

SAUGEEN VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MINUTES

Conservation through Cooperation

MEETING: Authority Meeting
DATE: Thursday, May 20, 2021, 1:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Electronic

CHAIR: Maureen Couture

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Allen, Barbara Dobreen, Dan Gieruszak, Cheryl Grace, Tom Hutchinson, Steve McCabe, Don Murray, Mike Myatt, Mike Niesen, Sue Paterson, Diana Rae, Christine Robinson, Bill Stewart

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Mark Davis

OTHERS PRESENT: John Bujold, Baker Tilly SGB LLP
Colleen Collins, Project Director, eSolutions Group Ltd.
Kevin Campbell, Project Manager, eSolutions Group Ltd.
Kevin McKague, Cargill, Ontario
Jennifer Stephens, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Erik Downing, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations
Donna Lacey, Manager, Forestry and Lands
Laura Molson, Manager, Corporate Services
Jo-Anne Harbinson, Manager, Water Resources
Matt Armstrong, Regulations Coordinator
Alana McDonald, Flood Forecasting and Warning Coordinator

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.

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Chair Maureen Couture requested that in future Board meetings, the Land Acknowledgement be circulated to the Directors, and each take a turn reading it.

2. Adoption of Agenda

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

MOTION #G21-48

Moved by Sue Paterson

Seconded by Tom Hutchinson

THAT the amended agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

Bill Stewart joined the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

3. Introductions of New Staff

The following new staff member was introduced to the Board of Directors:

- a. Alana McDonald – Flood Forecasting and Warning Coordinator

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

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

5. Approval of Authority Meeting Minutes

- a. April 15, 2021 – Authority Meeting

MOTION #G21-49

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Dan Gieruszak

THAT the minutes of the Authority meeting, held on April 15, 2021, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

6. Presentations

- a. 2020 Audit Review

Jennifer Stephens introduced John Bujold, Baker Tilly. Mr. Bujold reviewed the draft financial report and noted that it is the opinion of Baker Tilly that the financial statements of SVCA present fairly the financial position as of December 31, 2020, and are in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

MOTION #G21-50

Moved by Cheryl Grace

Seconded by Paul Allen

THAT the 2020 Audited Financial Statements, as prepared by Baker Tilly SGB LLP be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Diana Rae joined the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

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b. Cargill Development Vision

Jennifer introduced Kevin McKague, a developer in Cargill. She noted that he is not a member of the Cargill Greenock Swamp Promotional Association as stated on the agenda. Kevin is an entrepreneur with a vision for development in Cargill and has a historical family connection to the area. He described his mission as the promotion and celebration of the history, people, and culture of Historic Cargill and the unique natural beauty of the surrounding rural landscape and Greenock swamp. The development vision would impact the appreciation of Cargill's history, increase tourism, job creation and community economic development. It is his goal to partner with SVCA and the Municipality of Brockton in this endeavour.

c. SVCA Brand Strategy Framework

Colleen Collins and Kevin Campbell presented the Brand Strategy Framework as submitted in the agenda package. They told the Directors that the new SVCA brand would have a wide audience including municipal and provincial partners, other CAs, partner organizations, staff, directors, media, schools, landowners, and tourists. To consistently deliver on a brand promise, there needs to be a strong foundation. Three brand pillars have been identified: understanding, leadership and people. The Directors discussed measurements for effectiveness.

Steve McCabe left the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

7. COVID-19 Update

Jennifer Stephens noted that most staff are continuing to work from home. It is necessary for several staff members to work in the office to access required resources, reference materials, and equipment. Daily operations remain unchanged until further direction is given by the provincial government.

8. Consent Agenda

MOTION #G21-51

Moved by Christine Robinson

Seconded by Mike Myatt

THAT the reports, minutes, and information contained in the Consent Agenda, [items 8 a-e], along with their respective recommended motions be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Steve McCabe rejoined the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

9. New Business

a. Conservation Ontario Governance Accountability and Transparency Initiative

Jennifer Stephens discussed the Governance Accountability and Transparency initiative that Conservation Ontario has created in response to amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

After discussion, the following motion carried:

MOTION #G21-52

Moved by Christine Robinson

Seconded by Barbara Dobreen

WHEREAS the provincial government has passed legislative amendments related to the governance of

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Conservation Authorities; and

WHEREAS the conservation authorities remain committed to fulfilling accountable and transparent governance;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority endorse the three key actions developed by the Conservation Ontario Steering Committee to update conservation authority administrative by-laws, to report proactively on priorities, and to promote/demonstrate results;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to work with Conservation Ontario to implement these actions, report on progress and to identify additional improvements and best management practices.

CARRIED

Steve McCabe left the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

b. Minister's Zoning Orders

Jennifer Stephens discussed the legislative changes to the *Planning Act*, Section 47, through Bill 197, the *COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020*, July 21, 2020. The changes give the Minister enhanced authority to override a conservation authority ruling as the terms of a Minister Zoning Order (MZO) will predominate CA decisions.

After discussion, the Directors passed the following motion:

MOTION #G21-53

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Cheryl Grace

THAT staff be directed to communicate with member municipalities and neighbouring conservation authorities that there is a desire to be kept informed of MZOs or MZO requests; and

THAT staff be directed to prepare a fee schedule for MZOs for consideration by the Board of Directors; and

THAT staff be directed to establish a process to comment and issue MZO CA permits; and

THAT staff be directed to work collaboratively with other conservation authorities to develop a set of guidelines to compensate for ecological impacts and any other impacts that may result from the development project; and

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to create educational resources that can be used by municipalities and applicants to inform on the new permitting provisions related to MZOs in Section 28.0.1 of the amended *Conservation Authorities Act*.

