



Authority Meeting Agenda

Thursday, November 21, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

Electronic via Zoom

1. Land Acknowledgement

We begin our meeting today by respectfully acknowledging the Anishinaabeg Nation, the Haudenosaunee, the Neutral, and the Petun peoples as the traditional keepers of this land. We are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

2. Adoption of Agenda

THAT the agenda for the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority meeting, November 21, 2024, be adopted as presented.

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

4. Adoption of Minutes

4.1 Authority meeting – October 17, 2024

THAT the minutes of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority meeting, October 17, 2024, be adopted as presented.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes – none at this time.

6. New Business

Corporate Services

6.1 Formosa Administration building lightning strike update – Verbal – Erik Downing, Donna Lacey

6.2 GM-2024-15: SVCA Operational Plan – Erik Downing

6.3 GM-2024-16: Program Report – Erik Downing

6.4 Correspondence

6.5 COR-2024-25: 2025 Authority Meeting Schedule – Erik Downing, Janice Hagan

THAT the 2025 SVCA Authority meeting and Section 28 Hearing schedules be adopted as presented.

6.6 COR-2024-26: 2025 Budget Presentation– Erik Downing

THAT the SVCA Board of Directors approve the 2025 draft budget in principle; and further

THAT staff be authorized to forward the draft budget to the Authority's watershed municipalities for a 30-day review and include the offer of a delegation if requested.

6.7 Christmas Office Closure – Verbal – Erik Downing

THAT the SVCA approves that the SVCA be closed between Christmas and New Years in 2024; and further

THAT all eligible staff be allowed to have this time off one time with pay and without use of vacation or overtime.

Environmental Planning and Regulations

6.8 EPR-2024-23: Violation Strategy Update – Darren Kenny

6.9 EPR-2024-24: Permits Issued for Endorsement – Matt Armstrong

THAT SVCA permit applications 24-010, 24-075, 24-237 to 24-255, and 24-257 to 24-262 as approved by staff, be endorsed.

6.10 EPR-2024-25: Schedule A Environmental Planning and Regulations Fee – Erik Downing, Matt Armstrong

THAT Fee Schedule A, Environmental Planning and Regulations be approved as presented.

Water Resources

6.11 WR-2024-10: Durham Upper Dam – Katie Thomas

THAT the SVCA Board of Directors approve the cessation of winter operations at the Durham Upper Dam, as recommended based on ongoing engineering reports, with a provision for annual re-evaluation; and further

THAT staff proceed with Phase 2 of a Class Environmental Assessment for the Durham Upper Dam, pending Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) funding; and further

THAT the Municipality of West Grey be deemed the benefiting municipality, contributing 100% of the project costs not covered by grant funding.

6.12 NWMO-2024-01: NWMO Update – Brandi Walter

THAT the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive the NWMO-SVCA Environmental Media Baseline Program update for information.

7. Closed Session – to discuss a litigation matter and personal matters about identifiable individuals

THAT the Authority move to Closed Session, In Camera to discuss a litigation matter; and further

THAT, Erik Downing, Matt Armstrong, and Janice Hagan remain in the meeting as required.

8. Adjournment

THAT the meeting be adjourned.



Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

Minutes – Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Thursday October 17, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

Location: Remote via Zoom

Chair: Barbara Dobreen

Members present: Paul Allen, Larry Allison, Kevin Eccles, Bud Halpin, Tom Hutchinson, Steve McCabe, Greg McLean, Dave Myette, Moiken Penner, Jennifer Prenger, Bill Stewart, Peter Whitten

Members absent: Bud Halpin, Mike Niesen, Sue Paterson

Staff present: Matt Armstrong, Adam Chalmers, Erik Downing, Madeline McFadden, Janice Hagan, Donna Lacey, Katie Thomas

Due to technical difficulties with the Livestream, Chair Dobreen called the meeting to order at 1:13 PM.

1. Land Acknowledgement – read by Larry Allison

We begin our meeting today by respectfully acknowledging the Anishinaabeg Nation, the Haudenosaunee, the Neutral, and the Petun peoples as the traditional keepers of this land. We are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion #G24-113

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the agenda for the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority meeting, October 17, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest relative to any item on the agenda.

4. Adoption of Minutes

4.1 Authority meeting – September 19, 2024

Motion #G24-114

Moved by Larry Allison

Seconded by Paul Allen

THAT the minutes of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority meeting, September 19, 2024, be adopted as presented.

Carried

5. Staff Introductions

The following new staff were introduced to the Board of Directors:

- Katie Thomas, Manager, Water Resources
- Adam Chalmers, Manager, Corporate Services

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes – none at this time

7. New Business

Corporate Services

7.1 Formosa Administration Office: Lightning Strike update

The General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer (GM/S-T) reported that the Administration office was struck by lightning on October 6, 2024. It was fortunate that the incident occurred on a Sunday when the office was unoccupied. The building sustained significant damage, including broken windows and doors, an outdoor lighting electrical panel, and damage to the retaining wall. Fire response teams arrived promptly, but no fire was detected. Servers and computers were unharmed and will be relocated. A general contractor is coordinating various tests, including structural and electrical assessments. Staff are unable to enter the building and will be working from home for an indefinite period. Several other buildings and residences in the area also sustained damage from the same strike.

7.2 GM-2024-13: SVCA Operational Plan

There was no discussion.

7.3 GM-2024-14: Program Report

There was no discussion.

7.4 Correspondence

There was no submitted correspondence.

7.5 COR-2024-20: 2025 Proposed Fee Schedule

The proposed 2025 Fee Schedule is based on the assumption that the province will continue the fee freeze, as it has for the past two years. Typically, information regarding the freeze is communicated to conservation authorities by the province at the end of December. Staff were directed to bring back Schedule A to the November meeting with appropriate fees in case the province lifts the freeze.

Motion #G24-115

Moved by Tom Hutchinson

Seconded by Kevin Eccles

THAT the Board approve the following fee schedules to take effect on January 1, 2025: -
Schedule A – Environmental Planning and Permitting Services - Schedule C – Forestry Services -
Schedule D – Corporate Services.

