

**Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park
Management Advisory Board Meeting**

Wednesday, January 19, 2005

Meeting Summary – *Approved*

PRESENT:

Kim Dunford
Wally Hobbs
Dana Dvorak
Wendy Lyttle

Kathy Reid
John Marsh
Dave Coulas (OP/MNR)
Nancy Wilson (MNR)

Kim Harris (OP/MNR)
Pam Lawrence (OP/MNR)
Jennifer Fay (OP/MNR)
Graham Cameron (OP/MNR)

REGRETS:

Lorne Sellick
Don LaCombe
Murray Kidd

Meeting called to order at 4:20 p.m.

Review and Approval of Meeting Summary – (December 8, 2004)

MOTION: To approve the Meeting Summary as an accurate reflection of December 8 meeting.

Mover: John

Seconder: Dana

Carried.

Management Advisory Board Recognition

Paddles for the departing members of the Board are ready. They were presented for the Board to view. A Draft letter of recognition for departing members of the Board was also presented. The letters and paddles for the two departing members of the Board will be delivered to them shortly.

MOTION: To accept the Draft letter as the letter of recognition to give to all future departing Board members.

Mover: Wally

Seconder: Wendy

Carried.

[NOTE: The letter may need to be re-worked slightly in the future for each individual member.]

Ecological Integrity 101 – 3rd Session

Presentation given by MNR. Questions/issues that Board members would like to see addressed in future sessions are as follows:

- Where is the balance? i.e. Beavers. Their activities are good for the ecosystem but often detrimental to the human use of the area. How do we deal with issues such as this?
- Definition for indicators of ecological integrity and what they are.

- Explain the functions of organisms and energy flows through the ecosystem.
- Explain the modelling of ecosystems.
- Explain the role of fire and disease in ecosystems.
- What are considered indigenous species?
- Explain species at risk and the role of the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park in their protection.

ACTION: Each Board member is asked to bring an example of something that they consider detrimental to the Kawartha Highlands area to the next meeting (e.g. forest fires caused by careless campers).

Subcommittee Updates

Ecological Integrity Subcommittee

- Have held three meetings to date
- A certain level of expertise is required on the committee. The subcommittee has come up with some potential members who have expertise in various areas. All have shown interest in the subcommittee.
- The subcommittee hopes to provide the appropriate information for the Board to make informed decisions with respect to ecological integrity.
- The Terms of Reference for the Subcommittee was presented to the board. A few wording changes were suggested.

MOTION: To approve the Terms of Reference for the Ecological Integrity Subcommittee pursuant to suggested wording changes.

Mover: Wendy

Seconder: John

Carried.

Roads and Trails Subcommittee

- The subcommittee met for the first time on December 15 and a Terms of Reference was developed.
- The committee is working on refining definitions to help them assess the roads and trails in the park.
- The committee would like to have two sets of open houses surrounding roads and trails, one in the spring and one in the fall. The open houses will be held in Apsley and in Buckhorn. The first set of open houses will allow the public to give input on any trails that have been missed in the trail collection to date. Any trails missed will be captured in the summer, and the set of open houses in the fall will allow a final check to ensure that all trails have been collected.

ACTION: The subcommittee will make contact with the community centres in Buckhorn and Apsley to book open house dates.

MOTION: To approve the Terms of Reference for the Roads and Trails Subcommittee pursuant to some language changes.

Mover: Wendy

Secunder: Wally

Carried.

Access Roads Working Group

The locations recommended by the Board for potential new access roads have been included in a Request for Proposal for the development of a Class Environmental Assessment looking at road options. Legal Services is currently reviewing the Request for Proposal and it will soon be ready to go out for tender. An evaluation team will be assembled to choose a consultant from those who provide proposals for this project. Ontario Parks will determine if a Board member from the Access Roads working group will be able to sit on the evaluation team.

