

SAUGEEN VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Conservation through Cooperation

MINUTES

Meeting: Authority Meeting
Date: Thursday October 21, 2021, 1:00 p.m.
Location: Electronic

Chair: Maureen Couture

Members present: Paul Allen, Mark Davis, Barbara Dobreen, Dan Gieruszak, Cheryl Grace, Tom Hutchinson, Steve McCabe, Don Murray, Mike Myatt, Mike Niesen, Sue Paterson, Diana Rae, Christine Robinson, Bill Stewart

Others present: Jennifer Stephens, General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer
Erik Downing, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations
Donna Lacey, Manager, Forestry and Lands
Laura Molson, Manager, Corporate Services
Nicole Gibson, Regulations Officer
Anthony Quipp, Field Operations Assistant
Janice Hagan, Executive Assistant / Recording Secretary

Chair Maureen Couture called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. Land Acknowledgement

The following Land Acknowledgement was read by Tom Hutchinson:

As we work towards reconciliation with Indigenous people, we begin our meeting today by respectfully acknowledging that we are situated on Traditional Territories and Treaty Lands, in particular those of the Chippewas of Saugeen Ojibway Territory known as the Saugeen Ojibway Nation.

As shared stewards of Ontario's land and water resources – along with the First Nations community – Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority appreciates and respects the history and diversity of the land and its peoples and are grateful to have the opportunity to meet in this territory.

2. Adoption of Agenda

It was noted that an amended agenda had been circulated with an update to Item 10 - Closed Session as the subject matter to be considered was added. Bill Stewart requested that a point of discussion under New Business regarding the potential partnership with Insurance companies to upgrade floodplain mapping.

Motion #G21-102

Moved by Diana Rae

Seconded by Paul Allen

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No persons declared a pecuniary interest relative to any item on the agenda.

4. Approval of Authority Meeting Minutes

- a. September 16, 2021 – Authority Meeting

Motion #G21-103

Moved by Mike Myatt

Seconded by Steve McCabe

THAT the minutes of the Authority meeting, held on September 16, 2021, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

- b. September 24, 2021 – Authority Meeting

Motion #G21-104

Moved by Dan Gieruszak

Seconded by Cheryl Grace

THAT the minutes of the Authority meeting, held on September 24, 2021, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Introductions of New Staff

The following new staff were introduced:

- a. Anthony Quipp – Field Operations Assistant
- b. Nicole Gibson – Regulations Officer

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- a. 2022 Budget

Motion #G21-105

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Diana Rae

THAT the SVCA Board of Directors approve the 2022 draft budget in principle; and

FURTHER THAT staff be authorized to forward the draft budget to the Authority's watershed municipalities for a 30-day review.

CARRIED

a. Establishment of Vaccination Policy

Jennifer Stephens reviewed the submitted report. She indicated that new hires are not required to be vaccinated at the start of employment but will be required to receive vaccination education and antigen testing during the probationary period.

The policy will apply immediately, but it was noted that the SVCA Bylaws will need to be updated to reflect changes. Several Directors requested that all staff be tested regardless of vaccination status. The Directors requested that the policy be scrutinized by legal counsel. The motion recommended by staff was amended to include changes that the Board discussed during the meeting.

Motion #G21-106

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Cheryl Grace

WHEREAS Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority has a responsibility under the Occupational Health and Safety Act to take all reasonable precautions to protect the health and safety of its workers; and

WHEREAS the addition of a vaccine policy would demonstrate the Authority's ongoing commitment to following public health guidance and our commitment to taking all reasonable precautions to protect staff from COVID-19;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the attached vaccine policy together with changes discussed at this meeting be adopted by the Board for establishment at Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority.

CARRIED

Motion to Reconsider:

It was noted that the obligation of vaccinated staff to be tested is included in the changes discussed as referred to in the motion. Director Dobreen recommended that this should be reconsidered.

Motion #G21-107

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Cheryl Grace

THAT the foregoing motion be reconsidered.

CARRIED

Amended Motion:

Motion #G21-108

Moved by Paul Allen

Seconded by Diana Rae

THAT vaccinated employees receive periodic testing.

DEFEATED

Motion #G21-109

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Cheryl Grace

WHEREAS Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority has a responsibility under the Occupational Health and Safety Act to take all reasonable precautions to protect the health and safety of its workers; and

WHEREAS the addition of a vaccine policy would demonstrate the Authority's ongoing commitment to following public health guidance and our commitment to taking all reasonable precautions to protect staff from COVID-19;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the attached vaccine policy be adopted by the Board for establishment at Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority.

