

Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park  
Management Advisory Board Meeting  
Monday June 12, 2006 - Peterborough

Approved Meeting Summary

**Present**

Kim Dunford	Wally Hobbs	David Coulas, OP
Tom Flynn	Tom Cole	Nancy Wilson, OP
Murray Kidd	Julia Madden	Jennifer Fay, OP
Wendy Lyttle	Mary Anna Zakula	Kim Harris, OP
Don LaCombe		Pam Lawrence, OP

**Guests**

Karin Wall, Stantec

Meeting called to order at 4:15 p.m.

Review and approval of meeting summary (April 12, 2006).

**Motion:** To approve the meeting summary as an accurate reflection of the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Mover:** Don LaCombe

**Second:** Wally Hobbs

**Carried.**

*Stantec*

**Update and discussion of Open House material**

- Provide the public with an update on the Access Road Study.
- Present and seek input from the public on information collected from field investigations carried out in the summer of 2005.
- Present and seek input on the evaluation criteria that have been modified to be relevant to the study area based on public input, environmental field investigations and the park management planning process.
- Present and seek public input on the advantages and disadvantages of each access road alternative.
- Explain what's next in the study process.
- Will be available to answer any questions about the Access Road Study.

*Question raised about the possibility of doing more traffic counts this summer.*

- ❖ Stantec does not have any plans to do additional traffic counts this summer. Traffic count information will be available at the Open Houses.

- Stantec plans to do more engineering work this summer, i.e. looking at intersections, etc.

*Question raised as to how Stantec obtained sufficient public input.*

- ❖ Stantec sent Class EA notice to all individuals on the KHSSP mailing list, plus the mandatory contact list, seeking public input. Displayed notices at well known entrances to the park. Published a notice in the Peterborough Examiner, Peterborough This Week, The Bancroft Times and The Lakefield Herald. Stantec received over 125 written comments.

*Question: Could Stantec have a preliminary estimate as to cost per metre or 100 metres of the different Access Road Alternatives available at the Open Houses?*

- ❖ Stantec will try to have this information available at the Open Houses.

- Every access point will still be used, this does not eliminate the use of other access roads at all.
- Purpose of the access roads: *To provide access to the park that maximizes opportunities for recreational activities within the park and minimizes potential conflicts between park users and private property owners, while not seriously compromising ecological integrity along access routes.*
- In the past reference has been made eluding to the cost and upgrading of the roads due to increased use, i.e., Anstruther Lake Road. Ontario Parks does not carry any authority or jurisdiction over a portion of this road that is not regulated as being provincial park. The camper use of the road will not be increased. Once the park becomes operational, there will have to be a site specific reservation system in place. i.e. A lake having five campsites, when these campsites are booked that means the campsites are full and this will result in a decrease in the number of campers in the park at any one time. Right now the use is uncontrolled and on many occasions there are more campers in the park than there are campsites to accommodate them. In order to achieve, maintain and enhance the ecological integrity of the park, we need to have some control of the number of campers accessing the area.

*Question: Would it be possible for Stantec to prepare a flow chart showing the advantages/disadvantages of the “Do nothing option?”*

- ❖ Stantec will prepare and have OP review.
- Stantec reviewed all road options highlighting advantages and disadvantages. This will be presented at the Open Houses later in the summer.
- Stantec will collect input from the Open Houses until 01/09/06 and will respond to questions and comments through a second project newsletter in the fall of 2006.
- They will also carry out the evaluation of access road alternatives and then compare the preferred road alternative to “do nothing” on each side of the park.
- Next spring 2007 will attend another set of Open Houses to display and seek input on the Preferred Access Road Alternative and to present and seek input on the Draft Environmental Study Report.

### **Roads and Trails Subcommittee Update**

- A subcommittee was formed two years ago to work on this task. A previous board member has agreed to stay on the subcommittee.
- Task for this evening is to table a motion to send our roads and trails proposal to the Minister of Natural Resources for approval. One of the main functions of the Board outlined in the Charter is to provide advice to the Minister with respect to the planning and management of the Park including, the identification of roads or trails that are to be approved as pre-existing, meaning a road or trail that was constructed and in use on and before March 29, 1999.
- ATV use permitted for access to areas for hunting purposes, access to private property, tenured land or park facility.
- Snowmobile use permitted on trails authorized for this use, in order to engage in ice fishing, hunting purposes, access to private property, tenured land or a park facility.
- Brief discussion on the history of the roads and trails collection process and the formation of the roads and trails subcommittee.
- Where we are today – final segments have been collected
  - decision criteria created and formatted into a decision tree and have since been updated
  - subcommittee has had the task of running all of the trail segments through the initial decision tree and have come up with their draft motorized vehicle road and trail system for MAB review

**Motion:** To receive the recommendation of the Roads and Trails Subcommittee on the proposed interim motorized road and trail system for the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park.

**Moved:** Wendy

**Seconder:** Julia

**Carried.**

**Motion:** Pursuant to Section 5, (3)(a) of the KHSSP Act and its directive to provide the Minister with the Board's recommendation of a pre-existing motorized road and trail system that should be considered for approval, the Board forward the Report to the Minister of Natural Resources.

**Mover:** Don

**Seconder:** Tom

**Carried.**

**Motion:** That the Roads and Trails subcommittee continue and that its Terms of Reference be revised to reflect ongoing and new activities as directed by the MAB. The MAB appoints the following people to the Roads and Trails Sub-committee: Murray Kidd, Don LaCombe, John Marsh, Kim Dunford, Tom Cole, Julia Madden, Kim Harris, Jennifer Fay.

