

SAUGEEN VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Conservation through Cooperation

MINUTES

MEETING: ANNUAL MEETING
DATE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016
TIME: 1:00pm
LOCATION: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, FORMOSA

CHAIR: Luke Charbonneau

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Bell, Robert Buckle, Maureen Couture, Barbara Dobreen, Kevin Eccles, Brian Gamble, Wilf Gamble, Stewart Halliday, Dan Kerr, Sue Paterson, Mike Smith, Andrew White

MEMBERS ABSENT WITH REGRET: Dan Gieruszak, Steve McCabe

OTHERS PRESENT: Wayne Brohman, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Jo-Anne Harbinson, Manager Water Resources & Stewardship Services
Erik Downing, Manager, Planning & Regulations
Shaun Anthony, Water Quality Specialist
Janice Hagan, Recording Secretary
Guests and Members of the Press

1. CALL TO ORDER & CHAIR'S WELCOME

Chair Luke Charbonneau called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm. It was noted that the Municipality of West Grey had re-appointed Kevin Eccles in the place of Rob Thompson as a Member of the Authority. A copy of the bylaw is appended to the office copy of these minutes.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Luke Charbonneau informed the members that there would be an amendment to the agenda, as the Drinking Source Water Protection – Lead Authority report would be reviewed in a separate SVSPA meeting following the Authority meeting.

MOTION #G16-01

Moved by Sue Paterson

Seconded by Maureen Couture

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

Carried

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3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

4. MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING DECEMBER 10, 2015

MOTION #G16-02

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Mike Smith

THAT the minutes of the Authority meeting, held on December 10, 2015 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

5. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Bill Walker, MPP, Bruce/Grey/Owen Sound Riding, thanked Chair Luke Charbonneau for the invitation and said it was a pleasure to be in attendance at the Authority Annual Meeting. He noted that he had heard a lot of news and information across the province regarding the Phragmites issue and expressed his support for SVCA in this regard. Mr. Walker has also taken notice of the proposed Lead Authority transfer of the Source Water Protection Authority from SVCA to GSCA and was interested in discovering where ongoing funding for this program was to originate.

Allison Kershaw, Resources Management Supervisor (Acting), Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry, brought greetings from the Owen Sound Field office. She thanked SVCA for the great working relationship and support. She updated the Authority on the Endangered Species Act and the Aggregate Resource Act. She assured the Authority Members that the MNRF is supporting SVCA in regards to the Phragmites issue.

Paul McQueen, Honourable Mayor of the Municipality of Grey Highlands, brought greetings from Grey Highlands Council. He thanked Chair Charbonneau for the invitation and expressed his delight at being able to work with three Conservation Authorities.

Phil Beard, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority extended his appreciation for the invitation.

Dick Hibma, Chair of Conservation Ontario, Chair Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, brought greetings from Conservation Ontario, and Grey Sauble CA. Mr. Hibma appreciates the close working relationship that SVCA has with GSCA and is looking forward to continued support in future joint ventures. He thanked SVCA for serving as the Lead Authority for the Source Protection Authority. He commended SVCA for its representation of the Phragmites issue and noted that all Conservation Authorities across Ontario would be in support of the use of sprays for aid in control of this invasive species. He updated the Members on the Conservation Ontario University and he appreciated that Wayne Brohman had participated in training courses. He congratulated SVCA and gave his best wishes for the upcoming year. Chair Charbonneau thanked Mr. Hibma for the longstanding relationship.

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Anna-Marie Fosbrooke, Honourable Mayor of the Township of Southgate, thanked the Chair for the invitation and she thanked the Southgate Authority Member, Councillor Barbara Dobreen, for communicating SVCA matters to the Township of Southgate Council. She looks forward to seeing positive changes in the upcoming year.

John Cottrill, Chief Administration Officer, Grey Sauble Conservation, thanked SVCA staff for assisting in various joint endeavors with GSCA.

