

SAUGEEN VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Conservation through Cooperation

MINUTES

Meeting: Authority Annual Meeting
Date: Thursday, January 20, 2022, 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: Dick Hibma, Chair Pro Tem
Jennifer Stephens, General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer
Erik Downing, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations
Donna Lacey, Manager, Forestry and Lands
Laura Molson, Manager, Corporate Services
Janice Hagan, Executive Assistant / Recording Secretary
Special Guests

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

Land Acknowledgement:

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 is grateful to have the opportunity to meet in this territory.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Motion #G22-01

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Cheryl Grace

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

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

3. Approval of Authority Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2021

Motion # G22-02

Moved by Paul Allen

Seconded by Bill Stewart

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

CARRIED

4. Chair's Address

Chair Couture gave the following address:

Good afternoon, Board members, staff, and honoured guests. Welcome to the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority annual general meeting.

Once again, we meet during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am sure we are all pandemic-fatigued, unable to carry on the way we have in the past. First, I wish to extend the Board's thanks and gratitude to our staff during these difficult times throughout 2021. Our staff have continued to provide the services needed to operate our authority in these very difficult times. As can be seen from the various reports, our business has not slowed down at all, and staff have been wonderful in coping with it throughout the pandemic. Thank you.

The Great Lakes water quality is facing unprecedented growth and development in our watershed communities. It is important for us to continue our monitoring efforts to be able to identify trends and be proactive in our remediation projects.

Severe weather events are becoming more frequent with extreme rainfall creating flood and erosion risks; it is more important than ever for SVCA to be diligent in its application of the regulation.

As you may be aware, the Province of Ontario has introduced amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*. This has caused our staff to be busier than ever to comply with these changes. It has been very difficult for conservation authorities throughout Ontario as regulations are slow in coming, and deadlines have been imposed that have been challenging to meet. This will be an ongoing process for the next few years. The province has implemented a two-tier approach with respect to our services, those that they deem mandatory, and those that are deemed discretionary. This will result in our having discussions with our watershed municipalities and providing a tailor-made solution for each municipality, depending on their desires, needs, and finances. This will be undertaken over the next 18 months or so.

Another ongoing challenge is fluctuating water levels in Lake Huron, causing more shoreline hazards such as flooding and erosion. It is incumbent on SVCA to protect people and property along the shoreline.

Some of the projects the authority has undertaken during 2021 include:

- Strategic Plan development, re-branding and logo, and a new website,
- Repairs to the Durham upper dam pedestrian walkway,
- Re-affirmed the desire to update floodplain mapping – we are looking to move forward on this initiative in 2022,
- Partnering with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization to conduct water monitoring in the Teeswater area,
- Streamlining application fees for large customers such as Hydro One – we will also be undertaking a complete fee schedule review in 2022.

Our conservation areas have provided recreational opportunities for people to enjoy such as hiking, canoeing, and snowshoeing. Our campgrounds saw unprecedented use as Ontarians chose to stay home as opposed to traveling outside the province.

Overall, 2021 was a very busy year, with no end in sight for 2022. We are not a large conservation authority, but our geographical area is very large. We trust that we will continue to meet the challenges of 2022, and we will continue to rely on an integrated watershed management approach that requires human activities and natural resources to be managed together, taking into consideration the connected interests and needs of the environment, economy, society, and development. Thank you.

5. 2021: A year of Achievements

Jennifer Stephens presented 2021: A Year of Accomplishments to the Board of Directors. She highlighted various accomplishments and changes that transpired at SVCA in 2021.

6. Introduction of Guests, and greetings from stakeholders

Greetings were brought to SVCA from the following dignitaries and special guests:

- Alex Ruff, MP, Bruce Grey Owen Sound Riding
- Lisa Thompson, MPP, Huron Bruce Riding
- Randy Pettapiece, MPP, Perth Wellington Riding
- Steve Hammell, Mayor, Township of Aaron-Elderslie
- Chris Peabody, Mayor, Town of Brockton
- Paul McQueen, Deputy Warden, County of Grey and Mayor, Municipality of Grey Highlands
- John Woodbury, Mayor, Township of Southgate
- Tom Hutchinson, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of West Grey
- George Bridge, Mayor, Town of Minto
- Derrick Thomson, CAO, Town of Minto
- Tim Lanthier, CAO, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority
- Phil Beard, GM / S-T, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

- Don Murray, Deputy Mayor, Huron-Kinloss

7. Election of Officers

Motion # G22-03

Moved by Cheryl Grace

Seconded by Barbara Dobreen

THAT Dick Hibma be appointed as Chair Pro Tem for the purposes of conducting the election of officers for 2022.

CARRIED

Maureen Couture vacated the chair in favour of Dick Hibma, Chair Pro Tem, who conducted the elections. Chair Pro Tem Hibma declared all offices vacant and called for a motion to appoint two scrutineers, in the event of an election count.

Motion # G22-04

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Don Murray

THAT Tim Lanthier and Phil Beard be appointed as scrutineers for the election of officers.

CARRIED

a. Election of Chair

Chair Pro Tem Hibma called for nominations for the position of Chair for 2022. Diana Rae nominated Maureen Couture. No further nominations were received.

Motion # G22-05

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Tom Hutchinson

THAT the nominations for the position of Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for 2022 be closed.

CARRIED

Maureen Couture accepted her nomination and was acclaimed 2022 Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors.

