

# SAUGEEN VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## Minutes

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**Meeting:** Authority Meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, October 20, 2022, 1:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Saugeen Valley Children's Safety Village  
**Chair:** Maureen Couture  
**Members present:** Mark Davis, Barbara Dobreen, Dan Gieruszak, Cheryl Grace, Tom Hutchinson, Steve McCabe, Don Murray, Dave Myette, Mike Niesen, Diana Rae, Christine Robinson, Bill Stewart  
**Regrets:** Paul Allen, Sue Paterson  
**Others present:** Kim Clark, RTO7  
**Staff present:** Jennifer Stephens, Erik Downing, Donna Lacey, Elise MacLeod, Laura Molson, Ashley Boyd, Trent Francis, Jim Leask, Shannon Hagen, Vivian Nolan, Karleigh Porter, Ashley Richards, Janice Hagan

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

### 1. Land Acknowledgement

The following Land Acknowledgement was read by Director Barbara Dobreen:

*We begin our meeting today by respectfully acknowledging the Anishinaabeg Nation, the Haudensaunee, the Neutral, and the Petun peoples as the traditional keepers of this land. We are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples.*

### 2. Adoption of Agenda

#### **MOTION #G22-80**

Moved by Cheryl Grace

Seconded by Diana Rae

THAT the agenda be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

### 3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

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

#### **4. Approval of Authority meeting Minutes – September 15, 2022**

##### **Motion #G22-81**

Moved by Tom Hutchinson

Seconded by Steve McCabe

THAT the minutes of the Authority meeting held on September 15, 2022, be approved as circulated.

**Carried**

#### **5. Staff Introduction**

The following staff were introduced to the Board:

- Vivian Nolan, Resources Information Technician
- Trent Francis, Regulations Officer
- James Pearson, Flood Forecasting and Warning Coordinator (in absentia)

#### **6. Staff Recognition**

Chair Couture presented an award to several SVCA staff for their bravery and courage in responding to a critical medical emergency at the Saugeen Bluffs Campground and were instrumental in effecting a positive outcome. The Board applauded the staff members and gave them a standing ovation.

The following staff were recognized:

- Shannon Hagen, Jim Leask
- Elijah Wilson, Nathan Beech (In absentia)

#### **7. Presentation – Geofence Project**

Kim Clarke gave a presentation to the Board regarding a study that had been done, using geofence data. She explained how consumer data is collected and analyzed, and how it can benefit tourism. The results of data collection at five (5) SVCA locations was presented to the Board along with observations and recommendations for revenue generating opportunities.

#### **8. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- a. 2023 Proposed Budget Approval

##### **Motion #G22-82**

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority adopt the 2023 Budget as approved in principle at the September 2022 meeting; and further

THAT the Authority share of the costs will be raised through general revenues, reserves, donations, general surplus, and special and general levies in accordance with the *Conservation Authorities Act*, and further

THAT the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer is hereby authorized to forward levy notices to the member municipalities.

A recorded vote was taken for the 2023 budget with the following results:

Municipality	Director	Vote
Arran-Elderslie	Mark Davis	Nay
Brockton	Dan Gieruszak	Yea
Chatsworth	Diana Rae	Yea
Grey-Highlands	Paul Allen	Absent
Hanover	Sue Paterson	Absent
Howick	Mike Niesen	Yea
Huron-Kinloss	Don Murray	Nay
Kincardine	Maureen Couture	Yea
Kincardine	Bill Stewart	Yea
Minto	Steve McCabe	Yea
Morris-Turnberry	Mike Niesen	Yea
Saugeen Shores	Cheryl Grace	Yea
Saugeen Shores	Dave Myette	Nay
South Bruce	Mike Niesen	Yea
Southgate	Barbara Dobreen	Yea
Wellington North	Steve McCabe	Yea
West Grey	Tom Hutchinson	Yea
West Grey	Christine Robinson	Yea

The result of the vote was 79% of the weighted average of those present in favour. Therefore, **Motion #G22-82 was Carried.**

**Motion #G22-83**

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Tom Hutchinson

THAT the amount of \$2,071,216 be raised by General Levy in 2023; and further

THAT General Levy payments shall be due in two equal instalments on March 31 and June 30; and further

THAT late payments shall be subject to the Authority's normal late payment charge of 1.50% per month thereafter; and further

THAT in accordance with Section 27(4) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, R.S.O. 1990, the minimum sum that shall be levied against a participating municipality for administration costs shall be \$1,100.

