

Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park
Management Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, December 7, 2009

APPROVED Meeting Summary

Present

Kim Dunford
Ted Spence
Tom Cole

Heather Brooks-Hill
Wendy Lyttle
Murray Kidd

David Coulas (OP)
Jennifer Fay (OP)
Kim Harris (OP)
Travis Cameron (OP)
Sheri Cruickshank (OP)

Guests

Graham Cameron – MNR – Species at Risk Biologist
Tim Lizotte, Honours Student – Trent University
John Marsh, Professor Emeritus – Thesis Supervisor

Regrets

Julia Madden
Hazel Lambe
Kimberly Woodhouse

Meeting called to order at: 4:05 pm

Review and approval of meeting agenda.

Motion: To receive meeting agenda.

Change: Second guest speaker will make a presentation.

Mover: Murray Kidd

Seconder: Ted Spence

Carried.

Review and approval of meeting summary (July 6, 2009).

Motion: To receive meeting summary as an accurate reflection of meeting held on July 6, 2009.

Outstanding: Concept of a gathering for recognition of past members.

Mover: Heather Brooks-Hill

Seconder: Ted Spence

Carried.

Declaration of any Conflict of Interest.

None declared.

Chair Update

- Discussion of the hunt / scarce deer population / no reports of serious incidents
- Residents on Loon Call and Wolf seem to be satisfied with extent of hunting allowed.

Motion: To receive the chair's update.

Mover: Heather Brooks-Hill

Secunder: Tom Spence
Carried.

Superintendent Update

- Welcome
- Regrets from members
- Introduction of new member – Dr. Kimberly Woodhouse. Superintendent will meet with Dr. Woodhouse in Kingston in January to introduce her to background history of the park
- Two vacant positions / appointments are outstanding
- Introduction of Guest speakers
 - Graham Cameron – MNR District Office in Bancroft / Species at Risk Specialist
 - Tim Lizotte – Honours Student at Trent University along with John Marsh – Professor at Trent University

Tim Lizotte – Presentation on Canoeist's Experience in KHSSP (semi-wilderness)

- Honours thesis work to “examine the experience of recreational canoeists in KHSSP, a park that claims to preserve ‘semi-wilderness’ characteristics”
- Discussion followed

Graham Cameron – Species at Risk presentation

Superintendent's update con't:

- - Ontario Fisheries Regulations – target of January 2011 for the baitfish ban to come into full effect
 - Target some provincial regulations to come into effect at that time as well to coincide with can and bottle ban
 - Hunting Regulation – muzzle loader season WMU60 new for 2009 and includes the park area
 - Council meetings – superintendent will continue to provide updates and relationship building with neighbouring councils (Galloway-Cavendish & Harvey, North Kawartha, and Peterborough County).
 - Access Roads – Galloway-Cavendish & Harvey, MOU in place to fulfill commitment for rehabilitation of temporary parking area. This work will be completed once new parking area is operational. North Kawartha upgrading Anstruther Lake Rd. We will continue to work closely with the municipality in partnership to protect park values
 - Capital Projects – upgrade parking lots at Wolf Lake, Long Lake, Military Bridge, Beaver Lake Rd. / EA requirements – we are held to a higher standard in the public eye requiring obligations to evaluate projects and provide public opportunity for feedback—ran EA notices for 30 days, decision notices for 30 days / Beaver Lake Rd.—starting the work now / punched road in from parking lot into the old access road / technical details being provided for tender. Completion targeted by end of May 2010.
 - Funding – This year's focus has been on our Business Plan (5-Year Business Plan associated with the delivery of the direction of the Management Plan to bring the park to an operational status has been submitted) / recommendations were received for downsizing especially in this economic environment / we were very conscious of this direction / we presented a request for fewer dedicated full

- time staff rather than a lot of seasonal staff to provide for better continuity on the deliver of the management direction.
- Land Tenure – very large workload - greater scrutiny required for projects
 - Recognition event – outstanding from last meeting – venues explored / recognize past members, volunteers / financial stresses required constraint / still want to recognize these individuals, but considering a move to spring 2010
 - Passing of Tom Simpson / Fish and Wildlife Tech from District Office, one of the original people who worked with Nancy Wilson and her team on the project
 - Catchacoma Cottagers Assoc. – attended meeting / they are trying to get active again / they border up to the park and there are a lot of common interests
 - Lightening the footprint in Algonquin - update
 - Presentation to OP board – compliment everyone on the work that was done to create the final Park Management Plan
 - Gord Homes (CO on East side of Park) & Brian Alexander (CO out of Minden and covers the West side of Park) – invited, but unavailable / both have been very active in park, following up on situations, charges resulted because of their efforts
 - Opened floor for guest speaker ideas / thoughts – trapping (trappers carnival – March 6 in Apsley / weekend of February 20 in west side) / Kevin Callan

Motion: To receive the superintendent's update.