Francis Chua, Manager, Environment & Sustainability, Bruce Power, gave two presentations:

1. \$25,000 cheque for the restoration of aquatic habitat. This donation was accepted by Shaun Anthony. Mr. Chua explained that Bruce Power is required to take cold water from Lake Huron and in doing so may have a negative impact on fisheries. Bruce Power is donating funds in compliance toward the protection of the environment and fish habitat, and this donation is to be used for improved water quality for fish populations.
2. \$10,000 cheque accepted by Wayne Brohman on behalf of Forestry Staff. This donation will assist Staff with their efforts towards the tracking of the Emerald Ash Borer and public awareness. Mr. Chua explained that the purpose of this donation was a means for Bruce Power to give back to the community.

Jo-Anne Harbinson, Manager, Water Resources & Stewardship Services, presented a cheque for \$2,188 on behalf of SVCF to Wayne Gayman and Kate Whale for the construction of cattle exclusion fencing for a waterway restoration project on their property. Jo-Anne explained that trees will be planted along the waterway in the spring. This project will be used as a demonstration site and a sign will be erected on location.

6. CHAIR'S ADDRESS

After Chair Charbonneau gave his address, the following motion was made:

MOTION #G16-03

Moved by Kevin Eccles

Seconded by Barbara Dobreen

THAT the Chair's Address be entered into the minutes.

Carried

"Good afternoon,

It has been my pleasure to serve as Chairman of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for this past year. I came into this job, last January, understanding the importance of the Conservation Authority as a watershed regulatory agency and recognizing our basic mandate to protect the property and the people of this watershed from flooding and the effects of erosion.

I knew then, as I know now, that it is essential for our region to maintain this Conservation Authority with the capacity to fulfill its mandate on a watershed wide basis.

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That said, I also know that this Authority continues to face challenges that seriously impair its ability to effectively fulfill its mandate.

Over the past 12 months this Authority has been seized with the effort to address these challenges, specifically as they relate to our planning and regulations services. Working together, Authority Members and Staff have made important progress in this area and I believe that we have set ourselves upon a path that will see major improvements come into effect and bear fruit over the coming months.

In particular,

- We have made approximate regulation mapping available on our own website and on County websites.
- We have eliminated zoning comments from our correspondence with SVCA permit applicants.
- We have initiated a new customer feedback survey that is now being distributed to clients of the Planning and Regulations department.
- We initiated ongoing consultations with watershed municipalities on how to develop new regulation mapping for various parts of the watershed.
- We initiated ongoing consultations with the County governments to discuss ways to improve and streamline our planning services agreements.
- We began development of a policy that will govern the activities of our Planning and Regulations department.
- And we made various changes to improve the efficiency of our Planning and Regulations department including commencing the development of a new file tracking system.

We have made significant strides toward addressing many of the concerns about the SVCA that have been raised and are being raised by the public, municipalities and Members of the Authority. But, as we all know, we still have much work to do to develop the kind of public confidence and respect that we need to be an effective watershed and regulatory agency. To accomplish this, it is my opinion that we must continue on our present course of reviewing and reforming our operations over the course of 2016.

First, we must complete the new Planning and Regulations governing policy. The public demands that we respond to their inquiries and applications more quickly and they want us to be more clear with them about our expectations and requirements when we do respond. To do this, we must have a clear policy that delineates our areas of interest, sets performance benchmarks for our staff and establishes clear processes to reach those benchmarks. Ultimately, we must have a consistent, timely and fair approach to our review of permit applications. The adoption of a new planning and regulations policy will establish the standard against which our activities in this area can be measured by the public and will, for that reason, be a major step toward improving the public accountability of this agency.

Second, we must negotiate new planning services agreements that limit the SVCA's interest in municipal planning. Namely, I believe that we must resolve to review only those municipal planning applications that propose development within the area regulated under regulation 169/06 and we must limit our comments on those applications so that we only address their appropriateness under Section 3 of the Provincial Policy Statement. In other words, we should fulfill our obligations under the law and according to the Conservation Ontario agreement with the Province and we should go no further.

