

BIA General Meeting Minutes
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2020 at the Hot Stove Lounge

Present: Rebecca Rathwell, Gary Ballagh, Glen Manjin, Kathy Van Engen, Paul Heffer, Ryan Fergusson, Doug Kuyvenhoven, Lisa Hearnden, Trina Huffman

1. Welcome - The meeting called to order at 8:05am
2. Introductions were made around the table
3. Delegations – Trina Huffman, the new Branch Manager for the Alice Munro Library, introduced the “Welcome to the Neighbourhood Bag” that is given to visitors and new residents that visit the library. It contains pamphlets and information regarding Wingham happenings, including the Complex, garbage pickup, business information. It was suggested that businesses add promotional coupons/information to the bag. Rebecca and Lisa will contact the Huron County GIS and ask for assistance developing a map of Wingham that shows not only the streets but also where businesses are located.
4. The Howson Dam Committee of Council has asked for input from community groups to gauge support for replacing the Howson Dam. The BIA has asked members for their input and the BIA Board will then draft a letter to be submitted to the committee by January 10, 2020.

Doug read highlights from Sean McGee’s May 2018 Howson Dam report to council which summarized the engineering reports on the dam starting in 1983. Atkinson Davis Inc reported in 1984 that “In view of the condition of the concrete, we are of the opinion that it will not act as a base for repair work and that the only course open is to remove and replace the dam and bridge structure.” A structural review was made and the allowable load on the bridge was reduced to 3 tonnes. Load capacity reviews were carried out until approximately 1999 when it was determined that the bridge was no longer appropriate for vehicular traffic.

KGS Group was commissioned in 2017 to complete a safety assessment of the Howson Dam. Four options were given in the KGS 2017 report

1. Do nothing which was not viable.
2. Decommission the Dam - which was an estimated \$436,000
3. Rehabilitate the Dam - “If the concrete in the spillways is found to be consistent with the concrete tested previously, the rehabilitation option cannot be considered an option. If it could be done the cost is estimated to be between \$2.8 – \$4.6 million
4. Replace the Dam - the cost for a new concrete overflow weir dam is estimated to be \$6.2 million. An earth embankment and new sluiceway structure would be \$4 million.

Environmental studies recommended removing and not replacing the dam.

A discussion took place with each member present stating their opinion on the Howson Dam. While it was agreed that the upper pond is an attractive attribute the cost benefit of repairing or replacing the dam doesn’t seem to make sense.

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There did not seem to be any support for tax dollars going toward the saving of the dam.

The BIA board will meet tonight to prepare a letter to the Howson Dam Committee of Council.

5. Upcoming Events

- a. Blyth BIA is hosting a Marketing to Gen Z on January 13th at 9:30 AM
- b. The Wingham Town Hall Theatre is hosting
 - i. Mud Men - Feb 21
 - ii. AC/DC tribute - Mar 13
 - iii. Johnny Cash tribute - Apr 18
 - iv. Charley Pride tribute - May 2

6. AGM will be Feb 20th. We will be working on the 2020 budget at the next board meeting. There is one position on the board that needs to be filled.

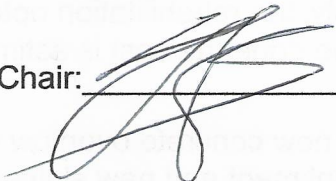
7. Other Business

- a. Tim Hortons/Valu Mart plaza entrance - it was suggested that arrows be painted or directional signage be installed to clear up traffic confusion.
- b. North Huron Museum - a Work Plan with target dates has been developed and will be presented to council.

8. Next Meetings

- a. Board Meetings - January 9 and January 16 @ 6:30 pm
- b. General Meeting - February 6 @ 8 am
- c. AGM - February 20 @ 7 pm

9. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Gary. Second by Lisa. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:55am.

Date: 2020-01-23 Chair:  Secretary: Annette Monsma