



Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

Minutes – Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Thursday March 21, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Chair: Barbara Dobreen

Members present: Paul Allen, Larry Allison, Kevin Eccles, Tom Hutchinson, Greg McLean, Dave Myette, Mike Niesen, Sue Paterson, Moiken Penner, Jennifer Prenger, Bill Stewart,

Members absent: Bud Halpin, Steve McCabe, Peter Whitten

Staff present: Erik Downing, Janice Hagan, Donna Lacey, Elise MacLeod, Laura Molson, Jennifer Stephens

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

1. Land Acknowledgement

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

Due to the meeting being conducted remotely, the delegate from the Children's Safety Village postponed his presentation (5.1) to the next scheduled meeting, and staff introductions (6.2) were cancelled.

Motion #G24-32

Moved by Tom Hutchinson

Seconded by Moiken Penner

THAT the agenda for the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority meeting, March 21, 2024, 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 15, 2024

Motion #G24-33

Moved by Kevin Eccles

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the minutes of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority meeting, February 15, 2024, be adopted as presented.

Carried

5. Delegations

5.1 Children’s Safety Village Contract/Update

This delegation was postponed to the May Authority meeting.

5.2 Wetlands of Distinction, Greenock Swamp Proposal

Professor Susan Glausauer, University of Guelph, also the President of the Society of Wetland Scientists, developed an educational program for graduate students to research various wetlands and their environmental impact. A team of students have proposed that the Greenock Swamp be given the designation, Wetland of Distinction, which raises public awareness of its importance. Greenock Swamp is especially significant due to the deep layers of carbon stored in the soil, the thick layers of organic soil, and unique plants. Prof. Glausauer proposes that SVCA endorse the Team’s application for Wetland of Distinction. The Directors discussed the importance of the wetland and noted that Greenock Swamp is one of the most unique complexes in Ontario. The designation is primarily educational, building more support to assist with resistance of development; however, it is not a political designation, and the swamp is already protected by way of having a Provincially Significant Wetland designation. The Directors will continue the discussion at a future meeting.

6. Updates

6.1 GM/S-T Return to Work

Jennifer Stephens has returned from her medical leave of absence and appreciates the support from the Board and Staff during her absence.

6.2 New Staff Introductions

Introductions were postponed to the next scheduled meeting.

7. Reports for information

7.1 GM-2024-05: General Manager’s Report

Jennifer highlighted several items in the GM report. The data visualization tool introduced at the February meeting is now live on the SVCA website and other CAs are interested in learning more about the tool for use in their own jurisdictions. She noted that the project could not have been completed without the financial support from the RBC Tech for Nature Fund. Jennifer noted that the Inventory of Programs and Services has now been completed and necessary Category 2 and 3 Agreements in place. The remaining outstanding deliverable to the province is to confirm that the agreements are complete and posted to the SVCA website. Jennifer presented the 2024 SVCA Operational Plan and pointed out various projects to be accomplished in the current year.

7.2 GM-2024-06: Program Report

The Directors requested another update on the Water Resources Report regarding the Federal Hazard and Identification Mapping Program (FHIMP). Deliverables were due by March 1, 2024, and Staff were able to submit the required products to satisfy the terms of the Agreement with the Province. .

7.3 Correspondence

Correspondence from the Saugeen Valley Children’s Safety Village requesting continuance of the lease agreement for use of the SVCA facilities was noted and filed.

7.4 Approved Committee Minutes

7.4.1 Executive Committee – January 8, 2024

There was no discussion.

7.5 News report

There was no discussion.

8. Matters Arising from the Minutes

8.1 WR-2024-02 – Category 2 Agreements update

There was no interest by the Town of Saugeen Shores for a Category 2 agreement for easements in Southampton and have requested a transfer agreement. All costs for the transfer will be bourn by the municipality.

Motion #G24-34

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Mike Niesen

THAT the Board of Directors authorizes staff to proceed with the transfer of easements as requested by the Town of Saugeen Shores, through Category 2 Agreement negotiations, for the Southampton Erosion Control Project.

Carried

9. New Business

9.1 COR-2024-07: Policy Approval

Motion #G24-35

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Mike Niesen

That the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority approve the proposed Hiring Policy.

Carried

9.2 AAC-2024-01: Agricultural Advisory Committee Updates

Motion #G24-36

Moved by Dave Myette

Seconded by Tom Hutchinson

THAT the Authority approve the amendments to the Agricultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference; and

FURTHER THAT Matthew van Ankum and Adam Dales be appointed as Members-at-Large.

Carried

9.3 Regulation 41/24 – Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits – Erik Downing

9.3.1 Presentation – Overview of Regulation

A new regulation, O. Reg 41/24, concerning “Prohibited Activities, Exemptions, and Permits”, has been announced and is scheduled to take effect on April 1, 2024. The regulation alters the permitting process and the scope of activities permitted by changing legislative definitions and regulatory framework.

