

Covia Canada Ltd. / Public Liaison Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 13, 2024
To: PLC Members
Copies: Blue Mountain Modernization PLC Engagement Files; posted on www.CanadianNepheline.ca website
Subject: Proceedings of the Public Liaison Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: Wednesday May 1, 2024

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Location: Blue Mtn Plant – New Administrative Office

Attendees:

Kasshabog Lake Representatives: Dawn Mitchell, Mike Delsey, Rick Rye, Peter Patterson, and Robert Milne along with Anne Rawson who attended via Teams Meeting

Covia Canada Ltd: Dan Lyon, Cale Reeder, Carol DeNure and Michele Oxlade attended via Teams Meeting

Regrets: Jim Martin, Township of Havelock Belmont Methuen

Agenda Items:

1. Safety Share
 2. Review Minutes from the last meeting
 3. Modernization Update
 4. Review Terms of Reference
 5. Other Business
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1. Safety Share

Rick Rye shared we have to be mindful at home as well as at work, sharing an incident with a trailer he recently had.

2. Review Minutes from Last Meeting

Dan went through the minutes from the prior meeting. No changes were noted.

3. PLC Team Membership

Sadly, Janet Humber, John Davison and Mike Delsey all resigned from the PLC Team. The Committee expressed their appreciation for their time and effort over the years of their PLC service.

It was agreed previously that when the positions become available that it would be posted for a minimum of two weeks then go to a vote. It was thought to be a great idea to invite the new members at this meeting, and both Peter Patterson and Robert Milne did attend.

It was brought to our attention late that there was another candidate Anne Rawson that was interested and we would invite her as well.

To our knowledge, Janet Humber and John Davison vacancies were posted and there were two candidates that applied: Robert Milne was to replaced Janet Humber and Peter Patterson was to replace Mike Delsey.

John Davison was to be replaced by Anne Rawson but were not sure if that position had been posted. There was much discussion and Anne agreed to post the position in the LKRA web site.

Mike Delsey indicated that the PLC Terms of Reference don't specify that the vacancies need to be posted.

Michele Oxlade: It is not but it was agreed at one of the last meetings that it would be posted for a minimum of 2 weeks. We need to show the Ministry that it was posted and for how long. We will revise the Terms of Reference at the next meeting.

Dan welcomed the new members and thanked Anne for joining us. The Team then voted on the two new members Robert Milne and Peter Patterson, Cale

Reeder raised the motion and Dan Lyon 2nd the motion. All in favour, unanimous decision.

Cale Reeder explained to the new members why the PLC team was brought forward and that this should be an open forum. Members should feel free to bring up any items of concern.

Dawn Mitchell suggested that if the team wants a specific item discussed, that the member email Carol DeNure prior to the next meeting, and she will be able to place the item on the meeting agenda. Please email Carol: carol.denure@coviacorp.com

All members signed the Covia Site Specific Policy 2024.

4. Modernization/Operations Update

Dan informed all members that there is no change to the Nephton plant operations at this time. Nephton plant is running Monday to Friday only. While the Nephton plant is staffed Monday to Friday, Covia does maintenance 2 days a week and operates the plant for only 3 days a week currently.

Blue Mountain plant is now producing 65-70% of the products sold. Blue Mountain optimization is improving all of the time. Last month at the Blue Mountain plant, the operation set a production record.

Covia is currently in day 3 of a "capacity testing" that is running for 1 full week. The objective is to run the plant to its maximum to see what it can produce at full capacity.

Blue Mountain/Nephton sales are down currently by approximately 5% but still better than Covia had budgeted for post-Covid period. Several customers don't want to have a single source for the product but the unique nature of this product reduces their opportunities to diversify suppliers - but there is a market risk for the company. Maintaining the Nephton plant as a separate operation helps provide a degree of supply diversification by Covia to its customers.

Robert Milne: Has Blue Mountain met your Modernization targets yet given that the original capital budget has been closed in the corporation accounts?

Dan Lyon: We are still a work in progress, we can't produce enough to service all of our customers needs, we still rely on Nephton to help meet the sales requirements. We will need further capital to complete the production goals

here at the Blue Mountain Plant. No further construction is anticipated until the capital required has been secured.

Robert Milne: When will a decision be made about the future of the Nephton plant?

Dan Lyon: We are unsure on timing as of yet. Currently we are just optimizing the operation of both plants right now to meet production targets and customer's supply requirements.

Peter Patterson: We know that you have to make money, that is what you are in business for, so with the capacity testing that you are doing are you trying to see what your maximum will be?

Dan Lyon: We have to work around power curtailments as well, but we are trying to see what we can get out of the new plant at Blue Mountain plant. We are adding additional packaging people on the weekend as well so we can get optimal results in a perfect test scenario.

Robert Milne: So, am I hearing that you are still waiting for corporate approvals for more money to meet the original targets of the Modernization project?

