

**Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park
Management Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday October 19, 2005 – Peterborough**

Approved Meeting Summary

Present

Kim Dunford	John Fisher (OP)
Wally Hobbs	Nancy Wilson (MNR)
Don LaCombe	Jenny Fay (OP)
Wendy Lyttle	Pam Lawrence (OP)
Tom Flynn	
Thomas Cole	
Mary Anna Zakula	

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Review and Approval of Meeting Summary (September 12, 2005).

Motion: To approve the Meeting Summary as an accurate reflection of the September 12th meeting.

Mover: Don

Second: Wally

Carried.

Motion: To receive all deferred motions from July 18th meeting.

- Draft Meeting Summary as an accurate reflection of the July 18th meeting.
- EA for Access Roads update.
- Ecological Integrity Subcommittee (EIS) update.
- Superintendent's update.
- Cultural Resources Subcommittee update.
- Roads and Trails subcommittee update.

Mover: Don

Second: Wally

Carried.

Tuckers Road discussion

Previous discussions by the Board determined that Tuckers Road would not be suitable as an access road for the Park. This decision was made prior to the selection of the Consultant.

Motion: Remove Tuckers Road as access road option.

Mover: Tom Cole

Second: Tom Flynn

Carried.

Vixen Lake rescue – RE: Letter from North Kawartha Township

- The A/Park Superintendent will be writing a letter stating that Ontario Parks is not responsible for payment of rescue operations in the Park. It is the OPP's mandate to respond to emergencies.
- A Board member indicated that the OPP clearly stated that they are responsible for rescue operations for all of Ontario.

Roads and Trails screening process

- Trail mapping – 1050 trail segments mapped to date.
- Presentation given –
 - _ Draft Definitions – Archaeological Resource, Traditional Land Use Area, Traditional Land Use Site, Cultural Heritage Landscape, Access Trails – Single Access, Multiple Access, Primary Trail, Secondary Trail, Ecological Integrity, Semi-Wilderness Values

– Examples of Draft Decision Trees i.e. Roads and Trails Charter Screening Access Roads and Trails Screening, etc.

- A question was raised about whether a general appeal process would be included in the new protected areas legislation.
- Provisional trail network – Park staff would have an idea of some trails that are presently threatening the ecological integrity. Use of the precautionary principle will be important. Flag the trails that are of ecological concern and address these quickly. The MAB needs to consider the sequence of the screening processes for the roads and trails.
- Have an example of the screening process available at the Open Houses for the public to view.
- Use plain language to define process. Trails with management issues will require procedures to be brought up to standards, i.e. mitigation, culverts, etc.
- Research will be done to see what information is available provincially regarding roads and trails.
- Suggestion made that Roads and Trails be a standing committee. Trails issues will be ongoing.
- Stay with decision tree format, with modifications.
- Roads and Trails subcommittee will meet before the Open Houses in November.

Recommendation of this Board – Board make a request to Ontario Parks or the Minister’s office to view the proposed new parks legislation, so that it may be determined whether a general appeal process exists in this new legislation. Part of the Board’s job to forward think – if it learns that an appeal process is in the works, it will not have to develop its own appeal process. Otherwise, the Board will have to consider the development of an appeal process that will kick in if someone disagrees with the inclusion or exclusion of trails in the provisional approved trail network.

Motion: To receive Roads and Trails evaluation process.

Mover: Wally

Secunder: Wendy

Carried.

Open Houses

- Focus is the Background Info. Document, goal is to have documents available for the Open Houses.
- Background Information Documents will be available upon request.
- Comment period will begin after the notice is posted on the Environmental Registry. 45 day comment period.
- Displays – Board, Roads and Trails and Management Planning.
- Layout of Open Houses discussed.
- Ontario Parks staff is developing a Fact Sheet RE: the EA Access Roads and flow chart of connection between EA process and the management planning process.
- Lap top with Kawartha Highlands website will be at the Open House.

Motion: To approve the Open House review.

Mover: Wendy

Secunder: Don

Carried.

Park Superintendent Question and Answer Period

- There is a parcel of land that may be up for sale in the fall. A Board member requested that the organization contact Ontario Parks. It has been confirmed that this property will not be for sale. Possible alvar on the property.
- Catchacoma Landing is for sale. Applied for an amendment to the bylaws to be severed into two or three lots. Would Ontario Parks be interested in buying the property as an access point for the park?

Action item – Legislative Review of the Provincial Parks act – Writing a letter to the Minister – EI definition – appeal process for the roads and trails.

Motion: To write a letter to the Minister of Natural Resources regarding the Legislative Review of the Provincial Parks Act.

Mover: *Wendy*

Secunder: *Tom Cole*

Carried.

- Illegal hunt camp on the west side of the park. CO's investigating this. This camp has been there for awhile – well hidden.
- EIS meeting - excellent presentation given by Stantec regarding the environmental field investigations that were undertaken this summer. Stantec showed maps of the vegetation communities found along the road corridors and explained the breeding bird, herpetofaunal and fisheries investigations that they undertook. There were some questions about the process itself – do we know what will happen at the end of these roads? What form would the recreation take at the ends of the roads? We need to consider what happens when we bring a bunch of people to one spot. Ideally the environmental assessment would be carried out after management planning is completed, however, any road construction would need to begin within 30 months of the proclamation of the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Act, so the two processes must be harmonized. Stantec will compile a list of the advantages and disadvantages of each option. Subcommittee left the meeting feeling reassured of the process that Stantec is following.
- Presentation given by a veterinarian at the EIS meeting to propose a wildlife rehabilitation centre in the park. The EIS endorses the concept in principle but it is not up to the EIS. Recommendation made to the veterinarian to look into the possibility of a regional plan or regional partnerships.
- Board member met with the Minister and expressed the importance of the MAB's mandate. It is hopeful that the four new appointments will happen soon. The Board needs to make an effort to arrange a meeting with the Minister. The seriousness of this is that more terms are expiring next year. It is now November and the Board has been without four positions since August.

Motion: The Chair contact the Minister's office regarding Board appointments.

Mover: Wally

Secunder: Wendy

Carried.

- Welcome to new Board member, Mary Anna Zakula.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 p.m.

Mover: Tom Flynn

Secunder: Don

Carried.

Next meeting – December 12th – Location to be determined.