



**Minutes of the meeting of the
Quinte Conservation Executive Board Meeting**

Date: September 19, 2024, 3:30pm
Location: Joe Eberwein Boardroom (Quinte Conservation)

Members Present: **Bob Norrie** (Town of Greater Napanee), **Brent Taylor** (Twp of Tudor and Cashel), **Carrie West** (Township of Madoc), **Chris Malette** (City of Belleville), **Dave Ogden** (Tyendinaga Township), **Don Stewart** (Stirling and Rawdon Township), **James Flieler** (Municipality of Tweed), **Jamie Zieman** (Town of Deseronto), **Janice Maynard** (County of Prince Edward), **John Hirsch** (County of Prince Edward), **Kathryn Brown** (City of Belleville), **Lynn Klages** (Township of Central Frontenac), **Mike Kerby** (Centre Hastings Municipality), **Mike Stevens** (Marmora and Lake Municipality), **Norm Roberts** (Township of South Frontenac), **Paul Carr** (City of Belleville)

Members Absent: **Don Kuntze** (City of Quinte West), **Kirby Thompson** (Addington Highlands Township), **Krysta-Lee Woodcock** (Stone Mills Township), **Nathan Townend** (Loyalist Township),

Staff Present: Brad McNevin (CAO), Amy Dickens (Source Water Protection Coordinator), Christine Phillibert (Water Resources Manager), Kristina Hamilton (Corporate Services Assistant), Mike Smith (Control Structures Technologist), Natasha Mathieu (Source Protection Outreach Lead), Paul McCoy (Planning and Regulations Manager), Tammy Smith (Corporate Services Manager), Taylor Hermiston (Communications Coordinator), Tim Trustham (Lands Operations Coordinator)

1. Chair called the meeting to order at 3:41 pm.

a. Notice Regarding Cell Phones

Cell phones are not permitted to be turned on during the meeting, except in an event of an emergency. If the device is to be left on, it must be announced at the beginning of the meeting.

b. Collection of Personal Information for Board Minutes

This is addressed to anyone that is not a board member and/or staff person of Quinte Conservation: Your name will be used in the board meeting minutes and the minutes will become public information after review and approval of the board. If you are present for a delegation or hearing, the context of your presentation will be recorded in the minutes of the board meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION QC-24-071

Moved By: Janice Maynard

Seconded By: Lynn Klages

THAT, the Agenda for September 19, 2024, Executive Board Meeting be approved.

CARRIED

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Quinte Conservation Executive Board meeting of June 20, 2024.

MOTION QC-24-072

Moved By: Lynn Klages

Seconded By: Mike Kerby

THAT, the Minutes from the June 20, 2024, Quinte Conservation Executive Board Meeting be approved.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

N/A

5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

N/A

6. Delegations

N/A

7. Budget Control (Motion to Approve)

MOTION QC-24-073

Moved By: James Flieler

Seconded By: Paul Carr

THAT, the Budget Control, be approved

CARRIED

8. McLeod Dam Budget Control (Motion to Approve)

MOTION QC-24-074

Moved By: Kathryn Brown

Seconded By: Lynn Klages

THAT, the McLeod Budget Control, be approved.

CARRIED

9. Monthly Permits Summary (Motion to Approve)

MOTION QC-24-075

Moved By: Dave Ogden

Seconded By: Brent Taylor

THAT, the monthly permits summary for the month of June, July, August 2024 be approved.

CARRIED

10. Monthly Planning Summary (Motion to Receive)

MOTION QC-24-076

Moved By: Lynn Klages

Seconded By: Bob Norrie

THAT, the monthly permit summary for the month of June, July and August 2024 be received.

CARRIED

11. Monthly Source Water Program Update (Motion to Receive)

MOTION QC-24-077

Moved By: Mike Kerby

Seconded By: Janice Maynard

THAT, the Source Water monthly report be received.

CARRIED

12. Greater Napanee Request for QC to Assume Ownership of Lime Lake Dam (Motion to Approve)

MOTION QC-24-078

Moved By: Kathryn Brown

Seconded By: Janice Maynard

THAT, staff notify the Town of Greater Napanee that Quinte Conservation will not assume ownership of the Lime Lake Dam.

CARRIED

13. July 31st Rain Event Analysis (Motion to Receive)

MOTION QC-24-079

Moved By: Paul Carr

Seconded By: Dave Ogden

THAT, the July 31, 2024 - Belleville Rainfall Event report be received.

CARRIED

Staff-Not a typical Board report because we do not report on rainfall events normally, but this event was of interest due to localized urban flooding and we had a lot of comments feedback, as to why residents did not receive notice that there was potential flooding. Staff explained that we do not offer flood forecasting for infrastructure. None of our watercourses were impacted and everything stayed below bankfull. The short rainfall duration did not have enough time to impact local waterways but impacted infrastructure in Belleville.