Dan Lyon: We will need more capital funds to complete the project.

Rick Rye: Does either plant make any different products from the other?

Dan Lyon: Nephton doesn't have the same packaging machinery and they don't produce any fine grind the product, that is 90% done here at the Blue Mountain Plant.

Peter Patterson: Are you still producing sand?

Dan Lyon: Yes, Nephton produces a lot of sand.

5. ECA Noise and Dust update

Dawn Mitchell: There hasn't been any noise complaints I have heard of in years. Thank you Covia!

Rick Rye: The traffic/truck noise from the Haul Rd is definitely quieter with Nephton Plant not running on the weekends.

Cale Reeder: Nephton is still running in the evenings but not on weekends.

Robert Milne: Has the noise abatement survey been completed yet?

Michele Oxlade: We are hoping 2024, but all of the abatement equipment has to be in place first, so the survey may not be undertaken until early 2025.

Robert Milne: Have all of your other 2014 Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) requirements/permits been met and closed?

Michele Oxlade: The only ECA requirement outstanding is the acoustic audit.

Robert Milne: Have you had any dust or vibration complaints?

Cale Reeder: No, we did a site study, but Environment Ministry was happy with the results, and there are no complaints we know of within 1.5 or 2 years.

Dawn Mitchell: Is all of your noise abatement equipment installed?

Dan Lyon: Most of the equipment is installed but there are a few pieces of equipment that need to be changed and it is currently sitting with engineering to complete the installation.

6. Environmental Site Initiatives

We have checked the wood duck boxes that we have here on site and 65% of them were used. We haven't got our cameras out yet as we can't get to them just yet.

This year we are still doing our turtle nesting survey, but we have run into a bit of a permitting issue that we are working out currently. We are just waiting for the go ahead. We try to collect 200-300 eggs and incubate them here on site.

We had OFO (Ontario Field Ornithologists dedicated to the study of bird life in Ontario), here to do bird sightings in April and they found that we have nesting Falcons in our quarry pit. I have attached of their findings for your interest.

Robert Milne: Do you ever have issues with your settling/tailing ponds?

Cale Reeder: No, but we are working on extending the height of the Blue Mountain Plant settling ponds during this summer. We are also doing some work this year with our landfill site, but this will not affect Lake Kasshabog as it is located on the north side of the ridge.

7. Other business

a) Kosh Lake Sponsorships:

Robert Milne - Trent University completed a study here years ago in Kosh Lake with regards to the invasive Fanwort and possible abatement/mitigation activities. I believe they also installed benthic mats back then to help stop the growth. They did reach out to the Lake Kasshabog Residents Association's environmental committee to see if they would also support the study. I would like to see the results of that study. Do you have that report?

Do you think that Covia would be interested in supplying some more of those mats? The cost is around \$1,300.00 per mat and it would cover 20ft x 100ft area. Then we would need to find some volunteers to help install them but they also have to be removed before the winter. Is this something that you could help with?

Cale Reeder: this is out of the scope of the PLC team, but you can certainly apply through the company website if the request is for significant funds. In the past, small requests for funding has been handled through the site management budget subject to management's discretion.

Michele Oxlade: Our Corporate website has the application for funding.

Action Item: Carol to send Rob Milne information on the application process and the form/format utilized for submissions.

Robert Milne: Would Covia help stock the Lake again with fish?

Cale Reeder: This is Ministry of Natural Resources and out of our control. That would have to be handled by the cottage association through an application.

b) Lake Kasshabog Residents Association:

The LKRA annual general meeting to be held May 14th. At the meeting, they will mention the PLC and see if there are any others that would be interested in participating.

c) CP Railway Culvert:

Robert Milne - I read in previous minutes that there was discussion around the state of the CP Rail culvert, and that Covia was going to talk to CP Rail about the problem, have you done that yet?

Dan Lyon: It is not on our property and it is up to CP Rail to fix it, but I have not reached out to them as of yet.

We are still working with the Havelock Twp office and Peterborough County around fixing the road into the Blue Mountain plant. We are hopeful that this item can be included in their budget this year.

Peter Patterson: the mine itself used to maintain that road, do you not do that anymore?

Dan Lyon: No, Peterborough County does.

d) Potential Installation of Cell Towers:

Robert Milne – The last meeting minutes indicated that Rogers was investigating the installation of cell towers. Are they being installed?

Dan Lyon: They have found another site to install a new tower. We would have had to update a lot of the mine plan, plant closure etc.. and that is not an easy or inexpensive task.

e) Operating Pits:

Robert Milne: How many pits do you have?

Cale Reeder: We have 3 pits that we are working out of at different times,

Cale Reeder: We have had a few issues lately with the public coming onto the site, is there any way that you could mention at your next meeting that there is no public access?

f) LKRA Environmental Committee:

Cale Reeder: Who is in charge of the Kasshabog Lake environmental committee, could you please have them reach out to me.

