



RIVER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REPORT

Held Wednesday, June 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
In the Classroom, Town Hall

PRESENT:

Jason Ruttan
Chuck Dali
Dave Arsenault
David Wilde
Bob Wills

Andrew Barcham O.P.P. Marine Unit Rep.
Kevin Lalonde Director of Public Works

ABSENT:

Mike Lewis
Edward Holley
Mayor Brian Smith

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jason Ruttan, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Committee declared no Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Jason Ruttan updated and reviewed highlights from the May 25th, 2017 River Resources Committee report and asked Committee if they had any questions. Committee had no comments.

4. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS – None

a) OPP Marine Unit Update

A. Barcham provided an update regarding the Marine Unit, including further information pertaining to the Recreational Vessel Courtesy Check (RVCC). It was confirmed by committee that this is something to explore and coordinate for 2018. It was also noted that there may be an opportunity to coordinate the flare disposal day at this time as well.

Discussion ensued with respect to the expiry of flares and whether they were mandatory on the river.

A. Barcham provided a brief update regarding the upcoming weekend.

b) Public Works – Nottawasaga River Maintenance Update

K. Lalonde provided an update as it relates to river maintenance performed by Public Works staff.

A. Barcham recommended that a speed sign be replaced as it has since faded, together with some slight channel marker adjustments

Discussin ensued with respect to the river depths and current, and its impact on some of the river buoys.

K. Lalonde indicated that staff will explore options to improve the Klondike Canoe launch by possibly constructing a proper canoe rack at this location. K. Lalonde also indicated that the river depths and flows have delayed the installation of the docking facility at this location.

Committee were informed that Snake Island signage has yet to be installed, as the river is still quite high and the submerged island has approximately five feet of cover; the channel has been marked to the north of the snake island.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Co-ordination of Summer Depth Sounding

J. Ruttan indicated that a sounding was completed on June 27th and circulated a hand out and graph to present the results.

Depth Sounding results were reviewed and compared with recent years. Considerable discussion ensued with respect to water levels, impacts on breakwalls and docking facilities along the river.

B. Wills also highlighted the changes in ice formation along the river over the years.

b) Collingwood Proposed Waterfront Master Plan Presentation

J. Ruttan indicated that committee is still interested in pursuing a presentation regarding the Collingwood Waterfront Master Plan. B. Wills indicated that he has a contact that might be able to speak about the plan and will reach out to confirm his availability.

Further discussion ensued regarding the new transient boating facilities available in Collingwood and future consideration for similar facilities in Wasaga Beach.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Nottawasaga River Dredging Class Environmental Assessment – Minimum Width of Channel Recommendations at Mouth of Nottawasaga Bay.

K. Lalonde provided an update with respect to the Environmental Assessment regarding the dredging of the mouth of the Nottawasaga River. The consultants requested clarification regarding recommended or preferred channel widths at the mouth of the river, such that this information can be included in the final Environmental Study Report. After much discussion, committee recommended that a minimum width of 50 feet is preferred, as this would accommodate two passing vessels.

It was further clarified that the minimum width was a preferred width and the application to dredge, provided the EA clears and should it be necessary in the future, would not solely be based on the width. Many factors would be presented for consideration and discussion at that time, including depths, budget and council priorities.

K. Lalonde discussed some of the options that could be considered in the future, should dredging be warranted, including suction dredging and mechanical dredging. K. Lalonde indicated that he would reach out to a suction dredging contractor to see if they are willing to make a presentation to River Resources Committee at a future meeting regarding suction technologies and related equipment.

b) China Bowl (Erosion)

K. Lalonde indicated that he has had preliminary conversations with Ontario Parks and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority regarding the erosion of the bank at Knox Road East. It was noted that there may be a partnership opportunity between all parties should funding present itself and applies to slope stability and/or water quality improvements. Further discussion is needed.

c) Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Floodplain Mapping.

K. Lalonde provided a brief update to Committee regarding the recent shoreline mapping completed by the NVCA and further that the NVCA will be undertaking another project in Wasaga Beach in the Fall to update the Floodplain mapping of the Nottawasaga River.

7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Coordination of presentation re. suction dredging alternatives

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be the Call of the Chair.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Jason Ruttan adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.