

# SAUGEEN VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Conservation through Cooperation

# MINUTES

**MEETING:** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
**DATE:** FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2015  
**TIME:** 1:00pm  
**LOCATION:** ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, FORMOSA

**CHAIR:**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Robert Buckle, Luke Charbonneau, Maureen Couture, John Eccles, Kevin Eccles, Brian Gamble, Wilf Gamble, Dan Gieruszak, Stewart Halliday, Glen Irwin, Dan Kerr, Steve McCabe, Sue Paterson, Mike Smith, Andrew White

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Wayne Brohman, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer  
Janice Hagan, Accounts Payable/Administration  
Laura Molson, Manager, Accounting  
Guests and Members of the Press

1. APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHAIR

There was no chair present at the beginning of the meeting, in accordance with the Administration Resolutions, paragraph 25, the Directors present appointed Maureen Couture to the position of acting chair for this meeting.

2. CALL TO ORDER & CHAIR'S WELCOME

Acting Chair Maureen Couture called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

**MOTION #G15-01**

Moved by John Eccles  
Seconded by Wilf Gamble  
THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

**Carried**

At 1:15 pm Kevin Eccles arrived at the meeting.

4. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Dick Hibma, Chair of Conservation Ontario, Chair Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, brought greetings from Conservation Ontario, and Grey Sauble CA. Mr. Hibma brought greetings from John Cottrill, CAO, Grey Sauble CA, who wished to extend

## Annual General Meeting – January 16, 2015

his regrets for not being able to attend. Mr Hibma described various functions of Conservation Ontario and how each Conservation Authority related to them and to each other. He stated that this relationship is admired by governments around the world. He reminded the Directors that each Authority is unique with its own set of strengths and challenges. Mr. Hibma congratulated the SVCA for its historical leadership and its significant involvement in the local region and in the province of Ontario. He encouraged the new Board members to continue with this relationship, and reminded them of their mandate to work with the staff and the landowners to achieve their goals and protect the environment. He also encouraged the SVCA to value customer service.

Mayor David Inglis, Municipality of Brockton thanked the Board for the invitation and wished the Board well in 2015. He expressed his appreciation for the work that the SVCA does in the region.

Councilor Barbara Dobreen brought best wishes from the Municipality of Southgate.

Phil Beard, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority extended his appreciation for the invitation.

Delbert Shewfelt, Chair MVCA Board of Directors, expressed his thanks for the invitation to the Annual Meeting. He shared his thoughts on Conservation Authorities being the “best kept secret”.

Mayor Mitch Twolan, Huron Kinloss, & Warden of Bruce County, thanked the members of the Board for the invitation. He said there would be challenging times ahead, but that the current members would serve well. He wished them the best of luck for future endeavors.

Sharon Chambers, South Bruce CAO, is looking forward to a continued excellent relationship with the Saugeen Conservation Authority.

Mike Givens, Wellington North CAO, thanked the members for the invitation. He wanted to introduce Steve McCabe as the new Appointee to the Board.

Mayor Paul Eagleson, brought best wishes from Arran-Elderslie, and thanked the board for the invitation. He was pleased with the work of the Saugeen Conservation Authority and wished them a successful 2015.

Shannon Wood, brought a message from Ed Moric, Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation. He had to regretfully decline attendance, but wished the Authority all the best for 2015.

A number of individuals sent their regrets at not being able to attend but expressed their best wishes for a successful meeting, including Peter Hambley, Councilor, Town of Hanover, Kim Gavine, General Manager, Conservation Ontario, Richard Radford, CAO, Town of Brockton, Randy Pettapiece, MPP, Perth-Wellington, Ed Moric, Chair, Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation, Larry Miller, MP, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound Riding, Ben Lobb, MP, Huron-Bruce Riding, Carl Zettel, retiring director, Bill Walker, MPP, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound Riding, Ron Coristine, past director, Lisa Thompson, MPP, Huron-Bruce Riding.

### 5. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No person declared a conflict of interest relative to any item on the agenda.

## Annual General Meeting – January 16, 2015

### 6. CHAIR'S ADDRESS

Acting Chair Maureen Couture thanked the Board of Directors and guests for coming to the 64<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. She noted some of the highlights the Authority had undertaken in 2014. She shared about the water levels that occurred in the spring, which ranked eighth highest overall in the past 100 years. The success of not having any loss of life or significant property damage addresses the key mandate which was realized in several ways: First through the Flood Warning Department, with the timely release of flood bulletins, secondly through the presence of our flood control structures, keeping floodwaters away from residents and their property, and thirdly with preventative mechanisms put in place by our planning and regulations to “keep people away from the rivers and the rivers away from the people”.

