

# SAUGEEN VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Conservation through Cooperation

# MINUTES

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<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>Authority Meeting</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>Thursday April 15, 2021, 1:00 p.m.</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Electronic</b>
<b>CHAIR:</b>	Maureen Couture
<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Paul Allen, Mark Davis, Barbara Dobreen, Dan Gieruszak, Cheryl Grace, Tom Hutchinson, Steve McCabe, Don Murray, Mike Myatt, Mike Niesen, Sue Paterson, Diana Rae, Christine Robinson, Bill Stewart
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Melissa Piluso, Project Manager, eSolutions Group Ltd. Scott Clark, Designer, eSolutions Group Ltd. Jennifer Stephens, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer Laura Molson, Manager, Corporate Services JoAnne Harbinson, Manager, Water Resources & Stewardship Services Brandi Walter, Environmental Planning Coordinator Lauren McGregor, Planning Technician

Chair Maureen Couture, 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 are grateful to have the opportunity to meet in this territory.

## **2. Adoption of Agenda**

Chair Couture indicated two amendments to the agenda. Introductions of a new staff member will take place after the adoption of the agenda, and a COVID-19 report after the approval of the minutes.

### **MOTION #G21-41**

Moved by Diana Rae

Seconded by Don Murray

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

**CARRIED**

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Barbara Dobreen joined the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

**3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

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

**4. Introductions of New Staff**

The following new staff member was introduced by Brandi Walter:

- a. Lauren McGregor – Planning Technician

**5. Approval of Authority Meeting Minutes**

- a. March 18, 2021 – Authority Meeting

**MOTION #G21-42**

Moved by Sue Paterson

Seconded by Dan Gieruszak

THAT the minutes of the Authority meeting, held on March 18, 2021 be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**6. COVID-19 Update**

Jennifer Stephens noted the COVID-19 restrictions ordered by the Grey Bruce Health unit included a stay-at-home appeal for 48 hours. To support the request, SVCA staff were ordered to work from home and the decision was made to close all SVCA properties and trails for 48 hours. Barricades have been installed at each entrance along with signage.

**7. Presentation – Website Homepage Design**

Melissa Piluso and Scott Clark, eSolutions Group, demonstrated the proposed website homepage design. Two options were presented. After discussion, the following motion was carried:

**MOTION #G21-43**

Moved by Tom Hutchinson

Seconded by Steve McCabe

THAT the Board direct staff to proceed with providing feedback to eSolutions based on the discussion at the Board of Directors meeting and the staff meeting scheduled for April 19, 2021.

**CARRIED**

**8. Consent Agenda**

**MOTION #G21-44**

Moved by Paul Allen

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the reports, minutes, and information contained in the Consent Agenda, [items 7 a-e], along with their respective recommended motions be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

Christine Robinson left the meeting at 1:55pm.

**9. New Business**

a. Overview of the *Conservation Authorities Act* Amendments and Next Steps

Jennifer presented an overview of the administrative amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, proclaimed on February 2, 2021. It was noted that Board member representation is to be governed by a population formula. Other provisions that will impact SVCA in the future include the length of term for a Chair or Vice Chair and the requirement to rotate Chair and Vice chair positions amongst participating municipalities. It was noted that the SVCA Administrative By-laws are out of date and staff recommend that the By-laws be amended once the first set of Regulations under the *Conservation Authorities Act* have been finalized. The slide deck for the presentation is amended to the minutes.

After discussion, the following motion carried:

**MOTION #G21-45**

Moved by Sue Paterson

Seconded by Cheryl Grace

THAT the presentation on the recent provincial proclamation of the governance and administrative amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* be received and;

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to circulate correspondence to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks confirming the total number of municipally appointed members on the Board of Directors based on the population formula under the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

**CARRIED**

b. Brand Strategy Research Report

Jennifer reported that the initial phase of the brand research and engagement process has been completed, and the next phase, brand development, has been initialized. She summarized the report submitted by eSolutions Group and outlined various recommended actions for creating a consistent message. Some of the themes resonating with stakeholders included connecting people with nature, relationship building, and being a trusted voice in the role as protectors and stewards.

She noted that over 35 responses to the survey had been received from outside the organization and that the raw survey results would be circulated to the Directors and staff shortly.

After discussion, the Directors passed the following motion:

**MOTION #G21-46**

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Steve McCabe

THAT staff be directed to continue working with eSolutions on the next phase of the developing a refreshed brand and accompanying brand strategy;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be requested to deliver any feedback from the review of the Brand Strategy Research Report to eSolutions Group.

**CARRIED**

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Christine Robinson returned to the meeting at 3:08pm.

c. Establishment of Indigenous Relations Committee

Jennifer spoke to the recommendation that an Indigenous Relations Committee be formed for the purposes of incorporating Indigenous expertise and partnership which would ensure that decisions and actions taken are culturally appropriate. Chair Couture clarified that the intent of the committee is to encourage communication and not to seek planning permission. The directors recommended that communications be opened with Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) before creating an Indigenous Relations Committee.

After discussion, the following motion carried:

**MOTION #G21-47**

Moved by Don Murray

Seconded by Diana Rae

THAT the Chair and General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer be directed to open communications with Saugeen Ojibway Nation, and report back to the Board.

**CARRIED**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m. on motion of Bill Stewart and Diana Rae.

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Maureen Couture  
Chair

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Laura Molson  
Recording Secretary