

SAUGEEN VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Minutes

Meeting: Authority Annual Meeting
Date: Thursday, January 19, 2023, 1:00 p.m.
Location: Administration Office, Formosa, ON
Chair: Barbara Dobreen

Members present: Paul Allen, Larry Allison, Kevin Eccles, Bud Halpin, Tom Hutchinson, Gregory McLean, Steve McCabe, Dave Myette, Mike Niesen, Sue Paterson, Moiken Penner, Jennifer Prenger, Bill Stewart, Peter Whitten

Staff present: Jennifer Stephens, Erik Downing, Donna Lacey, Elise MacLeod, Laura Molson, Lorne Chamberlain, Janice Hagan, Peyton Koebel, Kaleb Meyer, Anthony Quipp, Ashley Richards, Rick Rowbotham, Aaron Swayze, Lee Watson, Jill Wiersma, Elijah Wilson

Others present: Special guests and members of the public.

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

1. Appointment of Chair Pro Tem

Motion #G23-01

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Sue Paterson

THAT Maureen Couture be appointed Chair Pro Tem for the SVCA Authority meeting, January 19, 2023 (Agenda items 1-9).

Carried

The Land Acknowledgement was read by 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 Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion #G23-02

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Gregory McLean

THAT the SVCA Board of Directors adopt the agenda for the Authority meeting on January 19, 2023, as presented.

Carried

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

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

4. Adoption of Authority meeting minutes – December 15, 2022

Motion #G23-03

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Sue Paterson

THAT the SVCA Board of Directors adopt the minutes of the Authority meeting, December 15, 2022, as presented.

Carried

5. Introduction of Guests

Greetings were brought to SVCA from the following dignitaries and special guests:

Ben Lobb, MP, Huron-Bruce Riding

Lisa Thompson, MPP, Huron Bruce Riding

Randy Scherzer, Deputy CAO, Grey County

Barbara Dobreen, Deputy Mayor, Township of Southgate

Mike Niesen, Councillor, Municipality of South Bruce

Ed McGugan, Vice Chair, Maitland Valley CA, Municipality of Huron-Kinloss

Phil Beard, GM / S-T, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

Scott Greig, Chair, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority

Tim Lanthier, CAO, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority

Dave Myette, Councillor, Municipality of Saugeen Shores

Bill Stewart, Councillor, Municipality of Kincardine

6. Staff service recognition

Maureen Couture and Jennifer Stephens presented the following service awards:

- Five Year Service Award: Lorne Chamberlain, Field Operations Assistant
- Fifteen Year Service Award: Erik Downing, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations

7. Chair's Address

The following address was given by the Past Chair, Maureen Couture:

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“It has been my pleasure to serve as Chair of Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority from January 2021 to October 2022. 2022 was a year of re-establishment for Saugeen Conservation. The organization is now running with a full complement of staff, who have been hard at work, putting many re-tooled and refined programs and services into practice.

SVCA staff were heavily involved with multiple infrastructure projects, including but not limited to the Bruce County Road 3 Bridge Replacement, as well as Environmental Assessments on other bridge projects, and engineering inspections of SVCA flood and erosion infrastructure. These inspections were badly needed, with some structures never having received external inspections.

Huge fluctuations and rapidly changing forecasts have made for unpredictable weather and have highlighted the incredible importance of programs such as the highly anticipated Flood Watch. Extreme ranges in rainfall quantity are now commonplace. For example, the May 2022 Derecho storm event forecast range was 15-85mm because of localized storm cells. This represents a range that could be on one hand inconsequential and not meeting the minimum parameters of a safety statement, and on the other, potential severe localized flooding.

New stream gauge equipment was installed at the Cedarville location. Stream gauges measure the water levels and flows, which are used to inform the Flood Watch program. This is a milestone upgrade, with more to come.

Water resources staff continue to monitor water quality in our watershed and are working towards the completion of Watershed Report Cards, which are produced every five years in conjunction with Conservation Ontario.

