

OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
9 a.m.5 Saturday February 26, 2022
Zoom Meeting

Attendance

Present: Kirsten Brouse (Chair, Zoom Host), Barb Hicks, Susan Murray, David Murray, Robert Cosh, Kyla Haley, Reid Kilburn, Kevin Terrion, Jen O'Donoghue, Keith Desjardins, Rachel Roth, Linda Cuthbertson (Secretary)

Regrets: Cathy Kari, Anne Scotton

Introduction

The chair welcomed everyone, followed by indigenous land acknowledgement and approval of the agenda.

Motion (2022-01-01)

Moved by Susan Murray and seconded by Reid Kilburn "that the agenda as distributed be approved."

Carried

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Motion (2022-01-02)

Moved by David Murray and seconded by Keith Desjardins " that the minutes of the October 30, 2021 Board Meeting be approved with one name misspelling corrected."

Carried

Decisions**1. Beaver Deceiver Pilot Project**

David Murray distributed and presented the findings from his comprehensive 9 page report titled "Otty Lake - Water Level Management". Historically managing beaver dams on Jebb's Creek to address lake water levels has been a contentious issue. David would like to have OLA consider the use of a water leveller device referred to as a beaver deceiver. The device has been used successfully in other areas to alleviate risks to infrastructure and allow for a viable beaver population. It is a large, long pipe that has to be properly positioned through the beaver dam and maintain the dam integrity. Anticipated costs range from \$3000-\$5000 plus additional yearly maintenance costs. Hiring a third party or trapper to remove the beavers and dams can cost \$1000-\$1500 yearly. The levellers last about 10 years. Partnerships with other organizations or

groups interested in looking at this pilot project might reduce the anticipated costs.

David has not contacted local landowners, Lanark County or RVCA about the possible use of beaver deceivers. He wants to have a feasibility study completed first to determine if it is a viable solution. If there isn't sufficient water depth this type of technology is not an option.

It was agreed that information about water flow and an acceptable healthy water level range for Otty Lake would be needed to complete the study.

Motion (2022-01-03)

Moved by David Murray and seconded by Kyla Haley " that OLA budget \$300 to cover the cost of hiring a professional to determine the possibility of using a leveller device through an existing beaver dam on Jebb's Creek."

Carried

2. Purchase of Whistles/Membership Campaign

Susan Murray spoke on behalf of herself and Gail Read. Recommending blue/green coloured whistles with small attached lanyards. Whistles will have OLA logo or appropriate size association information. Lanyards are not long enough to go around the neck but suitable for attaching to a life jacket. Following on the successful 2021 membership campaign use of including an Otty Lake map in the cost of dues they are recommending a whistle be included with payment of dues in 2022. They provided detailed costs for purchasing 400 whistles with lanyards. There were 241 paid memberships in 2021. The online membership form has been updated for 2022.

It was decided that extra whistles with lanyards be sold for \$5 each.

Motion (2022-01-04)

Moved by Jen O' Donoughue and seconded by David Murray " that OLA purchase 400 whistles with small lanyards in the suggested colours and with the logo/information best suited for the size of the whistle at a cost of \$1048.44 and that a whistle will be included in the payment of membership dues for 2022."

Carried

Discussions

1. Treasurer's Report

OLA treasurer, Jen O'Donoughue, presented a draft budget. Changes will be made to reflect changing project costs and motions carried at this meeting. We are in a good financial position.

2. Climate Change and Otty Lake

Kirsten Brouse informed members of an initiative by the Mississippi Lake Association to have lake associations form a joint group to address issues associated with climate change. David Murray volunteered to reach out to the Mississippi Lake Association and the Lake Networking Group and to be our association contact. Climate change concerns add even more leverage to issues our association has historically been studying and addressing.

3. Lake Management Plan

Kirsten Brouse and Reid Kilburn did a thorough review of our Lake Management Plan and presented an abbreviated priority summary highlighting outstanding actions. The plan was developed in 2008. An update was done in 2013 and follow up survey in 2018. OLA members' priorities have not changed substantially over the years. The plan is available in more detail on our website. There are two sections of the plan that have some parts that they highlighted as outstanding. The two sections are "Surface Water Quality" and "Water Levels".

It was felt we should consolidate existing water quality data and ensure it is up to date.

Beaver management and water levels are in the process of being addressed for Jebb's Creek but there are concerns about beaver dams and wetland management in the Burgesswood area. There was a joint study with Ducks Unlimited five years ago to study how abandoned beaver dams would affect water levels and e-coli measurements on Otty and McLaren Lakes. Someone might be interested in pursuing another collaborative study for these areas that feed into the lake.

Although Reid Kilburn has agreed to be on the land use committee OLA is looking for additional members. This committee works with municipalities to ensure shoreline protection and health.

4. Upcoming Projects in need of Volunteers

a. AGM

Traditionally the Annual General Meeting is held the first Saturday in July at the Royal Canadian Legion in Perth. We are tentatively going to plan for this in person event for 2022. Kirsten Brouse, Reid Kilburn, and Susan Murray will be the planning committee. Keith Desjardin will be the secretary for the AGM.

b. Spring Information Package

Barb Hicks suggested using a more focused or thematic approach for content. This year's theme will be boating safety. It will include information on the use of whistles. Jen O'Donoghue will provide information about shoal markers.

c. OLA Picnic

Kyla Haley agreed to assume responsibility for this event. Although we agreed in principle to have a picnic we didn't want to set a date due to continued pandemic uncertainty. Perhaps an informal Facebook invitation to a potluck would allow for more flexibility in planning.

d. New Project Ideas

Different Activities appeal to different people so a variety of ideas were presented for consideration and possible planning.

#1. Multi-Stop Educational Lake Tour

Different shoreline/lake locations would be selected for paddle or powered watercraft to visit and study. It could be a nature flotilla and everyone could anchor in one place to enjoy lunch.

#2. OLA Speaker Series

Some suggested topics are: climate change, algae, and Indigenous history of Lanark County.

#3. Waterfront Concert

Enjoying concerts while safely distancing on your boat proved to be very popular and enjoyable during covid restrictions.

Shoal Markers

Two people have volunteered to help with the installation of shoal markers this year. They have decided on the location of 12 shoal markers. Looking into getting a rider added to our insurance policy.

Shoreline Planting Project

Rachel Roth has entered an agreement with RVCA to purchase 175 plants. The cost will be recovered with the sale of the plants. Sale promotion on Facebook and Captain Otty's Log in March and April. Orders by phone or email in May. Plant pick up at 183 Mile Point Road in June.

Reconciliation Working Group

Kirsten reported that 20 attended the first meeting. Victoria Gibb-Carsley and Michael Desautels agreed to be chairs of this group. They had a very productive meeting and have agreed to meet monthly.

Meeting Adjourned

Motion (2022-01-05)

Moved by Robert Cosh “ that the meeting be adjourned at 11:25 a.m.”.

Carried

Next Board Meeting Saturday May 14, 2022 at 9 a.m.

List of Reports/Items Shared prior to this Meeting:

Agenda- Kirsten Brouse

Board Minutes October 30, 2021- Linda Cuthbertson

Otty Lake-Water Level Management- David Murray

Income Statement as of February, 2022- Jen O'Donoghue

Summary of OLA Outstanding Actions for the Lake Management Plan

February 2022- Kirsten Brouse, Reid Kilburn

Communications Report to OLA Board for February 2022- Barb Hicks

Shoreline Planting Project- Rachel Roth

Mapping Project Update- refer to article by Ian McDonald in recent Otty's Log