

SAUGEEN VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MINUTES

Conservation through Cooperation

MEETING: Authority Meeting
DATE: Thursday March 18, 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, Mike Myatt, Sue Paterson, Diana Rae, Christine Robinson, Bill Stewart

ABSENT: Mike Niesen

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Stephens, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer
Laura Molson, Manager, Corporate Services
Erik Downing, Manager, Environmental Planning & Regulations
JoAnne Harbinson, Manager, Water Resources & Stewardship Services
Donna Lacey, Manager, Forestry & Conservation Lands
Janice Hagan, Executive Assistant

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

1. Land Acknowledgement

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

MOTION #G21-31

Moved by Cheryl Grace

Seconded by Diana Rae

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

Annual Meeting – March 18, 2021

3. Introductions of New Staff

The following new staff were introduced:

- a. Matt Armstrong – Regulations Coordinator (promoted from SVCA Regulations Officer)
- b. Darren Kenny – Regulations Officer
- c. Michael Cook – Regulations Officer (Contract)

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

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

Christine Robinson left the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

5. Approval of Authority Meeting Minutes

- a. February 18, 2021 – Authority Meeting

MOTION #G21-32

Moved by Sue Paterson

Seconded by Tom Hutchinson

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

CARRIED

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- a. Re-Branding – Colour Palette Options

Jennifer Stephens presented the colour palette options for branding as proposed by eSolutions and noted that staff preference overall was the Clean Palette. The colour palette will be used for the website, signage, and all promotional materials. After discussion, the Directors passed the following motion:

MOTION #G21-33

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT staff be directed to choose the Clean Palette option for the new SVCA brand colours.

CARRIED

7. Consent Agenda

MOTION #G21-34

Moved by Paul Allen

Seconded by Don Murray

THAT the reports, minutes, and information contained in the Consent Agenda, [items 6 a-c], along with their respective recommended motions be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

8. New Business

a. Interactive Strategic Planning Exercise

Jennifer conducted an interactive strategic planning exercise with the Directors using the SOAR (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results) approach and focused on aspirations to be achieved over the next five years, and the strategies and actions to support them. The Directors gave suggestions on how to achieve objectives and goals including increased community outreach, communication, and understanding of the conservation authority mandate.

After discussion, the following motion carried:

MOTION #G21-35

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Tom Hutchinson

THAT staff be directed to incorporate the feedback obtained from the Strategic Planning Exercise into the preliminary summary being used to build the framework of SVCA's Strategic Plan.

CARRIED

b. Property Donation

Donna Lacey informed the directors that a landowner had offered to donate her property to SVCA. The Property and Building Committee had discussed the potential donation at their meeting on March 9, 2021 and recommended that the donation be accepted. The property is adjacent to SVCA properties in the Municipality of West Grey and is approximately 123 acres including a substantial amount of wet forest and swamp. Donna has been in consultation with the landowner regarding forest management and trail maintenance since 2002. Property taxes are negligible and would have little impact on the Forestry budget. After discussion, the directors passed the following motion:

MOTION #G21-36

Moved by Paul Allen

Seconded by Don Murray

THAT the Authority accept Part Lot 37, Concession 17, Normanby Township, Municipality of West Grey, by donation.

CARRIED

c. Playground Equipment Acquisition

Donna presented photos of the existing playground structures at the Durham and Bluffs campgrounds. It was noted that the playground equipment at both locations needs replacement due to liability and safety concerns. The directors noted that the structures are decrepit and would likely not pass a safety inspection. The following motion carried:

Annual Meeting – March 18, 2021

MOTION #G21-37

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Mike Myatt

THAT staff be directed to acquire playground equipment for the Durham and Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area campgrounds at a cost of \$75,000 plus an additional \$5,000 for sand, following the Authority's purchasing policy.

CARRIED

d. Property and Building Committee / Parks Committee Amalgamation

Jennifer presented a proposal to amalgamate the Property and Building Committee and the Parks Committee to form the Property and Parks Committee. The Property and Building Committee had discussed this proposal on March 9, 2021 and recommended to the Authority that the committees be amalgamated. It was agreed and the following motion was carried:

MOTION #G21-38

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Cheryl Grace

THAT the Board of Directors support the amalgamation of the Property and Building Committee and the Parks Committee.

CARRIED

e. Designating SVCA Staff as Officers

Erik Downing reviewed the submitted report. He noted that the *Conservation Authorities Act* states that conservation authorities are required to designate 'officers' and only those designated can perform the functions associated with the authority's permitting role. Staff recommend that all Environmental Planning and Regulations department staff be given the designation.

MOTION #G21-39

Moved by Mike Myatt

Seconded by Steve McCabe

THAT the following positions: Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations; Environmental Planning Coordinator; Regulations Coordinator; Regulations Officer; Environmental Planning Technician; and Resources Information Technician, be designated as 'Officers' by the Authority for the purposes of reviewing permit applications under and enforcement of Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and Regulation 169/06.

CARRIED

Christine Robinson re-joined the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

f. Agricultural Advisory Committee

Jennifer reviewed the history of the Agriculture Advisory Committee, noting that it had been formed in February 2016 for the purposes of addressing issues of concern and to improve communication efforts. She told the directors that the committee had not been active in the past year, and that staff recommends re-establishing meetings at least 4 times annually with an updated Terms of Reference.

Annual Meeting – March 18, 2021

MOTION #G21-40

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Steve McCabe

THAT the Board of Directors re-establish the Agricultural Advisory Committee;

AND that the SVCA Chair and the following three (3) Directors be appointed to the Committee:

Steve McCabe, Don Murray, Paul Allen;

AND that staff be directed to reach out to the Bruce County, Grey County, Huron County, and Wellington County Federations requesting representatives;

AND that staff be directed to contact the Christian Farmer's Association requesting the name of a representative to sit on a Committee;

AND that staff be directed to contact the National Farmer's Union requesting the name of a representative to sit on a Committee;

AND that staff be directed to contact all other associations related to drop and livestock farming requesting the name of a representative to sit on a Committee;

AND FURTHER that a member at large be appointed by invitation of the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m. on motion of Diana Rae and Sue Paterson.

Maureen Couture
Chair

Janice Hagan
Recording Secretary