

## **Merrickville-Wolford Agricultural Advisory Committee**

### **Minutes of Meeting Thursday, Mar 14**

Meeting started at 7 pm

**Present:** Don Halpenny, Tom Beach, Kim Weedmark, Alec MacGregor, Gary Brown

Guests: John Woodfine, Dan Robitaille

**Regrets:** Cesar Farhat

**Pecuniary Interests** None declared

### **Agenda**

No additions

M/S , Alec MacGregor/Tom Beach, to accept the amended agenda, carried

### **Minutes**

Minutes may have been passed through email connections but, to ensure minutes were passed M/S, Alec MacGregor/Gary Brown to accept the minutes of September 13, 2012, carried

### **Old Business**

1. Drain Wolford update: Dan Robitaille reported on Drain Wolford discussions, plans and action to date.

Acknowledgements to – AAC for support to...; to Secretary for capturing discussions and distributing information; to Alec for exceptional work on the roads which assists with the drainage.

Recapped past activities with RVCA, Village of Merrickville Wolford and North Grenville.

Update on exceptionally dry summer helping reduce excess water levels and there is a balance of aprox \$600 remaining from the original \$5000 budgeted.

There is capacity to absorb the spring runoff with no damage to roads or reported flooding and more available land for farming.

Water is currently maintaining a consistent flow with no overloading of culverts, roads or properties. Current activities include continued monitoring of water

levels by GPS by RVCA which was initiated last summer and seasonal water level enhancement. Monitoring is done regularly by RVCA staff.

Future activities include general beaver management on N Kemptville creek, the continued breaching of dams and management in partnership with the municipalities and RVCA and landowners.

Drain Wolford will continue lobbying for water management policies by RVCA and seeking input of funds from all partners.

Seeking continued support from AAC to get support from Council or RVCA via Council to maintain leverage with RVCA to get support to monitor and maintain acceptable water levels; to enhance the awareness by landowners for monitoring their water levels.

Individuals invested \$2,000; Village of MW invested 1,700 and RVCA invested 1,700.

Question if budget has been done. Suggest Drain Wolford approach council for funding in 2013 to continue work on improving.

M/S Alec MacGregor/Gary Brown that the AAC encourage the Village of Merrickville Wolford Council to continue financial and administrative support to the partnership with North Grenville, RVCA and Drain Wolford to maintain water drainage., carried.

## **New Business**

### 1. Goose Damage

Alec sourced information on Canada Geese and an option to get a speaker to discuss the issue. The concern is the damage they do on pastures, hay fields and germinating corn, soy and grains.

Suggestion to have an information meeting for interested farmers.

**ACTION: AAC members to find the level of interest from farmers, Alec to find out what advance time is needed to get a speaker for a meeting.**

**Don to ask Village of Merrickville Wolford Council if AAC can organize a public meeting to inform farmers about reducing damage by geese.**

### 2. Listing of producers for First Impressions Community Engagement Ad Hoc Committee and OMAFRA

Question if local producers are aware of the listing. Don will take additions to the list to the Village of Merrickville Woford office to be included in the list.

M/S Tom Beach/Alec MacGregor that the Village of Merrickville Woford Council be requested to put a notice in Council Notes to advise people of the local flavours organization and encourage producers to seek membership, carried.

Next meeting will be April 11, 2013 at 7:30pm.

M/S Alec MacGregor/Gary Brown to adjourn meeting

Meeting adjourned at 7:55