Other accomplishments in 2014 included the FSC Certification awarded to the Forestry Dept., a successful Arbour Day Tree Sale, federal funding approval for the removal of two municipal dams, and a donation of land made to the SVCA by the Greer family. Ms. Couture also mentioned the excellent working relationship that the Authority has with the Foundation and all of the Volunteers. The success of two major events included the Old-Tyme Maple Syrup Festival and Christmas in the Country, which attracted over 13,000 people from different communities and contributed half a million dollars to the local economy.

Ms. Couture finished off her address by reminding us of the Conservation Education programs in which over 10,000 children and youth participate. This program is one where we work together with other groups and organizations across the watershed.

Looking ahead to 2015, we will be anticipating many challenges. Our top priority is to address the concerns of the Municipalities as they relate to the watershed health and sustainability. Other priorities include securing funding, and tackling climate change. In closing, Ms. Couture said she looks forward to working together to make this a better and healthier watershed.

### 7. PRESENTATIONS TO RETIRING DIRECTORS

Although not present at the meeting, retiring directors were thanked for their past service to the Authority. Ronald Anstett, Terry Fisk, Doug Gowanlock, Peter Hambly, Diane Huber, David Kell, Mike Leggett, Bill Scriven, and Carl Zettel will receive a certificate of appreciation from Saugeen Conservation.

### **COFFEE BREAK**

At 1:50 the meeting was called back to order.

### 8. Election of Officers

The Acting Chair vacated the chair in favour of Delbert Shewfelt, who conducted the elections.

Mr. Shewfelt declared all offices vacant and called for a motion to appoint two scrutineers, in the event of an election count.

### **MOTION #G15-02**

Moved by Kevin Eccles  
Seconded by Maureen Couture

**Annual General Meeting – January 16, 2015**

THAT Phil Beard and Dick Hibma be appointed as scrutineers for the election of officers.

**Carried**

Election of Chair

Mr. Shewfelt called for nominations for the position of Chair for 2015. Dan Kerr nominated Luke Charbonneau for the position of Chair. No further nominations were received.

**MOTION #G15-03**

Moved by Sue Paterson

Seconded by Dan Kerr

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

**Carried**

Mr. Charbonneau thanked his nominator and agreed to let his name stand for nomination. He was then declared Chair for 2015 by acclamation.

Election of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair

Mr. Shewfelt called for nominations for the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair for 2015. Wilf Gamble nominated Maureen Couture for the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair. Brian Gamble nominated Dan Kerr, and Stewart Halliday nominated Dan Gieruszak. No further nominations were received. All wished to have their name stand.

**MOTION #G15-04**

Moved by Brian Gamble

Seconded by Luke Charbonneau

THAT the nominations for the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority be closed.

**Carried**

Maureen Couture spoke to her knowledge and experience which would qualify her for the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair. Her experience included her role as Treasurer/Clerk/CAO for the Town of Kincardine, as well as Assistant to her MPP. She believes in protecting the environment, and would keep the needs of the Authority prominent. She would act in the best interests of the Authority.

Dan Kerr stated that he was honoured to be nominated for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair. He stated that this would be his 5<sup>th</sup> year serving on the SVCA Board of Directors, and that he had been the Past Chair in the previous year. He was pleased with the progressive changes and that he looked forward to working through the challenges presented in the Planning Department.

Dan Gieruszak spoke about this being his 3<sup>rd</sup> term on council and that he had been the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair for the Conservation Authority from 2009-2010. He congratulated the other members for their appointment to the SVCA Board. Mr. Gieruszak believes that he would qualify for this position because of his experience as Deputy Mayor for the Town of Brockton and his involvement with Lead Canada as Vice President. He believes he has a good understanding of the Conservation Authority and that there are 4 options that could be taken for the future: 1. Business as usual - not an option, 2. Re-align services and costs, 3. Drastic change – this could be risky, or 4. Natural evolution of services provided. He indicated that he would work

## Annual General Meeting – January 16, 2015

together with the new Chair and with the rest of the Board to develop the partnership.

The ballots were distributed and the Board members cast their votes. The ballots were collected and counted by the scrutineers. Dan Kerr was elected in as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair.

### **MOTION #G15-05**

Moved by Wilf Gamble

Seconded by Andrew White

THAT Dan Kerr be appointed as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for the year 2015.

### Election of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair

Mr. Shewfelt called for nominations for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair for 2015. Dan Kerr nominated Brian Gamble, Andrew White nominated Maureen Couture, and Stewart Halliday nominated Dan Gieruszak for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair. No further nominations were received for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair.

### **MOTION #G15-06**

Moved by Kevin Eccles

Seconded by Dan Kerr

THAT the nominations for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority be closed.

**Carried**

Brian Gamble, Maureen Couture and Dan Gieruszak all agreed to let their names stand.

Brian Gamble thanked his nominator. This would be his second term on the SVCA Board of Directors. He had noticed a remarkable change since his last term. He said to remember which hat we were wearing and that he would strive to accomplish great changes, like those that have happened in the past.

