

SAUGEEN VALLEY
CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY

Conservation through Cooperation

MINUTES

MEETING: WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE: Monday May 17, 2021
TIME: 8:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Electronic

CHAIR: Tom Hutchinson

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Gieruszak, Cheryl Grace, Christine Robinson

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Stephens, GM / S-T,
Jo-Anne Harbinson, Manager, Water Resources
Alana McDonald, Flood Forecasting and Warning Coordinator

1. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION # WRC21-08
Moved by Cheryl Grace
Seconded by Dan Gieruszak
THAT the agenda for the Water Resources Committee meeting be adopted as presented.
CARRIED

2. Declaration of pecuniary interest

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

3. Adoption of Minutes – February 3, 2021

MOTION # WRC21-09
Moved by Christine Robinson
Seconded by Cheryl Grace
THAT the minutes for the Water Resources Committee meeting be adopted as presented.
CARRIED

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- a. Durham Upper Dam Walkway Gates (Discussed under #5d. New Business)

b. Orientation Binder

Jennifer Stephens proposed to have Orientation Binder ready for the June Water Resources Committee meeting in order to incorporate the work that SVCA is agreeing to do for the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO). The Service Level Agreement with NWMO is expected to be signed within the next two to three weeks, as sample sites are still being determined.

MOTION # WRC21-10

Moved by Christine Robinson

Seconded by Cheryl Grace

THAT the recommendation from Jennifer Stephens be received;

CARRIED

5. New Business

a. Neustadt Gabion Basket Wall Repair

Jo-Anne Harbinson provided report on project to repair gabion basket wall along Meux Creek in Neustadt (West Grey). The Meux Creek Flood Control Project was completed in the 1970's, which involved channel realignment and the use of gabion wire baskets filled with riprap. Overtime, galvanized wire holding the rocks within the gabion baskets have become worn or broken, releasing rocks from the base of the structure. This could result in tilting of the gabion wall and further erosion of base, which poses dangers to properties and landowners nearby.

MOTION # WRC20-12

Moved by Christine Robinson

Seconded by Dan Gieruszak

THAT the Water Resources Committee recommend to the SVCA Board of Directors that Neustadt Gabion Basket Wall Repair Report be accepted as presented;

AND FURTHER, THAT the WRC recommend to the SVCA Board of Directors to approve staff's recommendation for the project and in consultation with West Grey staff would be to move the project into two phases of work;

AND FURTHER, THAT the WR Committee recommend to the SVCA Board of Directors that Engineering firm GSS Engineering be accepted with 2021 expenditures being laid out as follows:

1. Phase 1 in 2021 would be the design and permitting year up to \$16,000 (50% West Grey and 50% matching funds)
2. In the event that external funding is not available that the cost associated with the projects matching funds be drawn from the SVCA West Grey Project reserve fund.
3. Subject to funding availability, Phase 2 would be 2022 that would include the remainder of Engineering \$10,000 Plus cost of construction. Since design has not been completed, construction costs would be determined in the fall of 2021. This is subject to budget discussions with West Grey staff and the impending decision from the WECl. The WRC will be informed of outcome of discussion in addition to West Grey staff.

CARRIED

b. Paisley Dyke Update – Erosion Repair

Jo-Anne Harbinson presented a report on the erosion occurring at the toe of the Paisley flood control dyke upstream of the Bruce Road 3 bridge on the Teeswater River. The dyke provides protection to lands behind the dyke, and while B.M. Ross and Associates indicated that there is no immediate threat to the integrity of the dykes, the toe will continue to erode over time. Plans to replace the bridge over the Teeswater River are underway by the County of Bruce and the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie, which poses an ideal opportunity to work collaboratively to complete toe repair at the Paisley dyke.

MOTION # WRC20-13

Moved by Cheryl Grace

Seconded by Dan Gieruszak

THAT staff be directed to pursue discussions with the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie and the County of Bruce about aligning the Paisley Dyke toe erosion repair with the Queen Street bridge replacement;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to submit an application to the 2022/2023 Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECl) Program to assist with funding the repairs.

CARRIED

c. Upper and Lower Durham Dams Structural Review

Jo-Anne Harbinson presented a report on the structural review of the Upper and Lower Durham Dams. SVCA feels that the report provided by B.M. Ross and Associates in 2015 should be updated for the next 5 years. B.M. Ross and Associates will provide structural review of the concrete components and metal walkway at the Upper Durham Dam, to ensure walkway is safe for the benefit of operations staff.

MOTION # WRC20-14

Moved by Cheryl Grace

Seconded by Dan Gieruszak

THAT staff be directed to proceed having B.M. Ross and Associates complete the structural review of the concrete components of both the Upper and Lower Durham Dams, as well as the structural analysis of the metal walkway at the Upper Durham Dam.

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to advise the Water Resources Committee of any recommendations from this review.

CARRIED

d. Public Safety Plan – Upper Durham Dam Walkway Gates

Jennifer Stephens presented the Durham Dam and Public Safety report. SVCA selected B. M. Ross and Associates to conduct the Public Safety Assessment (PSA) and prepare a Public Safety Plan (PSP), under the direction of SVCA. Through a series of risk assessment methodologies, a number of risks were identified at the dam.

Recommendations by B. M. Ross and Associates to address items indicated as “high risk” include:

- Maintenance and inspection program design and implemented by SVCA staff. This would involve regular inspections (both formal and informal) of the dam and its surrounding area before each season and before peak summer season.
- The floatation swim rope does not meet the criteria of a safety boom, and it has been recommended that SVCA investigate whether or not an actual safety boom is necessary at this site. SVCA may need to install a safety boom, which would require support from an engineer and approvals from Transport Canada.
- It is recommended that the walkway be closed to the public unless SVCA makes technical and structural changes to the walkway. The guards and railings must be upgraded to meet bridge code standards, and the walkway barriers do not meet the geometry required of the bridge code. It is recommended that SVCA install chain link fences to block off public access to the dam and surrounding areas.
- SVCA will need to update existing signage, as it is not in standard format as proposed through Provincial standards, as well as add new signage to ensure universal symbols proposed by the Province are incorporated.
- SVCA to pursue an educational program to inform the public of why these recommendations are necessary.

The estimated cost for new signage and chain link fencing is between \$3000-\$5000, and the communications plan and education program costing up to \$5000. SVCA has investigated the cost to rebuild the walkway at a minimum of \$15,000-\$20,000, which does not include approvals.

MOTION # WRC20-15

Moved by Christine Robinson

Seconded by Cheryl Grace

THAT the Water Resources Committee recommends to the Full Authority that the Durham Upper Dam (McGowan Falls Dam) walkway gates continue to be closed, as it does not meet the standard of a pedestrian walkway;

AND FURTHER, THAT SVCA pursues installation of signage, inspection protocols, and chain link fencing as outlined in the PSP;

AND FURTHER, THAT Authority staff pursue investigation of the need for a safety boom;

AND FURTHER, THAT SVCA established an educational program to inform the public about the hazards at the Upper Durham Dam;

AND FURTHER, THAT a communications plan be prepared;

AND FURTHER, THAT funds for this work is withdrawn from the Water Projects reserve;

AND FURTHER, THAT SVCA investigates options with respect to technical, structural changes, to enhance the walkway bridge in order to allow public access, including financial costs and timelines, and to report back.

CARRIED

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be June 14th, 2021 (time: TBD).

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM on motion of Cheryl Grace and Dan Gieruszak.

Tom Hutchinson
Chair

Alana McDonald
Recording Secretary