Finally, we must make significant progress in our effort to develop new regulation quality mapping for areas with high development potential in our watershed. We should commit financial and staff resources to this effort and work with each of our municipal partners to identify the areas of high priority for this enhanced mapping. The net effect of this effort will be to remove screening buffers and limit SVCA's oversight and review to those areas

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actually within our regulated area. This will reduce workload for our staff and, most importantly, reduce cost and inconvenience for those looking to develop in our communities.

By pursuing these priorities, and continuing along the path that we have already started on, I am convinced that we can effectively enforce our regulation and protect the watershed in a manner that respects the public, supports our municipal partners and provides a positive working environment for our employees.

We have made progress on this front, we will continue to progress and, as we move forward, things will get better.

Beyond our efforts in the field of planning and regulations, this Authority has continued to deliver and support multiple projects and programs that have contributed to the overall health of our watershed and to the benefit of our communities.

- We successfully removed the Lockerby Dam on time and under budget. This project restores the natural flow of the river, improving fish habitat, fish migration and water quality.
- We executed a new lease agreement with the Saugeen Children's Safety Village allowing that important project to get underway in 2016 making good use of the Authority's buildings at the Sulphur Springs Conservation Area.
- We began a new 5 year Phragmites eradication project, funded by Enbridge, at the Bruce Dale Conservation area and we initiated a widely supported lobbying effort to have herbicides for in-water control of Phragmites approved for use in Ontario.
- We implemented a budget that contained an increase of less than 2% and achieved a significant operating surplus in 2015 - a surplus which is now available to support our efforts to improve our planning and regulations services.
- With the help of the Foundation, we completed a new floating boardwalk and trail improvements in the Greenock Swamp and Schmidt Lake.
- Through the generosity of the Martyn family, we were able to permanently protect 100 acres of forested land in a particularly sensitive part of our watershed.
- And, significantly, we received Ministry approval for the completed Source Water Protection Plan.

Undeniably, 2015 has been a very busy year. As we head into 2016, we will continue to implement programming in support of our mandate to protect and improve this watershed.

Of special note, and recognizing the need to improve our relationship with the agricultural community, we will work with local agricultural stakeholders in initiating a new program, in partnership with MVCA and the Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative, promoting awareness of the social, environmental and economic implications of soil health, water quality and pollinator health. We will also be considering the establishment of an Agricultural Advisory Committee to enable ongoing collaboration between the SVCA and the Ag community. In light of this and all of the other initiatives we are working on, I am looking forward to a busy and productive 2016 and I am very optimistic about what we can accomplish together in the year to come.

I would like to conclude these remarks by thanking you all for your hard work and dedication over the last year. In particular, the commitment of Authority staff to this organization never ceases to amaze me. They go endlessly beyond their job descriptions to support events and initiatives that advance the message of conservation and the purpose of the Authority. All the good that we do would not be possible without their tireless efforts.

Thank you all very much and I am looking forward to continuing to work with each of you in 2016.”, Luke Charbonneau, Chair, SVCA

The Authority Members applauded the SVCA Staff.

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7. PRESENTATIONS TO RETIRING AUTHORITY MEMBERS

Although not present at the meeting, retiring Members were thanked for their past service to the Authority. Glen Irwin and John Eccles will receive a certificate of appreciation from Saugeen Conservation.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Wayne Brohman read a letter from Dan Gieruszak stating that although he was unable to be in attendance at the current Authority meeting, he was prepared to let his name stand if nominated for any position. A copy of this letter is appended to the office copy of these minutes.

Mr. Charbonneau vacated the chair in favour of John Cottrill, Chair Pro Tem, who conducted the elections.

MOTION #G16-04

Moved by Kevin Eccles

Seconded by Maureen Couture

THAT John Cottrill be appointed as Chair Pro Tem for the purposes of conducting the election of officers for 2016.

Carried

John Cottrill declared all offices vacant and called for a motion to appoint two scrutineers, in the event of an election count.

MOTION #G16-05

Moved by Kevin Eccles

Seconded by Dan Kerr

THAT Phil Beard and Dick Hibma be appointed as scrutineers for the election of officers.

Carried

Election of Chair

Mr. Cottrill called for nominations for the position of Chair for 2016. John Bell nominated Luke Charbonneau, and Brian Gamble nominated Dan Kerr for the position of Chair. No further nominations were received.