Amendment: #G24-116

Moved by Paul Allen

Seconded by Bill Stewart

That Motion G24-104 be amended to exclude Schedule A and add “further that Schedule A be deferred to the November Authority meeting”.

Carried

Motion #G24-115 (amended)

Moved by Tom Hutchinson

Seconded by Kevin Eccles

THAT the Board approve the following fee schedules to take effect on January 1, 2025: Schedule C – Forestry Services - Schedule D – Corporate Services, and further

THAT Schedule A be deferred to the November Authority meeting.

Carried

7.6 COR-2024-21: SVCA Celebrates 75 Years 2025

A committee of staff members has been established to plan and coordinate the 75th Anniversary celebration scheduled for 2025. This initiative will ensure a memorable and well-organized event, reflecting our organization’s distinguished history and achievements.

7.7 COR-2024-23: Conservation Authorities Act Deliverables Public Consultation

There was no discussion.

Motion #G24-117

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Steve McCabe

THAT the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Conservation Areas Strategy and Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy, per Section 21.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act, and Ontario Regulation 686/21 (Appendix A).

Carried

7.8 COR-2024-18: Pay Policy

The Pay Policy has been resubmitted for review by the Board of Directors, with an amendment to change the pay band from a 7-step band to a 5-step band. This adjustment aims to streamline the pay structure and enhance clarity for all staff. There was no discussion.

Motion #G24-118

Moved by Larry Allison

Seconded by Tom Hutchinson

THAT the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority approve the proposed Pay Policy as amended.

Environmental Planning and Regulations

7.9 EPR-2024-18: Permits Issued for Endorsement

There was no discussion.

Motion #G24-119

Moved by Greg McLean

Seconded by Paul Allen

THAT Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourse applications and Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits applications #24-068, 24-078 to 24-129, and 24-131 to 24-151, as approved by staff, be endorsed.

Carried

7.10 EPR-2024-22: Environmental Planning and Regulations Policies Manual

The EPR Regulations Policies Manual has been updated by staff, with Matt Armstrong reviewing the key changes to ensure alignment with recent legislative updates. It was noted that several housekeeping items still need to be addressed. The next steps include a public consultation period, followed by a final review and approval by the Board.

Motion #G24-120

Moved by Steve McCabe

Seconded by Dave Myette

THAT the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority direct staff to circulate the draft updated Environmental Planning and Regulations Policies Manual for a 30-day public consultation period.

Carried

Forestry and Lands

7.11 LAN-2024-22: Funding opportunity through the Ministry of Sport

The submission of the funding application requires Board approval. If the funding is denied, the infrastructure repairs will be incorporated into the proposed 2025 Lands budget.

Motion #G24-121

Moved by Tom Hutchinson

Seconded by Moiken Penner

THAT the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) Board of Directors endorses the submission of SVCA's application to the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) for the repair and rehabilitation of recreational infrastructure at Sulphur Spring Conservation Area.

Carried

8. Closed Session – to discuss a litigation matter and personal matters about identifiable individuals

Motion #G24-122

Moved by Greg McLean

Seconded by Moiken Penner

THAT the Authority move to Closed Session, In Camera to discuss a litigation matter and personal matters about identifiable individuals; and further

THAT, Erik Downing, Matt Armstrong, Madeline McFadden, and Janice Hagan remain in the meeting as required.

Motion #G24-125

Moved by Dave Myette

Seconded by Peter Whitten

THAT the Authority adjourn form closed session, In Camera, and rise and report.

Carried

From the Closed Session:

Motion #G24-126

Moved by Kevin Eccles

Seconded by Dave Myette

THAT the Board direct staff to initiate the Request for Proposal (RFP) process to hire an external consultant, tasked with addressing the recommendations identified in the Workplace Culture Assessment report, in consultation with the Authority, and further

THAT the associated cost come from reserves.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m. on the motion of Peter Whitten and Tom Hutchinson.

Barbara Dobreen
Chair

Janice Hagan
Recording Secretary

GM-2024-15: SVCA Operational Plan
November 21, 2024

All Departments

Significant Activity	2024 Operational Task	Target Completion Date	Responsible for Deliverables
2023 Performance Evaluations	One Remaining	December 2024	E. Downing
Job Descriptions for Market Compensation Review	In Progress	Complete	E. Downing
Job Hazard Analysis – Creation of Task Lists	In Progress	December 2024	Managers
Content Management System – Beta System ready with EPR information	In Progress	Beta available to staff	M. Armstrong
Annual 2023 SVCA Report	In Progress	January 2025	A. Richards, E. Downing
Staff Training	Ongoing	December 2024	Managers
Mapping Working Group	In Progress	December 2024	E. Downing
October 6, 2024, Formosa Lightning Response	In Progress	December 2024	E. Downing

Department: Corporate Services

Significant Activity	2024 Operational Task	Target Completion Date	Responsible for Deliverables
Communications	General support to all departments (marketing, document preparation, social media, website maintenance)	Ongoing	A. Richards
GIS	Update regulation and hazard mapping with new information	Ongoing	R. Kleinecke
Finance	Day-to-day processing of payables and receivables	Ongoing	J. Hagan, K. Porter
Administration	Continue to develop and / or renew health and safety policies.	Ongoing	Joint Health and Safety Committee
Administration	<i>Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act</i> Compliance	Ongoing	J. Hagan
Administration	Negotiate Category 2 Agreements with municipalities	Ongoing	K. Thomas
Administration	Submission of MFIPPA reporting for 2024	December 2024	J. Hagan
Human Resources	Modernize SVCA's Personnel Policy	Waiting on Workplace Culture Assessment Plan	E. Downing
Human Resources	Accessibility Policy Development	Complete	J. Hagan
Human Resources	Code of Conduct	Waiting on Workplace Culture Assessment Plan	J. Hagan
Finance	Complete 2023 Audit	Complete	A. Chalmers
Administration	Document Retention Policy	Complete	E. Downing
Human Resources	Compensation Policy	Complete	E. Downing