**Carried**

#### **9. General Manager's Report and 2022 Workplan Update**

Jennifer Stephens provided a review of the General Manager's report including the submission of the 2<sup>nd</sup> progress report to the province. She noted that the administration of the *Conservation Authorities Act* has been fully returned to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) after having split responsibility with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). There was discussion about proposed amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Jennifer indicated that the SVCA Personnel Policy is being modernized and will be presented to the Board for approval in December. A consultant has been engaged to provide technical support to the Environmental Planning and Regulations, and other firms have expressed an interest in working with staff; therefore, a list of engineering firms will be created to allow staff to have access to various resources. Staff are acquiring a Content Management System (CMS) and will be applying for a Trillium grant to provide funding for a consultant to have it operational in 2023. She noted that the Grey County and lower tier Municipal Service Agreement negotiations may be pushed back beyond December due to the municipality agreement discussions relating to CA Act Category 2 and 3 (non-mandatory programs) programs and services as it may be more efficient to have concurrent dialogues.

#### **10. Consent Agenda**

##### **Motion #G22-84**

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Dan Gieruszak

THAT the reports, and information contained in the Consent Agenda, [Item 9-a-e], along with their respective recommended motions be accepted as presented.

**Carried**

#### **11. New Business**

##### **a. Strategic Plan Update**

Jennifer provided an analysis of responses received from various internal and external consultation

surveys concerning the mission and mandate of SVCA. The Directors discussed the new mission, mandate, and vision as proposed by staff but decided to allow the new Board in 2023 to endorse it.

**Motion #G22-85**

Moved by Christine Robinson

Seconded by Barbara Dobreen

THAT the Strategic Plan update be received as information.

**Carried**

**12. Closed Session**

**Motion #G22-86**

Moved by Don Murray

Seconded by Dave Myette

THAT the Authority move to Closed Session In-Camera, to discuss a proposed or pending acquisition of land by the Authority; and further

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

**Carried**

**Motion #G22-89**

Moved by Tom Hutchinson

Seconded by Mark Davis

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

**Carried**

Chair Couture reported that the Authority had discussed the acquisition of 2 properties during the Closed Session and the following motion was passed:

**Motion #G22-90**

Moved by Christine Robinson

Seconded by Steve McCabe

THAT staff be authorized to proceed with the acquisition of two properties, each with 2 parcels and their associated assets, with gratitude.

**Carried**

**13. For the good of the Committee**

Chair Maureen addressed the Board and gave the following remarks:

“Thank you for joining us today, for our last meeting as a group.

On behalf of Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, I would like to express appreciation for your contribution as directors on this board. Your commitment to share your time over this term enabled the Authority to function, with transparency and accountability. Some of you have been members of the board for almost a decade! The board has played an integral role guiding SVCA through many different adaptations; through changes made to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, continued funding constraints, and the recent pandemic.

It has been an honour to serve as Chair of this Board. I am grateful for the time we spent together, ensuring that water resources in the Saugeen Valley watershed are properly safeguarded and managed.”

In particular, I would like to commend the staff for their excellent response and handling of the pandemic. Working conditions were less than ideal, and all staff pitched in to keep the Authority running during this time. Thank you very much!

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m. on motion of Tom Hutchinson and Dave Myette.

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Maureen Couture  
Chair

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Janice Hagan  
Recording Secretary