MINUTES OF THE 2018 FALL MEETING

of

MIT / SD /WCA

Held September 25th at Lindenwoods Community Centre

Present: MIT – Will Kellas, Fisaha Unduche

SD – Brad Kiedyk

WCA – Alan Roberts, Al Bezak, Bob Harrison, Bob Stalker, Darrell Kinley, Doug Moberg, Neil McMillan, Shelley Pastrick, Tom Cutts,

WCA Cottagers – Al Moone/ Betula, Dave Brown/Falcon, Derrick Sigmar/Falcon, Craig Everett/Falcon, Perry Halpenny/Falcon, Jack Wiebe/Falcon

Regrets: MIT – Ben Vanderhooft

WCA – Bob Harbottle, Bob Vermette, Joel Kettner, Gary Kennedy

WCA – Presentation of concerns by a delegation from West Hawk Lake by Bob Harbottle

Bob Harbottle was not in attendance however two Committee members Alan Roberts and Darrell Kinley commented on the low level of West Hawk. Will Kellas confirmed that most lakes were now entering the winter drawdown levels as the result of the dry summer. Further discussion ensued about the minimum summer level. It was decided that the minimum should be raised to 1091.00 from the current 1090.65 with the maximum summer level remaining at 1092.25 to provide a buffer for Caddy Lake. The winter draw down level should remain at 1090.25 to provide a buffer for normal spring runoff.

WCA – Discussion of the impact of any changes in West Hawk on Caddy Lake. Summary of the results for modifying the North Cross Lake discharge weir by Bob Stalker.

Bob Stalker presented his concerns about the extremely low level of Caddy Lake and the water quality issues of algae blooms and odors. Bob would like to see some method of reducing the drawdown on Caddy Lake such as a v-notch addition to the top of the existing weir. Slowing the out flow a small amount would extend the season for boating and swimming on this lake. Alan Roberts commented that this is the driest summer on record other than 1937 and this is the major contributor to the condition and level of Caddy Lake. Will Kellas added that a study by MIT about Caddy Lake level issues will be completed in a month or two and be available to the WCA committee.

WCA – Presentation of concerns by a delegation from Betula Lake by Al Moone and Tom Cutts

Tom Cutts opened with a review of the ongoing issues of water quality with incidents of black algae and green algae occurring regularly. He felt that increased flow through the lake would minimize the algae occurrences. Tom referred to the addition of a V-notch weir on top of the current weir as a possible solution to slow the discharge and maintain a higher level. Al Moone supported anything that would increase the lake level and flow through. The last two years have been very difficult for some cottagers to get their boats launched. Will Kellas obtained the elevation of the weir structure from the construction files and found an anomaly in the readings. The elevation of the weir is higher (987.8) than the current readings (987.35) and yet photos taken a week ago show water flowing over one portion of the structure. Will confirmed that MIT will be reviewing the statistics to determine which is correct (the weir or the lake level measurement device). MIT asked what level the cottagers would like the lake to be at for summer levels. It was suggested that a survey of all cottagers to determine a preferred level would be useful. Al Moone questioned when the study could commence. Fisaha Unduche stated not until the Caddy Lake one was complete. It was also suggested that the WCA could undertake the survey with some input from MIT.

Al Moone and Tom Cutts were advised that the 25 year old poll of cottager opinion survey on the desired lake level would have to be repeated, due to many cottages having changed ownership and possibly opinions having changed over time.

SD - Update on the dredging progress on McKenzie Bay and Falcon Lake boathouse channels. Were there any issues SD encountered? What is the scope of work defining the dredging for these channels?

Brad Kiedyk reported that the McKenzie Bay channel was completed in 6 days and resulted in a deepening of the channel by up to 4 – 5 feet in places. The majority of the channel did not need dredging. The material removed was piled on the shore.

The Falcon Lake Block 23 channel will be complete in 9 days and was excavated to a depth of 4.5 – 5 feet below existing water level of 1065.2 ft.. Material from the dredging was placed on the bank and burlap and straw blankets were placed on top to control erosion. Seeding is planned to take place to assist in erosion control. Bob Harrison was concerned that the extra weight on the banks might cause the bank to slide into the channel and that removing it from site might be more prudent. Brad advised that they encountered clay during the dredging which he felt was good in providing a stable base. Brad confirmed that Falcon Lake Block 10 is scheduled for dredging next year. When asked if there were any issues Brad confirmed that two cottagers did not mark their rails and these sustained some damage. Bob Harrison stated that they should consider regular monitoring of the depth in these channels to predict when this work would be required in the future.

MIT - Falcon Lake Open House results. Is there a schedule for selecting the preferred control structure design? Is there a timeline for implementation of the solution?

As Ben Vanderhooft was not available Will Kellas informed us that the deadline for the survey submission was September 21st after which the information would be compiled and the results made available. A rather lively discussion ensued with the Falcon Lake cottagers present concerned about the set point for the lake level. Jack Wiebe reminded everyone that three scenarios were outlined in the survey and on the display boards at the Open House. WCA committee members were concerned about the current narrow operating range increasing the risk of damage to lake shore buildings and docks. Fisaha Unduche confirmed that setting the lake level is the responsibility of MIT and that input is welcomed from the cottagers. A proposal was tabled that the lake level that would satisfy most people would be 1065.50 – 1066.25, which holds the upper limit but lowers the bottom limit by 3 inches from the current range. This received agreement by the majority of those present.

MIT - What were the original lake level settings from the 1960’s for Falcon Lake, West Hawk, Caddy, Jessica, White, Betula. Were the adjustable control structures to be operated at a fixed elevation for the summer and winter or was there a range that was considered acceptable?

This item was held to the end of the meeting due to time constraints and was not completed. Will Kellas did provide some design information on three structures. Betula weir was built at 987.8. Jessica dam was built at 1012.5. White dam was built at 997.0

MIT - Draw down commencement dates for lakes with control structures.

Will Kellas reported that most lakes were nearing the winter target levels without intervention due to the lack of rainfall.

MIT - Summary of current Conditions and Forecast of winter precipitation

Forecast not available