

SAUGEEN VALLEY  
CONSERVATION  
AUTHORITY

# MINUTES

Conservation through Cooperation

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**MEETING:** Authority Meeting - Special  
**DATE:** Friday November 20, 2020  
**TIME:** 1:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Electronic

**CHAIR:** Dan Gieruszak

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Paul Allen, Mark Davis, Barbara Dobreen, Mark Goetz, Cheryl Grace, Steve McCabe, Don Murray, Mike Myatt, Sue Paterson, Diana Rae, Christine Robinson, Bill Stewart

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Maureen Couture, Tom Hutchinson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jennifer Stephens, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer  
Laura Molson, Manager, Accounting  
Erik Downing, Manager, Environmental Planning & Regulations  
Janice Hagan, Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary

Chair Dan Gieruszak, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

An amended agenda had been forwarded to the Directors prior to the meeting.

**MOTION #G20-102**

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Barbara Dobreen

THAT the amended agenda be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

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

**3. New Business**

a. Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Response Update

Jennifer Stephens updated the Authority on the COVID-19 protocols. Currently the Administration office is operating at 50% capacity and continues to be open to the public by appointment only. Screening questionnaires are required by both the public and staff each time they enter the office.

b. Proposed changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*

Jennifer discussed the key proposed amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, as released in the Ontario Provincial government budget Bill 229, schedule 6. The Directors deliberated the implications of the changes.

Mark Davis requested a recorded vote for the following motion:

**MOTION #G20-103**

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Cheryl Grace

WHEREAS the province has introduced Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID 19 Act - Schedule 6 – Conservation Authorities Act; and

WHEREAS the Legislation introduces a number of changes and new sections that could remove and/or significantly hinder the conservation authorities’ role in regulating development, permit appeal process and engaging in review and appeal of planning applications; and

WHEREAS conservation authorities protect residents, property and local natural resources on a watershed basis by regulating development and engaging in reviews of applications submitted under the Planning Act; and

WHEREAS the changes allow the Minister to make decisions without SVCA watershed data and expertise and consistency with policies and guidelines; and

WHEREAS the Legislation suggests that the Minister will have the ability to establish standards and requirements for non-mandatory programs which are negotiated between the conservation authorities and municipalities to meet local watershed needs; and

WHEREAS SVCA and municipalities require a longer transition time to put in place new budgets as well as agreements for non-mandatory programs; and

WHEREAS the appointment of municipal representatives on CA Boards should be a municipal decision; and the Chair and Vice Chair of the CA Board should be duly elected; and

WHEREAS the changes to the ‘Duty of Members’ contradicts the fiduciary duty of a CA board member to represent the best interests of the conservation authority and its responsibility to the watershed; and

WHEREAS conservation authorities have already been working with the Province, development sector and

**Authority Special Meeting – November 20, 2020**

municipalities to streamline and speed up permitting and planning approvals through Conservation Ontario’s Client Service and Streamlining Initiative; and

WHEREAS changes to the legislation will create more red tape and costs for the conservation authorities, and their municipal partners, and potentially result in delays in the development approval process; and

WHEREAS all watershed residents and municipalities value and rely on the natural habitats and water resources within our jurisdiction for their health and well-being as well as SVCA’s work to prevent and manage the impacts of flooding and other natural hazards and to ensure safe drinking water;

WHEREAS the province has made changes to the legislation that will limit the ability of SVCA to ensure compliance with the Act and our policies by not including stop work orders and modifying powers to enter property potentially resulting in more legal action; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario repeal Schedule 6 of the Budget Measures Act (Bill 229); and

THAT the Province continue to work with conservation authorities to find workable solutions to reduce red tape and create conditions for growth; and

THAT the province respects the current conservation authority - municipal relationships; and

FURTHER THAT the province embraces their long-standing partnership with conservation authorities and provide them with the tools and financial resources they need to effectively implement their watershed management role.

Paul Allen	Yea
Mark Davis	Nay
Barbara Dobreen	Yea
Mark Goetz	Yea
Cheryl Grace	Yea
Steve McCabe	Yea
Don Murray	Nay
Mike Myatt	Yea
Sue Paterson	Yea
Diana Rae	Nay
Christine Robinson	Yea
Bill Stewart	Yea
Dan Gieruszak	Yea

**CARRIED**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m. on motion of Barbara Dobreen and

**Authority Special Meeting – November 20, 2020**

Sue Paterson.

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Dan Gieruszak  
Chair

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Janice Hagan  
Recording Secretary