

**Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park
Management Advisory Board Meeting
Sunday January 18, 2004 – Peterborough**

Meeting Summary – Approved

PRESENT:

Kim Dunford	Wally Hobbs	Tom Flynn	Murray Kidd
Janice Griffith	Don LaCombe	John Marsh	Kathy Reid
Dana Dvorak	Wendy Sue Lyttle		

Nancy Wilson (MNR) Tim Gray (MNR) Jim Peets (MNR/OP) Rob Burnett (MNR/OP)

REGRETS:

Lorne Sellick

Meeting called to order at 9:20 am.

Introduction of Guest Speakers & Contact Information:

Jim Peets
Park Planner
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Review and Approval of Meeting Summary (November 27, 2003)

Summary was reviewed by group and no changes were identified for the draft.

MOTION: To approve the Meeting Summary as accurate reflection of November 27th meeting.

Mover: John Marsh
Seconder: Dana Dvorak
Carried.

Review of Action Items from November 27th meeting

- MNR will send a map to the cottage associations so they will have a chance to comment as well. *This has been done.*
- A Board member will format the Newsletter and send to MNR. *Has been done and printed.*

Review of Handout Material

- Agenda
- Draft Meeting Summary – November 27, 2003 – for review and approval today
- Approved Meeting Summary – October 20, 2003
- Code of Conduct – signed/laminated version for each member

- Correspondence – Minister David Ramsay to Chair (Nov. 27, 2003) – indicating that he would be pleased to meet with the Board once he had been fully briefed. **Chair to call and set up a meeting for the Board to meet with the Minister.**
- Correspondence – copy of letter from Township of North Kawartha to Minister David Ramsay (Dec. 16, 2003) – requesting equal representation on the Board and requesting two seats for council members.
- Printout of the Partnership for Public Lands website specific to Kawartha Highlands – also mentioned that Earthroots has a fair bit of information on KHSSP as well.
- Two media articles on the KHSSP.
- Package of information that will be sent out to the mailing list this week (letter, fact sheet, map, MAB newsletter and biographies).

MNR Updates

Roads and trails

- **108** trails have been mapped to date.
- Contact with camps has been very positive; over 50% have returned maps with info.
- Issued a service contract with a local knowledgeable individual to provide guide services to MNR. That was finished just before Christmas. This work focussed on the northern half of the signature site. Approximately 40% complete for trail and road mapping in the top half of the area.
- Will soon begin trail mapping by snowmobile. Have 5 volunteers lined up to take staff out to GPS (Global Positioning System). MNR policy dictates that all staff and volunteers must have a “Working on Ice” safety course, so this has been arranged for the volunteers and staff in the next two weeks.
- Trappers and cottage associations have been provided maps to indicate any trails they are aware of in their area.
- Ongoing concern about the release of this information to the public. Discussion of MAB regarding how this information could potentially be presented to the public (some information might only be accessible to certain people/groups).
- MAB discussion on the definition of a “road” and “trail”. We are classifying the roads and trails based on whether a vehicle could use it or just an ATV or snowmobile. Some trails are just walking trails. **Perhaps the Board will need to further define these definitions when trying to identify what should be recommended for approval under each category.**
- **Access points:** much discussion on what or where the official access points will be. Management planning will identify the official access points. In the interim, there are already established public access points on most cottage lakes. The concern was brought forward regarding the situation on Beaver Lake road and the need to implement something immediately. No capital projects (such as parking lots) can be undertaken for the area without an approved management plan – several years away) so there is a need to find an interim solution. A suggestion was made regarding posting the Beaver Lake road “No parking” and either ticket or tow vehicles. The municipality has the authority to implement this now. **Request for results of monitoring to document the extent of this problem over the past season on Beaver Lake Road.**
- Discussion of the **two new access roads identified in legislation** – There is a very thorough environmental assessment process that will need to be undertaken with public consultation prior to any Ministerial approval to move forward with these roads. The

legislation outlines a timeframe for this (construction to begin within 30 months of proclamation).

