



KEY RIVER AREA ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting July 31st, 2016, 10:00 a.m. Key Harbour Lodge

President's Welcome/New Members and Visitors/Report

Chris Dawson (President) acted as Chair.

The minutes from the 2015 Annual Meeting were presented.

MOTION to approve the Minutes as presented, **PASSED**

Chris welcomed all present, and introduced Councillors Pierre Paquette and Jim Rook.

Guest Speakers

Councillors Jim Rook and Pierre Paquette gave an update on the following topics: **Civic addresses** for the islands outside of the Key River will be given budget consideration next year as this year's funding project is for the helipad expansion. The **helipad** expansion was allocated \$50,000 from Killarney Council. The membership is very appreciative for the funding and support. **Area rating** is being studied and there is a budget for the review. They are looking at the Sudbury shared service study as well as other models. **Key River Dump** has about 6-7 years of life left. The railway is going through it now so it has lost about 5 years of life. They are negotiating for alternative solutions/sites. **Killarney Airport** is trying to fundraise for capital improvement funds. No tax funds are being used to upgrade the airport. The airport committee is looking for solutions, both public and private.

Jim and Pierre responded to questions from the floor about the above topics.

Treasurer's Report - Karen Turkstra

Karen Turkstra provided a report on the KRAA's finances.

Per the contractual agreement with Ornge, they provide \$3,500 per annum (April-March) for maintenance of the helipad. Paul Ruston does the helipad maintenance and dock install-de-stall as well as attend the site inspections when Ornge comes out in August of each year.

The KRAA funds are mostly invested in short term GICs (\$31,311). The chequing bank balance is \$8,924 at July 22nd, 2016 for a total of \$40,235..

Membership is around 101 properties so membership is up. Given that most of these numbers represent a family, this is a significant membership.

The most popular donation categories are channel markers, and “other” meaning wherever the funds are needed most. There has been a rise in donations to social, fish derby and fish habitat this year.

GBA membership has declined a bit as members are choosing to donate to KRAA areas of interest in lieu. The KRAA and GBA work together for the betterment of the entire Georgian Bay so it is a personal choice as to where to donate. Both are worthy memberships and donations.

Committee Reports:

1. Water Levels - Jerry Smitka

Jerry reported that the June 2016 water levels touched 176.86 m. This is about 10 cm higher than last summer. The answer to “why is this happening in a year of drought?” is that the Lake Superior watershed has been experiencing over 100% precipitation for most of the year.

The erosion of the St. Clair River riverbed increases conveyance in the flow. There is an additional 2.5 billion gallons per day of flow. If that amount of water cannot be found then water levels will begin to fall. Warmer water conditions, increased evaporation, lesser precipitation and climate change in general will reduce water levels..

The USACE (United States Army Corps of Engineers) has recently completed a depth analysis study of the St. Clair River. This study will help answer whether the erosion of the riverbed is increasing, decreasing or is relatively stable. An increase in erosion will likely force governments to react and remedy the issue. Stay tuned.

The forecast for the fall is that warmer water temperatures will prevail. If it continues then the end result could be less ice coverage and increased evaporation during the winter yielding lower water levels in 2017. This negative effect could easily be offset by increased precipitation as witnessed through the Lake Superior watershed. Let’s hope for a real winter.

In support of the above, the Great Lakes Project (GLP) team from the Sierra Club Canada wishes to hire Rob Nairn from the famous 2003 Baird Report. He is prepared to analyze the Michigan/Huron data to help predict future water levels. The Report will cost \$20,000 and will be published in the scientific literature. GLP is requesting donations from individuals.

MOTION to approve contribution by KRAA to Sierra Club Canada for the Great Lakes Project-Rob Nairn Water Levels for \$2,000, to be taken from KRAA funds earmarked for Water Quality and Other - **PASSED**

2. Helipad update-Karen Turkstra, Jim Rook and Paul Ruston

The helipad needs to be expanded to accommodate the newer and larger ORNGE aircrafts. The helipad expansion is estimated at \$50,000 for which the Municipality of Killarney has supported and funded in its 2016 budget. Given the helipad has to be moved back to some degree and not simply expanded from its current centre, the application to the MNRF for a Land Use Permit and Work Permit (given it's on Crown Land) is being examined more closely and being held up as the area is considered a Foxsnake Regulated Habitat. The application has been sent from the Parry Sound MNRF to the Regional MNRF in Peterborough. They are currently working on considering an "A Permit" under the Human Health and Safety permit in an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). The KRAA has been working on this expansion since February/March 2016 and were hopeful for an end of May completion. This is obviously going to take longer than anticipated but will continue to advocate for an expeditious solution that suits all parties involved. Thanks to our Councillors for their support and advocacy on this important project.

3. GBA (Karen Turkstra for Alan Burke)

Alan has resigned from the Board of the GBA as the KRAA representative after many years of volunteer service. Thanks to Alan for his valued contributions. A new rep is being requested and Andrew Hurlbut and John Bell put their names forward. Andrew will be the new rep and John can be the back up if required as mutually agreed to by them. Thank you for volunteering your time for this worthy cause. Tele-meetings and meetings are held in Toronto. Andrew will follow up with Alan.