**Motion:** Wendy

**Seconder:** Tom

**Carried.**

#### *Chair Update*

- Board attendance at Open Houses extremely important. Dates have been set for July 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Encourage all members to try and attend.
- Access roads EA and Management Options will be the focus of the Open Houses.
- Terms for four Board members are complete August 5, 2006. A number of these members have re-applied to be on the Board.
- Critical that a new chair be appointed by the members of the Board. This should be done at the meeting to be held in August.
- Heard this evening that Rick Meridew has been appointed as a new Board member.

**Motion:** To accept the Chair's update.

**Mover:** Mary Anna

**Seconder:** Wendy

**Carried.**

#### *Superintendent Update*

- Welcomed board members and reminded them of the important role they play in supporting the charter and encouraged all members to attend the open houses scheduled for the last weekend in July.
- Staff update. We have approval on a five month contract to bring in a biologist position. Graham Cameron is back focused on the monitoring piece of work as well as specific science pieces required to support management planning. We were not successful in securing funding to support the second year of our two year partnership on the ELC work. We will attempt to do some field work utilizing volunteers and internal staff but will not be able to complete the work required to get a full sampling of the entire park this year.
- Ontario Parks has seen some budget reductions and this is impacting funding at all levels of our organization. In response to questions around media reports, we have not been exempt from financial impacts and we are addressing shortfalls direct with the

Zone Manager. We will also be facing some additional challenges later this summer with two of our staff members leaving on a temporary bases. We will be looking at how to best deliver our core work with the resources and funding available to us.

- I attended a meeting at Long Lake as follow-up to the request for fee increases at this access point. The request was provided to board members at our last meeting with comments flowing back to me. In attendance at the meeting was representation from North Kawartha, Long Lake Cottage Association, the Long Lake Lodge owners and Ontario Parks. A number of concerns were discussed with an effort toward establishing a mutual approach to managing this access point. Fees will increase slightly this year. This will help off set the cost of camper garbage and recycling, new signage and parking lot upgrades, maintenance and management of this access point.
- We will prepare a package prior to the open houses that we will send out to MAB members. This will show the layout of the open houses, possible roles/tasks for each, locations, etc. In addition, I will follow-up with the recommendation from the board to provide a monthly e-mail update to members over the busy summer months.
- OP staff received no official notification of the appointment of Rick Meridew to the MAB as of today's meeting. The Chair has not been notified of this appointment. I will follow up on this and meet with the new member to review tonight's meeting agenda.

**Motion:** To accept the Superintendent update.

**Mover:** Tom Flynn

**Secunder:** Murray

**Carried**

#### ***Management Planning***

- The Management Options Document (MOD) has been sent to Ontario Parks main office for review by a number of specialists.
- Staff are still aiming for the first week in July to have this document available for public review.
- Open Houses – OP will have display units addressing each option.
- After the Open Houses a summary of comments will be compiled for the MAB to review.
- Park Zoning will be addressed in the Preliminary Management Plan.
- Before the release of the MOD, the website will be updated.
- Meetings will be arranged to meet with Aboriginal groups in the very near future.

**Motion:** To accept Management Planning update.

**Mover:** Wally

**Secunder:** Mary Anna

**Carried.**

#### ***Cultural Heritage Subcommittee***

- Will be establishing a protocol for the interview process. Tape recorder will be used not a video camera.
- Focus will be on hunt camps, logging camps, ice houses, cattle drives, lumber mills, old roads, black smith shops, etc.
- Trent Valley Archives have offered to store the information collected by the Cultural Heritage Subcommittee.
- Resources needed: a number of publications required, membership fees for Trent Valley Archives (2), tape recorders. OP will cover the costs of the necessary resources required.
- Next meeting July 4.

**Motion:** To accept the Cultural Heritage Subcommittee update.

**Mover:** Wendy

**Secunder:** Don  
**Carried.**

*Review of the MAB Work Priorities*

**MAB Priorities**

Need for short term and long term direction for the Board. Direction taken from the Charter. Purpose of the park and the purpose of the Act was to ensure four critical items:

1. **Ecological Integrity – maintaining, preserving, protecting and enhancing it.**
    - Highest priority is to maintain the ecological integrity.
  2. **Policies governing the park and its management to protect the Park's natural and cultural values.**
    - Policies will be developed through the Park Management Planning process.
  3. **Manage the protected area in such a way as to permit continued enjoyment and access of the private property owners and land use permit holders, etc.**
    - Continued access and enjoyment for private property owners is guaranteed through the legislation and will be addressed through the Management Planning process.
  4. **Any decisions relating to the development of this area were to be made through a public process.**
    - Decisions relating to the development of this area will be made through a public process.
- Incredible number of volunteers in the Kawartha Highlands. In the Management Plan we should try to harness their enthusiasm and expertise in some way. Economic reality – will have to be addressed in some way if our vision for the Kawartha Highlands is going to be realized.

*Action Item:* OP staff will update MAB priorities summary to reflect the coming year.

*Action Item:* OP staff to provide a briefing package for MAB members prior to the Open Houses. I.e. set up, stations, etc.

*Action Item:* OP staff to provide updates to the Board periodically by email.

Next meeting Thursday August 3, 2006.

**Motion:** To adjourn.

**Mover:** Tom

**Secunder:** Don

**Carried.**