

SAUGEEN VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Conservation through Cooperation

MINUTES

Meeting:	Authority Meeting
Date:	Thursday December 16, 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, Don Murray, Dave Myette, Mike Niesen, Sue Paterson, Diana Rae, Bill Stewart
Members absent:	Christine Robinson
Others present:	Jennifer Stephens, General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer Erik Downing, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations Donna Lacey, Manager, Forestry and Lands Laura Molson, Manager, Corporate Services Madeline McFadden, Regulations Officer Janice Hagan, Executive Assistant / Recording Secretary

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

1. Land Acknowledgement

The following Land Acknowledgement was read by Dave Myette:

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

Outstanding reports from Section 9 - New Business were circulated prior to the meeting:

- c. Regulation 687/27 – Transition Plan
- d. Status of Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation

Motion #G21-129

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Cheryl Grace

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

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 – November 18, 2021

Motion #G21-130

Moved by Diana Rae

Seconded by Bill Stewart

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

CARRIED

5. Staff Introduction

The following new member of staff was introduced:

- a. Madeline McFadden, Regulations Officer

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- a. Approval of 2022 Budget

Due to technical difficulties, Tom Hutchinson left the meeting.

Motion #G21-131

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Paul Allen

THAT the amount of \$1,867,766 be raised by General Levy in 2022; 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.

A recorded vote was taken for the 2022 Budget with the following results:

Arran-Elderslie	Mark Davis	Yea
Brockton	Dan Gieruszak	Yea
Chatsworth	Diana Rae	Yea
Grey-Highlands	Paul Allen	Yea
Hanover	Sue Paterson	Yea
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	Yea
South Bruce	Mike Niesen	Yea
Southgate	Barbara Dobreen	Yea
Wellington North	Steve McCabe	Yea
West Grey	Tom Hutchinson	Absent
West Grey	Christine Robinson	Absent

The result of the vote was 93.6% of the weighted average of those present in favour. Therefore, **Motion #G21-131 was CARRIED.**

Motion #G21-132

Moved by Dan Gieruszak

Seconded by Barbara Dobreen

THAT the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority adopt the 2022 Budget as approved in principle at the October 2021 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.

CARRIED

b. Frequency of municipal levy payments

There was no discussion on this report.

Tom Hutchinson returned to the meeting at 1:14 p.m. Don Murray left the meeting.

7. General Manager's Report (verbal)

COVID-19 update

Staff have been advised to work from home where possible. The office will remain closed to the public.

Holiday Hours

The office will be closed beginning December 24, 2021, at noon, until Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Staff will be expected to use 3 vacation/overtime days during this time.

Position postings

It is expected that the Manager of Water Resources position will be posted before Christmas and will be filled by February of 2022. Jo-Anne Harbinson (*retired Water Resources manager*) has continued to work as a consultant to SVCA.

Conservation Authorities Act Transition Plan

Staff focus has been on the preparation of an inventory of programs and services which is required to be submitted to the provincial government by the end of February 2022.

8. Consent Agenda

Motion #G21-133

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Dave Myette

THAT the News Report be pulled from the consent agenda to allow discussion on the news articles pertaining to Cedar Crescent Village.

CARRIED

Director Stewart requested information on the impact that the CCV application has had on SVCA and the next steps. Jennifer explained that the Town of Saugeen Shores is exploring options for relocating the project beyond the regulated area, however; it is unknown at the current time if the Authority will be required to be engaged in the process. The Directors requested that a report outlining costs incurred be brought to the next scheduled Authority meeting.

Motion #G21-134

Moved by Mark Davis

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the Board receive the News Report as information, and further

THAT staff be directed to bring a report to the Board in January regarding the costs associated with the CCV project development.

CARRIED

Motion #G21-135

Moved by Tom Hutchinson

Seconded by Barbara Dobreen

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

CARRIED

9. New Business

a. 2022 Fee Schedule

Laura Molson explained the changes to the Fee Schedule for 2022. It was noted that a consultant will be retained in January to review the Planning and Regulations portion of the

Schedule. After discussion the following motion passed:

Motion #G21-136

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Tom Hutchinson

THAT the 2022 Fee Schedule be approved as presented.

CARRIED

b. 2022 Meeting Schedule

Janice Hagan discussed the recommended meeting schedule for 2022 along with the option to hold the January Annual meeting in-person. The Directors requested to hold the Annual Meeting on Thursday, January 20, rather than Friday, January 21, and that meetings should continue to take place remotely. The frequency of the meetings was discussed, and the Directors agreed that the meetings could remain scheduled at 8 per year and that efficiencies should be considered. Extra meetings can be scheduled if required.

Motion #G21-137

Moved by Dave Myette

Seconded by Cheryl Grace

THAT the January 2022 Annual meeting be conducted virtually; and

THAT staff investigate methods for secret voting for the election of officers.

CARRIED

Motion #G21-138

Moved by Mark Davis

Seconded by Dave Myette

THAT the 2022 SVCA Authority meeting schedule be adopted as amended to reflect the change of the Annual Meeting to January 20th; and

THAT the schedule be circulated to member municipalities; and further

THAT the schedule be posted to the SVCA website meeting calendar.

CARRIED

c. Regulation 687/21 – Transition Plan

Jennifer Stephens reviewed the draft Transition Plan to be submitted to the province, the watershed municipalities, and posted to the SVCA website.

Motion #G21-139

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Tom Hutchinson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the SVCA Board of Directors approve the attached transition plan prepared in accordance with Ontario Regulation 687/21; and

THAT staff be directed to circulate a copy of the transition plan to watershed municipalities and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks by December 31, 2021; and

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to post the transition plan on Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority's website.

CARRIED

d. Status of Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation (SVCF)

Jennifer discussed the status of the SVCF and noted that it has been inactive for a period of one year. She stated that the Authority is a charitable organization and does not legally require the services of the Foundation for fundraising. The Memorial Grove and Celebration Forests programs have reached the end of their lifespan and staff are reviewing fundraising opportunities more in line with other conservation authority programs. The Directors requested that a financial report for the SVCF be submitted at the next Authority meeting.

Motion #G21-140

Moved by Diana Rae

Seconded by Bill Stewart

WHEREAS the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation has remained inactive for a period of one year;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Foundation be kept inactive for an indeterminate length of time; and

THAT staff be directed to pursue fundraising options for Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority; and

THAT the Memorial Grove and Celebration Forest programs be discontinued in December 2021; and

THAT the discontinuation of these programs be properly conveyed to the public; and further

THAT a final Memorial Grove Ceremony be held in Spring 2022 for those individuals who purchased a tree in 2020 and 2021.

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m. on motion of Steve McCabe and Diana Rae.

Maureen Couture
Chair

Janice Hagan
Recording Secretary