



Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

Minutes – Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Thursday March 20, 2025, 1:00 PM

Location: 1078 Bruce Rd 12, Formosa, ON, N0G 1W0

Chair: Tom Hutchinson

Members present: Paul Allen, Larry Allison, Barbara Dobreen, Bud Halpin, Steve McCabe, Greg McLean, Dave Myette, Mike Niesen, Moiken Penner, Bill Stewart, Peter Whitten

Members absent: Kevin Eccles, Sue Paterson, Jennifer Prenger

Staff present: Adam Chalmers, Erik Downing, Janice Hagan, Donna Lacey, Don Moss, Nich Kunkel, Rita McGee, Jody Duncan, Matt Armstrong

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM.

1. Land Acknowledgement – read by Director Moiken Penner

We begin our meeting today by respectfully acknowledging the Anishinaabeg Nation, the Haudenosaunee, 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 #G25-38

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the agenda for the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority meeting, March 20, 2025, be adopted as amended.

Carried

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest relative to any item on the agenda.

4. Adoption of Minutes

4.1 Authority meeting – February 20, 2025

Motion #G25-39

Moved by Paul Allen

Seconded by Greg McLean

THAT the minutes of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority meeting, February 20, 2025, be adopted as presented.

Carried

5. Staff Introductions:

New staff members were introduced to the Board, including a Lands Technician, a Forestry Technician, and the Water Resources Manager filling in for a leave.

6. New Business

6.1 GM-2025-03: SVCA Operational Plan

The GM/S-T presented the 2025 SVCA Workplan, noting the completion of several items. General Manager and Secretary-Treasurer Erik Downing noted that revisions will be made to remove day-to-day tasks and focus on strategic deliverables.

6.2 COR-2025-05: Finance Report

Finance Manager Adam Chalmers presented the financial report for the period ending November 2024. He advised that the audited financial statements for 2024 would be presented at the May Board meeting.

6.3 GM-2025-04 Programs Report

The Board received a comprehensive Programs Report outlining recent activity across departments. Key updates included delegations made to the councils of Brockton and West Grey, staff participation in Conservation Ontario training, and attendance at the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority Annual General Meeting. Corporate Services reported infrastructure improvements, notably the installation of a new accessible reception desk. In the Water Resources department, staff focused on fencing contracts, flood coordination, and the preparation of the 2024 Water Quality Report. Forestry and Lands staff undertook significant snow removal efforts, while Conservation Areas staff successfully hosted a number of public events. The report also noted the addition of new vehicles to the SVCA fleet and the posting of a contract position within the Environmental Planning and Regulations department.

6.4 Executive Committee Minutes

The minutes of the February 7th, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting were reviewed for information by the SVCA Board of Directors.

6.5 Correspondence – none at this time

6.6 WR-2025-02 – Advancing Technologies to Improve Community Resiliency to Natural Hazards Report

Flood Coordinator Jody Duncan reported that SVCA secured \$10,000 from the RBC Foundation's Tech for Nature program. The funding enabled installation of new stream gauge equipment to improve flood forecasting and drought monitoring. The equipment has supported seven watershed condition statements with no service interruptions to date.

6.7 EPR – 2025-03: Permits Issued for Endorsement

Motion #G25-40

Moved by Bud Halpin

Seconded by Steve McCabe

THAT SVCA permit applications from 25-018 to 25-025 as approved by staff, be endorsed.

Carried

6.8 EPR-2025-04: 2024 Permitting Statistics

Environmental Planning and Regulations Manager Matt Armstrong presented the 2024 Permit Timelines and Compliance Report. Between April and December 2024, SVCA issued 234 permits, meeting 100% of required timelines under O. Reg. 686/21. Average review time was 3.69 days. Permit review fees remain a vital source of departmental revenue.

7. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:17 PM, following a motion by Dave Myette and Moiken Penner.

Tom Hutchinson
Chair

Janice Hagan
Recording Secretary