Mover: Ted Spence

Second: Wendy Lyttle

Carried.

Staff Updates

- Canoe Route Maintenance – Ontario Ranger and Stewardship Rangers / 8 canoe routes were covered (6 canoe routes in park – means they doubled up on 2 routes) / 211 worker days = 5 people working for 2 months
- Campsite re-assessment – measure to see how sites are over time / improvements: metal fire rings, picnic tables, privy improvements on campsites, plus signage
- Boat Cache Program – 57 applications have come in for boat cache permits and those permits have been issued / 190 boats out in park that have been tagged informing owner that boat cache permit must be obtained if boat is to remain in the park past August 31, 2010 / most requests for permits are for boats that have not been tagged
- Parking Lot Improvements and Composting Privies – Beaver Lake parking lot – work has just begun at the entrance / Long Lake – 2 privies are installed / Wolf Lake – parking lot improvements via MOU with Municipality of North Kawartha, and 1 privy installed / Military Bridge – parking lot improvements, 1 privy installed and kiosk installed
- Enforcement – charges laid for cutting down trees / charges for providing false info to officer and possessing another person's deer tag
- Park map project – Chrismar Mapping Services Ltd. provides park maps / mapping completed several years ago for Kawartha to create a topographic map for the area, but held off publishing the map because of their respect for KHSSP planning / they want to put out a map for next spring / Chrismar is asking what we want included on maps and what needs to be left off / ATV trails will be left off

- Trail appeals – 14 appeals received, 7 have been processed / letter to camps initiated these appeals. MAB will play a part in review and recommendations on these appeals. Final package will be submitted to Minister for approval
- Work permits – studying policy and regulation that apply to work permits / comment: make sure the park ensures that cottage owners understand that they have to get permits from all required agency (KHSSP included) for any work done to shoreline.
- Recreation camp surveys – letter and survey went to all recreation camps to communicate some first steps in park management plan implementation and to collect information on parking locations, cached boats, # of permits required / 23 submissions received to date
- Water crossing inventory - started fall 2008, completed fall 2009 / inventory included trail size at crossing, stream permanency, presence of stream crossing structure (culvert/bridge), condition of structure, and photos / information collected. This is the first step in identifying trail “hot spots” (areas requiring mitigation or closure)
- Wolf project - west side of park has collared packs/ east side packs will hopefully be collared this winter by helicopter netting/ winter monitoring will include pack size determination and prey identification
- Monitoring programs
 - Species at risk – inventories were continued over the summer / park user observations are highly encouraged and helpful
 - Invasive species – purple loosestrife eradication has begun at two sites / Phragmites (common reed) was found along Beaver Lake Rd. / future surveys will occur along roads and trails
 - Trail work permit assessments – screening trail improvements for impact on park ecological integrity / reviewing mitigation methods such as bridge and trail hardening designs
 - Salamander plots – boards placed at Beaver Lake Rd. to determine effectiveness
 - Trail counters – set-up at Tucker’s Rd. and Beaver Lake Rd. to quantify the number of motorized vehicles using the roads/trails
- Science and Information Management Strategy
 - Select indicators – e.g. forests, wetlands, lakes
 - Develop indicator models – how components and functions fit together for each indicator e.g. soil allows plants to grow, plants are eaten by herbivores, herbivores consumed by carnivores, biota die and decompose back to soil
 - Select measures for indicators – e.g. salamander abundance relates to healthy predator/prey relationships in forests, presence of young trees represents regeneration, standing dead trees represent habitat, nutrient ratios in plants describe nutrient cycling

Motion: To receive the staff updates.

Mover: Wendy Lyttle

Secunder: Murray Kidd

Carried

New Business

- Sub-committee review – work permits: the park has started to issue work permits / it may be beneficial to have a third party's input on work permit requests ie. Board Members or sub-committee / could people think about this
- Winter field work – presentations have been operations orientated / working toward completing operations, land use and information management plans / next MAB meeting will be a working meeting to review these / we will also be undertaking winter field work and members are welcome to join in the work
- Set meeting dates for next year
- Feb 8th/ May 10th/ Aug 9th/ Nov 8th – second Monday of the month

Motion: To adjourn

Approver: Wendy Lyttle

Secunder: Heather Brooks-Hill

Carried

Adjourned: 8:10 pm