

From: [Bruce Reid](#)

Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2007 8:37 AM

Subject: Heart's Desire Weir

Hello everyone;

I haven't been able to find the time to prepare any formal notes of our meeting on May 18th.

However, we have prepared the following brief synopsis of the discussion for the purposes of informing the RVCA Board of Directors on the matter. This short report is included under the "Activity Reports" item in the Board's agenda for tomorrow evening.

If it's ok with everyone involved, I'd like to suggest that these notes could serve double duty as the "minutes" of our meeting.

Hearts Desire Weir

A letter received in early May from the Stonebridge Community Association and the Friends of the Jock River, expressed those organizations' concern about an ongoing erosion condition on the south bank of the Jock River, a short distance upstream of the RVCA's Hearts Desire Weir site. The letter suggested that there may be a cause-effect relationship between the weir and the erosion condition. Staff convened an informal meeting on May 18 to discuss the issue prior to scheduled annual installation of the weir.

Other stakeholders in the matter were invited and attended, including the Hearts Desire Community Association (the community on the north side of the river) and the City of Ottawa Recreation Department (the ongoing erosion is occurring on City-owned riverfront parkland adjacent to a maintained trail). This seasonal weir has been operated by the Authority since the early 1970's, it's construction having been recommended in a 1970 "Jock River Conservation Report". In a modern watershed management context, the need for continuing the operation is questionable, while there are occupational health and safety issues associated with the labour-intensive annual installation and removal operation.

The weir is seen as providing local aesthetic benefits and enhances the recreational potential of a short reach of the river. Some in the Hearts Desire Community have grown accustomed to the weir's presence as a local amenity and would like to see its operation continue, or if it should be discontinued would want to see substantial effort made to restore the riverbank. While the weir's head pond supports a "pool"-type aquatic habitat from May to October, in doing so it changes the natural "riffle" or "run" – type habitats that would otherwise be present.

The meeting ended in a consensus that the annual installation of the weir should proceed in 2007, since there have been no formal consultations with interested stakeholders prior to proposing a change in a long standing annual operation. The parties also agreed that a more formal process of investigating options for the future should be initiated. It was suggested that a public meeting be held in the fall at which all the available background information on the weir would be presented by the RVCA (and others), from a number of technical and community viewpoints, and a course of action would then be formulated based on feedback received at that meeting.

The weir was subsequently installed for the 2007 summer season, and RVCA aquatics and natural sciences personnel are undertaking aquatic habitat surveys and inventories in the affected reach in an effort to help characterize the weir's role in terms of aquatic habitat support.

Please don't hesitate to send me any feedback that you might have on the matter.

Thanks,

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