



Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

Minutes – Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Thursday July 18, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

Location: Formosa Administrative Office

Chair: Barbara Dobreen

Members present: Paul Allen, Kevin Eccles, Bud Halpin, Tom Hutchinson (remote), Greg McLean, Steve McCabe (remote), Dave Myette, Mike Niesen, Sue Paterson, Moiken Penner, Jennifer Prenger, Bill Stewart, Peter Whitten

Members absent: Larry Allison

Staff present: Matt Armstrong, Jody Duncan, Alex Duszczyszyn, Erik Downing, Darcy Frook, Janice Hagan, Kyle Hope, Donna Lacey, Rick Southcote

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

1. Land Acknowledgement – read by Member Paul Allen

We begin our meeting today by respectfully acknowledging the Anishinaabeg Nation, the Haudensaunee, the Neutral, and the Petun peoples as the traditional keepers of this land. We are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion #G24-76

Moved by Peter Whitten

Seconded by Sue Paterson

THAT the agenda for the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority meeting, July 18, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest relative to any item on the agenda.

4. Adoption of Minutes

4.1 Authority meeting – May 16, 2024

Motion #G24-77

Moved by Greg McLean

Seconded by Kevin Eccles

THAT the minutes of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority meeting, May 16, 2024, be adopted as presented.

Carried

4.2 Section 28 Hearing – May 16, 2024

Motion #G24-78

Moved by Moiken Penner

Seconded by Mike Niesen

THAT the minutes of the Section 28 Hearing, May 16, 2024, be adopted as presented.

Carried

5. Staff Introductions

The following staff were introduced to the Board of Directors:

Alex Duszczyzyn, Forestry Technician

Darcy Frook, Resources Information Technician

Kyle Hope, Capital Water Infrastructure Coordinator

Rick Southcote, Environmental Technician

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes – none at this time

7. New Business

Corporate Services

7.1 GM-2024-05: General Manager’s Report and Operational Plan

There was no discussion.

7.2 GM-2024-08: Program Report

There was no discussion.

7.3 Correspondence

There was no submitted correspondence.

7.4 Approved Committee Minutes

7.4.1 Executive Committee – June 6, 2024

7.4.2 Agricultural Advisory Committee – March 8, 2024

There was no discussion.

7.5 COR-2024-13: Bylaw Amendments

There was no discussion.

Motion #G24-79

Moved by Paul Allen

Seconded by Bud Halpin

THAT the Board of Directors of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority approves the recommended Administrative Bylaw amendments as presented in this report.

Carried

7.6 COR-2024-14: Grey County Prosecution Agreement

In 2023, SVCA initiated a pilot project with Grey County Legal Services but has not yet utilized their services. Given the positive feedback from Grey Sauble Conservation regarding the support they received, SVCA staff recommend signing the new agreement with Grey County Legal Services.

Motion #G24-80

Moved by Tom Hutchinson

Seconded by Steve McCabe

THAT SVCA signs Grey County Legal Services agreement, following the 2023 pilot project, to acquire legal services assistance from Grey County on Section 28 and Section 29 Conservation Authority's (CA) Act items.

Carried

Environmental Planning and Regulations

7.7 EPR-2024-18: Permits Issued for Endorsement

There was no discussion.

Motion #G24-81

Moved by Greg McLean

Seconded by Kevin Eccles

THAT Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourse applications and Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits applications #24-068, 24-078 to 24-129, and 24-131 to 24-151, as approved by staff, be endorsed.

Carried

7.8 EPR-2024-19: Southampton Two Zone Floodplain

Report EPR-2024-19 was submitted to the Authority for their information.

Forestry and Lands

7.9 Verbal Update: Varney Pond

Staff have received response from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), stating "DFO is requesting that Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority consider an alternative plan for the future swim pond operation, due to potential impacts to fish and fish habitat."

Staff have received a verbal response from the Ministry of Natural Resources and are awaiting a written response.

Staff have received a written response from the Ministry of Environment stating "the ministry does not issue any type of instrument to release pond water in the way you described. To protect downstream receivers, the water needs to be released in a slow, controlled manner. The park opened as usual this spring except for filling of the pond.

The Directors discussed the verbal report and directed staff to continue exploring options.

7.10 LAN-2024-05: Approval for Consultation – Conservation Areas Strategy

Staff presented the draft Conservation Areas Strategy and sought approval for public consultation. According to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, the final Strategy must be completed by December 31, 2024.

Motion #G24-82

Moved by Bud Halpin

Seconded by Paul Allen

THAT the Board of Directors approve the Conservation Areas Strategy draft to support the next step of public consultation, as required by Section 21.1 (1) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and Ontario Regulation 686/21 (9) (10).

Carried

7.11 LAN-2024-06: 2025 Campground Fees

Motion #G24-83

Moved by Mike Niesen

Seconded by Bud Halpin

THAT camping and associated rates be increased as proposed for the 2025 camping season.

Carried

Bill Stewart joined the meeting at 1:42 p.m.

