

SAUGEEN VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Conservation through Cooperation

MINUTES

MEETING: Board of Directors
DATE: Thursday, February 20, 2014
TIME: 1:00pm
LOCATION: Administration Office, Formosa

CHAIR: Bill Scriven

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Brian Gamble, Glen Irwin, Wilf Gamble, Dave Kell, Terry Fisk, Peter Hambly, Ron Coristine, Dan Kerr

DIRECTORS ABSENT, WITH REGRET: Mike Leggett, Carl Zettel, Doug Gowanlock, John Eccles, Diane Huber, Roland Anstett

OTHERS PRESENT

- Wayne Brohman, General Manager / Secretary Treasurer
- Shannon Wood, Recording Secretary
- Gary Senior, Sr. Manager of Flood Warning and Land Management
- Erik Downing, Manager of Environmental Planning and Regulations
- Jennifer Prenger, Environmental Planning Technician
- Paul Elston, Regulations Officer
- Jo-Anne Harbinson, Manager of Water Management and Stewardship Services
- Donna Lacey, Forest Technician
- Dale Schaefer, Accounting Clerk
- Members of the Press
- Major Volunteer and Sponsors

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION #G14-14

Moved by: Dan Kerr

Seconded by: Peter Hambly

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No persons declared a conflict of pecuniary interest relative to any item on the agenda at this time.

3. SERVICE AWARDS TO STAFF AND DIRECTORS

The following were recognized and awarded for their ‘years of service’. They are as follows:

- Stu Byers – 45 years
- Jim Penner – 40 years
- Bob Burrell – 35 years
- Donna Lacey – 15 years
- Laura Molson – 10 years
- Nancy Guest (DWSP) – 5 years
- Emily Vandermeulen (DWSP) – 5 years

Recognition of Major Sponsors for the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation (for contributing in excess of \$1,000)

- Grant’s Your Independent Grocer, Hanover
- John Sutherland and Sons Insurance, Guelph
- Ontario Power Generation, Tiverton
- Ross Young Bus Lines, Tiverton
- Paisley Kinsmen
- ScotiaBank, Hanover
- The Post, Hanover

Recognition of Major Volunteer for Saugeen Conservation (for contributing in excess of 50 hours of volunteer service)

- Gary Senior - ongoing maintenance and upkeep, Allan Park Conservation Area
- Bruce County Campers – spring work for Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area
- Kincardine Ski Club – upkeep, maintenance and trail development for Stoney Island Conservation Area
- Marian Wersch – garden work at Sulphur Spring Conservation Area
- Melissa Henkusens and Julie Henhoeffter, weekly office work

***Recognition of Major Volunteers for the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation
(assisting with fundraising event and functions)***

Catherine Dickison, Lin Fleming, Sam Fraser, John and Jeanne Kuntz, Nancy Gilroy and Family, John and Joan Grubb, Jo-Anne Harbinson, Gary Senior, Donna Lacey, Maryanne Krotesch, Robert LaCelle, Jack MacLeod and Family, the Martin Family, Marlene Montag, Jim and Barbara Potts, Judy Shelley and Family, Bob and Monika Zettel

4. MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Thursday, December 12, 2013 and Friday, January 17, 2014

MOTION #G14-15

Moved by: Wilf Gamble

Seconded by: Brian Gamble

THAT the Board of Directors meeting minutes for Thursday, December 12, 2013 and the annual meeting minutes of Friday, January 17, 2014 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a. ***Hydro Usage*** – There was some discussion about the rising cost of hydro and the need to be more diligent in terms of consumption. Wayne stated that this was discussed at the recent Manager’s Meeting and that Les McKay (Manager of Information Technology) has volunteered to look into this issue, researching peak consumption periods, etc. In addition, staff agreed to be more attentive to turning off lights, computer screens, etc. They will also be looking into the prospect of solar panels.
- b. ***Postage Rate Increase*** – Wayne stated that this was also discussed at the Manager’s Meeting and that special effort will be taken to use postage only when necessary. Staff has also been instructed to utilize email to a greater degree and on-line payments.
- c. ***Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area Campground*** – Wayne provided an update on this issue, re: the leasing out of the Saugeen Bluffs Campground to a private source. He stated that much needs to be done before this is to happen but that he is proceeding with the investigation as instructed. In addition, he continued to say that the Bluffs has been instrumental in the cross-country school runs and, of course, the Maple Syrup Festival. Again, all this needs to be taken into consideration before the final decision is made.

Discussion: It was asked whether there was an opportunity for SVCA and MVCA to combine efforts in this regard, since Maitland Valley is currently looking into leasing Falls Reserve Conservation Area. Wayne agreed to look into this.

Ron Coristine expressed his thanks to staff for following through with this endeavour. It was also asked if the sale for the ‘Bluffs House’ had been finalized. Wayne explained that yes, the closing date for the offer is April 1, 2014.