4. Walleye Project (Jerry Smitka)

Jerry informed the members that last fall the KRAA, the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council, the MNRF (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry) and other additional partners blanketed the two upper Key River spawning locations with rock in an attempt to reverse the declining walleye numbers. Jerry observed that the new rock was used but that egg deposition was not plentiful. He will continue to monitor the site each spring but he is also not optimistic that the low walleye numbers can be reversed without further intervention.

5. Phragmites (John Bell)

John Bell and Jennifer Spiess attended a Georgian Bay Forever (GBF) presentation on behalf of the KRAA on identifying and removing the invasive phragmites species if found in the area of your cottage association. John and Jennifer toured the Key River prior to the presentation and indeed found several areas where the species are growing. Pieces were cut from each patch found and are being reviewed for its type; natural or invasive. At the time of the AGM only one spot has the invasive species. John asked if any AGM attendees would

volunteer to help with the careful cutting and removal of the plants, once or twice per year for 3-5 years.

With thanks, the Volunteers are: John Bell, Jennifer Spiess, Lori Davies, Lexi Davies, Scott & OJ Loriman, Alan??, Elizabeth Kokkonen

6. Fishing Derby - [Chris Dawson]

Chris reported that the Derby ran Saturday and Sunday and had 28 participants. Many fish of many species were caught this year: pan fish, walleye, pike, bass). The weather was great and good times were enjoyed by all. Trophies, prizes, hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and pop were supplied after the derby (2-3 p.m.). Thank you to the parents for bringing their kids to enjoy fishing and meeting new friends. Pictures and the names of the trophy winners will be posted on the website/FB by Jennifer Spiess.

Nominations from the Floor, Election of New Board of Directors, Officers

Alan Burke, Peter Turkstra, Lisa Kivinen and Paul Ruston all agreed that they would stand for re-election as Directors. Lorri Davies was nominated as a new Director and consented to run as well. Because the total number of directors would not exceed 14, a vote was not necessary.

MOTION that each of the individuals listed above be appointed as Directors of the KRAA by acclamation, **PASSED**.

Ted Clarke, Cary Kokkonen and Lana Calder, who did not stand for re-election, were thanked for their service as Directors.

The full Board of Directors is now:

Alan Burke
Lorri Davies
Lisa Kivinen
Paul Ruston
Peter Turkstra

(terms ending August 2018)

And

Chris Dawson
Daniele Fleming
Andrew Hurlbut
Jennifer Kivinen
Jerry Smitka
Jennifer Spiess
Karen Turkstra

(terms ending August 2017)

Chris Dawson decided not to re-run for President. **Peter Turkstra**, as VP, was nominated to be the new **President** by Lana and Mark. **Lisa Kivinen** was nominated as the new **Vice-President** by Mark and Peter. **Karen Turkstra** agreed to stay on as the **Treasurer** and **Lorri Davies** was nominated by Sue and Lisa as the new **Secretary**. **Chris Dawson** becomes the **Past President** and an Officer of the KRAA, not a Director. Many thanks to John Bell as the Past President and previous Directorship for his service.

MOTION to approve the new Executive Board for the 2016-2017 KRAA year. **PASSED**

Other Business

1. Status on Cell Phone Tower

Paul Ruston reported that the Bell Cell Phone Tower at the Key Harbour is still in the Bell budget but does not have the funding for it yet. It was suggested that we write to Bell through Mayor Virginia Rook as she is scheduled to meet with them in the near future.

2. Wind farm proposed for Henvey First Nation

Peter Turkstra reported that the attempts to reach Ken Noble, Manager of the project on behalf of Nigig, went without a response for an update. The HIFN issued a letter supporting their own Environmental Assessment Review in early 2016. Construction activity seems to have slowed down. At this point in time we continue to wait for a more formal update on the Wind Turbine Project on the Henvey Inlet lands. It was suggested that the KRAA write to the Federal and Provincial Governments requesting an update on the project and to find out what Species At Risk were reported for the project. The membership has concerns about the impact of the project on many species.

3. Fire Pump demo event at Key Harbour Lodge post meeting

A fire pump is available at Key Harbour Lodge for use by members. There seemed to be no interest to have a fire pump demo post meeting. Membership should know it's available to them should they need it.

4. Proposed Dock Sale

The idea of a dock sale was substituted with the use of the website and Facebook. There is currently a Classified Section where people can advertise items for sale or for free. Simply send the information or pictures to Jennifer Spiess and she will post for members. Follow up would be via posts or exchange of info of interested parties.

5. Proper and Safe Flare disposal and new ones for sale (GBA initiative)

As the new GBA representative, Andrew Hurlbut will follow up with the GBA about the initiative for next year's AGM.

6. Any Other Business from the floor

Members present reported on the success of the Rock Walk with the Geologist at the Bustard Islands. A lot was shared of the history of the area and a good time was had by all who attended. The rock is 1.6 billion years old!

The channel buoys are maintained by Paul Ruston and Chris Dawson as volunteers and are paid for any materials used and not their time. They are not contracted to do the work so it was suggested that a thank you gift card be sent to each of them to thank them for their time and volunteerism. PASSED.

Meeting Adjourned.

