River
- Lin Gibson – McFarlane Lake
- Lin Gibson (by proxy for Dave Young) – McFarlane Lake
- Marcel Gravel (by proxy for Margaret McLaughlin) – Fairbank Lake
- Danny Belanger – Whitewater Lake
- Richard L. Paquette – Whitewater Lake
- Alex Cieslewicz – Richard Lake
- Mike Mallory – Richard Lake
- Jessica Tann – Simon Lake
- Perry Sarvas – Simon Lake
- Lilly Nobe – Ramsey Lake
- Elaine Porter – Ramsey Lake
- Jillian Smith – St. Charles Lake

Special Guest:

- Paul Sajatovic – Conservation Sudbury

III. Agenda Adoption and Approval

Motion to adopt and approve agenda by Lin

Seconded by Perry

Motion unanimously approved

IV. Board of Directors Report

1. Chair Lesley gave a brief synopsis of the well-attended Greater Sudbury Septic Conference and commented that the GSWA was successful in their Lake Advisory Panel grant application of \$500 (towards an enduring watershed alliance brochure).

2. Ron Swiddle will move forward with GSWA incorporation.

V. Treasurer's Report

- The Bank of Montreal account holds \$280.00 from 14 Lakes/Stewardships.
- The addition of the \$20 membership fee from Lohi Lake and the \$500 grant from the City of Sudbury's Lake Advisory Panel will bring the account total to \$800.
- GSWA start-up monies currently held by the Long Lake Association have not yet been dispersed.
- Each cheque from the GSWA account will require 2 or 3 signatures – the chair, vice-chair and/or treasurer

VI. New Business

1. Draft Constitution and By-Laws Comments and Suggestions

CONSTITUTION

Article 1: Discussion comprised of whether or not members must be involved with a lake stewardship group or alternate organization. Ultimately, 1.4 was sustained.

Article 3: A suggestion was accepted to incorporate the term 'sustainable improvements' into the mission statement.

Article 5: A recommendation to use an inclusive phrase – to avoid limiting the scope of the GSWA – was accepted.

BY-LAWS

Article 2: Re-election policies were discussed and the role of a Past-Chair advisory position was created.

(Interruption of agenda to consider role of GSWA and development)

2. Role of GSWA and Development of Lakes

Discussion brought forth general consensus that the GSWA requires facts from all angles to make informed statements regarding lake development projects. The GSWA would be receptive to offering support emphasizing best lake practices and would consider offering letters of concern regarding water quality issues.

Time restraints, individual agendas, and city protocol are all deemed potential hindrances to gather and pronounce well-versed positions on lake developments.

Lin and Ron will join the GSWA development sub-committee with Lilly and Jillian; Lilly will chair the committee.

A letter of concern to the city stating concern/disappointment regarding the proposed Bennett Lake development was reasoned redundant because of the deadline expiration.

(Recommencing By-Law Comments and Suggestions)

Article 4.9: Quorum

Members deliberated on numbers required for quorum and whether quorum should be different for Board of Directors' meetings versus Members' Meetings. It was decided membership qualification (5.2) should be clarified before consideration of quorum.

Motion by Richard to maintain *Article 5.2: Membership in GSWA is open to watershed Stewardship groups and organizations representing stewardship groups within the City of Greater Sudbury that have paid the annual fee as determined from time to time by the Board of Directors and agreed to uphold the GSWA Constitution.*

Seconded by Elaine.

Group Discussion ensued on what qualifies as a registered group, stewardship, or organization. Chair Lesley stated any non-formal or formal assemblage could participate as paid member and put forth a vote to GSWA members whether or not to maintain Article 5.2.

Vote to maintain Article 5.2:

- 10 for maintaining Article 5.2
- 3 against maintaining Article 5.2
- 0 abstained from the vote.

Motion to maintain Article 5.2 approved.

Discussion reverted back to what constitutes quorum. Perry maintained that for the city to take the GSWA seriously, a majority of members must be present for quorum. Richard argued that, because of the voluntary nature of the GSWA, quorum for Members' meetings should be "members present" and that only Directors' meetings should require majority (50 percent + 1). Marcel believed, considering interest shown in formation of the GSWA, that quorum would not be an issue. Ron suggested maintaining the 'majority' quorum definition and lowering required numbers in the future as necessary. Dan concurred, while Richard proposed revoking membership if members consistently abstain from meetings.

Motion by Richard to amend 4.9 to define quorum at Members' meetings as "members present" and for Board of Directors' meetings to include "majority" (50 percent +1)

Motion seconded by Lin

Vote to amend Article 4.9: Quorum: a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of members shall consist of a majority of all GSWA member stewardship groups.

- 5 for amending Article 4.9 from "majority" to "members present"
- 8 against amending Article 4.9 from "majority" to "members present"
- 0 abstaining from vote

Motion to amend Article 4.9 defeated; Article 4.9 stands.

Article 5.4: Membership Termination

Subsequent to the vote, Article 5.4 was unanimously approved to revisions. Revisions included underscoring missed meetings as grounds of termination from the GSWA. Quorum will, therefore, remain achievable when only 'interested' member groups are included among the membership.

Article 3.6: Losses

Third-party liability insurance was deemed a desirable option to have to protect GSWA directors in the event of litigation. The cost, \$1200 - \$1500, is prohibitive to the GSWA presently, but a goal to pursue in the near future. Meanwhile, the non-profit group Ecojustice may be beneficial should problems arise.

Motion to adopt GSWA Constitution and By-Laws by Richard

Seconded by Linda

Motion unanimously approved

Motion to table remaining agenda by Lin

Seconded by Richard

Motion unanimously approved

VII. Next Members' Meeting

August 20th, 2012: 7pm in the Vale Living with Lakes Centre

VIII. Meeting Adjournment

Chair Lesley adjourned meeting at 9:28pm.

Minutes prepared by Jillian Smith