Robert Milne: Currently that position is vacant. The LKRA is hopeful that the position will be filled at their upcoming AGM in May. Would Covia be interested in helping financially the environmental committee?

Dan Lyon: Feel free to bring items like this forward to us and we are always happy to take a look and help where we can.

g) Covia Open House:

Dawn Mitchell: Are you doing the Open House again this year?

Dan Lyon: Yes, August 21 and August 24. We will be putting up postings and invitations again closer to the event.

Anne Rawson: Anne prepares the monthly communication news letter so will post the information there, but it is noted in the yearbook as well, as there is a high level of interest for the Open House events by the lake residents

Peter Patterson: Does Covia want any help for the Open House from the committee?

Dan Lyon: I think we are good but thank you for the offer.

Cale Reeder: We have asked the Turtle Trauma Center to come back this year to our Open House, we are not confirmed yet but are hopeful.

8. Summary of Action Items:

1) PLC Team Membership

Action Item: Cale Reeder - can you please include the two-week timeline in the posting as well. If there are any others that apply, please let us know so we can invite them to the next meeting.

Action Item: Anne Rawson - agreed to put June 30th as the timeline in the posting.

Action Item: Michele Oxlade - requested that an actions summary be added at the end of each meeting, so follow-up actions don't get forgotten and the members assigned can have these answers/actions completed by the time of the next scheduled meeting. Assigned to Carol DeNure. *Completed*

Action Item: Carol DeNure - to ask Jim Martin about posting PLC vacancies on the Municipality site.

2) ECA Noise and Dust update

Action Item: Michele Oxlade – confirm status on installation of all noise abatement equipment to allow the noise abatement survey to be completed in 2025.

3) Other Business

Action Item: Carol DeNure to send Rob Milne information on the Covia application process and the form/format utilized for submissions.

Action Item: Carol DeNure and Peter Patterson to find information (if possible) regarding Trent University fanwork survey report/findings from years ago and to send to Rob Milne.

Action Item: Carol DeNure to post meeting minutes and updated Terms of Reference to the Covia Canadian website

Action Item: Rob Milne and Rick Rye to contact Cale Reeder at the Nepton gate before the next meeting so they don't have to drive all the way around.

9. Closing

Dan Lyon closed the meeting, thanking everyone for their attendance and taking the time to come. Welcomed the two new members and looking forward to our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30pm

Tentative Next Meeting Time: Tuesday October 15, 2024 @ 2:00 pm

Covia OFO Site Visit

Species Identified, April 21st

- 20 - Canada Goose
- 5 - Mallard
- 2 - Bufflehead
- 5 - Hooded Merganser
- 3 - Common Merganser
- 14 - Wild Turkey
- 1 - Ruffed Grouse
- 1 - Sandhill Crane
- 3 - Killdeer
- 1 - Ring-billed Gull
- 42 - Turkey Vulture
- 1 - Osprey
- 1 - Sharp-shinned Hawk
- 1 - Cooper's Hawk
- 1 - Bald Eagle
- 3 - Broad-winged Hawk
- 2 - Red-tailed Hawk
- 2 - Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted)
- 1 - American Kestrel
- 2 - Peregrine Falcon
- 1 - Eastern Phoebe
- 2 - American Crow
- 7 - Common Raven
- 14 - Black-capped Chickadee
- 4 - Tree Swallow
- 2 - Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- 4 - European Starling
- 2 - Brown Thrasher
- 1 - Hermit Thrush
- 15 - American Robin
- 5 - Song Sparrow
- 12 - Red-winged Blackbird
- 2 - Brown-headed Cowbird
- 4 - Common Grackle
- 1 - Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)

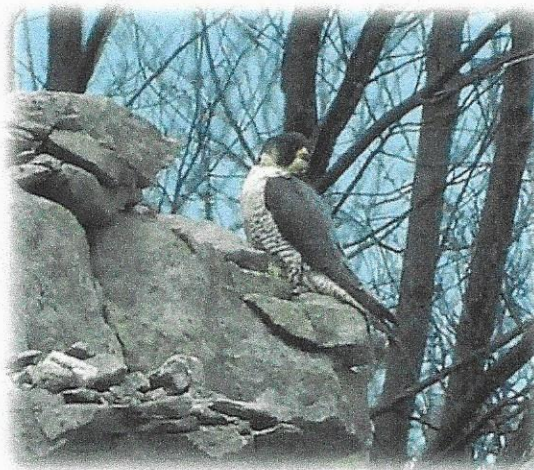
OFO and Peterborough Field Naturalist enjoyed a site visit at NSO on April 21st.

Highlights of the visit;

➤ Number of Bird Species found on site.



➤ Duck Boxes on site are being used again this season.



➤ Mating Peregrine Falcons have nested in quarry and have chick.

Join us for the next visit October 26th 2024.

