

Federation of Lakes of Val-des-Monts

Minutes of Meeting of January 11, 2005

Present: Tom Barber (Chair, Grand Lake), Jane Panet (Recording Secretary, McGregor Lake), Sylvie Mercier (Lakes McGlashan & Girard), Marie-France Therrier (Lac Clair), Grant Walsh (St. Pierre), Jim Nicol (Grand), Francois Pichard (St-Pierre), Denyse Rachel Beauchesne (Brassard), Joyce Harpell (Brassard), David Hodgkin PSII, Rheaume), Paul Strigner (PSLL Barnes), Marc Carriere (Mayor), Jean Lafreniere (Municipal councilor), Natalie Gingras (Director of Urban and Environmental Affairs, Val-des-Monts)

President's Welcome: Tom Barber welcomed people and told them that everyone should feel comfortable speaking their preferred language because there was enough translation capability around the table to ensure that everyone understood. He said that anyone who wanted to attend the meetings was welcome, but that there would be only one voting delegate per association.

- 1. Electricity for signs/sponsorship:** Natalie Gingras reported that the water quality sign on 366 had been hooked up to electricity and that the sign on 307 would be hooked up this week. Each sign has room for three corporate sponsors to cover maintenance costs. Jean Lafreniere felt there would be no trouble finding sponsors. Identification of sponsors will be discussed in relation to other projects also requiring corporate sponsorship.
- 2. Newsletter production:** Grant Walsh, Vice-president of the Lac St-Pierre Association, distributed copies of the Lac St-Pierre newsletter. The eight-page, bilingual newsletter features lots of articles on topics such as improving water quality, reducing phosphates, regenerating shorelines, etc. If there were sufficient interest, Grant offered to turn the newsletter into a Federation of Lakes of Val-des-Monts newsletter. People generally felt that this newsletter would be an excellent means of communicating important issues to Val-des-Monts residents, but were concerned about how their lake association newsletter would fit with the federation newsletter. Grant explained that they have developed a template that can be sent to lake associations which can in turn contribute their own articles to the Federation newsletter, or suggest topics to be covered. Lake associations may wish to insert their own newsletter into the Federation one, or vice versa. Lac St-Pierre has a professional translator to ensure a bilingual newsletter. Several people felt that some of the costs of producing the newsletter could be offset through the sale of ads. Lac St-Pierre printed approximately 1,500 copies, mailed 822 for a total cost of between \$3,000 and \$4,000, including postage of 98 cents a copy.

Moved by Tom Barber, seconded by Jane Panet: That the Federation accept the offer of Lac St-Pierre to produce a spring newsletter for the

Federation, that the Federation look for ways to assist with the production costs, that the Federation notify the lake associations of the opportunity to provide their members with this newsletter, that a unit cost be established for the federation newsletter, and that the lake associations be given a March 1 deadline to respond to the Federation with the number of copies they want, it being understood that the associations would cover their own mail-out costs.

Passed

3. **Website:** Grant Walsh reported that Lac St-Pierre had established a web site, the cost of which was @ \$200 to set up and \$50 a year to maintain. The site has links to other sites of interest. The Federation might want to consider setting up a site.
4. **Pesticide Levy:** Mayor Carrier reported that the municipality had drafted a bylaw banning pesticides several years ago but that no further action had been taken. He said that there was no money in the 2005 for enforcement of a pesticide bylaw, but that it would probably take about six months before such a law could be passed because of the necessity for a consultation process before approval. Grant Walsh said that the municipality of Chelsea website in a good source of information on the dangers of pesticide.

Moved by Francois Pichard, seconded by Marie France Therrien that the Federation ask the municipality to pass a bylaw banning the use of pesticides and fertilizers in the municipality as soon as possible. **Passed, one abstention**

Tom Barber asked that an article on the dangers of pesticides be included in the next newsletter produced by Grant Walsh.

5. **& 6. Report on septic inspection** presented by Natalie Gingras, Director of Urban and Environmental Affairs for the Municipality of Val-des-Monts. Natalie said that in 2004 437 septic fields were inspected and in 2005 she expects to complete another 500. It was agreed that in 2005 inspections would be made of the islands in PSL, inspections of systems on Grand Lake will be finished, and McGregor Lake will be started. She will also follow up on the outstanding problems from the 2004 inspections. See her attached report for more details.
7. **Lake water inspection/funding:** Tom Barber will coordinate distribution of water testing bottles for phosphate and e-coli testing in 2005. He will meet with the water testing lab before the March meeting to ensure that the Federation is getting the best price and to establish a protocol for the pick up and return of sample-bottles.
8. **Water Quality Day** Discussion took place about poor attendance last year, lack of someone to coordinate the day, desirability of combining the water quality talks with a social event (for example the bass festival), need to

organize early enough. Tom Barber will speak to Julie Dagenais about Water Quality Day.

- 9. Membership/AGM** Tom Barber and Duncan Campbell will work on reaching other lakes not yet represented on the federation. Of the some 120 lakes in Val-des-Monts, 25 are now members of the federation.
- 10. Development limits/Environmental levy** The municipality is looking at the possibility of both of these. The mayor is trying to balance environmental concerns and the need to generate revenue. The Federation wants to be consulted about all new development in the municipality. The idea of an environmental levy was carried forward to the March meeting at which time the Federation will provide more detailed information on what an environmental levy would be spent on.
- 11. Other Business** Jean Lafreniere said there was no news on what the owners of the 1000 acres off Ch du Parc were planning.

NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2005, 6:00 P.M.