Water Resources

7.12 WR-2024-05: Flood Forecasting and Warning – Hydrometric Network Update

There was no discussion.

Motion #G24-84

Moved by Dave Myette

Seconded by Greg McLean

THAT the Board of Directors endorse the proposed plan for improvements to SVCA's hydrometric network; and further

THAT the Board of Directors support decommissioning the Teeswater River at Bruce Road 20 (Greenock) stream gauge station

Carried

7.13 WR-2024-06: Information sharing with Municipal Partners

Staff recommend that the Board support full transparency with applicable municipal partners through the sharing of all available documents and reports, related to water and erosion control infrastructure that is designated as special benefitting.

Motion #G24-85

Moved by Jennifer Prenger

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the Board of Directors support transparency with the applicable municipal partners through the sharing of all available documents, drawings, and reports, both historic and current, related to water and erosion control infrastructure that is deemed special benefitting.

Carried

7.14 WR-2024-07: Walkerton Hydro Dam – Next Steps

The Walkerton Hydro dam is in poor condition according to the 2022 D.M. Wills Assessment. Engineering recommendations include complete removal and restoration of the creek channel. After discussion the following resolution carried:

Motion #G24-86

Moved by Greg McLean

Seconded by Moiken Penner

THAT the SVCA Board of Directors support staff in pursuit of removal of the Walkerton Hydro Dam; and further

THAT the SVCA Board of Directors endorses initiation of the Walkerton Hydro Dam Environmental Assessment, Phase 1 in 2024, pending a successful WECl application.

Carried

7.15 WR-2024-08: Watershed Resource Based Management Strategy

Conservation authorities are required under the *Conservation Authorities Act* Regulation, to develop a watershed-based resource management strategy, following guidelines outlined in subsections 12(4) to 12(9). A draft of the strategy has been prepared for public consultation.

Motion #G24-87

Moved by Jennifer Prenger

Seconded by Sue Paterson

THAT the Board of Directors approve the Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy draft to support the next step of public consultation, as required by Section 21.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and Ontario Regulation 686/21 (Appendix A).

Carried

7.16 WR-2024-09: Ice Management Plan

An Ice Management Plan was presented to the Board to fulfill a mandated deliverable of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The plan addresses the fundamentals of river ice processes, outlines current issues, and proposes preventive measures to mitigate risks.

Motion #G24-88

Moved by Tom Hutchinson

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the Board of Directors endorses the Ice Management Plan, as required by Section 21.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and Ontario Regulation 686/21 (Appendix A).

Carried

7.17 WR-2024-10: Durham Upper Dam (DUD) – A Historical Summary

The Board had an in-depth discussion about staff's recommendations concerning the DUD, focusing on the current safety concerns stemming from its structural condition and ongoing deterioration. A safety inspection by D.M. Wills revealed both structural, operational, and public safety issues.

Motion #G24-89

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Steve McCabe

THAT the Board of Directors directs staff to address all operator and public safety recommendations, as detailed in the June 7, 2024, D.M. Wills letter, titled *Durham Upper Dam, Operator and Public Safety Review*; and further

THAT the Board of Directors support fulsome public consultation as it relates to past and current history of ice operations at the Durham Upper Dam.

Amendment: #G24-90

Moved by Jennifer Prenger

Seconded by Kevin Eccles

That Motion G24-89 be amended to remove “past and current history of” in the second clause.

Carried

Amendment: (2nd) #G24-91

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Steve McCabe

That Motion G24-89 be amended to include “public consultation through the EA process” in the second clause.

Carried

Amendment (3rd) #G24-92

Moved by Paul Allen

Seconded by Dave Myette

Add “THAT the decision regarding winter operation be deferred to a future meeting.”

Carried

Motion #G24-89 (amended)

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Steve McCabe

THAT the Board of Directors directs staff to address all operator and public safety recommendations, as detailed in the June 7, 2024, D.M. Wills letter, titled *Durham Upper Dam, Operator and Public Safety Review*; and further

THAT the Board of Directors support fulsome public consultation through an EA process as it relates to operations at, and future of the Durham Upper Dam, and

THAT the decision regarding winter operation be deferred to a future meeting.

Carried

8. Closed Session – to discuss a litigation matter and personal matters about identifiable individuals

Motion #G24-93

Moved by Moiken Penner

Seconded by Bud Halpin

THAT the Authority move to Closed Session, In Camera to discuss a litigation matter and personal matters about identifiable individuals; and further

THAT, Erik Downing, Matt Armstrong, Madeline McFadden, and Janice Hagan remain in the meeting as required.

Carried

Motion #G24-96

Moved by Gregory McLean

Seconded by Kevin Eccles

THAT the Authority adjourn from closed session and rise and report.

Carried

Chair Dobreen declared that only those topics for which the Authority went into Closed Session were discussed.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m. on the motion of Peter Whitten and Kevin Eccles.

Barbara Dobreen
Chair

Janice Hagan
Recording Secretary