



1078 Bruce Road 12, P.O. Box 150, Formosa ON Canada N0G 1W0  
Tel 519-367-3040, Fax 519-367-3041, [publicinfo@svca.on.ca](mailto:publicinfo@svca.on.ca), [www.svca.on.ca](http://www.svca.on.ca)

April 8, 2020

**The Honourable Doug Ford – Premier of Ontario**

Premier's Office, Room 281  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

**Re: Provincially Significant Wetlands Designation**

At the February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority correspondence from the Village of Merrickville-Wolford addressed to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario was received and discussed. It was noted that SVCA staff do not have the authority to remove a Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) designation. After further discussion the following motion was passed:

**MOTION #G20-22**

Moved by Barbara Dobreen  
Seconded by Steve McCabe

Be it resolved that Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) receive and support the correspondence from the Village of Merrickville-Wolford;

And whereas the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) agrees there is a lack of field-developed science to support the Provincially Significant Wetland areas designated across the province;

and whereas SVCA's recent experience is evidence that a desktop examination of maps and aerial photography are inadequate science for this designation and greatly impacts municipalities and their ratepayers.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Saugeen Valley Consideration Authority hereby respectfully request that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry provide supporting evidence-based data with respect to the wetland designations; and

That this letter, along with the Village of Merrickville-Wolford correspondence be forwarded to the Honorable Premier Doug Ford, Conservation Ontario, Bruce and Grey Counties and SVCA member municipalities.

CARRIED



**Watershed Member Municipalities**

Municipality of Arran-Elderslie, Municipality of Brockton, Township of Chatsworth, Municipality of Grey Highlands, Town of Hanover, Township of Howick, Municipality of Morris-Turnberry, Municipality of South Bruce, Township of Huron-Kinloss, Municipality of Kincardine, Town of Minto, Township of Wellington North, Town of Saugeen Shores, Township of Southgate, Municipality of West Grey

We appreciate that this will require significant time and effort on the part of the Provincial Ministry and its staff, however, the lack of this type of data presents serious challenges and potential conflicts to property owners, municipalities, and Conservation Authorities in the exercising of their rights and duties.

Yours truly,



Dan Gieruszak

Chair, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

Attachment: 3 page document from Merrickville-Wolford...

- c. Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Kim Gavine, CAO, Conservation Ontario
- Bruce County
- Grey County
- SVCA Member Municipalities

Established 1793  
Incorporated  
Wolford 1850  
Merrickville 1860  
Amalgamated 1998



Telephone (613) 269-4791  
Facsimile (613) 269-3095

## VILLAGE OF MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD

February 5, 2020

**The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario**  
Premier's Office, Room 281  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON, M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

**Re: Provincially Significant Wetlands Designation**

Please find attached the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford's Resolution No. R-029-20, with respect to the Village's concerns surrounding the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's practices and procedures while implementing designations of Provincially Significant Wetlands.

While the attached resolution is tailored to a Village-specific issue, it is Council's position that the concerns expressed therein are being experienced by municipalities Province-wide.

Thank you in advance for the consideration that you give this matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Robertson".

Doug Robertson  
CAO/Clerk/Director, Economic Development

c. Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Andy Brown, CAO of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Rural Ontario Municipal Association  
All Ontario municipalities



## VILLAGE OF MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD

For Clerk's use only, if required:

**Recorded Vote Requested By:**

Cameron	Y	N
Foster	Y	N
Halpenny	Y	N
Molloy	Y	N
Struthers	Y	N

Resolution Number: R - 029 - 20

Date: January 27, 2020

Moved by: Cameron Foster Halpenny Molloy

Seconded by: Cameron Foster Halpenny Molloy

WHEREAS the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is endeavouring to adopt a new Official Plan as required per Section 17 of the *Planning Act* and the Village is required to incorporate the Provincial Policy Statements of the Act;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Policy Statements require the Village to provide in its Official Plan the updated provisions of new and expanded Provincially Significant Wetlands designations;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is concerned that the expansion of these wetlands is detrimentally affecting certain landowners and the Village's assessment base;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is concerned that designations of Provincially Significant Wetlands have occurred throughout the Province of Ontario without the provision of supporting evidence;

Established 1793  
Incorporated  
Wolford 1850  
Merrickville 1860  
Amalgamated 1998



Telephone (613) 269-4791  
Facsimile (613) 269-3095

## VILLAGE OF MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is concerned about the expansion of the Provincially Significant Wetlands in the Northeast quadrant of the Village;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is concerned that these wetlands designations have been expanded without the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry having provided to the Village supporting evidence to justify said expansion;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby respectfully request that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry provide the Village with supporting evidence with respect to the expansion of these wetlands designations;

AND THAT the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry re-evaluate the subject properties without delay;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried / Defeated

  
J. Douglas Struthers, Mayor