Maureen referred to her previous comments and had nothing to add. Dan Gieruszak didn't wish to add anything to his previous comments. The ballots were distributed and the members of the Board cast their votes. Ballots were collected and counted by the Scrutineers. Maureen Couture was elected in as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair.

### **MOTION #G15-07**

Moved by Wilf Gamble

Seconded by John Eccles

THAT Maureen Couture be appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for the year 2015.

**Carried**

### Election to the Position of Past Chair

Mr. Shewfelt called for nominations to fill the position of Past Chair for 2015. Dan Kerr nominated Brian Gamble and Stewart Halliday nominated Dan Gieruszak to fill the position of Past Chair. No further nominations were received.

**Annual General Meeting – January 16, 2015**

**MOTION #G15-08**

Moved by Kevin Eccles

Seconded by Andrew White

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

**Carried**

Brian Gamble and Dan Gieruszak were both willing to let their names stand. The ballots were distributed and the members of the Board cast their votes. Ballots were collected and counted by the Scrutineers. Brian Gamble was elected in as Past Chair for 2015.

**MOTION #G15-09**

Moved by Dan Kerr

Seconded by Andrew White

THAT Brian Gamble be appointed to fill the position of Past Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for the year 2015.

**Carried**

**MOTION #G15-10**

Moved by Sue Paterson

Seconded by Mike Smith

THAT the ballots be destroyed.

**Carried**

The newly appointed Chair, Mr. Luke Charbonneau, assumed the chair. Mr. Charbonneau thanked the Board of Directors for their confidence in appointing him Chair for 2015. He spoke about the potential for improving the relationship between the Saugeen Conservation Authority and the Municipalities. He is looking forward to addressing areas of difficulty. Mr. Charbonneau encouraged the Board to put behind them any past issues and to look at addressing items going forward. Mr. Charbonneau would like to see implementation of the strategic plan.

9. Correspondence

The letters from the Municipalities concerning the Appointments to the SVCA Board of Directors were put up on the screen. Mr. Charbonneau commented that if anyone needed to see these letters, they could consult their Board Package already distributed.

10. New Business

Minutes of the Board Meeting December 11, 2014

**Annual General Meeting – January 16, 2015**

Dan Gieruszak questioned what the urgency was to adopt the budget in December when only eight Board members were present, representing just a quorum, and that it passed with one member voting against it. Wayne Brohman responded by saying that there was no particular urgency but he believed it would be better for the Board members who had been with the Authority for the past four years to vote on the budget because they knew the Authority. If the Board had waited for the new members to vote, it could be February or March before the budget was approved and the Authority has a business to run. It is difficult to manage funds if the budget isn't approved. As well, it was the Members of the Board that made the decision to go ahead with the vote. Mr. Gieruszak responded by thanking the Authority staff for the Orientation meeting on January 13, 2015 that was held for the new Board members and he looks forward to working with the staff.

**MOTION #G15-11**

Moved by Brian Gamble

Seconded by Dan Kerr

THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held on December 11, 2014 be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

Appointment to Forestry Committee for 2015

**MOTION #G15-12**

Moved by Maureen Couture

Seconded by Wilf Gamble

THAT John Eccles, Brian Gamble, Steve McCabe and Sue Paterson be appointed to the Forestry Committee for 2015.

**Carried**

Appointment to Property & Building Committee for 2015

**MOTION #G15-13**

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Dan Kerr

THAT Glen Irwin, Dan Kerr, Dan Gieruszak and Robert Buckle be appointed to the Property & Building Committee for 2015.

**Carried**

Appointment to Saugeen Parks Committee for 2015

**MOTION #G15-14**

**Annual General Meeting – January 16, 2015**

Moved by Wilf Gamble

Seconded by Robert Buckle

THAT Maureen Couture, Dan Gieruszak, Andrew White and Dan Kerr be appointed to the Saugeen Parks Committee for 2015.

**Carried**

Board Report Section 28 Hearings

Wayne Brohman outlined the important role of the Executive Committee, in regards to Section 28 hearings.

11. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Clarification of the Freedom of Information was required and Wayne Brohman explained the need for permission to publish director information.

**MOTION #G15-15**

Moved by Mike Smith

Seconded by Dan Kerr

THAT the SVCA Board of Directors give their permission for printing of their names, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

**Carried**

12. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Brohman informed directors that for subsequent Board of Directors meetings, the agenda will be on laptops for each member to access. He also discussed the success of the Orientation meeting, held on January 13, 2015. Three of the new members had not been able to attend and he would like to know if they would be interested in a repeat session for their benefit. He also reminded the members that the next Board of Directors meeting would take place February 19, 2015 and that any agenda items should be submitted to himself. Mr. Charbonneau stated that while we would go ahead with the next meeting on that date, he would like to bring back the 2015 Schedule for the meetings and re-discuss it.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm on motion of Dan Kerr.

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Luke Charbonneau  
Chair

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Janice Hagan  
Recording Secretary