

SAUGEEN VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Minutes

Meeting: Authority Meeting
Date: Thursday, September 15, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
Location: Electronic
Chair: Maureen Couture
Members present: Paul Allen, Barbara Dobreen, Dan Gieruszak, Cheryl Grace, Tom Hutchinson, Dave Myette, Mike Niesen, Sue Paterson, Diana Rae, Christine Robinson, Bill Stewart
Members absent: Mark Davis, Steve McCabe, Don Murray
Others present: Jennifer Stephens, General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer
Erik Downing, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations
Donna Lacey, Manager, Forestry and Lands
Elise MacLeod, Manager, Water Resources
Laura Molson, Manager, Corporate Services
Janice Hagan, Executive Assistant / Recording Secretary

Chair Maureen Couture called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. Land Acknowledgement

The following Land Acknowledgement was read by Director 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 Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION #G22-73

Moved by Dave Myette

Seconded by Sue Paterson

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 – July 21, 2022

Motion #G22-74

Moved by Diana Rae

Seconded by Barbara Dobreen

THAT the minutes of the Authority meeting held on July 21, 2022, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Consent Agenda

Motion #G22-75

Moved by Cheryl Grace

Seconded by Paul Allen

THAT the reports, and information contained in the Consent Agenda, [Item 5-a-b], along with their respective recommended motions be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

6. New Business

a. 2023 Draft Budget Review

Jennifer Stephens introduced the proposed 2023 Budget presentation which integrates investments in SVCA staff, communities, and the conservation authority. She noted that the budget has been affected by the high cost of living and increased insurance costs. The guiding document driving the budget is the *Inventory of Programs and Services* with required deliverables by December 31, 2024. The Managers of each department presented plans and required projects for 2023.

Corporate Services

The Corporate Services department includes administration, finance, communications, GIS, IT, and education, and has 6 full time staff members. Planned priorities for 2023 are policy development, continued rebranding, AODA compliance documents, the implementation of a content management system, and increased marketing and community education. An increase in self-generated revenues is expected due to improved investment income.

Environmental Planning and Regulations (EPR)

The EPR department has experienced an unprecedented number of permits and planning applications. The department consists of 11 full time staff. Priorities for 2023 include professional development and training of staff to improve staff retention, design of a Content Management System, completion of updates to the Environmental Planning and Regulations Policies Manual, and assessment of risks associated with natural hazards including impacts of climate change. Revenues are expected to be consistent with 2022 figures.

Forestry and Stewardship

Tree planting will continue in 2023 along with increased forest management activities. Signage will be replaced where necessary.

Non-Revenue Parks

The Lands budget for 2023 includes continuous property and infrastructure replacement and maintenance, and various park upgrades including improved signage and enforcement measures.

Campgrounds

Removal of dead and dying Ash and other hazard trees as previously forecasted is imperative and funds will need to be drawn from Campground reserves. All three campgrounds are projected to have surpluses at the end of 2023, which will replenish the reserve fund in part.

Motor Pool

A new 4 x 4 truck will be needed to replace a decrepit truck, as well as general maintenance of the the fleet. Funds will be drawn from the motor pool reserve.

Christine Robinson joined the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

Water Resources (WR)

In 2023, Water Quality staff will be issuing the Watershed Report Card, participating in continued stakeholder partnerships, and continuing to monitor dam removal sites. The WR proposed budget includes the purchase of new stream gauge equipment for two stations, and a hydrometric network capital project. Other capital projects include projects under the Water and Erosion Infrastructure Program (WECI). Priorities include floodplain mapping improvements, preparation of the *Conservation Authority Act* deliverables, and ongoing maintenance of water and erosion control structure assets.

Tom Hutchinson joined the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Laura Molson discussed the Budget Summary and explained the breakdown between General levy and non-General levy programs. She discussed the overall increase by municipality. Reserve funds will be used in the 2023 budget for hazard tree removal. Other draws from reserve funds will be for required capital projects.

The Directors discussed the levy increases and requested that staff be available to present as delegations at municipal council meetings if requested.

After further discussion the following motion was carried.

MOTION #G22-76

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Diana Rae

THAT the SVCA Board of Directors approve the 2023 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.

CARRIED

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m. on motion of Christine Robinson and Dave Myette.

Maureen Couture
Chair

Janice Hagan
Recording Secretary