9.3.2 EPR-2024-07 - Delegation of Powers related to Permit Issuance, Cancellation, and Hearings

On April 1, 2024, the *Conservation Authorities Act* will be amended, including the proclamation of Part VI (Regulation of Areas Over Which Authorities Have Jurisdiction). Included in this proclamation is the enactment of section 28.4 (Delegation of Power). Through this subsection, an Authority may delegate any of its powers related to the issuance or cancellation of permits under the Act or the regulations, or to the holding of hearings in relation to the permits, to the Authority’s Executive Committee or to any other person or body, subject to any limitations or requirements that may be prescribed by regulation. Staff recommend that the issuance and extension of permits up to 60 months be delegated to Staff, that all Hearings be delegated to the Board of Directors, and that Administrative Reviews be delegated to the General Manager/Secretary Treasurer.

Motion #G24-37

Moved by Sue Paterson

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the Board of Directors endorse the delegation of powers as outlined in Ontario Regulation 41/24 as follows:

- Issuance and Extension of Permits up to a period of 60 months to SVCA Staff;
- All Hearings associated with permits, zoning orders, and stop work orders to the SVCA Board of Directors; and
- Notice of Intent to Cancel Permit and Administrative Reviews to the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer.

Carried

9.3.3 EPR-2024-08 - Interim Policy Guidelines for the Administration and Implementation of Ontario Regulation 41/24

There was no discussion.

Motion #G24-38

Moved by Paul Allen

Seconded by Moiken Penner

THAT the Board of Directors endorse the Interim Policy Guidance for the Administration and Implementation of Ontario Regulation 41/24; and

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to append the Environmental Planning and Regulations Policies Manual (2018) with this guidance until such time as the document is updated.

Carried

9.3.4 EPR-2024-09 - Guidelines for Transitioning from O. Reg. 169/06 to O. Reg. 41/24

Guidelines have been prepared to assist Authority staff through the transition from the current regulation, O. Reg. 169/06, as amended, to the implementation of the new regulation, O. Reg. 41/24.

Motion #G24-39

Moved by Tom Hutchinson

Seconded by Larry Alison

That the Board of Directors adopt the guidelines for transitioning from the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation (O. Reg. 169/06) to the new Prohibited Activities, Exemptions, and Permits under the *Conservation Authorities Act* (O. Reg. 41/24).

Carried

9.3.5 EPR-2024-10 - Designation of Provincial Offences Officers under Part VII (Enforcement and Offences) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*

Motion #G24-40

Moved by Larry Alison

Seconded by Jennifer Prenger

That the Board of Directors appoint the following staff as Provincial Offences Officers in accordance with Section 30.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, to be proclaimed April 1, 2024, for the purposes of administering and enforcing Parts VI and VII of the Act, as amended, and Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions, and Permits:

- Erik Downing (Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations);
- Matthew Armstrong (Regulations Coordinator);
- Darren Kenny (Regulations Officer);
- Alyssa Gowing (Regulations Officer);
- Madeline McFadden (Regulations Officer);
- Donna Lacey (Manager, Forestry and Lands);
- Richard Rowbotham (Field Operations Coordinator);
- Anthony Quipp (Field Operations Assistant);
- Jilliana Wiersma (Lands Technician);
- R. Jim Leask (Campground Superintendent);
- T. Lee Watson (Campground Superintendent); and
- Peyton Koebel (Assistant Campground Superintendent).

Carried

9.4 EPR-2024-06: Permits Issued for Endorsement – Erik Downing

Motion #G24-41

Moved by Paul Allen

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourse applications (#24-016 to 24-042, excluding #24-032, 24-038, 24-040, and 24-041), pursuant to Ontario Regulation 169/06, as approved by staff, be endorsed.

Carried

10. Closed Session – To discuss personal matters about identifiable individuals.

Motion #G24-42

Moved by Kevin Eccles

Seconded by Moiken Penner

THAT the Authority move to Closed Session, In Camera to discuss personal matters about identifiable individuals; and

FURTHER THAT Jennifer Stephens, Erik Downing, Matt Armstrong, and Janice Hagan remain in the meeting.

Carried

Motion #G24-45

Moved by Tom Hutchinson

Seconded by Mike Niesen

THAT the Board of Directors adjourn from Closed Session, In Camera, and rise and report.

Carried

Chair Dobreen reported that only the items pertaining to the reasons for the Closed Session were discussed.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m. on the motion of Jennifer Prenger and Bill Stewart.

Barbara Dobreen
Chair

Janice Hagan
Recording Secretary