MOTION #G16-06

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Maureen Couture

THAT the nominations for the position of Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority be closed.

Carried

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Mr. Charbonneau thanked his nominator and agreed to let his name stand for nomination.

Dan Kerr said it was an honour to be nominated as Chair. He said he had been a Member for five years. Mr. Kerr believes that there are still many improvements needed in the Planning and Regulations Department and that the system is still broken. He asked for support in being elected as Chair so that he can restore faith in SVCA.

The ballots were distributed and the Board members cast their votes. The ballots were collected and counted by the scrutineers. Luke Charbonneau was elected Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for the year 2016.

MOTION #G16-07

Moved by Dan Kerr

Seconded by Rob Bell

THAT Luke Charbonneau be appointed Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for the year 2016.

Carried

Election of 1st Vice-Chair

Mr. Cottrill called for nominations for the position of 1st Vice-Chair for 2016. Luke Charbonneau nominated Dan Gieruszak, and Brian Gamble nominated Dan Kerr. No further nominations were received. Both wished to have their name stand.

MOTION #G16-08

Moved by Wilf Gamble

Seconded by Sue Paterson

THAT the nominations for the position of 1st Vice-Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority be closed.

Carried

The ballots were distributed and the Board members cast their votes. The ballots were collected and counted by the scrutineers. Dan Gieruszak was elected as the 1st Vice Chair.

MOTION #G16-09

Moved by Mike Smith

Seconded by Kevin Eccles

THAT Dan Gieruszak be appointed as 1st Vice-Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for the year 2016.

Carried

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Election of 2nd Vice-Chair

Mr. Cottrill called for nominations for the position of 2nd Vice-Chair for 2016. Barbara Dobreen nominated Maureen Couture. No further nominations were received for 2nd Vice-Chair.

MOTION #G16-10

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Andrew White

THAT the nominations for the position of 2nd Vice-Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority be closed.

Carried

Maureen Couture agreed to let her name stand for nomination.

MOTION #G16-11

Moved by Kevin Eccles

Seconded by John Bell

THAT Maureen Couture be appointed 2nd Vice-Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for the year 2016.

Carried

Election to the Position of Past Chair

Mr. Cottrill called for nominations to fill the position of Past Chair for 2016. Brian Gamble nominated Dan Kerr and Mike Smith nominated Kevin Eccles to fill the position of Past Chair. No further nominations were received.

MOTION #G16-12

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Brian Gamble

THAT the nominations for the position of Past Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority be closed.

Carried

Dan Kerr declined the nomination. Kevin Eccles was willing to let his name stand.

MOTION #G16-13

Moved by Stuart Halliday

Seconded by Wilf Gamble

THAT Kevin Eccles be appointed to fill the position of Past Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for the year 2016.

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Carried

MOTION #G16-14

Moved by Dan Kerr

Seconded by Maureen Couture

THAT the ballots be destroyed.

Carried

A coffee break was called at 2:15pm.

Chair Luke Charbonneau called the meeting back to order at 2:31pm

Mr. Charbonneau thanked the Board of Directors for their confidence in re-appointing him Chair for 2016.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from Jennifer Lawrie, Deputy Clerk, Municipality of Kincardine, responding to the letter from SVCA regarding the Phragmites issue was **noted and filed**.
- Copy of Letter from Nancy Michie, Administrator Clerk-Treasurer, Municipality of Morris-Turnberry, written to the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, responding to a letter from SVCA regarding the Phragmites issue was **noted and filed**.
- Letter from Linda White, Clerk, Town of Saugeen Shores, responding to the letter from SVCA regarding the Phragmites issue was **noted and filed**.
- Letter from Brian Tocheri, CAO/Clerk, Town of Hanover, responding to the letter from SVCA regarding the Phragmites issue was **noted and filed**.
- Letter from Nancy Michie, Administrator Clerk-Treasurer, Municipality of Morris-Turnberry, regarding the re-appointment of Robert Buckle as the SVCA representative was **noted and filed**.
- Letter from Graham Hancock, seasonal camper at Brucedale Campground, thanking Caroline Kamerman for her work as Superintendent at the Brucedale CA, was **noted and filed**.

10. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Administration Resolutions

The GM/S-T explained that the Administration Resolutions were required to be updated and amended every five years and he highlighted the various suggested changes. The Authority Members discussed and received clarification on the proposed modifications. Kevin Eccles asked for more information regarding staff performance reviews and the Chair requested that Wayne prepare a report on the procedures for staff grid movement and how the decisions are made.

The Chair proposed that wherever the term 'Director' is used in the document that it be changed to 'Members of the Authority'. Wayne explained that in order to do this a motion would be required to counter the previous motion, "THAT members of the Authority be referred to as "Directors" in the Authority Regulations." E86-44.

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MOTION #G16-15

Moved by Dan Kerr

Seconded by Maureen Couture

THAT any reference to “Director” in the Administration Resolutions be changed to “Members of the Authority” throughout the document as appropriate.

Carried

MOTION #G16-16

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Stuart Halliday

THAT the SVCA Administration Resolutions be approved as amended at the Authority meeting, January 15, 2016.

Carried

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Committee Appointments

Appointment to Property & Building Committee for 2016

MOTION #G16-17

Moved by Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by Dan Kerr

THAT the following members be appointed to the Property & Building Committee for 2016:
Robert Buckle, Dan Kerr, Stuart Halliday and Brian Gamble

Carried

Appointment to Forestry Committee for 2016

MOTION #G16-18

Moved by Maureen Couture

Seconded by Dan Kerr

THAT the following members be appointed to the Forestry Committee for 2016:
Brian Gamble, Sue Paterson, John Bell & Barbara Dobreen.

Carried

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Appointment to Parks Committee for 2016

MOTION #G16-19

Moved by Brian Gamble

Seconded by Wilf Gamble

THAT the following members be appointed to the Parks Committee for 2016:

Andrew White, Dan Kerr, Maureen Couture and Dan Gieruszak.

Carried

b. Planning & Regulations Policy Document

Erik Downing gave a presentation on the draft Planning & Regulations Policy Document that is currently being prepared. He explained that the Department has never had a written policy and that it will greatly benefit staff when proceeding with new permit applications. He told the Members that the intent of the document is to start conversing about the content and to get their feedback. The members congratulated Erik on his efforts so far to create the policy document. Mike Smith would like to see community consultation and Stuart Halliday would like to take the document to planning staff at the Municipal level. The Chair requested that a completed draft as well as a consultation plan, be presented to the Authority at the meeting in February.

Erik Downing left the meeting at 4:23pm.

12. REPORTS

a. Planning & Regulations Action Items

The GM/S-T reviewed the Planning & Regulations Action Items chart. He told the Members that a part time staff member had been hired and was to begin the scanning project. He explained that item #7 regarding the MoA with Bruce County would need to be temporarily delayed.

b. Conservation Ontario Council Meeting

The GM/S-T reviewed the meeting held on December 7, 2015 as per the report submitted with the meeting agenda.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Planning & Regulations Customer Service Survey Update

The GM/S-T reviewed the survey results to date. There had been 29 invitations to participate in the survey since the previous Authority meeting and there had been 8 more completions. A majority of the comments were positive in favour of SVCA staff and procedures. The Chair requested that a paper copy of the survey update be

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provided to Authority members at the February meeting.

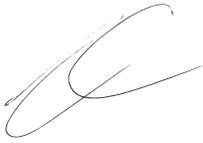
b. Local Newspaper articles

The GM/S-T submitted articles from local newspapers regarding the SVCA for the purpose of keeping the Authority members up to date on current events.

c. Complaint Regarding Dog Bite

John Bell asked for more information on a complaint about a dog bite that occurred at the Durham Conservation Area. The GM/S-T explained that he had written a letter and hand delivered it to the owner of the dog, requesting that his dog be on a leash while on SVCA property. The dog owner has apologized to the person that had been bitten and agreed to abide by the dogs on leash rule.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm on motion of Kevin Eccles.



Luke Charbonneau
Chair



Janice Hagan
Recording Secretary