

**Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance Inc.
General Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2013**

Vale Living with Lakes Centre, Ramsey Lake Road, Sudbury, Ontario

1. Call to Order

Chair Lesley Flowers called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

2. Roll Call of Stewards

Margaret McLaughlin, Terry Fortin – Fairbank	Jack Fraser, Ron Swiddle – Long
Shannon Dennie – Junction Creek	David Young – McFarlane
Nigelle Fredette – Penage	Lilly Noble – Ramsey
Alex Cieslewicz – Richard	Jessica Tann, Dave Furino – Simon
Jillian Smith – St Charles	Lesley Flowers, Linda Heron – VR
Danny Belanger, Richard Paquette – Whitewater	
Larry Huhtamaki, Stephen Bull – Guests	

Regrets: Paul Sajatovic and Lin Gibson

3. Approval and Adoption of Agenda

Additions:

- High water levels and flooding
- McCrea Lake
- Walden/Lively wastewater treatment plant report

Motion to approve and adopt agenda moved by Ron; seconded by Terry.

CARRIED

4. Minutes of August 2013 general meeting

Motion to accept past minutes moved by Shannon; seconded by Marg.

CARRIED

5. Treasurer's Report

BMO Bank Balance: \$6015.91

Recent Activity: Renewal of Directors' Insurance from Gougeon Insurance for \$864

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Richard; seconded by Danny.

CARRIED

6. Executive Report

Storm Water Management and Private Source Drinking Water Meetings: Meetings continue surrounding Minnow Lake development issues. The developer's engineer approached GSWA requesting support for sand filtration. Nevertheless, the city has recommended a stormceptor and this is what the developer has opted for use.

Lesley attended the Green Gathering, which proved to be a useful workshop for enhancing media and municipal relations.

The Board has decided to 'stay local' and renew Directors' Insurance with Gougeon Insurance for \$864, tax included.

Groups are still awaiting the Envirosience Milfoil report. Espanola is seemingly still happy with reduced milfoil but have run out of discretionary funding to proceed with more seeding.

Beginning January 2014, the Water and Wastewater department will begin releasing a record of by-pass reports on the city website.

A meeting regarding Arsenic removal in Long Lake is scheduled to take place at the Holiday Inn on November 27, 2013 at 7pm. Contact Stephen Butcher if interested.

A Lake Advisory Panel meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 28, 2013 at 5pm in Room C-11 of Tom Davies Square.

Dave and Lesley attended the Green Day at Laurentian University on October 29, 2013. Unfortunately, it was not well attended.

7. Private Drinking Water Committee Report

Linda: nothing new to report at this time

8. Credit Valley Conservation Authority Conference Report by Lilly Noble

Key Points:

- Lawyer: Climate change is forcing new considerations for baseline storm water management. Increased precipitation, wind, freeze/thaw events, and extreme heat are becoming large financial burdens for cities. Examples include the 2013 Toronto flooding (\$850 million) and the Calgary flooding (\$1.5 billion). Additionally, there are currently many class action lawsuits being initiated. Cities require new standards and plans for execution in these aforementioned emergencies

- Insurance Industry: Biggest claims are now sewer backups, overland flooding (no insurance for this presently), and wind insurance. Intense rainstorms are driving these claims. In the last 5 years, there have been 2, 100-year storms. Insurance rates are rising by postal code in some regions. Public infrastructure vulnerability risk assessments are used to gauge this risk; in many cases, however, more data is needed.
- Pearson Airport: The airport has noted a shift upward in average temperature and severe rain events. Pearson has recently invested \$120 million in storm water management.
- City of Waterloo: The city recognizes that money is lacking for bioretention and stormceptors. Thus, the city has introduced a utility fee; fees are reduced for adoption of permeable pavers, green roofs, rain barrels, etc. This program is incentivized and has taken 5 years to implement – the result is enhanced community awareness of watershed and water quality issues. This is important since residential inputs of phosphorus account for 50-70% of all inputs.
- Credit Valley CA has studied and invested in green infrastructure; an example includes bioretention for reduced flooding. The City of Toronto has concluded that stormceptors remove 50% of total suspended solids (not 80% as advertised). This may be pertinent to Sudbury and Ramsey Lake, considering that Greater Sudbury advocates the use of stormceptors.

