



The Corporation of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: October 23, 2023

Subject: SRDPCLK.23.05 Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority – DRAFT
Category 3 Programs & Services Agreement

Report from: Julie Hamilton, Deputy Clerk

Appendices: Appendix A - Preamble

Appendix B - Draft Cost Apportioning Agreement

Appendix C - 2024 Business Case, Water Quality Program

Appendix D - Conservation Authorities Act, Ontario Regulation 686/21

Appendix E - Conservation Authorities Act, Ontario Regulation 687/21

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council hereby,

1. Approves the DRAFT Category 3 Cost Apportioning Agreement prepared by Saugeen Conservation Valley Authority; and
2. Directs Staff to prepare a by-law to authorize the execution of the Cost Apportioning Agreement.

Report Summary

The intent of this report is to obtain Council's approval to enter into a cost apportioning agreement with the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for Category 3 programs and services, similar to the agreement recently entered into with the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority.

Background

Ontario Regulation 687/21 (Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services under Section 21.1.2 of the Conservation Authorities Act) categorizes conservation authority programs and services as follows:

- **Category 1:** Mandatory programs and services
- **Category 2:** Programs and services a conservation authority does on behalf of municipalities
- **Category 3:** Programs and services that a conservation authority determines are advisable to provide in its jurisdiction that further the conservation, restoration, development, and management of natural resources.

Category 1 programs and services, being mandatory, do not require an agreement with municipalities. The Conservation Authorities Act requires that each conservation authority prepare Municipal Agreements by January 1, 2024, for Category 2 and 3 programs and services.

Analysis

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority proposes to continue two Category 3 programs and services:

- 1) Service Area 1 – Water Quality Program
- 2) Service Area 2 – Public Awareness and Communications for Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

To continue these programs and services, Category 3 agreements would be formed with all fifteen (15) participating municipalities. Where the Category 3 agreements require municipal funding, the agreement would include cost apportionment amongst the municipalities.

A business case has been prepared to support the continuation of the Water Quality Program and has been attached for Council's information.

The costs for the Water Quality program and its associated communications program are estimated at \$119,050 and \$7,100 respectively and Municipality's share of the estimated costs is \$3,164.

There will be no additional costs associated with this levy. The existing municipal levy will be decreased, and these funds would be reallocated via the cost apportioning agreements. The net financial commitment would remain the same, and the change would be the method through which the funds are collected. This adjustment aligns with the levies previously provided to the SVCA.

The agreement proposes a term of five (5) years with the option to renew for additional five (5) year terms unless written notice is provided ninety (90) days in advance of the expiry of the initial five (5) year term or any renewal five (5) year term.

At this time, SVCA Staff are continuing to assess whether any Category 2 Agreements are necessary.

Link to Strategic/Master Plan

6.1 Protecting Infrastructure, Recreation and Natural Assets

6.5 Engaging People and Partnerships

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding/Link to Procurement Policy

The estimated annual investment for the municipality is \$3,164.00. As noted above, the required Municipal Levy will be decreased by this amount and reallocated via the cost apportioning agreement so there will be no additional financial commitment required by the municipality.

Approved by: Sylvia Kirkwood, Chief Administrative Officer