Significant Activity	2024 Operational Task	Target Completion Date	Responsible for Deliverables
Human Resources	Volatile Client Plan	December 2024	J. Hagan
Human Resources	Emergency Communication Plan	December 2024	J. Hagan
GIS/IT	Critical Failure Information Technology Plan	December 2024	R. Kleinecke
Administration	Civic Address Assignment for SVCA Properties	December 2024	A. Richards
Administration	Public Consultation: <i>Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act</i>	December 2024	J. Hagan
Administration	Professional Development Strategy Planning	December 2024	A. Chalmers
Administration	Revenue Generation Strategy	December 2024	E. Downing

Department: Environmental Planning and Regulations

Significant Activity	2024 Operational Task	Target Completion Date	Responsible for Deliverables
Environmental Planning	Plan review of applications and pre-consultation meetings/site visits.	Ongoing	M. Armstrong
Environmental Planning	Review of Comprehensive Planning Documents (Official Plans, Comprehensive Zoning By-Laws)	Ongoing	M. Armstrong
Section 28 of <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i>	Continue implementation of the Violations Strategy to resolve outstanding violations.	Ongoing	M. Armstrong
Section 28 of <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i>	Review permit applications, conduct site visits, issue permits.	Ongoing	M. Armstrong
Regulatory Mapping	Update regulation limits on mapping.	Complete	M. Armstrong
General	Revise Complete Application Checklist and post online.	Complete	M. Armstrong
General	Website Updates	Complete	M. Armstrong, A. Richards
Environmental Planning	Completion of Environmental Planning and Regulations Policy Manual	December 2024	M. Armstrong
Environmental Planning	Update Planning Service Agreements to reflect Bill 23 changes	2025	M. Armstrong
General	Board of Directors Hearing Training – Section 28	2025	M. Armstrong
General	Landowner Recognition Program Brainstorming	2025	M. Armstrong
General	Amish and Mennonite Outreach Strategy Planning	December 2024	M. Armstrong, A. Richards
General	Professional Development Strategy Planning	December 2024	M. Armstrong

Department: Water Resources

Significant Activity	2024 Operational Task	Target Completion Date	Responsible for Deliverables
Water Resources Committee	Conduct meetings to discuss matters requiring direction.	As needed	K. Thomas
Flood Forecasting and Warning	Flood and low water monitoring, forecasting, and communication.	Ongoing	J. Duncan
Program Funding	Research and apply for program funding (where applicable)	Ongoing	K. Thomas
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	Complete database of existing easements and identify additional easement requirements, if needed.	Ongoing	K. Thomas, K. Hope
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	Confirmation of infrastructure ownership.	Ongoing	K. Thomas, K. Hope
Flood Forecasting and Warning	Flood watch training	Internal – Complete External - Ongoing	J. Duncan
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	Apply for Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) funding	Complete	K. Thomas
NWMO	Environmental Monitoring Baseline Program – Year 2 Final Report.	December 2024	B. Walter
Ontario Low Water Response	Creation of Low Water Response Committee	Ongoing	J. Duncan
Water Quality	Completion of SVCA Water Quality Report	Complete	E. Williamson
Flood Forecasting and Warning	Launch “Flood Watch” program for public involvement, complete with information sessions for municipal partners.	October 2024	J. Duncan
General	Working In and Around Water Policy	December 2024	K. Thomas
General	Professional Development Strategy Planning	December 2024	K. Thomas

Significant Activity	2024 Operational Task	Target Completion Date	Responsible for Deliverables
General	Risk Evaluation Planning	December 2024	K. Thomas
Ice Management Plan	Complete Ice Management Plan for SVCA watershed.	December 2024	K. Thomas, J. Duncan
Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network	Collection of benthic macroinvertebrates to assist in the characterization of surface water quality	December 2024	E. Williamson
Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network	Monitoring of groundwater quality and quantity.	December 2024	E. Williamson
Surface Water Quality Characterization	Monthly collection of water quality samples from Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network sites and SVCA sites.	December 2024	E. Williamson
NWMO	Environmental Monitoring Baseline Program Years 1 through 3 Final Report	December 2024	B. Walter
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	Complete an operational plan for SVCA structures	December 2024	K. Thomas, K. Hope
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	Complete an asset management plan for SVCA structures.	December 2024	K. Thomas, K. Hope
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	Complete draft 10-year capital working plan for SVCA water and erosion control structures that were inspected in 2022, 2023.	December 2024	K. Thomas, K. Hope
Watershed Management	Complete a watershed-based resource management strategy.	December 2024	K. Thomas, R. Southcote

Department: Forestry and Lands

Significant Activity	2024 Operational Task	Target Completion Date	Responsible for Deliverables
Forestry Committee	Conduct meetings to discuss matters requiring direction.	As needed	D. Lacey
Property and Parks Committee	Conduct meetings to discuss matters requiring direction.	As needed	D. Lacey
Forest Management	Carry out Forest Management Activities on SVCA and private properties including tree marking, tree inventories, harvest supervision, Managed Forest Tax Incentive Plans.	Ongoing	D. Lacey, Forestry Technician
Tree Planting	Plant trees on private properties.	Ongoing	D. Lacey, Forestry Technician
Lands Management	Varney Pond – Working with regulatory agencies to provide necessary information to support the application submitted.	Ongoing	D. Lacey
Lands Management	Complete Kincardine Cross Country Ski Agreement	December 2024	D. Lacey
Lands Management	Develop Land Acquisition and Disposition Policies	Complete	D. Lacey
Forestry	Complete ash hazard tree removal from Stoney Island properties.	Complete	D. Lacey
Lands Management	Complete Conservation Areas Strategy for SVCA.	Complete	D. Lacey
Lands Management	Complete Conservation Lands Inventory for SVCA.	December 2024	D. Lacey, Lands Technician
Lands Management	Civic Address Assignment for SVCA Properties	December 2024	D. Lacey
General	Professional Development Strategy Planning	December 2024	D. Lacey

Programs Report # GM-2024-16

November 21, 2024

Corporate Services

General Manager's Report

October 6, 2024, Formosa Office Lightning Strike response continues. Office staff working remotely while building repaired. Resource Centre Sulphur Spring CA being utilized on a limited basis for staff and equipment access.

