

# SAUGEEN VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

# MINUTES

Conservation through Cooperation

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**MEETING:** Authority Meeting  
**DATE:** Thursday, June 17, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Electronic

**CHAIR:** Maureen Couture

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

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Don Murray

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Cheri Leslie, Senior Engagement Advisor, Nuclear Waste Management Organization  
Mary Devine, Associate Scientist, Environmental Assessment, Nuclear Waste Management Organization  
Steven Travale, Community and Engagement Office, Municipality of South Bruce  
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  
Rene Kleinecke, GIS Coordinator  
Janice Hagan, Executive Assistant

Chair Maureen Couture, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

## 1. Land Acknowledgement

The following Land Acknowledgement was read by Paul Allen:

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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**2. Adoption of Agenda**

**MOTION #G21-60**

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Sue Paterson

THAT the amended agenda be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3. Introductions of New Staff**

Due to technical difficulties, new staff introductions will be postponed to the following Authority meeting.

**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. May 20, 2021 – Authority Meeting

It was noted that there was an error in the list of attendees for the May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, draft Minutes.

**MOTION #G21-61**

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Barbara Dobreen

THAT the minutes of the Authority meeting, held on May 20, 2021, be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

**6. Presentations**

- a. NWMO Update and Environmental Monitoring Program

Cherie Leslie and Mary Devine presented an overview of the NWMO Plan for Used Nuclear Fuel and the Environmental Monitoring Program. The slide presentation is appended to the office copy of the minutes.

Christine Robinson joined the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

- b. Regulatory Proposals Under the *Conservation Authorities Act*

Jennifer Stephens reviewed the amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* through Bill 139, Bill 108 and Bill 229 and noted that comments regarding the regulatory principles are due by June 27, 2021. Comments submitted by the Authority will include those related to mandatory programs and services associated with the risk of natural hazards, municipal agreements for conservation authority lands, and Source Protection Authority responsibilities under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. The presentation is appended to the office copy of the minutes.

Diana Rae joined the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

After discussion, the following motion carried:

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**MOTION #G21-62**

Moved by Dan Gieruszak

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the province be requested to expedite remaining regulations to ensure sufficient time to prepare for the implementation of all regulatory changes and to adhere to the proposed schedule for the development of all Agreements;

AND THAT the province be requested to confirm funding expectations for the Drinking Water Source Protection Program for 2023 and beyond before the end of 2021;

AND THAT the Board of Directors delegate authority to the General Manager, Chair and Vice Chairs of the Authority to prepare and submit final comments on the regulatory proposals on behalf of the Board by June 27, 2021;

AND FURTHER THAT copies of the formal submission be provided to watershed MPPs, municipalities, Conservation Ontario, the Conservation Authorities Office of the Environment Conservation and Parks and the Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks.

**CARRIED**

**7. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

**a. COVID-19 Update**

Jennifer Stephens noted that most staff are continuing to work from home. With the stay-at-home order being lifted, the office will be opened to the public by appointment. Notice of updates will be communicated with the Board of Directors and the municipalities.

**8. Consent Agenda**

**MOTION #G21-62**

Moved by Cheryl Grace

Seconded by Barbara Dobreen

THAT Item 8a, Program Reports and Correspondence be pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

**CARRIED**

Director Cheryl Grace requested clarification on the Environmental Planning and Regulations program report, regarding the landowner court case. Matt Armstrong recapitulated the case which has been on-going since 2018. The application had been brought to an Administrative Review and was deemed incomplete by the SVCA Board of Directors. The landowner has declined to submit the necessary information as requested and charges have been laid. Legal fees may occur if the case proceeds to trial and the Board will be notified. There was no further discussion.

Director Barbara Dobreen requested that correspondence from a member of the public be available for discussion if necessary, during agenda item #9f.

**MOTION #G21-63**

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Steve McCabe

THAT the reports, minutes, and information contained in the Consent Agenda, [items 8 a-g], along with

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their respective recommended motions be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**9. New Business**

a. General Manager's Report

Jennifer Stephens told the Board that full funding has been received from the provincial government (*Section 39*) allocated for the Flood Forecasting and Warning Program in the amount of \$81,000. Staff had applied for funding through the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure program for repairs to the Neustadt gabion wall, however funding was not successful. A service level agreement is under development with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization which will outline a set of monitoring services SVCA will undertake. All data collected will be jointly owned by both parties.

b. Environmental Planning and Regulations Policies Manual – 5 Year Review

Erik Downing reviewed the development of the SVCA Environmental Planning and Regulations Policies Manual and noted that a 5-year review is forthcoming. Staff recommend that a consultant be retained to coordinate feedback and assist with revisions.

After discussion, the Directors passed the following motion:

**MOTION #G21-64**

Moved by Cheryl Grace

Seconded by Paul Allen

THAT staff be directed to proceed with the 5-year update to the Environmental Planning and Regulations Policy Manual;

AND THAT staff be directed to acquire external support to complete this update;

AND FURTHER THAT the \$20,000 to complete this Project be taken from the 2021 Environmental Planning and Regulations budget.

**CARRIED**

c. Section 28 Regulation Mapping

Laura Molson presented the report submitted by Rene Kleinecke. She noted that to complete the regulation flood plain mapping, an outside engineering consultant would need to be retained, and an additional GIS Technician would be required for a period of two years to support the current GIS Coordinator.