A Utility Agreement was approved by legal counsel and is now in use. This covers liability related to any drilling in the proximity of SVCA flood and erosion control projects.

Multiple grant opportunities were pursued, and staff hope to be able to share some good news in the first quarter of this year.

The Environmental Planning and Regulations department implemented shortened permitting review timelines as a part of the client service and streamlining initiative. For SVCA permits, maximum review times were reduced to between 30-69 days.

322 permits were issued in 2022 with 0 permit denials. 488 Planning Act Applications were reviewed in 2022. 107 law firm inquiries made their way to SVCA with regards to property transactions.

The accuracy of SVCA review increased with additional technical expert resources being hired to support accurate and appropriate review around Lake Huron coastal hazards and floodplain hazards. Natural hazards were given the space they are due, and the watershed saw unprecedented development.

All told just shy of 2,000 new inquiries were made to the Environmental Planning and Regulations Department in 2022.

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Bill 23's changes to the Conservation Authorities Act prompted an outcry of concern from the Authority, our participating municipalities, the public, and in some cases, even the development community. The implementation of these changes within the Authority and amongst our participating municipalities will continue through 2023.

Environmental planning and regulation staff are grateful to local landowners for continuing to manage their properties with the good of the watershed in mind.

Through the Forestry and Lands department, SVCA acquired two new properties by donation, for a total of over 160 acres. Staff worked hard to make the Glenelg property safe for visitors, performing a significant clean-up operation in only a short period of time.

Improvements were made to Stoney Island Conservation Area and Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area received a new set of stairs to the panoramic lookout. While campgrounds saw a decline in bookings after the post-COVID boom, numbers remained robust and SVCA campgrounds and conservation areas continued to be the number one inquiry made by the public through search engines.

Enforcement of Section 29 under the Conservation Authorities Act began in July 2022, effective over all 21,921 acres of Saugeen Conservation property. SVCA staff are appointed as officers to enforce this section of the Act. Under this authority and with occasional help from local law enforcement, SVCA could ticket those in violation of the permitted uses of Authority lands. Specific areas of focus included the use of unauthorized vehicles, such as ATVs, off-leash animals, illegal camping, and after-hours presence. A 'permitted use' campaign was unrolled to the public, and reward tickets were issued to those complying.

Through Forestry, tree-marking services were provided for five private landowners. 28,000 trees were planted, and more than that number again were sold directly to landowners for independent planting. 22 managed forest tax incentive program plans were written, as well as the renewal of SVCA's five-year plan.

Saugeen Conservation has had a solid 2022, and though there have been changes, the outlook is positive. I look forward to the years ahead for Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority with confidence."

8. Presentation – 2022: A Look Back

Jennifer Stephens presented *2022: A Look Back* to the Board of Directors. She highlighted various accomplishments and changes that transpired at SVCA in 2022.

9. Election of Officers

a. Appointment of Scrutineers

Chair Pro Tem Maureen Couture declared all offices vacant and called for a motion to appoint two scrutineers, in the event of an election count.

Motion #G23-04

Moved by Mike Niesen

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT Tim Lanthier and Phil Beard be appointed as scrutineers for the election of officers as conducted on January 19, 2023.

Carried

b. Election of Chair

Chair Couture called for nominations for the position of Chair for 2023. Tom Hutchinson nominated Barbara Dobreen. No further nominations were received.

Motion #G23-05

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Sue Paterson

THAT the nominations for the position of Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for 2023 be closed.

Carried

Barbara Dobreen was acclaimed 2023 Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Board of Directors.

c. Election of Vice Chair

Chair Couture called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair for 2023. Steve McCabe nominated Tom Hutchinson. No further nominations were received.

Motion #G23-06

Moved by Kevin Eccles

Seconded by Greg McLean

THAT the nominations for the position of 1st Vice-Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority be closed.

Carried

Tom Hutchinson was acclaimed 2023 Vice Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Board of Directors.

d. Election of 2nd Vice Chair

Chair Couture called for nominations for the position of 2nd Vice Chair for 2023. Larry Allison nominated Dave Myette. Steve McCabe nominated Paul Allen. No further nominations were received.