Nuclear Innovation Institute and Great Lakes Cities Initiative meeting attended in Tiverton October 22, 2024

November 4, 2024, Conservation Ontario General Manager's meeting attended.

Interviews for Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations have proceeded.

Department News

Corporate Services

GIS

- Continued to manage EPR mapping updates and public access
- Day to day data maintenance

IT

- Along with ContinUIT, relocated servers/staff computers to remote location for staff to continue their duties remotely after Formosa office closure. Continued to maintain this revised system to allow remote work, or work at SVCA's Resources Centre at Sulphur Springs CA.
- Account setup/cell phone setup/computer setup for new staff
- Resolve day to day IT issues that staff encounter

Finance

- Team has been able to keep business going as usual
- 2025 Budget works

Communications

- Provided grant support for SVCA departments.
- Finalized the job advertisement with the Manager of Environmental Planning and Regulations, created a compliant PDF, and circulated it widely
- Supported Water Resources through circulation of two RFPs
- Supported winter camping initiatives
- Developed and two presentations for the Conservation Ontario conference and participated in the planning committee

- Coordinated Walkerton Water Anniversary with Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP)
- Designed assets for SVCA's Anniversary
- Maintaining and advancing social media initiatives to keep the public informed about the ongoing situation at the Formosa Office
- Continuing to maintain and drive social media initiatives while keeping public informed of Formosa Office situation
- Monitoring NWMO Referendum news and SVCA communication needs therein
- Assisting Water Resources Department with Category 2 and 3 historical context and current messaging

Water Resources

SVCA Flood and Erosion Control Project Activity

Capital Projects

Staff are working towards completely capital projects that have been approved by WECI funding, including the Paisley Dyke Improvements Phase 1, and Safety Fencing at various structures (Paisley RFP still undergoing the bidding process and Fencing RFQ proposal selected).

Capital budget for 2025 has been mostly finalized and await board approval with the WECI funding secured for the following projects: Mount Forest Safety Fencing Phase 1, Mount Forest Safety Signage and Fall Arrest, Safety Signage at the Hanover Dam, Allan Park Dam and the Sulphur Spring Dam, Paisley Dyke Improvement Phase 2, Public Risk and Safety Plan for the Hanover Dam, and the continuation of the Durham Upper Dam Class EA Phase 2. These projects have been approved by WECI and all that is required for these projects to move forward is the 50% municipal funding.

The majority of internal inspections have been completed for the year with final round of inspections scheduled for December. Staff are continuing to follow inspection requirements for the various structures across the Saugeen Valley Watershed and Category 2 agreements responsibilities are underway with grass cutting, maintenance, and vegetation control.

Request for Proposals and Quotations (RFPs and RFQs)

SVCA staff have issued or working on the following RFPs:

- Fencing Project RFQ – To install and improve fencing at four (4) different SVCA projects for public safety and comply with dam safety standards/Ontario building code.
- Paisley Dyke Improvement Phase I – RFP to address the toe erosion along the Paisley Dyke accepting bids starting November 6.

Flood Forecasting and Warning (FFW)

No flood messages have been issued since the last Board of Directors meeting. Stream flows are at or below seasonal levels, while precipitation has been below average for the months of September and October.

Equipment Upgrades

SVCA has recently completed upgrades at three stream gauge stations; Chesley, Aberdeen and Ripley. The equipment previously in use had surpassed its useable life and has been replaced with modern equipment. The station has also been converted from phoneline communications to satellite, a more affordable and reliable technology. With the completion of these upgrades, all stream gauge has been replaced since 2016.

Past Meetings

- On October 22nd, SVCA staff attended the Grey County Emergency Preparedness Meeting.
- On November 5th, SVCA staff attended the Southwestern Ontario Flood Forecasting Alliance (SWOFFA) meeting. SWOFFA is a group that meets twice annually and is comprised of other Southwestern Ontario Conservation Authorities.

Grant Applications

SVCA recently submitted an application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant to support revitalization of the Bell's Lake Weather Station. The station, located west of Markdale, has not operated for over a decade.

Water Quality (WQ)

Surface Water Program

Water quality staff have completed surface water sampling for the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network and SVCA's internal program for 2024.

Groundwater Monitoring

Groundwater sampling for the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network is underway and will continue through to the end of the year. Benthic macroinvertebrate samples are being processed and analyzed by an external consultant; this data will be used in future reports to enhance the understanding of water quality in our watershed. Over the next several months, staff will be working on data analysis and preparation of the 2024 Water Quality report.

Forestry and Lands

Staff attended the Community Forest Managers meeting, which is an annual meeting that has all Community Forest Managers from across the province gather to learn and share experiences.

The Bruce Grey Forest Festival took place this month at our Allan Park Conservation Area. This three-day event is supported by SVCA staff from many departments, as well as staff from a number of other organizations.

A significant amount of staff time was spent dealing with the lightning strike difficulties that the Authority has encountered.

Interviews for the remaining Forestry Technician position took place. Staff will be re-posting the position searching for a candidate that best fits the needs of the position.

The campgrounds have closed following another successful season. Durham CA is being prepared for the first year in which winter camping is being offered.

The ash removal at Stoney Island has been. As was reported, prior to tendering the harvest, this ash removal was quite devastating. Remediation and tree planting have begun. Staff are working hard to clear trails and plan the repair of the trail system. Staff are very pleased that the majority of the public have respected the property closure.

Staff attended the Conservation Areas Workshop, which is an annual meeting that has conservation authority staff gather together to learn and share experiences.

Fall tree planting for private landowners has been completed. Site visits for spring tree planting will commence shortly.