After discussion, the following motion carried:

**MOTION #G21-65**

Moved by Diana Rae

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT staff be directed to proceed with acquiring quotations for external engineering support to assist with a major update to SVCA's section 28 Regulation Mapping;

AND THAT staff be directed to present a funding framework for the completion of this Regulation mapping over the next two calendar years.

**CARRIED**

d. Brand Strategy and Logo

Jennifer gave an update on the Brand Strategy provided by eSolutions Group which will aim to achieve a projected professional image and identity, to control SVCA's narrative with a positive brand story, and foster staff buy-in and empowerment. She also displayed the optional logos developed by eSolutions.

**MOTION #G21-66**

Moved by Christine Robinson

Seconded by Tom Hutchinson

THAT staff be directed to advise eSolutions Group that the Brand Strategy is approved;

AND THAT staff be directed to advise eSolutions Group that SVCA is prepared to proceed with the development of Brand Guidelines to support the Brand Strategy;

AND THAT staff be directed to circulate a survey to both staff and the Board of Directors asking for the ranking of logo options based on the choices provided to date;

AND THAT staff be directed to have all respondents complete this survey by 4:30 pm on Thursday, June 24th, 2021;

AND THAT staff be directed to follow up with the results of this survey and the proposed new logo option on Friday, June 25th, 2021;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be authorized to submit the preferred logo option to eSolutions Group.

**CARRIED**

e. User Fee Review

Chair Couture requested that the User Fee Review report be deferred to the next Authority meeting.

**MOTION #G21-67**

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the User Fee Review Report be deferred to the next Authority meeting.

**CARRIED**

Steve McCabe left the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

f. Implementation of Durham Upper Durham Public Safety Plan

Jo-Anne Harbinson presented the report, and it was noted that the Water Resources Committee had recommended the option of completing interim repairs to get the Durham Upper Dam pedestrian walkway open this summer. After discussion, the following motion was carried:

**MOTION #G21-68**

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Barbara Dobreen

WHEREAS the Durham Upper Dam is integral to the mitigation of flooding due to frazil ice;

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AND WHEREAS the Durham Upper Dam increases the quality of life and is a recognized asset to members of the local and broader community;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of West Grey is the benefitting municipality, and all costs are to be shared with Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority at a ratio of 50:50;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority invest in the following short-term repair solution to the DUD pedestrian walkway in the amount of \$15,000: SVCA staff would raise the railings on both sides of the pedestrian walkway, bent joists would be fixed and / or reinforced, as necessary, paint would be applied to the walkway as a refresh. This would be considered a temporary fix until such time as a more permanent solution can be decided upon. (Estimated Cost: \$15,000 including labour, welding rods, steel, and equipment);

AND THAT SVCA's contribution of these funds (\$7,500) be taken from the \$15,000 already allocated to implement the safety measures outlined in the Public Safety Plan for the Durham Upper Dam;

AND THAT staff be directed to investigate a longer-term option for a pedestrian walkway to be implemented by 2026;

AND FURTHER THAT SVCA staff communicate all decisions made at the Full Authority pertaining to the Durham Dams to the Municipality of West Grey to make them known by the public.

**CARRIED**

- g. Durham – Upper and Lower Dams Structural Review of Concrete Components and Assessment of Steel Pedestrian Walkway at Durham Upper Dam

Jo-Anne presented the report on the structural review of the pedestrian walkway at the Durham Upper Dam (DUD) and discussed the recommendations submitted by B. M. Ross and Associates.

**MOTION #G21-69**

Moved by Christine Robinson

Seconded by Bill Stewart

WHEREAS the Durham Upper Dam is integral to the mitigation of flooding due to frazil ice;

AND WHEREAS the Durham Upper Dam increases the quality of life and is a recognized asset to members of the local and broader community;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of West Grey is the benefitting municipality, and all costs are to be shared with Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority at a ratio of 50:50;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to recommend to the Full Authority that an H-beam be installed into the Upper Durham Dam at a cost of \$40,000 by Fall 2021;

AND THAT \$20,000 be drawn from SVCA's Working Capital Reserve to cover this cost;

AND THAT staff be directed to seek quotations for a cost benefit analysis regarding the continued use of the dam in frazil ice and flood control, and present this back to the Water Resources Committee and the Board of Directors;

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AND THAT staff be directed to seek quotations for a feasibility study to complete the upstream structural work using low overflow level control weirs to control frazil ice and report back to the Water Resources Committee and Board of Directors;

AND THAT staff be directed to apply for WECl funding for both the Durham Upper (\$178,300) and Lower (\$37,600) Dams concrete work in February 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025;

AND FURTHER THAT if unsuccessful at acquiring WECl funding, SVCA and the Municipality of West Grey shall proceed with the concrete repairs to the Upper and Lower Durham Dam in summer of 2026, with both parties contributing 50% of the required cost for the concrete repairs.

**CARRIED**

Mike Myatt left the meeting at 4:27 p.m.

**10. Closed Session**

**MOTION #G21-70**

Moved by Christine Robinson

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the Authority move to Closed Session, In Camera to discuss matters relating to identifiable individuals, and further

THAT Jennifer Stephens, Laura Molson, Donna Lacey, and Janice Hagan remain in the meeting.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION #G21-74**

Moved by Christine Robinson

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the Authority adjourn from Closed Session, In Camera, and rise and report.

**CARRIED**

Chair Couture reported that legal advice was received, and direction was given to Staff in the closed session pertaining to an identifiable individual.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m. on motion of Mark Davis.

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Maureen Couture  
Chair

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Janice Hagan  
Recording Secretary