

SAUGEEN VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Conservation through Cooperation

MINUTES

Meeting: Authority Meeting
Date: Thursday November 18, 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, Dave Myette, 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
Cassandra Malo, Resources Information Technician
Irena Kontrec, Resources Information Technician
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 Steve McCabe:

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

An additional report had been circulated under New Business: Expanded Scope of Work with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. It was also requested that the frequency of levy payments be discussed.

Motion #G21-119

Moved by Cheryl Grace

Seconded by Paul Allen

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

After discussion, the motion was amended.

Moved by Mark Davis

Seconded by Don Murray

THAT the agenda be adopted as originally circulated.

DEFEATED

Since the amended motion was defeated, the original motion was voted upon and was 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 - October 21, 2021

Motion #G21-120

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Diana Rae

THAT the minutes of the Authority meeting, held on October 21, 2021, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Introductions of New Director and Staff

Chair Couture announced that Director Mike Myatt, Councillor from the Town of Saugeen Shores, had resigned from the SVCA Board, and that Councillor Dave Myette had been appointed by the Town to replace him.

The following new staff were introduced:

- a. Irena Kontrec, Resources Information Technician
- b. Cassandra Malo, Resources Information Technician

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- a. Vaccination Policy

Jennifer Stephens discussed the vaccination policy and advised the Board that legal counsel had recommended several amendments. Several sections have been incorporated, including an effective date, records retention, privacy, policy, and amendments. Further recommendations included more specific requirements to the Roles and Responsibilities section and revisions to administrative consequences.

7. General Manager's Report (verbal)

Website and new logo

The new website has been launched. Jennifer acknowledged the Website Working group for their efforts. It was noted that tremendous positive feedback has been received from other conservation authorities and the public.

Municipal delegations

The proposed 2022 Budget has been circulated to the municipalities. Jennifer has begun delegations at municipal council meetings to discuss the budget and the development of the *Conservation Authorities Act* transition plan.

Rebranding

The Authority branding strategy is nearing completion and is being scrutinized to ensure conformity with the phase 1 Regulations and mandatory programs and services.

Strategic plan

A draft plan report will be brought to the Board at the scheduled December meeting with respect to development and next steps.

***Conservation Authorities Act* Transition plan**

A draft report will be brought to the December meeting. The plan is required to be submitted by December 31, 2021.

Office space retrofit

Some office space is being retrofitted to allow for as many staff as possible to return to the office.

8. Consent Agenda

Motion #G21-121

Moved by Dan Gieruszak

Seconded by Barbara Dobreen

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. Information Technology Storage Infrastructure

Laura Molson noted that the current storage array should be replaced in conjunction with the current scheduled replacement of servers and IT equipment. There was no discussion.

Motion #G21-122

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Tom Hutchinson

THAT staff be directed to proceed with the procurement of information technology storage array equipment.

CARRIED

b. Amendments to the Section 28(3) *Conservation Authorities Act* Hearing Guidelines

Erik Downing discussed the report as presented. Staff recommend that the *Conservation Authorities Act* Hearing Guidelines as approved by Conservation Ontario be adopted by SVCA.

Motion #G21-123

Moved by Cheryl Grace

Seconded by Steve McCabe

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the amendments to the “Conservation Authorities Act Hearing Guidelines” dated September 16, 2021 (CO and NDMNRF, 2005; amended 2018 and 2020) be endorsed as Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority’s *Conservation Authorities Act* Hearing Guidelines, as amended.

CARRIED

c. Memorandum of Understanding with Hydro One Networks Incorporated

Erik reviewed the MOUs as negotiated and endorsed by Conservation Ontario and recommended that SVCA be guided by this MOU to ensure uniformity across the province.

Motion #G21-124

Moved by Diana Rae

Seconded by Dave Myette

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Protocols for Obtaining Permission under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act for Common Hydro One Maintenance and Construction Activities be endorsed for use in the SVCA watershed;

AND FURTHER THAT the Hydro One Application Form be used to acquire Permissions from SVCA relative to administration of Section 28 regulatory responsibilities.

CARRIED

d. Land Donation

Donna Lacey informed the Board that a landowner had expressed interest in donating property to SVCA through the Eco Gifts program. This property, which borders on 3 sides by SVCA land, is Class 1 Wetland and staff recommend the property be acquired by the Authority. The annual property taxes would be minimal.

Motion #G21-125

Moved by Dan Gieruszak

Seconded by Don Murray

THAT SVCA accepts the donation of Concession 19, Lot 25, Township of Proton, Municipality of Southgate, with gratitude, as recommended by staff.

CARRIED

e. Expanded Scope of Work with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Jennifer expanded on the report as submitted. She noted that SVCA had entered a Fee for Service agreement with NWMO in June 2021 to perform water quality testing and hydrology monitoring services. NWMO has approached SVCA to facilitate administration of biodiversity programs in the watershed in early 2022. SVCA would benefit from the data collected in the three project areas. SVCA's main role would be to reach out to landowners to determine their interest in participating in these programs. The Directors communicated that they felt NWMO's expertise was in outreach and SVCA's value was in the collection of scientific data. After discussion, the following motion was defeated.

Motion #G21-126

Moved by Mike Niesen

Seconded by Steve McCabe

WHEREAS the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority entered into a Fee for Service Level Agreement with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) for surface water and hydrology monitoring services;

AND WHEREAS the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority has an interest in the conservation and protection of the natural environment;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT SVCA enter into an expanded scope of work with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization to assist in the delivery of the environmental DNA, aquatic habitat mapping, and terrestrial ecosystem mapping programs;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to pursue hiring the staff support necessary to deliver this expanded scope of work.

DEFEATED

10. Other Business

a. Frequency of Levy Payments

Chair Couture indicated that questions had been brought forward regarding the submission of the levy payments on a quarterly basis rather than twice per year as is the current practice. Staff were directed to submit a report with the advantages and disadvantages of changing the frequency of payments.

Motion #G21-127

Moved by Diana Rae

Seconded by Tom Hutchinson

THAT staff be directed to submit a report on the advantages and disadvantages of changing the frequency of municipal levy payments to SVCA.

CARRIED

- b. Director Myette was asked about his willingness to participate in the committees that have vacancies because of Mike Myatt's resignation. Mr. Myette agreed to participate in the Property and Parks Committee and the Forestry Committee.

Motion #G21-128

Moved by Sue Paterson

Seconded by Dan Gieruszak

THAT Dave Myette be appointed to the Forestry Committee and the Property and Parks Committee.

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m. on motion of Barbara Dobreen and Paul Allen.

Maureen Couture
Chair

Janice Hagan
Recording Secretary