Environmental Planning & Regulations (EPR)

Department News

- Staff participated in a field trip to learn about riverine erosion hazards, dynamic beaches and fractured bedrock (photo).

- Work continues with CLOCA staff on the new content management system. Late-fall / early-winter rollout is anticipated.
- Staff are reviewing feedback from the 1-month-long mapping open house (online) that wrapped up October 25th related to Reg 41/24 changes, FHIMP mapping, etc.
- Staff are preparing for 30-day consultation for draft updates to the Policies Manual
- Staff attended the Utility Communications Forum, Bruce County Official Plan Open House, and the Pre-Latornell Regulations Meeting in October.
- Vacant positions: (1) Planning Technician, (1) Resources Information Technician, (1) Regulations Officer.



Report #COR-2024-25

Report To: Chair and Directors, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
From: Erik Downing, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer
Date: November 21, 2024
Subject: 2025 Authority Meeting and Hearing Schedule

Recommendation

THAT the 2025 SVCA Authority meeting and Section 28 Hearing schedules be adopted as presented.

Background

Historically the Board of Directors for the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority has held eight (8) regularly scheduled meetings per year on the third Thursday of the month as per the Administrative Bylaws, with Special meetings called as required.

Analysis

Authority Meetings

The 2025 draft Authority Meeting Schedule is attached to this report. Meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of February, March, May, July, September, October, and November. The Annual Meeting in January is scheduled for the third Friday to allow invited guests to attend who normally are unavailable on Thursday.

Section 28 Hearings

The Authority Bylaws indicate that Section 28 Hearings are the responsibility of the full Board (Sec. B1-xv). Due to the potential length of time required to convene a Hearing, staff recommend that they be scheduled independently of regular Authority meetings. To facilitate this, staff propose setting specific dates for Hearings at the start of the year. Due to busy schedules, predetermined Hearing dates and times will benefit SVCA Directors, Staff, landowners, and legal councils.

Staff recommend scheduling the 2025 Section 28 Hearing dates to coincide with Authority meetings, beginning at 10:00 a.m. It is anticipated that not all scheduled dates will be necessary; therefore, staff will release any unneeded dates two weeks in advance.

Prepared by:

[Original signed by:]

Janice Hagan, Legislative Services Coordinator

Approved by:

[Original signed by:]

Erik Downing, General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

2025 Authority Meeting Schedule

Date	Time
Friday January 17 – Annual Meeting	1:00 p.m.
Thursday February 20	1:00 p.m.
Thursday March 20	1:00 p.m.
Thursday May 15	1:00 p.m.
Thursday July 17	1:00 p.m.
Thursday September 18 – Budget Review	1:00 p.m.
Thursday October 16	1:00 p.m.
Thursday November 20	1:00 p.m.

2025 Section 28 Hearing Schedule (if required)

Date	Time
Thursday February 20	10:00 a.m.
Thursday March 20	10:00 a.m.
Thursday May 15	10:00 a.m.
Thursday July 17	10:00 a.m.
Thursday September 18	10:00 a.m..
Thursday October 16	10:00 a.m.
Thursday November 20	10:00 a.m.



2025

Budget Presentation

November 21, 2024

Erik Downing

General Manager /
Secretary-Treasurer

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

Programs and Services



Category 1:

- Those prescribed as mandatory by the Province

Category 2:

- Those delivered on behalf of a municipality

Category 3:

- Those that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources

CATEGORY 1: Natural hazards



Protect people and property from the risk of natural hazards, i.e.:

- developing an awareness of hazards
- delineating and mapping hazards
- review and processing permit applications
- administration and enforcement of Section 28 Regulation
- managing related risks, including plan review
- technical studies and policy review of natural hazard management
- flood forecasting and warning
- flood and erosion control infrastructure
- drought or low water response
- ice management
- promoting public awareness and communication

CATEGORY 1: Conservation Authority owned lands



Conservation and management of Conservation Authority (CA) owned lands, i.e.:

- Maintenance of facilities, trails, parking, and other capital assets related to public recreation
- Development of a conservation area strategy, land inventory, land acquisition/disposition policy
- Conservation area enforcement and compliance
- Management of biodiversity, invasive species, diseased/hazard trees
- Restoration and ecological monitoring
- Woodlot management, planting, forestry services

CATEGORY 1: Other



- Participation in the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network
- Participation in the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network
- Development and implementation of a watershed-based resource management strategy
- Drinking Water Source Protection
- Asset and property management
- Data management, records retention
- Communication and marketing for the organization
- Fleet management and maintenance
- Administration, finance, legal expenses

CATEGORY 2



- Optional 5-year Category 2 Agreements for the inspection and maintenance of flood and erosion control projects on behalf of the affected Municipality have been entered into for the following projects:

- Hanover Dam
- Mount Forest Dam
- Neustadt Dam and Flood Control Wall
- Neustadt Flood Control Works
- Meux Creek Weir
- Walkerton Flood Control Works

All costs associated are borne by the signing municipality, and do not include capital work. Category 2 agreements will expire December 31st, 2028. 2024 agreements were \$66,000.

CATEGORY 3



Category 3 programs and services necessitate cost apportioning agreements between SVCA and each member municipality.

At the direction of the Board, \$100,000 of funding per annum for the Water Quality Program was pursued. It received unanimous support from all fifteen municipalities and agreements were executed starting in 2024.

The Water Quality Program cost apportioning agreements will expire December 31st, 2028. They will require both the support of the SVCA Board of Directors and renewed agreements to continue.

A business case for Stewardship with an annual program cost of \$165,000 did not receive Board direction for staff to pursue.



Corporate Services

2024 accomplishments include: Accessibility, payroll and public sector management professional development credentials. Fundraising and professional development strategy drafts. Document retention strategy complete. Job performance and salary review undertaken. New property guide for the Authority. Workplace Culture Review undertaken. Significant updates to mapping performed by GIS. Pay Policy Implemented. New General Manager, Water Resources Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations (EPR) Manager, and Corporate Services manager onboarded.

