



Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

Minutes – Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Thursday November 21, 2024, 1:00 PM.

Location: Remote via Zoom

Chair: Tom Hutchinson

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

Members absent: Sue Paterson, Steve McCabe

Staff present: Matt Armstrong, Adam Chalmers, Erik Downing, Janice Hagan, Darren Kenny, Donna Lacey, Katie Thomas, Brandi Walter

Vice Chair Tom Hutchinson assumed the role of Chair and called the meeting to order at 1 PM.

1. Land Acknowledgement – read by Bud Halpin

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 #G24-127

Moved by Peter Whitten

Seconded by Kevin Eccles

THAT the agenda for the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority meeting, November 21, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

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 – October 17, 2024

Motion #G24-128

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Dave Myette

THAT the minutes of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority meeting, October 17, 2024, be adopted as presented.

Carried

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes – none at this time

6. New Business

6.1 Formosa Administration Office: Lightning Strike update

Erik Downing, GM/S-T, reported that staff have been in communication with the insurance company and the general contractor to address the damage caused by the lightning strike. While the timeline for resuming on-site work remains uncertain, significant progress has been made.

6.2 GM-2024-13: SVCA Operational Plan

The Directors reviewed several items outlined in the plan, and the GM/S-T provided clarifications. Chair Barbara Dobreen joined the meeting at 1:20 PM.

6.3 GM-2024-14: Program Report

The Directors requested additional details on various program report projects, and the GM/S-T provided further information.

6.4 Correspondence

There was no submitted correspondence.

6.5 COR-2024-25: 2025 Authority Meeting Schedule

The GM/S-T presented the proposed meeting schedule for 2025, and the Directors requested that Janice Hagan distribute the meeting dates via calendar invite.

Motion #G24-129

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Greg McLean

THAT the 2025 SVCA Authority meeting and Section 28 Hearing schedules be adopted as presented.

Carried

6.6 COR-2024-26: 2025 Budget Presentation

Staff presented the proposed 2025 budget and reviewed the accomplishments of 2024, as well as the goals for 2025. It was noted that the budget is based on the anticipated continuation of the Environmental Planning and Regulations (EPR) fee freeze mandated by the provincial government since 2022. The budget request is 17.6%, which includes a 12% increase in staff salaries as previously approved by the Board, and a significant withdrawal from reserve funds.

Greg McLean left the meeting at 3:42 PM.

Barbara Dobreen called for a recorded vote for the following motion:

Motion #G24-130

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Barbara Dobreen

THAT the SVCA Board of Directors approve the 2025 draft budget in principle; and further

THAT staff be authorized to forward the draft budget to the Authority's watershed municipalities for a 30-day review and commenting period and include the offer of a delegation if requested.

Moiken Penner	In favour
Peter Whitten	In favour
Paul Allen	In favour
Larry Allison	In favour
Jennifer Prenger	In favour
Bill Stewart	In favour
Bud Halpin	In favour
Dave Myette	In favour
Mike Niesen	Opposed
Barbara Dobreen	In favour
Kevin Eccles	Opposed
Tom Hutchinson	In favour

Carried

Due to time constraints, Barbara Dobreen requested that Agenda items 6.8, EPR-2024-23: Violation Strategy Update, 6.9 EPR-2024-24: Permits Issued for Endorsement, and 7.0 Closed Session be deferred to the next meeting.

Motion #G24-131

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Kevin Eccles

THAT Agenda Items 6.8, 6.9, and 7.0 be deferred to the next scheduled Authority meeting.

Carried

6.7 Christmas Office Closure

Erik proposed that staff receive regular salaried pay for the three days, December 27, 30, 31st during the time the Administration office is closed for the Christmas holidays. There was no discussion.

Motion #G24-132

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Jennifer Prenger

THAT the SVCA approves that the SVCA be closed between Christmas and New Years in 2024; and further

THAT all eligible staff be allowed to have this time off one time with pay and without use of vacation or overtime.

Carried

6.8 EPR-2024-23: Violation Strategy Update

Deferred to next Authority meeting

6.9 EPR-2024-18: Permits Issued for Endorsement

Deferred to next Authority meeting

6.10 EPR-2024-25: Schedule A Environmental Planning and Regulations Fee

Staff presented the recommended 2025 EPR fee rate for the Board's consideration. These fees will be implemented if the 2024 rates are not suspended by the provincial government.

Motion #G24-133

Moved by Larry Allison

Seconded by Paul Allen

THAT Fee Schedule A, Environmental Planning and Regulations be approved as presented.

Carried

6.11 WR-2024-10: Durham Upper Dam

Staff recommend suspending winter operations at the Durham Upper Dam (DUD) due to its significant deterioration and unsafe conditions. The Board reviewed the 1997 incident where frazil ice buildup led to flooding in some areas of the Town of Durham; however, it was noted that the dam could fail if the winter operations continue. Staff confirmed that WECl funding has been approved for 50% of the project and that the benefitting municipality would cover the remaining 50%.

Jennifer Prenger left the meeting at 4:30 PM.

Motion #G24-134

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the SVCA Board of Directors approve the cessation of winter operations at the Durham Upper Dam, as recommended based on ongoing engineering reports, with a provision for annual re-evaluation; and further

THAT staff proceed with Phase 2 of a Class Environmental Assessment for the Durham Upper Dam, pending Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECl) funding; and further

THAT the Municipality of West Grey be deemed the benefitting municipality, contributing 100% of the project costs not covered by grant funding.

Paul Allen requested that the Question be divided as the resolution contains two different subjects.

Barbara Dobreen requested a recorded vote for the first part of the Resolution:

Motion #G24-135

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the SVCA Board of Directors approve the cessation of winter operations at the Durham Upper Dam, as recommended based on ongoing engineering reports, with a provision for annual re-evaluation.

Moiken Penner	In favour
Peter Whitten	Opposed
Paul Allen	Opposed
Larry Allison	In favour
Bill Stewart	In favour
Bud Halpin	In favour
Dave Myette	In favour
Mike Niesen	In favour
Barbara Dobreen	In favour
Kevin Eccles	Opposed
Tom Hutchinson	Opposed

Carried

Barbara Dobreen requested a recorded vote for the second part of the Resolution:

Motion #G24-136

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT staff proceed with Phase 2 of a Class Environmental Assessment for the Durham Upper Dam, pending Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) funding; and further

THAT the Municipality of West Grey having been deemed the benefiting municipality, contributing 100% of the project costs not covered by grant funding.

Moiken Penner	In favour
Peter Whitten	Opposed
Paul Allen	In favour
Larry Allison	In favour
Bill Stewart	Opposed
Bud Halpin	In favour
Dave Myette	In favour
Mike Niesen	In favour
Barbara Dobreen	In favour
Kevin Eccles	Opposed
Tom Hutchinson	Opposed

Carried

6.12 NWMO-2024-01: Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) Update

There was no discussion on the report.

Motion #G24-137

Moved by Bud Halpin

Seconded by Larry Allison

THAT the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive the NWMO-SVCA Environmental Media Baseline Program update for information.

Carried

7. Closed Session – to discuss a litigation matter and personal matters about identifiable individuals

Deferred to next Authority meeting.

8. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 PM, following a motion by Dave Myette and Peter Whitten.

Tom Hutchinson
Chair

Janice Hagan
Recording Secretary