



Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

Minutes – Board of Directors

Date: Thursday September 21, 2023, 1:00 p.m.
Location: Administration Office, Formosa, ON
Chair: Tom Hutchinson
Members present: Paul Allen, Barbara Dobreen (virtual) Kevin Eccles, Bud Halpin, Steve McCabe, Greg McLean, Sue Paterson, Moiken Penner, Jennifer Prenger, Bill Stewart (virtual), Peter Whitten
Members absent: Larry Allison, Dave Myette, Mike Niesen,
Staff present: Matt Armstrong, Erik Downing, Janice Hagan, Donna Lacey, Elise MacLeod, Laura Molson, Ashley Richards

Chair Barbara Dobreen was unable to attend the meeting in person. Vice Chair Tom Hutchinson assumed the Chair position and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. Land Acknowledgement

The Land Acknowledgement was read by Greg McLean:

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

It was requested that the December 21st Authority meeting be rescheduled, and discussion for an alternate date be added to the agenda under New business.

Motion #G23-86

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Kevin Eccles

THAT the agenda for the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority meeting, September 21, 2023, be adopted as amended.

Carried

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

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

4. Adoption of Authority meeting minutes – July 20, 2023

Motion #G23-87

Moved by Sue Paterson

Seconded by Greg McLean

THAT the minutes of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority meeting, July 20, 2023, be adopted as presented.

Carried

5. Reports for information

5.1 Approved Committee minutes

5.1.1 Property and Parks Committee – April 20, 2023

The Directors requested an update on Varney Pond. Staff reported that SVCA is anticipating responses from the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Ministry of the Environment and Conservation and Parks (MECP). Erik highlighted that DFO had responded favorably, verbally, to SVCA in that no action with regards to the past status of the property would be pursued. Future actions will require guidance from these external agencies.

5.1.2 Executive Committee – July 6, 2023

There was no discussion.

5.1.3 Executive Committee – August 3, 2023

5.2 News Articles for Members' information

There was no discussion.

5.3 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

6. New Business

6.1 Authority meeting schedule revision

Motion #G23-88

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Bud Halpin

THAT the December 21, 2023 Authority meeting be rescheduled for November 30, 2023.

Carried

6.2 2024 Campground fees

Motion #G23-89

Moved by Paul Allen

Seconded by Jennifer Prenger

THAT the proposed 2024 Campground Fee Schedule be approved as presented.

Carried

6.3 Ash Tree removal RFPs

Motion #G23-90

Moved by Bud Halpin

Seconded by Moiken Penner

THAT the Authority accepts the recommendations of the Property and Parks Committee that RFP_LANDS2023-01 and RFP_LANDS2023-02 for Ash removal at Saugeen Bluffs and Brucedale be awarded to the lowest proposal; and further

THAT should the lowest contractor decline, the offer of acceptance be made to the next lowest proposal.

Carried

6.4 Draft Budget Review

Erik Downing GM/S-T(Acting), and the department managers presented the draft budget for 2024. The proposed budget is based on the revisions of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and requirements for Category 1,2 and 3 Programs and Services. There was discussion regarding the User Fee review which proposed an increase in EPR fees which could generate revenues for the Authority; however, it is yet to be determined if the province will continue to freeze fees through 2024 which could have implication for the levy and poses challenges for budgeting. The Authority discussed corresponding with watershed MPPs requesting notification of the province's intentions regarding EPR review fees.

Motion #G23-91

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Steve McCabe

THAT the SVCA Board of Directors approve the 2024 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 and include the offer of a delegation if requested.

Motion tabled:

Kevin Eccles moved to table the motion to the next Authority meeting and until further review of capital expenses and/or revenue generation to be presented to the Board. This was seconded by Jennifer Prenger.

Motion referred:

After discussion Kevin withdrew his motion to table, and referred it, seconded by Greg McLean:

THAT the motion be referred to the next Board meeting and until further review of capital expenses and revenue generation, to be presented to the Board.

Motion amended:

Barbara Dobreen moved to amend the motion, seconded by Kevin Eccles:

THAT the motion be referred back to staff for further review of capital expenses and revenue generation; and further

THAT staff report back to the Authority at the next Board meeting.

Carried

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m. on the motion of Greg McLean and Bud Halpin.

Tom Hutchinson
Chair Pro-Tem (Vice Chair)

Janice Hagan
Recording Secretary