2025 goals include: Asset management plan stemming from completed CA Act Deliverables. DEI and conflict resolution policies, SOPs for major tasks authority wide. Customer service standards review and continued public consultation. Implementation of Workplace Culture Assessment recommendations.



Planning and Regulations

2024 accomplishments include: Permits and planning comments processed in timely fashion. New floodplain mapping in three municipalities. Significant changes to provincial legislation. Updates to Environmental Planning and Regulations Policies Manual. User fee review unable to be implemented. Development of Content Management System. Continued accessibility improvements and AODA progress.

2025 goals include: Begin use of Content Management System and updated Policies Manual. Develop landowner recognition program. Begin a “developers guide to permitting” and other outreach initiatives to partners and groups regularly needing EPR services. Approval and application of revised EPR Policies Manual. Regulatory Mapping updates in new floodplain mapping areas.



Campgrounds

2024 accomplishments include: Hazard tree removal. Disc golf and winter camping at Durham CA. Ash tree removal.

2025 goals include: Continued upgrades to properties. Begin accessibility assessment of specific properties.

Forestry

2024 accomplishments include: Forestry management operations at Stoney Island and Proton. Reopened Mildmay/Carrick trails.

2025 goals include: Forestry management plan.



Non-Revenue Parks

2024 accomplishments include: Hazard Ash tree removal, continued trail maintenance and permitted use enforcement.

2025 goals include: Improvements to Sulphur Spring trail system, continued trail maintenance and permitted use enforcement.

Motorpool

2024 accomplishments include: Maintenance and upkeep of SVCA fleet.

2025 goals include: Two new work trucks to replace vehicles that do not pass safety inspection. Purchase of ATV and sale of SVCA snowmobiles.



Capital Water Infrastructure

2024 accomplishments include:

Submission of funding applications for projects under the Water and Erosion Infrastructure Program (WECI). Ongoing maintenance and operation of flood and erosion control projects and ongoing inspections of flood and erosion structures. Maintenance activities such as: tree and vegetation removal, safety signage installation, and minor repairs. New manager onboarded.

WECI Approved Projects for 2024 included:

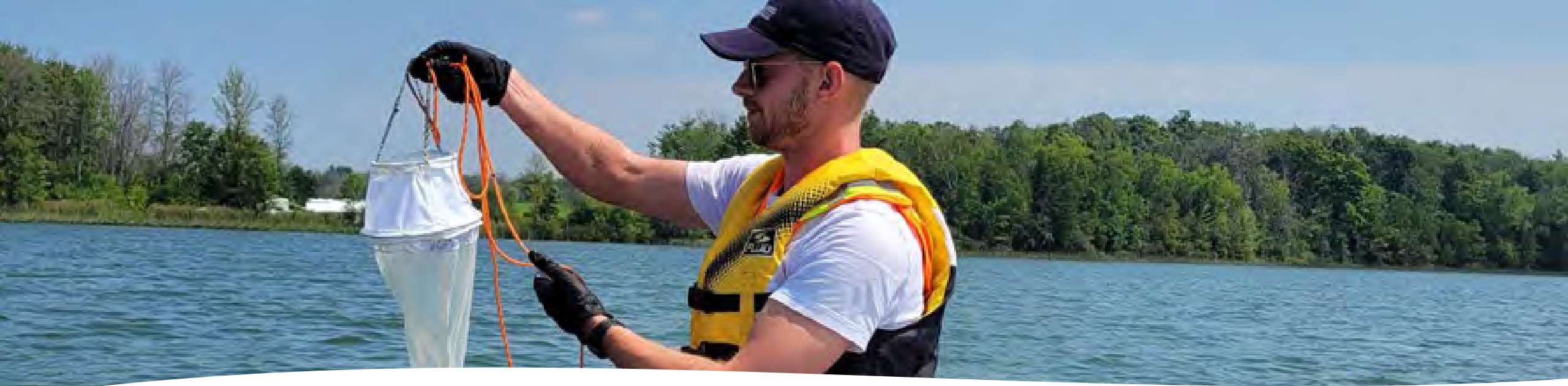
- Paisley Dyke Improvements Phase 1.
- Tree Remediation – Hanover Dam and Walkerton Flood Control Works.
- Public Fencing Improvements – Durham Lower dam, Glenelg Dam, Sulphur Spring Dam, Hanover Dam.
- Public Safety Signage – Neustadt Flood Control Works

2025 goals include:

Continued ongoing maintenance, inspection and operation tasks on flood and erosion control projects

WECI approved projects for 2025 include:

- Public Safety Fencing Phase 1 – Mount Forest Dam
- Safety signage & Fall Arrest System – Mount Forest Dam
- Safety Signage – Hanover Dam, Allen Park Dam, Sulphur Spring Dam
- Paisley Dyke Improvement Phase 2
- Public Risk Assessment & Safety Plan – Hanover Dam
- Class EA Phase 2 – Durham Upper Dam



Water Quality

2024 accomplishments include: Participation in the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network, the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network, and the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network. Participate in Healthy Lake Huron partnership (Ripley station). Release of the Water Quality Report reviewing and analyzing data from 2002 - 2023.

2025 goals include: Continued participation in the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network, the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network and the Healthy Lake Huron partnership. Preparation and release of the 2024 Annual Water Quality Report.



Flood Forecasting and Warning

2024 accomplishments include:

- Monthly maintenance of stream gauge and annual calibration of precipitation gauges. Issuance of flood messages and participation in flood monitoring, low water response, snow survey, and ice monitoring programs. Daily monitoring of weather forecast, watershed conditions, stream response, watershed conditions, etc. Define flood damage centres and thresholds for flooding for improved and targeted flood forecasting. Update stream gauge rating curves. Delivery of flood watch program. Decommission the in-operational Greenock stream gauge station.
- Replacement of equipment at Chesley, Aberdeen, and Ripley stream gauge stations.