14. Beaver Management and Beaver Dam Breaches (Motion to Receive)

MOTION QC-24-080

Moved By: Lynn Klages

Seconded By: James Flieler

THAT, THE Beaver Management and Beaver Dam Breaches report be received.

CARRIED

Staff- Again we do not typically report on beavers' activity but a significant breach in the Kennebec area rendered questions regarding why we did not forecast or have staff on site when the road washed out. The wetland is very large, draining into Kennebec Lake before crossing a roadway. Road washed out and stranded some people. Staff explained that there are too many variables in nature to get involved with forecasting beaver dam breaks.

Board- over years, trappers have managed the population, now no trappers and does not take long for beavers to build dams and raise water levels all over the place. There is a definite problem.

Staff offered that we do get involved when infrastructure is at risk and the beaver dam is located on our property.

Board-Asked about liability and whether we were at risk because of this event. Staff explained that QC is not at risk because the beaver dam was not on our property.

Board-Are landowners allowed to manage beavers and dams. Staff explained that they are allowed and there are guidelines and BMPs that landowners can follow. Board member asked if trapping only legal way to deal with beavers. Board member commented that there are other means of management. Further discussion on Beaver management.

Board- Thank you to Christine and will share report with neighbours regarding Beaver Management.

15. WECI Update (Motion to Receive)

MOTION QC-24-081

Moved By: Mike Kerby

Seconded By: Paul Carr

THAT, the 2024-25 Water Infrastructure Capital Asset Management Plan Projects Update be received.

CARRIED

Board- are the financial commitments being billed to municipalities? Staff commented that the funding is included in 10 Year Water Infrastructure Capital Asset Management plan that municipalities have been paying into since it was approved in 2021.

Staff confirmed it comes from 10-year asset management plan.

16. Foundation Update – (Verbal)

Staff mentioned that this will be a recurring event. Offered info regarding process to invite members, we have good candidates. Have been provided guidance regarding structure. Next meeting Scheduled in November, making good progress.

17. Forest Operations Update (Motion to Receive)

MOTION QC-24-082

Moved By: Brent

Seconded By: Bob Norrie

THAT, the Forest Harvest Operations Update be received.

CARRIED

Board - Are harvest operations part of the Carbon funds?

Staff - Revenue generated by the harvest, supports properties and other programs and services that Quinte Conservation offers.

18. Potential Land Acquisition (Motion to approve)

MOTION QC-24-083

Moved By: Kathryn Brown

Seconded By: Janice Maynard

THAT, the staff be directed to apply for funding for potential vacant land acquisition through the partnership program established between the Federal Department of Environment and Climate Change and Conservation Ontario 'Nature Smart Climate Solution Fund'.

CARRIED

Staff- Conservation Ontario administers funds through this program, land acquisition is one stream that the funding supports. We are excited to become part of this funding and leverage money from the climate solution fund. This will allow for opportunities to reach out to other foundations and grant programs.

Board - Do we have properties of interest? Staff explained that there are approx. 10 landowners interested in selling to us. We have a land acquisition strategy that helps direct and outline our acquisition interests. Properties in question do not add too much financial burden to acquire and own once they are purchased. Really exciting properties potentially.

Board – How are owners recognised for donations? Good question and perhaps an item/ topic of discussion to put forward for a future meeting.

Board - Is road allowance on HWY 62 closed? This item is part of our discussion for the next agenda item, but staff offered that the ATV trail is an open road allowance to the small parcel off HWY 62, only accessed through the road allowance.

19. Property Donation – Sawquin Marsh (Motion to approve)

MOTION QC-24-084

Moved By: Norm Roberts

Seconded By: Dave Ogden

THAT, the staff be directed to send a letter confirming that the Authority is interested in receiving the donated vacant property-provided that the road allowance access on the northern edge of the property remains vested in the County of Prince Edward.

CARRIED

20. Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy Update (Motion to Receive)

MOTION QC-24-085

Moved By: Mike Kerby

Seconded By: James Flieler

THAT, the Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy update be received.

CARRIED

Staff-Commented that this is part of the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and is a mandatory requirement that is due Dec 31st, 2024. QC has a great team that put this together, very well done that included Sharlene, Amy, Natasha, Taylor, and Christine Phillibert. Part of requirement is to put out for public consultation and will go to board members and our municipalities for feedback/comment.

Board - When is this anticipated to go to the public? Final version launch will October 1st for public consultation. Launch will be advertised through social media, no open house.

21. Other Business

- **Bellrock Dam Anchor Installation**

MOTION QC-24-086

Moved By: Dave Ogden

Seconded By: Norm Roberts

THAT, the Bellrock Dam Anchor Installation report be received and further that Quinte Conservation staff proceed with issuing a contract to Equinox Construction Services.

DENIED

Staff- Apologies for late nature of submission, this was a project that was approved as part of our Capital Water Control Infrastructure program; however, the bids came in at more than 100K over original forecasted budget. Staff felt it was important to bring to board to discuss and get approval.