As an added note, the Chair stated that the hydro dam in Walkerton will no longer be listed for sale. The pending sale was not completed as the required Ministry of Natural

Resource approval had not been received by the deadline. The Chair also made note of the importance of the portage route around the dam for the navigation of the Saugeen River by canoeists.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. ***Town of Newmarket*** – a letter sent to all Conservation Authorities across Ontario, the topic of which dealt with the recent cancellation of the 70 year-old Ontario Ranger Program, an initiative of the Ministry of Natural Resource. The Town asked for a letter of support from the SVCA (to the MNR), requesting a reinstatement of the program. The program offered Ontario youth with an excellent hands-on opportunity to learn about conservation and environmental issues.
The following motion was moved.

MOTION #G15-16

Moved by: Glen Irwin

Seconded by: Terry Fisk

THAT with respect to the recent cancellation of the Ontario Junior Ranger Program, previously offered by the Province of Ontario with the purpose of providing a once-in-a-lifetime experience for youth to learn about the importance of conserving our shared natural environment; let it further be resolved,

THAT Saugeen Conservation send a letter to Premier Kathleen Wynne and Ministry of Natural Resource, David Oraziette, urging the government to restore the Ontario Ranger Program for future generations of younger people.

Carried

- b. ***Township of Wellington North*** – letter stating the appointment of Terry Fisk to the SVCA Board of Directors for 2014.

7. REPORTS

- a. ***Chairman*** – Bill stated that he has been reviewing the information/ material from Conservation Ontario. He questioned the additional costs for Conservation Ontario services and whether the SVCA should be taking a closer look into this issue.
- b. ***Finance Report*** – a copy of Report #6a, the Finance Report, is appended to the office copy of these minutes.
 - i. ***Discussion*** – there was some discussion with regard to a few items on the list. Wayne provided an explanation for the general account items.
The Chair suggested that perhaps there be a budget for the Latornell Symposium, which takes place each year in November (it is Ontario's premier

environmental conference). Wayne agreed. He also explained that any staff who attend the conference are required to do a report on what they learned. These reports are filed on Sharepoint.

It was also suggested that Director's gain access to the Sharepoint to review such documents.

Peter Hambly and Ron Coristine both complimented the staff for a job well done on the Finance Report.

An additional question arose as to the latest update on the Penetangore River Watershed group and whether they are still completing environmental improvement projects. Wayne explained that the individual heading up the program has stepped down and that currently there is nothing to report.

There being no further questions, the following motion was moved.

MOTION #G14-17

Moved by: Dan Kerr

Seconded by: Ron Coristine

THAT the Financial Report to December 31, 2013 be accepted as distributed, and further;

THAT the Accounts Payable, totaling \$423,281.55 for November and December, 2013, be approved for payment.

Carried

- c. **Program Report** – a copy of Report #6b, entitled Program Report is appended to the office copy of these minutes.

Question: A question was asked regarding the reassessment of the Formosa property for property tax purposes. Wayne explained that the reassessed property tax amount has not been paid pending results of the appeal. Legislation and past precedent strongly suggest that the SVCA appeal will be successful.

MOTION #G14-18

Moved by: Ron Coristine

Seconded by: Wilf Gamble

THAT the Program Report be adopted as presented, and further;

THAT the Permits as identified in Report #6b, dated Thursday, February 20, 2014 be adopted as presented.

Carried

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Introduction of New Employees** – Erik Downing, Manager of Environmental Planning and Regulations introduced the new employees in this department. The introductions consisted of the following:
- o **Jennifer Prenger**, Environmental Planning Technician
 - o **Paul Elston**, Regulations Officer

Gary Senior, Sr. Manager of Flood Warning and Land Management introduced the new maintenance staff person in his department:

- o **Rick Rowbotham**, Field Services Coordinator

The Chair welcomed everyone to the SVCA.

- b. **Greenock Swamp Presentation** – Shannon Wood, Manager of Communications and Jim Penner, Manger of Forestry made a presentation on the Greenock Swamp and the proposed new trail system.

Discussion: Some of the directors asked if the presentation could be made available to them. Shannon agreed to look after this. It was also asked if ATV's were a problem in the swamp. Jim Penner expanded on this issue and explained the difficulties involved in keeping these machines out of the wetland.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. **Update on Watershed Conditions, re: flooding** – Wayne provided the latest update on the watershed conditions which were as follows:
- Approximately 6 inches of water in the current snowpack
 - Predicted rain for Friday not to have too much of an impact on local waterways; most will be absorbed into the snow pack
 - Conditions are to change after Friday becoming cold again
 - Local waterways are frozen over which may be of a concern when melting takes place; will blockages (and possible flooding) occur?

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm on a motion from Dan Kerr

Bill Scriven
Chair

Shannon Wood
Recording Secretary