2025 goals include:

- Monthly maintenance of stream gauge and annual calibration of precipitation gauges. Issuance of flood messages and participation in flood monitoring, low water response, snow survey, and ice monitoring programs. Daily monitoring of weather forecast, watershed conditions, stream response, watershed conditions, etc. Update and improve daily planning cycle process.
- Evaluate opportunities for the installation of a previously procured weather station.
- Bring Bells Lake Meteorological station back into operation and investigate potential of bringing Hanover Meteorological Station back into operation.
- Continue upgrades to stream gauge rating curves.



2025 Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Budget

Category of Program or Service – Summary	Levy	Self Generated	Reserves	Cost Apportioning	Special Levy	Other
Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services	\$2,785,664	\$1,153,576	\$290,205	\$0	\$250,502	\$253,950
Category 2: Non-mandated program or service delivered to municipality through an agreement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Category 3: Programs and services are cost-apportioned with municipalities	\$0	\$1,298,200	\$449,200	\$111,113	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$2,785,664	\$2,451,776	\$739,405	\$111,113	\$250,502	\$253,950
TOTAL 2025 BUDGET	\$6,592,410					

2025 Budget by Municipality

Municipality	2024 Levy	2025 Levy	Levy \$ Change	Assessment % Change	Levy % Change	2025 Cost Apportioning
Municipality of Arran-Elderslie	\$57,817	\$69,251	\$11,434	2.07%	17.71%	\$2,762
Municipality of Brockton	\$199,326	\$239,920	\$40,594	2.57%	17.80%	\$9,570
Township of Chatsworth	\$68,978	\$81,860	\$12,882	1.13%	17.55%	\$3,265
Municipality of Grey Highlands	\$100,110	\$119,901	\$19,791	2.06%	17.71%	\$4,783
Town of Hanover	\$150,613	\$179,831	\$29,218	1.75%	17.65%	\$7,173
Township of Howick	\$6,216	\$7,356	\$1,140	0.84%	17.49%	\$293
Township of Huron-Kinloss	\$128,710	\$154,952	\$26,242	2.59%	17.80%	\$6,181
Municipality of Kincardine	\$404,192	\$480,746	\$76,554	1.35%	17.59%	\$19,176
Town of Minto	\$63,151	\$77,038	\$13,887	3.95%	18.04%	\$3,073
Municipality of Morris-Turnberry	\$4,425	\$5,201	\$776	0.16%	17.37%	\$207
Town of Saugeen Shores	\$490,290	\$594,050	\$103,760	3.25%	17.91%	\$23,695
Municipality of South Bruce	\$113,252	\$134,147	\$20,895	0.94%	17.51%	\$5,351
Township of Southgate	\$165,185	\$202,843	\$37,658	4.64%	18.16%	\$8,091
Township of Wellington North	\$91,182	\$109,253	\$18,071	2.10%	17.72%	\$4,358
Municipality of West Grey	\$278,353	\$329,317	\$50,964	2.36%	15.94%	\$13,136
TOTAL	\$2,321,800	\$2,785,664	\$463,864	2.12%	17.60%	\$111,114

2025 Corporate Services

Program Area	Provision	Description	Legislation	Category	2024	2025	Agreement
Administration, Finance, HR	Corporate services	Administrative, human resources, employee health and safety, operating and capital costs which are not directly related to the delivery of any specific program or service, but are the overhead and support costs of the CA.	Enabling Service	1	\$880,800	\$886,960	No
	Financial services	Accounting and payroll.	Enabling Service	1			No
	Legal expenses	Costs related to agreements/contracts, administrative by-law updates or other similar legal expenses.	Enabling Service	1			No
	Governance	Supporting CA Board of Directors, Advisory Committees, and the office of the GM/S-T.	Enabling Service	1			No
	Asset management	Asset management planning, facilities, fleet, and property management.	Enabling Service	1			No
Communications	Natural hazards communications, outreach, and education	Promoting public awareness of natural hazards including flooding, drought, and erosion. Inclusive of public events, materials, social media services, and general media relations.	Reg. 686/21 s.1(2) Reg. 686/21 s.1(3)3,4	1	\$127,200	\$137,100	No
	Communications and marketing	General communications and marketing support for the CA.	Enabling Service	1			No
	Education and community events	Public education, community event development, execution, and support.	Reg. 686/21 s.1(2) Reg. 686/21 s.1(3)3,4	1			No
	Public awareness and communications	General communications, marketing and awareness campaigns for non-mandatory programs and services (support for private forestry/planting, education, stewardship).	CAA s.21(1)(q)	3	\$7,100	\$7,100	Yes
GIS/IT/IM	Information technology & management / GIS	Data management, records retention. Development and use of systems to collect and store data and to provide geospatial representations of data.	Reg. 686/21 s.1(3)	1	\$199,800	\$195,800	No
	Natural hazards technical Studies and information management	Data collection and study of designs to mitigate natural hazards. Development and use of systems to collect and store data and to provide geospatial representations of data.	Reg. 686/21 s.5(1)1 Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)2	1			No
				TOTAL	\$1,214,900	\$1,226,960	

Category of Program or Service – Corporate Services	2025 Levy Cost
Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services	\$1,049,860
Category 2: Non-mandated program or service delivered to municipality as requested through an agreement or Memorandum of Understanding	\$0
Category 3: Programs and services that are either not receiving any municipal funding or services that are cost-apportioned with municipalities – other than Category 1 or 2 services	\$7,100
TOTAL	\$1,056,960