Bids for the project doubled compared to when we originally sent this same project out for tender. At the time when originally tendered we could not move forward with the project, so we had to retender it. Staff have concerns regarding methodology of lowest bidder because of the potential impact on the watercourse and some potential unknown costs. Next lowest bidder would have the same quality of workmanship, final product will be comparable, but methodology is different regarding the work around water. Lowest bidder plans to perform work In water, but next closest bidder is proposing a barge. Two very different approaches. We have an easement to access the structure but need to be sure to minimise destruction of property surrounding area.

Board- Are we showing 53K short? Yes, some projects came under budget, some granted, deficit for 2024 is correct but not in the overall Capital Asset Management Plan. There is a time variance of cash flow. The Capital Asset Management Plan for Water Control Structures is not in a deficit.

Board-Any room for movement on the lowest quote? Staff answered, probably not, will build in contingencies but not a lot of wiggle room from what we can determine.

Staff commented that they are recommending lowest bid to be fiscally responsible but would prefer the second lowest bidder because it is a more environmentally friendly process, but cost is a factor.

Board member stated that risks are greater with the lowest bidder and asked if the risk is worth it to save money. What risks to expect?

Staff – Based our current recommendation on cost alone and not on methodology.

Board- If cost weren't a factor, Which methodology would be chosen? The second lowest bidder because they had a methodology with less potential impact on the watercourse.

Board- Has Quinte Conservation worked with company before? They are unknown to QC, but reputable in the area, have good standing.

Board member asked if there is a scoring or ranking matrix for bids as it is not clear in the report? Staff responded with a verbal ranking and agreed to bring the scoring matrix to the board at the next meeting. Staff confirmed that the recommendation in this staff report was based solely on cost.

Board- Cost vs risk. Are we taking too much risk in place of cost? Asked for a verbal ranking based on scoring matrix.

Board member stated that we should not make a decision without all the details and would like to hear from staff based on a scoring matrix, who they would score first based.

Staff – Stated that the second lowest bid from company called ODS would be preferred because their proposal has a lot less risk based on methodology (opinion). Lowest bidder has potential to creep up in price because of unknowns and staff would prefer methodology and risk outlined with the second lowest bidder.

Board- Timing of funding disbursement, may have to be put off to next year.

Chair- Offered Clarity on the motion at hand.

Board identified that there are potentially more costs moving forward based on methodologies from lowest bidder and could be some destruction of surrounding property.

Board - Does the Capital Asset Management Plan get adjusted? When the plan was created, we incorporated full cost of all projects based on current estimates, after 10 yrs we will assess the plan and determine any deficit but identified the process is quite complex.

Board- Prior to the 10-yr mark, the asset management plan should be looked at.

Board - There is a need to make sure we do not leave the next board in a deficit. Halfway through this 10-year plan, we should have a full review to see where we are at regarding costs.

Board – recommended denying the motion based on the potential impact to the watercourse. Board member wants staff to show a scoring matrix to make a fair comparison for each company. Asked for a new motion to be brought forward.

MOTION QC-24-087

Moved By: Paul Carr

Seconded By: Kathryn Brown

THAT, the Bellrock Dam Anchor Installation report be received and further that Quinte Conservation staff proceed with issuing a contract to ODS;

AND FURTHER THAT, staff bring a scoring matrix for the evaluation of the projects to the October meeting of the QC Board.

CARRIED

Greater Napanee

Staff- Municipality is looking for a letter of support for a funding application to complete some shoreline work along the Napanee River, anyone opposed to a letter of support?

Board – staff contact the Town off Greater Napanee with letter of support.

-Bloomfield Mill Pond Property

Staff- Municipality has asked for MOU to construct a trail across QC property.

Board - commented on easement for trail, no reason to not consider, perhaps conditional on PEC purchasing the property? Prince Edward County does the maintenance on the property, we have little involvement on the property besides dam inspections.

-2nd Depot Lake Campground

Board- Went up and saw the vision board, also saw the plan online, asked about funding and where budget comes from for the proposed updates.

Staff -clarified the changes to make destination site. No municipal levee dollars go toward Conservation Areas upgrades, funding for these areas comes from grants, parking fees, etc. as mandated by the government. No plan to make any changes right away. Also great to note that visitation has gone up from last year without making any modifications, showing that interest in day use space is there from the public, moving forward.

Board – Do all destination Conservation Area funding comes from fees? Staff responded that there are a variety of sources, self generated, fees, grants.

Board – Are there more plans for gates, specifically at Sheffield? Staff answered that the Sheffield location is considered a second-tier site and not a destination site, so a gate will not be installed. Sheffield gets a lot of visitors, but it would be hard to implement a gate system.

22. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The date and time of next meeting is October 17, 2024, or earlier at the call of the chair.

23. Adjournment (Motion to approve)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 pm.

MOTION QC-24-088

Moved By: Dave Ogden

Seconded By: Norm Roberts

THAT, the meeting be adjourned.


Chris Malette, Chair

CARRIED