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February 20. 08.

Agenda for a meeting between Mr. Eric Boysen MNR and OFEAA members.

Introduction

Discussion agenda Minister Cansfield meeting January 30. 08.

Priority walleye eggs, brook trout eggs, lake trout and brown trout eggs procurement from MNR hatcheries.

Fish stocking license process

Environmental assessments process for stocking fish into Ontario waters.

New aquaculture license process.

Dispute resolving mechanism.

Terms of references in regard to the “Aquaculture Policy and Regulation Advisory Committee”



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Friday, February 22, 2008

Meeting between OFEAA and Eric Boysen [MNR Director Great Lakes Branch]

Attended by:

Eric Boysen MNR Director Great Lakes Branch

Lisa Miller-Dodd MNR Fish Culture Section

Alan Bunn OFEAA Secretary

Karl Dickob OFEAA President

The aforementioned meeting was arranged as a result of a suggestion of the Honorable MNR Minister Cansfield, when OFEAA met with her at Queens Park in Toronto on January 30. 08.

The meeting commenced after a short introduction at 1 pm in the afternoon.

Mr. Boysen and Ms. Miller-Dodd familiarized us with their position and involvement in the MNR and how they potentially see co-operation evolving with our aquaculture association.

OFEAA stated in general terms some of the short and long term problems that should and have to be resolved to develop aquaculture in Ontario.

Some MNR policies and regulations might have to be revisited to resolve issues as they are surfacing. Some issues or problems may need immediate attention to be resolved others may require a more lengthy process.

Resolved issues have to be posted and implemented and obeyed by all parties.

To that effect it was agreed that the Aquaculture Policy and Regulation Advisory

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Committee should be the vehicle to act as a forum to resolve disputes as they may incur between MNR interests and OFEAA stake holders.

Details of who should chair this committee “MNR” and the Terms of Reference under which this committee would best be conducted are still quite unclear to us and we would like to have more input on this matter from the MNR.

There are some topics that should be resolved in the very near future and Mr. Boysen stated that he would address our concerns and will inform us in due time of what the MNR will decide on this matter.

OFEAA concern # 1 at this time is the procurement of Gametes and Brood Stock from MNR sources for aquaculture purposes.

There is a provision in the regulations for fish farmers to obtain the above via a license from the MNR from wild sources in Ontario Waters; this is not a real option for fish farmers in general and their customers in particular.

1] Fish farmers don't have the equipment and experience to obtain wild brood stock of certain fish species from the wild.

2] For most fish farm's it is not economical to have to set aside a water body for a small amount of brood stock. Our customers expect from us that we supply the best available product with the best survival and growth rate.

3] A small contingency of brood stock [Walleye] poses the problem of genetic decline which should be recognized especially when stocking fish into Ontario waters.

The MNR recognized # 3 at a work shop that was held in Peterborough in 2002, that is was essential to develop a plan for future procurement needs of walleye eggs for all stakeholders.

On February 20 2002 a report of the Bay of Quinte Egg Collection Review Committee was presented to the Director, of the MNR Fish and Wildlife branch. I as a Director of the then OAA and a participant on the workshop fully endorsed the review.

Unfortunately it seems no action has been taken to either recognize or implement any of the recommendations.

OFEAA recommends that MNR reviews this report in consideration of further needs for government and NGO.

OFEAA's opinion is that it would be regretful if all the time, effort and funds spent on this committees work was wasted and is not implemented.

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OFEAA members received in the past small amounts of walleye eggs from MNR sources at no or minimal costs. This was an acceptable arrangement for the time being until a more stable arrangement with MNR Fish Culture could be established.

Unfortunately MNR fish culture management decided to cancel all previous arrangements and put a price tag on walleye eggs that was 12 fold of previous prices quoting that that was their cost.

OFEAA objected to this, since it is not reasonable to charge OFEAA members \$26 per thousand walleye eggs if other NGO groups receive them for free, to stock Ontario Waters of their preference.

OFEAA is of the opinion that our customers have the same privilege and rights as other MNR supported NGO groups.

Our customers consists of the general public [consumers] sport fisher men/woman and land owners, who pay taxes plus contribute funds through fishing licenses but in most instances are far removed from stocked lakes and are not benefiting from their contributions.

We need a fairer policy for the future!

Last year members of our association lost a whole year because of the above stated problem. Our customers were to say the least upset and disappointed.

Spawning season is fast approaching and it is hoped that MNR has a short term solution for the spring of this year, for green or eyed up walleye eggs.

OFEAA requests that the MNR take into account, that our association needs, due to our way of conducting business, a faster time response in issuing stocking licenses, environmental assessment issues, new fish farm licenses etc.

Priority should be given to issues that affect the welfare of fish farmers whose income depends on stocking fish at the best time of the season.

The two hour long meeting ended at 3pm on a positive note and we are guardedly optimistic that future dealings with the MNR will be better than in the past.

Our meeting with the new MNR Minister the Honorable Donna Cansfield and her ADM Kevin Wilson on January 30. 08. was reassuring when they expressed their interest in aquaculture and gave their pledge to be receptive to us in the future if needed.

For the future, we hope and anticipate that the MNR and the private sector find a way to come to terms to harmonize requirements for all stake holders.

For OFEAA

Karl Dickob
President OFEAA

Alan Bunn
Secretary OFEAA



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Sunday, February 10, 2008

Eric

I like to follow up in regard to your e-mail from February 4, 08 and try in short to answer your questions.

I send you only a few of my files on different topics. I knew you would have questions and needed answers but I think it would go too far at this time for me to go into details.

It would be better and easier for me if we discussed these and other matters at our meeting.

Just a few pointers:

Security Manual

I wrote the security manual it was paid for by MNR, Agri/Food, Fishery and Ocean and the then OAA. MNR refuses to take this manual in consideration when assessing new fish farms and also for stocking.

Bay of Quinte Walleye Egg Collection Committee

In 2001 and 2002 I was involved as a Director for the OAA in the above committee to source walleye eggs for MNR, private aquaculture and other NGO entities.

Why was their no follow up on the draft report?

For several years I and three other fish farmers received eyed eggs from the MNR at a nominal cost.

Since last year we were abruptly canceled from this arrangement by Mr. Day.

Detailed List of Aquaculture Elements and Tasks

This is a list of many outstanding tasks that have to be resolved in a timely fashion.

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Not all items are of matters concerning land-based fish farms nor are regulated by MNR.

There were two letters to Mr. Day stating our wishes and concerns we never got a satisfactory answer.

My understanding was when we had the meeting with the Minister and Kevin Wilson that we should find ways and means to resolve as best we can problems and disagreements that hinder the land-based aquaculture industry in Ontario.

WE were very encouraged at that meeting in the manner the Minister and Kevin reacted to our submissions and your prompt cooperation in wanting to meet with us.

Our expectations of the meeting are that we briefly discuss past problems then turn a new leaf and discuss items that need prompt attention.

We should discuss of how we can harmonize best the functions of the MNR and our industry.

We should try to set term of references for the **“Aquaculture Regulation and Policy Advisory Committee.”**

I would appreciate if you can let me know when it would be preferable for you to come to my place [in the morning or afternoon].

You are quite welcome to bring some additional persons with you.

In case you choose Mr. Day it may be embarrassing for him we lost trust in him and further working with him is impossible.

There will be three more directors of OFEAA present they also have a lot to learn yet and this might be just the right occasion.

Thank you very much for your interest

Sincerely

**Karl Dickob
President, OFEAA**