CARRIED

c. Designating SVCA staff as Officers

Donna Lacey noted that positive messaging regarding illegal activities on SVCA properties is not working on SVCA properties and that designating staff as officers has become necessary to enforce activities. It was noted that fines are applicable to ticketing but would not be associated with a source of revenue.

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After discussion, the following motion carried:

MOTION #G21-54

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Dan Gieruszak

THAT the following positions: Manager, Forestry and Lands; Forestry Technician; Field Operations Coordinator; and Campground Coordinator be designated as 'Officers' by the Authority for the purposes of enforcement of Section 29 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

CARRIED

d. Public Safety Plan –Durham Upper Dam

Jennifer Stephens reviewed the current conditions of the Upper Durham Dam and the walkway that crosses it. B.M. Ross and Associates was retained to complete a public safety assessment and plan. She reported that there were several public safety hazards that require remediation. The SVCA Water Resources Committee recommends to the Authority that the gates remain closed to the public, proper signage be installed, and that other outstanding hazards identified in the Public Safety Assessment be resolved. In particular, there was interest from both the Directors and staff to investigate options to enhance the pedestrian walkway in order to allow public access as soon as possible.

MOTION #G21-55

Moved by Christine Robinson

Seconded by Tom Hutchinson

THAT the Upper Durham Dam walkway remain closed to the public as it does not meet the standards of a pedestrian walkway until the concerns are addressed;

AND THAT appropriate signage, inspection protocols, chain link fencing, be installed as outlined in the Public Safety Plan;

AND THAT staff be directed to investigate the need for a safety boom and have it installed if necessary;

AND THAT staff be directed to establish an educational program to inform the public about the hazards at the Upper Durham Dam;

AND THAT a Communication Plan be implemented to convey the decision made;

AND THAT staff be directed to investigate options with respect to technical and structural changes to enhance the pedestrian walkway in order to allow public access, including financial costs and timelines, and to report back to the Board as soon as possible;

AND FURTHER THAT an estimated \$15,000 for these activities be drawn from the Water Projects Reserve.

CARRIED

e. Upper and Lower Durham Dams Structural Review

Jo-Anne Harbinson reviewed the submitted report. After discussion, the following motion carried.

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MOTION #G21-56

Moved by Tom Hutchinson

Seconded by Don Murray

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 pedestrian walkway at the Upper Durham Dam.

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

CARRIED

Steve McCabe re-joined the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

f. Neustadt Gabion Basket Wall Repair

Jo-Anne Harbinson presented an overview of the report submitted. She noted that the galvanized wires holding the gabion baskets have corroded and broken apart. The repairs require engineering expertise in design and configuration. The Water Resources Committee recommend to the Authority that staff begin repairs over the course of two years beginning in 2021.

MOTION #G21-57

Moved by Christine Robinson

Seconded by Bill Stewart

WHEREAS the costs to repair water and erosion control infrastructure is split 50:50 between Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and the benefiting municipality;

AND WHEREAS the costs for Phase 1 of the repairs to the Neustadt Gabion Basket Wall repairs are expected to cost \$16,000;

THEREFORE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT staff be directed to proceed with the Neustadt Gabion Basket Wall repairs over a two-year period extending from 2021 into 2022;

AND THAT GSS Engineering be retained to complete the design of the new gabion wall, complete permit acquisition, prepare tender documents, and oversee the contract and implementation of work on-site;

AND THAT SVCA's contribution (\$8,000) to Phase 1 of the Project be drawn from the 2021 Water Projects Budget (\$4,000) and the Capital Project – West Grey Projects Reserve Fund (\$4,000), where funding has not been successfully obtained through the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Program;

AND THAT the budget and timeline for proceeding with Phase 2 of the Project will be contingent on budgetary conversations with the Municipality of West Grey and the success of WECI funding;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to update the Board once the costs associated with Phase 2 of the project are defined.

CARRIED

g. Brand Strategy Framework

There was no discussion on the Brand Strategy Framework report.

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MOTION #G21-58

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Diana Rae

THAT staff be directed to continue working with eSolutions on the next phase of 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 Framework to eSolutions Group.

CARRIED

Christine Robinson left the meeting at 3:47 p.m.

h. New Regulations under the *Conservation Authorities Act* – Consultation Document
Jennifer Stephens highlighted new regulations under Bill 229 which will take place in 2 Phases. Phase 1 is focused on mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services, municipal MOUs, Advisory Committees, transition period, and the proposed consolidation of CA land regulations. Phase 2 consultations will focus on municipal levies and standards for the delivery of non-mandatory programs and services. Next steps were discussed including the submission of comments to the province by June 27th.

MOTION #G21-59

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Steve McCabe

THAT the presentation entitled “Consultation Document: New Regulations under the *Conservation Authorities Act*” be received;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to provide a thorough overview of the implications of the proposed components of the Phase 1 Regulations, as outlined in the Consultation Guide to the Board of Directors at their meeting scheduled for June 17, 2021.

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m. on motion of Don Murray.

Maureen Couture
Chair

Janice Hagan
Recording Secretary