CARRIED

b. SVCA Logo

Jennifer Stephens announced that the logo selected was Logo 7. This selection was arrived at by way of polling of staff and directors.

Motion #G21-110

Moved by Tom Hutchinson

Seconded by Steve McCabe

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors support the selection of Logo 7 as the new SVCA logo.

CARRIED

7. General Manager's Report

COVID-19 update:

Staff have begun to return to the office at approximately 60- 70% capacity. The office will continue to be open to the public by appointment only. Any person coming into the building must continue to complete a COVID-19 screening questionnaire. General practices and protocols continue to be followed.

Looking ahead

A draft of the Strategic Plan will be brought to the Board of Directors in the near future for consideration. Discussion of targets and deliverables under the *Conservation Authorities Act* will be discussed as the new Regulations have now been released.

Website

The new website is nearing completing and will be launched mid-November.

Logo and re-branding

A logo has been chosen and text revisions are in progress. The Brand guidelines will now be completed, and logo templates will be created by eSolutions.

Campgrounds

Campgrounds have been closed for the season. A new playground has been installed at Durham CA.

NWMO water quality sampling

The project quality planning work has been completed and sampling will begin next week. Stream gauges will be installed on the Teeswater River within the next 3 weeks. Discussion regarding a partnership with NWMO with respect to 2022 sampling initiative is developing.

Provincial investment announcement

The Ontario government has invested \$2.5 million for 19 projects and initiatives to protect the health of the Great Lakes. \$16,000 is planned for the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network, to implement agricultural best practices such as plantings to reduce soil erosion and livestock stream crossings. Staff will provide water quality test results to the network on a bi-annual basis. \$300,000 was provided to Ausable Bayfield CA to provide soil management and crop production support for farmers. This money is to be split with all CA's across the Lake Huron shoreline.

Bruce Power announcement

Bruce Power is working with SVCA to develop a five-year implementation plan to support tree planting. As well Bruce Power has agreed to a partnership with Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Grey Bruce to undertake carbon sequestration, water quality improvements and habitat protection projects on marginal lands.

8. Consent Agenda

Motion #G21-111

Moved by Cheryl Grace

Seconded by Don Murray

THAT the reports, Minutes, and information contained in the Consent Agenda, [item 8], along with their respective recommended motions be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

9. New Business

a. Conservation Authorities Act- Phase One Regulations

The GM/S-T discussed the overview and transition timeline of the Mandatory Programs and Services Regulation which will come into force January 1, 2022. Staff are preparing an inventory of programs and services for discussion with watershed municipalities to be submitted to the province by February 2022. A draft transition plan will be circulated to the Board in November.

The second phase includes consultation and entering into agreements with participating municipalities to be completed by January 1, 2024. A final report is to be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) by January 31, 2024.

Motion #G21-112

Moved by Tom Hutchinson

Seconded by Barbara Dobreen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors direct staff to prepare a workplan for the completion of the deliverables required under the mandatory programs and services regulation.

b. Designating SVCA staff as Officers

Donna Lacey requested that the Field Operations Assistant be designated as an Officer. There was no discussion.

Motion #G21-113

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the following position: Field Operations Assistant be designated as an 'Officer' by the Authority for the purposes of enforcement of Section 29 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

c. Partnership with Insurance companies

Director Bill Stewart recommended that SVCA pursue a partnership with Insurance companies to upgrade floodplain mapping in the Saugeen watershed. The Chair recommended that an ad hoc committee be formed to discuss the options. Directors who are interested in joining the committee should reach out to Jennifer.

10. Closed Session

Motion #G21-114

Moved by Don Murray

Seconded by Sue Paterson

THAT the Authority move to Closed Session, In Camera to discuss litigation or potential litigation matters affecting the Authority, and to receive advise that is subject to solicitor-client privilege; and further

THAT Jennifer Stephens, Laura Molson and Janice Hagan remain in the meeting; and further

THAT Donna Lacey remain in the meeting for item 4(a).

CARRIED

Motion #G21-117

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Christine Robinson

THAT the Authority adjourn from Closed Session, In Camera, and rise and report.

CARRIED

Chair Couture reported that litigation or potential litigation matters effecting the Authority and advise subject to solicitor-client privilege was received during the closed session. Appropriate direction to staff was given.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m. on motion of Tom

Hutchinson and Steve McCabe.

Maureen Couture
Chair

Janice Hagan
Recording Secretary