

# SAUGEEN VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

# MINUTES

Conservation through Cooperation

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**MEETING:** Authority Meeting  
**DATE:** Thursday February 18, 2021  
**TIME:** 1:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Electronic

**CHAIR:** Maureen Couture

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mark Davis, Barbara Dobreen, Dan Gieruszak, Cheryl Grace, Tom Hutchinson, Steve McCabe, Don Murray, Mike Myatt, Mike Niesen, Sue Paterson, Diana Rae, Christine Robinson, Bill Stewart

**ABSENT:** Paul Allen

**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. The Directors welcomed Mike Niesen as a newly appointed director representing Municipality of South Bruce, Township of Howick, and the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry.

## **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 know 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 #G21-24**

Moved by Cheryl Grace

Seconded by Diana Rae

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

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

**4. Approval of Authority Meeting Minutes**

- a. January 22, 2021 – Authority Annual Meeting

**MOTION #G21-25**

Moved by Sue Paterson

Seconded by Steve McCabe

THAT the minutes of the Authority Annual meeting, held on January 22, 2021 be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**5. Staff Recognition**

Staff Appreciation awards were presented to the following long-serving employees of SVCA:

- Fifteen Year Service Award: Bruce Martin, Assistant Campground Superintendent – Durham CA
- Thirty Year Service Award: Jo-Anne Harbinson, Manager - Water Resources

**6. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- a. SVCA Permit Application Review Fee – Linear Servicing Projects

Erik Downing reviewed the submitted report and noted that SVCA's Permit Application Review fees pertaining to extensive linear infrastructure projects have not been indicated or clarified in the fee schedule. Staff recommend that reference to linear projects be added to the fee schedule and that they be grouped as complex works. Comparisons with adjacent conservation authorities indicate that most linear project reviews incur fees in this manner. After discussion, the following motion carried:

**MOTION #G21-26**

Moved by Mike Myatt

Seconded by Tom Hutchinson

THAT staff be directed to update SVCA's Fee Schedule to include reference to linear servicing and infrastructure projects;

AND FURTHER THAT SVCA staff recommend that for large linear infrastructure projects permits be grouped, where appropriate, as complex works based on the type of permit being issued.

**CARRIED**

**Annual Meeting – February 18, 2021**

b. Durham Upper Dam Pedestrian Walkway Access

Jennifer Stephens reviewed concerns pertaining to the gate closure at the Durham Upper Dam. She advised the Board that the Water Resources Committee has recommended that a public safety assessment be conducted and that the gates continue to be closed until the assessment is completed.

**MOTION #G21-27**

Moved by Cheryl Grace

Seconded by Dan Gieruszak

THAT a Public Safety Assessment be completed at the Durham Upper Dam (McGowan Falls Dam), and

THAT walkway gates allowing pedestrian access over the Durham Upper Dam continue to be closed pending Public Safety assessment recommendations; and

THAT the communications plan be implemented immediately; and

FURTHER THAT staff place appropriate signage at the dam.

**CARRIED**

**7. Consent Agenda**

**MOTION #G21-28**

Moved by Diana Rae

Seconded by Steve McCabe

THAT the reports, minutes, and information contained in the Consent Agenda, [items 7a-e], along with their respective recommended motions be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**8. New Business**

a. Amended Board of Director's Schedule

Staff recommend that an additional three meetings be added to the regular Authority meeting schedule to reduce the length of each meeting, and to support staff in efficient communication and timely decision making.

After discussion, the following motion carried:

**MOTION #G21-29**

Moved by Christine Robinson

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the Authority Meeting Schedule for 2021 be amended to include Board of Directors regular meetings on April 15, June 17, and November 18; and

FURTHER THAT the amended schedule be posted to the SVCA website.

**CARRIED**

**Annual Meeting – February 18, 2021**

- b. Partnership with the Municipality of Brockton and the Cargill / Greenock Swamp Promotional Association

Jennifer reported that correspondence had been received from the Cargill Greenock Swamp Promotional Association (CGSPA) proposing a tripartite agreement with SVCA, the Municipality of Brockton, and CGSPA for the use of the Schmidt Lake Property for Greenock Swamp Tours. The correspondence was discussed by the Directors and the following motion carried:

**MOTION #G21-30**

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Steve McCabe

THAT staff be directed to enter into a Tripartite Agreement with the Municipality of Brockton and the Cargill / Greenock Swamp Promotional Association (CGSPA) for use of SVCA property for the Greenock Swamp Tours;

AND THAT at minimum the CGSPA will be required to have liability insurance when operating tours on SVCA property;

AND THAT staff confirm in writing that the SVCA will transfer ownership of the Greenock Swamp Tours to the CGSPA;

AND FURTHER THAT staff return as much tour information, products, and artifacts without compromising donations of such artifacts intended only for the SVCA.

**CARRIED**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m. on motion of Dan Gieruszak and Bill Stewart.

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Maureen Couture  
Chair

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Janice Hagan  
Recording Secretary