9. Stewardship Presentations

Fairbank Lake Stewardship Committee: Margaret

Fairbank Lake is a spring-fed closed system lake with 250 camp owners and 50 year-round residents. There are currently 160 paid members. A provincial park with 160 sites also resides on the shores of this large, deep lake. Aside from spring and fall newsletters, other projects have included booklets on lakefront living/septic system maintenance, a camp-owners map, community events, and a history book.

Vermilion River Stewards: Linda

The Vermilion River is the main drain for the Vermilion watershed – declining water quality, invasives, contaminated sediment, filamentous algae, and blue-green algae are all issues of concern on the Vermilion. Mining development proposals are among other threats to the river. Additionally, there are 5 proposed hydro dams; these dams, with large head ponds, are an environmental concern and a matter of public safety.

Furthermore, it is postulated that the upgrading to the Vale dam – water holding – is contributing to blue-green algae. The stewards have received a \$103,000 Trillium grant for water sampling, sediment core sampling, and phytoplankton sampling to characterize the Lower Vermilion. The objective is to create a baseline for future studies and to formulate a course of action effecting positive change.

10. New Business

Navigation Act:

Most lakes in our area were protected until very recently. Glen Thibeault is requesting support for his Private Members' Bill demanding protection in the Sudbury area. This announcement will be made November 22, 2013 at the Living with Lakes Centre.

ACTION ITEM: Lesley will send notice with date and time of announcement to GSWA membership.

Storm water/Rainwater Action:

Lilly suggests working with other 'players' to formulate a plan of action on storm water and rainwater. The Valley is depleting its aquifers; it would be sensible for Valley residents to abide with the city bylaw to disconnect downspouts. Lilly has approached Stephen Monet about making these 'disconnections' a potential EarthCare Minute. RBC grants and TD Friends of the Environment could also be accessed to hire summer students to gut downspouts and plant rain gardens.

Motion to strike a storm water/rainwater collaborative action committee was moved by Lilly; seconded by Dan (Lilly, Alex, Shannon, and Dan will sit on this committee).

CARRIED

FOCA:

Dave tabled FOCA membership pending more information. Dave notes that FOCA has similar concerns (blue-green algae), but also some diverse interests (taxes, inheritance). He requests more time to gather information.

April Education Event:

Lesley would like to book a date with Science North for the spring education event. Possible dates: April 10th is the top choice, April 3rd or 24th are alternatives.

Municipal Elections – Key Questions:

ACTION ITEM: Lesley will contact each stewardship group to request key questions and concerns. These will be brought forth at the next general meeting in February.

Council of Federation Excellence in Water Stewardship Award:

GSWA and Vermilion River have both been suggested for this award. The winner will receive a \$1000 prize.

Motion to nominate Vermilion River moved by Terry; seconded by Shannon.

CARRIED

Lively/Walden Wastewater Treatment Plant:

J.L. Richards & Associates have prepared an environmental report on the closure of the old treatment plant in Lively and enhancement of the Naughton plant. Both the Vermilion River Stewards and Simon Lake are concerned about the allowable phosphorus limits. Tertiary treatment is not slated for inclusion until 2027, "if needed". Dan adds that limits are, however, set to provide leeway to meet MOE requirements.

Nevertheless, these groups have requested a meeting with the City of Greater Sudbury; if unsatisfied by this meeting, the groups will write a Part II Order for an environmental assessment.

Motion for GSWA to write a letter to the MOE in support of the request (if needed) moved by Terry; seconded by Linda.

CARRIED

Motion to table the concerns of the growing Walden Industrial Park to next meeting moved by Richard; seconded by Jessica.

CARRIED

High water:

Who regulates high water levels on city lakes: the MNR, Conservation Sudbury, or both? It is believed that the City of Sudbury regulates only Ramsey Lake and Junction Creek outflows.

ACTION ITEM: Find information regarding regulation and control dams

11. Adjournment

Chair Lesley Flowers adjourned the general meeting at 9:06 pm.

Next General Meeting:

February 17, 2014: 7pm at Vale Living with Lakes Centre, Room LL202