

SAUGEEN VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

CONSERVATION THROUGH COOPERATION

MINUTES

Meeting:	Authority Meeting
Date:	Thursday, July 21, 2022, 1:00 p.m.
Location:	Electronic
Chair:	Barbara Dobreen
Members present:	Paul Allen, Mark Davis, Barbara Dobreen, Dan Gieruszak, Cheryl Grace, Tom Hutchinson, Don Murray, Dave Myette, Mike Niesen, Sue Paterson, Diana Rae, Christine Robinson, Bill Stewart
Members absent:	Maureen Couture, Steve McCabe
Others present:	Jennifer Stephens, General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer Donna Lacey, Manager, Forestry and Lands Elise MacLeod, Manager, Water Resources Erik Downing, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations Laura Molson, Manager, Corporate Services Ashley Richards, Communications Coordinator Karleigh Porter, Finance Clerk Janice Hagan, Executive Assistant / Recording Secretary

Chair Maureen Couture was not in attendance; therefore, Vice-Chair Barbara Dobreen assumed the role of Chair. She called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. 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.

2. Adoption of agenda

Directors requested that item 10d, Heritage River Status be moved to follow Item 5, Delegation, Designation of Saugeen Rivers as Heritage Rivers.

Motion #G22-60

Moved by Diana Rae

Seconded by Tom Hutchinson

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 – May 19, 2022

Motion #G22-61

Moved by Cheryl Grace

Seconded by Sue Paterson

THAT the minutes of the Authority meeting held on May 19, 2022, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Delegation – Designation of Saugeen rivers as Heritage Rivers

Jack Serre informed the Board that he wishes to pursue a Heritage River designation for the five Saugeen Rivers. He is requesting that SVCA provide a letter of support for this initiative. Heritage River status could mean increased collaboration between local interest groups with the common interest in maintaining the natural, economical, recreational, and cultural values of the rivers.

6. Heritage River status

Elise MacLeod discussed the Heritage River status and gave a brief overview of the benefits of having the designation, including the strengthening of community relations. The goal of receiving the status is to recognize the natural, cultural, recreational, and economic heritage of a river system. She explained that the first step in the nomination process is to have support from the community. The Directors requested further information on the guidelines, benefits, and possible impacts to the citizens, community groups, and municipalities. After discussion, the following motion carried:

Motion #G22-62

Moved by Mark Davis

Seconded by Don Murray

THAT the letter of support for the Heritage River Status for the Saugeen Rivers be deferred, and further

THAT staff prepare a further report outlining the pros and cons of the Heritage River Status.

CARRIED

7. New Staff Introductions

The following new staff were introduced:

- Karleigh Porter, Finance Clerk
- Ashley Richards, Communications Coordinator

- Elise MacLeod, Manager, Water Resources

8. Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. Furnace quotation

Donna Lacey summarized the submitted report and noted that the replacement of the two furnaces and air conditioning units are necessary as they are in disrepair, and staff working conditions are not acceptable.

Motion #G22-63

Moved by Christine Robinson

Seconded by Diana Rae

THAT staff be authorized to proceed with the purchase of two new furnaces and air conditioning units in an amount not to exceed \$24,000.

CARRIED

9. General Manager's Update

Jennifer Stephens provided a review of the General Manager's report including the submission of the 1st progress report to the Province on the implementation of discussions relative to the Inventory of Programs and Services. She also clarified the scope of the ongoing social media campaign that is intended to draw attention to the partnership between SVCA and NWMO in conducting surface water and hydrology monitoring activities. This social media campaign seeks to inform the public of the value of the partnership, such as having improved monitoring information to augment our knowledge of the Saugeen watershed. There was no discussion.

10. Consent Agenda

Motion #G22-64

Moved by Tom Hutchinson

Seconded by Paul Allen

THAT the reports, Minutes, and information contained in the Consent Agenda, [Items 9a-i], along with their respective recommended motions be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

11. New Business

a. Client Service and Streamlining Initiative

Erik Downing reviewed the Client Service and Streamlining initiative report, which outlines a program created by Conservation Ontario to improve and streamline processes in Environmental Planning and Regulations. The report recommended that SVCA participate. He explained the required components of the program and updated the Members on SVCA's progress. There was no discussion.