Motion #G23-07

Moved by Kevin Eccles

Seconded by Greg McLean

THAT the nominations for the position of 2nd Vice-Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority be closed.

Carried

Dave Myette thanked his nominator but declined to stand for the position of 2nd Vice Chair. Paul Allen agreed to let his name stand and was acclaimed for the position.

e. Election of Member-at-Large

Chair Couture called for nominations for the position of Member-at-Large for 2023. Bud Halpin nominated Dave Myette. Barbara Dobreen nominated Steve McCabe. No further nominations were received.

Motion #G23-08

Moved by Kevin Eccles

Seconded by Greg McLean

THAT the nominations for the position of Member-at-Large of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority be closed.

Carried

Dave Myette and Steve McCabe both thanked their nominators and agreed to let their names stand for nomination. The Directors voted by secret ballot and the scrutineers informed Chair Couture that Steve McCabe was elected by the Directors as Member-at-Large.

Motion #G23-09

Moved by Greg McLean

Seconded by Tom Hutchinson

THAT Steve McCabe be appointed to fill the position of Member-at-Large of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for the year 2023.

Carried

Motion #G23-10

Moved by Tom Hutchinson

Seconded by Kevin Eccles

THAT the secret ballots be permanently destroyed.

Carried

Barbara Dobreen assumed the position of Chair and thanked the Board of Directors for appointing her to that role.

10. Committee appointments

Motion #G23-11

Moved by Tom Hutchinson

Seconded by Paul Allen

THAT the following Directors be appointed as members to the SVCA committees for 2023:

- i. Forestry Committee: Tom Hutchinson, Paul Allen, Moiken Penner, Dave Myette
- ii. Property and Parks Committee: Bill Stewart, Larry Allison, Moiken Penner, Bud Halpin, Paul Allen
- iii. Water Resources Committee: Tom Hutchinson, Greg McLean, Dave Myette, Bill Stewart
- iv. Agricultural Advisory Committee: Steve McCabe, Dave Myette, Kevin Eccles, Mike Niesen.

Carried

Motion #G23-12

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the SVCA Chair as voting delegate, Vice-Chair as first alternate, and General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer as second alternate, be appointed, to Conservation Ontario for 2023.

11. Consent agenda

Motion #G23-13

Moved by Larry Allison

Seconded by Bud Halpin

THAT the reports and information contained in the Consent Agenda, [Item11a-c], along with their respective recommended motions be accepted as presented.

Carried

12. New Business

- a. Appointment of Auditor

Motion #G23-14

Moved by Paul Allen

Seconded by Gregory McLean

THAT Baker Tilly SGB LLP be confirmed as the auditor to the Authority for the year 2023.

Carried

b. Appointment of Solicitor

Motion #G23-15

Moved by Paul Allen

Seconded by Steve McLean

THAT Beard Winter LLP and Mathews, Dinsdale & Clark LLP be appointed solicitors to the Authority for the year 2023 for general operations, with the option to engage the services of other local solicitors, as necessary.

Carried

c. Presentation: Forestry and Lands Department

Donna Lacey presented an orientation session to the Directors regarding the Forestry and Lands department.

Jennifer Stephens advised the members that there will be further Director training at the next two scheduled Board meetings as well as a separate training session for Environmental Planning and Regulations, to be conducted during the month of February.

d. Statutory administrative approvals

As a part of conducting its business affairs, SVCA is required to review and approve the Health and Safety policy and the Workplace Violence, Harassment, and Sexual Harassment policy on an annual basis.

Motion #G23-16

Moved by Dave Myette

Seconded by Tom Hutchinson

THAT the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors re-affirm for 2023 the Health and Safety Policy; and,

FURTHER THAT the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors Re-Affirm for 2023 the Workplace Violence, Harassment, and Sexual Harassment Policy.

Carried

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m. on motion of Bill Stewart and Peter Whitten.

Barbara Dobreen
Chair

Janice Hagan
Recording Secretary