Question: *Can an environmental assessment be done that quickly? It seems like a lot of work.*

The reason that Ontario Parks is hiring a consultant to undertake the environmental assessment is because of workload and expertise required. The assessment has been planned to fit into management planning, which should give the consultant ample time to carry out the assessment, including development of an Environmental Study Report.

Question: *What guidelines will the consultants be given in order to assess locations for the roads?*

The consultants will be given the three locations on the east and three locations on the west which were determined by the Board at the last meeting. They will be asked to look at these locations and come up with the options of: no roads, one road from the east only, one road from the west only, or one road from the east and one road from the west. In addition, the consultant or public input may suggest an alternative that has not yet been identified.

Question: *How will the Board be involved? What will be the relationship between the consultant and the Board?*

The consultants will work for Ontario Parks, not the Board. There are two members of the Board who are on the Access Roads Subcommittee, who will be assisting with this project, and will act as a liaison for the Board.

Communications Working Group

The MAB's communication matrix was distributed for review. It has been updated from the first draft presented in the fall. It is important to establish timelines for completing items in the communications matrix, so that the Board can tell if they are on track with respect to communications. It is time to put out another MAB newsletter.

Website update -

- The Ontario Parks Website designer has been very busy with the Campsite 24 and Protected Areas Legislation Review, so things have gotten behind with the MAB website. However, we have been trying to convey that this is a priority.

- Some text has already been written for the website, however, there is text that still needs to be written. People will need to be assigned to write this text.
- The working group needs help with the FAQ section. They would like to have input on what some of these are, and what questions need to be included in this.

ACTION: The working group will set up a meeting with the Ontario Parks website designer in order to get the website up and running, and prepare text required for the site.

Question: *What has happened with the kiosks?*

Five kiosks have been erected at access points to the park. Each has a sign and a map up in them now. The signs and maps will be embedded in fibreglass after regulation. Letters explaining protocol surrounding the posting of messages on the message boards have been sent out to the cottage associations. There is a smaller kiosk that will be going up on Beaver Lake road at the request of the Beaver Lake Cottage association. A location has not been chosen for this kiosk yet, and the cottage association and municipality will be approached to discuss a location for this.

A discussion was held around using the website as an online library for ecological and other information. It was agreed that this is something to strive for, however, this will need to wait for now, as we are not there yet. The most important thing now is to get out information on what the MAB is doing, in order to increase transparency of the Board.

Superintendent Update

- The Superintendent has been on a training course for the entire month of January. He has not been in the office, and has not had access to his email.
- The Park Clerk will be on her mandatory ten week hiatus starting tomorrow, so she will not be around until the beginning of April. Another staff member will also have to take a ten week break at some point.
- OPSEU's contract has run out, so the union and the government are in contract negotiations. This means that there is the possibility of a strike in the Public Service, and if this happens, there will be some disruption to the planning process.
- The regulation package has been held up because there are five properties in the package that may be removed. The Kawartha Highlands is not one of these properties – it will remain in the package. Once the decision has been made about these five properties, regulation can go forward.

Question: *What will the status of the park be this summer? Will it remain status quo?*

Yes, although we will be able to address some of the health and safety type issues, we will not be able to build any infrastructure, etc. until after management planning is completed.

Question: *Have there been any developments around possible land acquisitions?*

MNR is putting together some information on one property to show what value there would be in acquiring it. More developments on this should come in the future.

Question: *What is happening with the new Board appointments?*

MNR has heard nothing on the new appointments. The Chair called the Minister's office to find out what is happening, but has heard nothing back as yet. If he does not receive an answer in the next few days, he will be phoning again at the end of the week. Also, there are four members of the Board whose terms are up this August, so it is very important for the continuity of the Board that the two positions are filled immediately.

A comment was also made that Board members whose terms are up should be able to continue to sit on subcommittees, in order to ensure continuity, and also because other non-board members sit on subcommittees. This comment was well received.

Other Business

Next Meeting: February 23, 2005 from 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MOTION: To adjourn meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Mover: Wally

Secunder: John

Carried.