Motion #G22-65

Moved by Christine Robinson

Seconded by Cheryl Grace

THAT Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority endorse a commitment to participate in the Client Service and Streamlining Initiative beginning October 1, 2022.

CARRIED

b. Provincial Offences Officer Class designation

Erik Downing reported that certain Environmental Planning and Regulations, and Forestry and Lands staff have completed the necessary requirements for a Provincial Offences Officer designation. He indicated that it is required that the Board must permit specific staff, not just positions, to execute this role. It was noted that the Forestry and Lands staff would be engaging in an enforcement campaign to ticket those park visitors not adhering to Section 29 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Prior to initiating the campaign, a Press Release was issued, and a social media campaign has been ongoing to educate the public before enforcement commences.

Motion #G22-66

Moved by Dave Myette

Seconded by Dan Gieruszak

THAT SVCA Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations (Erik Downing), Regulations Coordinator (Matthew Armstrong) and Regulations Officers (Darren Kenny, Madeline McFadden, Alyssa Gowing) be designated as Provincial Offences Officers for the purpose of enforcing Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

AND FURTHER THAT SVCA Manager, Forestry and Lands (Donna Lacey), Forestry Technician (Aaron Swayze), Field Operations Coordinator (Richard Rowbotham), Field Operations Assistant (Anthony Quipp), Park Superintendents (Elijah Wilson, T. Lee Watson), and Assistant Park Superintendents (R. Jim Leask, Peyton Koebel), be designated as Provincial Offences Officers for the purpose of enforcing Section 29 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

CARRIED

c. Inspection of Flood and Erosion Control Projects RFP Award

Elise MacLeod stated that staff recommend D.M. Wills Associates Limited be awarded the contract to inspect SVCA Flood and Erosion Control structures.

Motion #G22-67

Moved by Tom Hutchinson

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT D.M. Wills Associates Limited be engaged to complete the 2022 inspection of all SVCA Flood and Erosion Control projects at a cost of \$33,820.00 plus HST;

AND FURTHER THAT these funds be drawn from the Working Capital Reserve.

CARRIED

d. Campground fees

Donna Lacey explained the recommended fee increases associated with the SVCA campgrounds. There was no discussion.

Motion #G22-68

Moved by Cheryl Grace

Seconded by Diana Rae

THAT camping and associated rates be increased as proposed for the 2023 camping season.

CARRIED

e. Strategic Plan Update

Jennifer Stephens gave an update on the status of the Strategic Plan development. She noted that the response to the municipal engagement survey has been disappointing in that only 5 Directors and 2 senior level municipal staff have participated. Over 100 members of the public participated in the community engagement survey and the majority of permanent staff participated in the internal staff survey. The deadline for some surveys will be extended to allow for more time to provide feedback. Survey links will be recirculated. The Directors noted that the survey appeared to be extensive, and some municipal staff have been amalgamating their response.

f. Vaccination Policy

Dr. Ian Arra, Medical Officer of Health for Grey Bruce no longer recommends that all workplaces have vaccination policies.

Motion #G22-69

Moved by Don Murray

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority revoke the Vaccination Policy as proposed.

CARRIED

g. Land Acknowledgement

Ashley Richards presented the report and recommended changes to the Land Acknowledgement. The Directors discussed the complicated pronunciations and requested that a guide be included with the words be written out phonetically with the Land Acknowledgement.

Motion #G22-70

Moved by Christine Robinson

Seconded by Dave Myette

THAT the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority use the updated land acknowledgement statement as proposed.

CARRIED

h. Fundraising strategy

Ashley Richards discussed the proposed Fundraising strategy and told the Members that staff are focused on a sustainable fundraising strategy that is not reactive, but one with a planned approach. There was no discussion.

Motion #G22-71

Moved by Diana Rae

Seconded by Paul Allen

THAT the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority approve the Fundraising Strategy as proposed.

CARRIED

12. Closed Session

Motion #G22-72

Moved by Cheryl Grace

Seconded by Sue Paterson

THAT the Authority move to Closed Session, In Camera, to discuss a proposed or pending acquisition of land by the Authority; and further

THAT Jennifer Stephens, Donna Lacey, Laura Molson, and Janice Hagan remain in the meeting.

CARRIED

Chair Dobreen reported that quorum was lost during the Closed Session and declared the meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Barbara Dobreen
Chair

Janice Hagan
Recording Secretary