ACTIONS:

- **Request for a copy (small size - 11x17) which would show the location of the gate installations and current access points.**
- **MNR to bring results of monitoring the car parking problem on Beaver Lake Road to the next meeting.**
- **Will bring updated trail map to the next meeting to show MAB the progress.**

Regulation Process

- The regulation package that all members have will be mailed this week to just under 2900 people currently on the KHSS mailing list.
- The website will be updated (Friday) to reflect information regarding the boundary consultation including detailed maps (PDF format) so people can see the detail if desired.
- An EBR posting will also be made (live on Friday) with comment period from Jan.23-Feb.25.
- It is our intention to have the 6 large maps available for public review at 3 MNR offices (Bancroft, PTBO, Minden) and at the two township offices. MNR has contacted both township offices and they have agreed to have a set there for any public inquiries.
- Consultation period is just over 30 days and the intention is very minor adjustments to the boundaries. Much discussion has taken place over where the boundaries should be and the decision was made to go with the boundary we are bringing forward.
- MNR will be contacting the First Nations community (Curve Lake) and the Kawartha Nishnawbe (Burleigh Falls) during the next month to see if they have any comments on the location of the boundary.
- Once the consultation period is over, comments will be summarized and evaluated for merit. Some adjustments to the boundary may be in order. Regulation maps will be finalized and a regulation package prepared.
- It is the intent to de-regulate the current park at the same time that the larger area is regulated. This will also be the recommended time for proclamation to occur.

ACTION:

- **MNR to provide a simple timeline graphic depiction of how we anticipate things unfolding so MAB has greater clarity of the processes underway.**

Park Management Planning (Ontario Parks)

Ontario Parks provided an overview of the park planning process (power point presentation) and where it fits into the overall planning that the Ministry undertakes. Preliminary discussion amongst Board and questions answered. Public consultation options were discussed, including the role of the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry.

The Charter and Legislation acknowledges that the Board shall “provide advice on the preparation of a Management Plan”, including “playing a substantial role in the preparation of this plan”. The first step in the process will be to develop a Terms of Reference. This is something that the Board can provide input to in the next few months.

ACTIONS:

- **Copy of the power point presentation will be sent to MNR for distribution of material to MAB.**
- **MNR to provide link to EBR website by recording it in the meeting summary.**
http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/env_reg/ebr/english/index.htm

- **All members to review the Terms of Reference section (B1-B6) of the Park Management Planning Manual.**
- **MNR will send out an example Terms of Reference from Frontenac Provincial Park. All members to record ideas for each section for discussion at the next meeting. EBR link for Frontenac Provincial Park is**
<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envregistry/017736ep.htm>
- **Communication Plan – Discussion that there is a need to complete this sooner than later.**

MOTION: That the Board develop a communication plan.

**Mover: John Marsh
 Secunder: Dana Dvorak
 Carried.**

Draft will be developed for discussion and finalization at the next meeting. A Board member will get information on public consultation.

- **A list of issues that are known for the area that will need to be discussed during Management Planning will be developed. MNR will review and add on to list if required.**

Capital Projects and Parks Standards (Ontario Parks)

Ontario Parks provided a summary of the MNR Ontario Parks capital work plan which included the capital funding categories (four), business case development and known capital funding levels. He also provided an overview of the capital construction process which included information concerning typical construction project management and the assistance that is provided by consulting firms that have a project management assistance agreement with Ontario Parks Southeast zone. Some questions and answers as well as Board discussion followed this presentation.

MAB discussion on current capital projects and the opportunity to build some kiosks for the current access points (5?) to use as a method of disseminating information on respecting private properties and any other educational material which might be appropriate to address interim management and concerns. Some good discussion ranging from the need for these items now to future tourist information kiosks at a larger scale. General feeling that if erected at the current access points on the cottage lakes it would not be “advertising”, but a way to get information to the public who were already destined for that lake.

MOTION: To proceed with design and purchase of material for information kiosks. If further decisions need to be made, MAB can be contacted by e-mail or telecon for input. Nature of location and information displayed will be determined at a later date.

**Mover: Wendy Lyttle
 Secunder: Janice Griffith
 Carried.**

Round Table (News from the Street)

- Positive comments heard on the roads and trails mapping. Positive response to the Guelph User Survey from an unlikely source (would have anticipated a more negative position).
- A cottager on Kashabog Lake contacted a Board member asking how they will be affected.

- A couple of cottagers on Wolf Lake are not happy about the survey, felt it should have been more directed to cottage specific questions.
- LSC are anxious to know how things are proceeding.
- **MNR**- Busy at the project office, we are running short-staffed. One staff member has accepted an acting assignment for 3 months and we will have a replacement, but not until February. Things are not moving as quickly as with a full team.
- Questions received from others regarding MAB activity. Lindsay Fur Harvesters are interested in helping to police or monitor the area.
- General inquiries received of “what’s going on?” and support from some unlikely sources.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: February 23rd, 2004

Time: 5:00 – 9:00

Location: **Peterborough**

Main items for discussion during this meeting will be the Communication Plan and initial work on Terms of Reference for Management Planning.

MOTION: To adjourn meeting at 3:10 pm.

Mover: Janice Griffith

Seconder: Wally Hobbs

Carried.