Motion # G22-06

Moved by Paul Allen

Seconded by Barbara Dobreen

THAT Maureen Couture be appointed Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for the year 2022.

CARRIED

b. Election of Vice-Chair

Chair Pro Tem Hibma called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair for 2022. Steve McCabe nominated Barbara Dobreen. No further nominations were received.

Motion # G22-07

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Diana Rae

THAT the nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for 2022 be closed.

CARRIED

Barbara Dobreen accepted her nomination and was acclaimed 2022 Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors.

Motion # G22-08

Moved by Cheryl Grace

Seconded by Tom Hutchinson

THAT Barbara Dobreen be appointed Vice-Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for the year 2022.

CARRIED

c. 2nd Vice-Chair

Chair Pro Tem Hibma called for nominations for the position of 2nd Vice-Chair for 2022. Don Murray nominated Mark Davis; Barbara Dobreen nominated Steve McCabe. No further nominations were received.

Motion # G22-09

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Dan Gieruszak

THAT the nominations for the position of 2nd Vice-Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for 2022 be closed.

CARRIED

Mark Davis thanked his nominator but did not wish to stand for the position of 2nd Vice-Chair. Steve McCabe accepted the nomination and was acclaimed 2022 2nd Vice-Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors.

Motion # G22-10

Moved by Cheryl Grace

Seconded by Tom Hutchinson

THAT Steve McCabe be appointed 2nd Vice-Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for the year 2022.

CARRIED

d. Past Chair

Dan Gieruszak was appointed Past Chair of the SVCA Board of Directors automatically.

Maureen Couture assumed the position of Chair and thanked the Board of Directors for re-electing her to that role.

8. Matters arising from the minutes

a. Costs associated with the Town of Saugeen Shores – Cedar Crescent Village Development

Jennifer Stephens reviewed the costs associated with the handling of the Cedar Crescent Village file. The Directors discussed this as a lesson learned and requested that the SVCA procurement policy be reviewed.

Motion # G22-11

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Diana Rae

WHEREAS the Board of Directors requested a summary of the costs incurred during the review of the Cedar Crescent Village Development Project on the Port Elgin Beach;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report be received.

CARRIED

Sue Paterson joined the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

b. Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation Financial report

Laura Molson reviewed the submitted report. She noted that SVCF fundraising events had utilized a considerable amount of SVCA staff time and that the events were not cost-effective. The Directors discussed the development of a new fundraising plan to address the needs of the Authority which should include a recommendation for the future of the Foundation.

Motion # G22-12

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Dan Gieruszak

THAT the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation Financial Summary report be received; and further

THAT staff develop a fundraising report in May to address the needs of our Authority.

CARRIED

c. Vaccination policy

Jennifer Stephens presented recommended amendments to the SVCA Vaccination policy.

After extensive discussion the following motion carried:

Motion # G22-13

Moved by Don Murray

Seconded by Cheryl Grace

WHEREAS the provincial government amended Ontario Regulation 264/20 to require an organization that is open to establish, implement, and ensure compliance with a COVID-19 vaccination policy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vaccination Policy as presented be approved as of January 21st, 2022;

AND FURTHER THAT it be circulated to all staff.

CARRIED

Christine Robinson joined the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

9. General Manager's Report

Jennifer Stephen's reported that two of the six furnaces at the Formosa office will need to be repaired or replaced in 2022. Two furnaces have already been replaced. The backhoe requires extensive repairs and may need replacement. Both items are major unbudgeted expenses. Staff will bring forward recommendations to the February Authority meeting.

10. Consent Agenda

Motion # G22-14

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the reports, Minutes, and information contained in the Consent Agenda, [items 10a-e], along with their respective recommended motions be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

11. New Business

a. 2022 Committee Appointments

The Directors discussed the membership of the SVCA standing committees as follows:

Forestry Committee: Tom Hutchinson, Paul Allen, Barbara Dobreen, Dave Myette

Property and Parks Committee: Cheryl Grace, Paul Allen, Dave Myette, Diana Rae

Water Resources Committee: Tom Hutchinson, Cheryl Grace, Dan Gieruszak, Christine Robinson

Agricultural Advisory Committee: Christine Robinson, Don Murray, Mike Niesen

Motion # G22-15

Moved by Tom Hutchinson

Seconded by Dan Gieruszak

WHEREAS Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) has numerous standing committees to support staff and report recommendations to the Board of Directors;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the appointment of Directors to SVCA’s Standing and Committees be accepted, as presented;

AND FURTHER THAT the SVCA Chair as voting delegate, Vice-Chair, as first alternate, and General Manager or designate as second alternate, be appointed, to Conservation Ontario for 2022.

CARRIED

b. Appointment of Auditor

Motion # G22-16

Moved by Dave Myette

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT Baker Tilly SGB LLP be confirmed as the auditors to the Authority for the year 2022.

CARRIED

c. Appointment of Solicitor

The Board directed staff to engage local solicitors for primary legal consultation. After discussion the following motion carried:

Motion # G22-17

Moved by Diana Rae

Seconded by Tom Hutchinson

THAT WinterBeard LLP and Mathews, Dinsdale & Clark LLP be appointed solicitors to the Authority for the year 2022 for general operations, with the option to engage the services of other local solicitors, as necessary.

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:39 p.m. on motion of Don Murray and Steve McCabe.

Maureen Couture
Chair

Janice Hagan
Recording Secretary