2025 Environmental Planning and Regulations Budget

Program Area	Provision	Description	Legislation	Category	2024	2025	Agreement
Environmental Planning	Section 28.1 - permit administration and compliance activities	Reviewing and processing permit applications, associated technical reports, conducting site inspections, communication with applicants, agents, and consultants. Investigation and enforcement of regulatory compliance.	Reg. 686/21 s.8	1	\$1,190,350	\$1,193,850	No
	Review under other legislation	Input to the review and approval processes under other applicable law, with comments principally related to natural hazards, wetlands, watercourses, and Section 28 permit requirements.	Reg. 686/21 s.6	1			No
	Municipal plan input and review	Technical information and advice to municipalities on circulated municipal land use planning applications (Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments, Subdivisions, Condominium, Site Plan Approvals, Consents, Minor Variances, etc.) and input to municipal land-use planning documents (OP, Comprehensive ZB, Secondary plans) related to natural hazards, on behalf of MNMNR.	Reg. 686/21 s.7	1			No
	Technical studies and policy review	Studies and projects to inform natural hazards management programs including floodplain management, watershed hydrology, regulations areas mapping update, flood forecasting system assessment, floodplain policy, and Lake Huron shoreline management.	Reg. 686/21 s.1	1			No
TOTAL					\$1,190,350	\$1,193,850	

Category of Program or Service – Environmental Planning & Regulations	2025 Levy Cost
Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services	\$458,174
Category 2: Non-mandated program or service delivered to municipality as requested through an agreement or Memorandum of Understanding	\$0
Category 3: Programs and services that are either not receiving any municipal funding or services that are cost-apportioned with municipalities – other than Category 1 or 2 services	\$0
TOTAL	\$458,174

2025 Forestry and Lands Budget

Program Area	Provision	Description	Legislation	Category	2024	2025	Agreement
Conservation Lands	Strategy for CA owned or controlled lands and management plans	Guiding principles, objectives, including for an authority’s land acquisition and disposition strategy, land use categories on conservation authority owned land, recommended management principles for different land categories.	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)1	1	\$43,500	\$43,500	No
	Development and maintenance of a land inventory	Development and maintenance of an inventory of every parcel of land that the Authority owns or controls including, location, surveys, site plans, maps, acquisition date, and how the parcel was acquired.	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)3	1	\$43,500	\$43,500	No
	Section 29 Minister’s regulation for CAs	Conservation areas enforcement and compliance.	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)4	1	\$564,925	\$717,500	No
	Management, operation, and maintenance of CA owned lands	Management and maintenance of CA owned lands including stewardship, restoration, and ecological monitoring.	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)2	1			No
	Passive recreation use, infrastructure and management planning	Management and maintenance of CA owned recreational assets including trails, parking, washroom facilities, pavilions, and other capital assets.	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)1	1			No
	Land acquisition and disposition policy	The development of one or more policies governing land acquisitions and land dispositions.	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)1	1			No
	Forestry – hazard tree and biodiversity management	Management of hazard/diseased trees and the management of biodiversity and invasive species on CA owned lands.	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)2	1			No
	Campgrounds on CA owned land	Management, operation, and maintenance of campgrounds on CA owned land.	CAA s. 21(1)(m)	3	\$979,600	\$1,429,400	No
	Land acquisition and disposition	Acquisition and management of lands containing important natural heritage features or strategically aligned with existing CA land holdings. Disposition of lands considered surplus to the vision, mandate, and strategic goals of the CA.	CAA s.21(1)(c)	3	Variable	Variable	Yes
	Land lease and agreement management	Management of current and future land leases and property agreements. These leases and agreements help drive land-based revenues to offset the costs associated with management and maintenance of CA land holdings.	CAA s.21(1)(c) & (d)	3	\$25,100	\$30,000	No
Forestry	Forestry – forest management operations on CA owned lands	Forestry services, planting and/or woodlot management on CA owned land.	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)2	1	\$313,600	\$282,250	No
	Forestry – for private landowners	Forestry services and/or woodlot management for private landowners. Reforestation, tree sales, management planning, MFTIP, advice, tree marking.	CAA s.21(1)(g) & (o)	3	\$215,000	\$288,000	No
Stewardship	Watershed stewardship and restoration	Apply for and manage external funding, promote private land stewardship, outreach, provide advice and design assistance to property owners.	CAA s.21(1)(g) & (o)	3	\$0	\$0	Yes
Fleet	Fleet	Management and maintenance of CA fleet.	Enabling service	1	\$431,500	\$242,600	No
				TOTAL	\$2,616,725	\$3,076,750	

Category of Program or Service – Forestry and Lands	2025 Levy Cost
Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services	\$847,550
Category 2: Non-mandated program or service delivered to municipality as requested through an agreement or Memorandum of Understanding	\$0
Category 3: Programs and services that are either not receiving any municipal funding or services that are cost-apportioned with municipalities – other than Category 1 or 2 services	\$0
TOTAL	\$847,550

2025 Water Resources Budget

Program Area	Provision	Description	Legislation	Category	2024	2025	Agreement
Core Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy	Develop and implement a strategy for the CA	Collate/compile existing resource management plans, watershed plans, studies, and data. Strategy development. Implementation and reporting.	Reg. 686/21 s.8, Reg. 686/21 s.12(1)3, Reg. 686/21 s.12(4)	1	TBD	TBD	No
Water Management	Ice management plan	Determine how ice within the jurisdiction may increase the risk of natural hazards. Outline risk mitigation. Develop and implement plan.	Reg. 686/21 s. 4	1	TBD	TBD	No
	Water and erosion infrastructure asset management plan	Develop and implementation of plan. Annual reporting.	Reg. 686/21 s.5	1	TBD	TBD	No
	Flood forecasting and warning	Daily data collection and monitoring of weather forecasts, provincial & local water level forecasts and watershed conditions; including flood event forecasting. Flood warning and communications. Maintenance of equipment.	Reg. 686/21 s.2	1	\$276,050	\$273,800	No
	Low water response	Conditions monitoring/analysis. Technical & administrative support to the Water Response Team.	Reg. 686/21 s.3	1	\$767,400	\$737,950	No
	Water and erosion infrastructure operational plan	Develop and implementation of plan. Annual reporting.	Reg. 686/21 s.5	1			No
	Flood and erosion control infrastructure	Maintenance and inspection on flood and erosion control structures, as required. Including projects dependent on Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) funding from the province and from municipal partners.	Reg. 686/21 s.5	1			No
	Technical studies and policy review	Studies and projects to inform natural hazards management programs including floodplain management, watershed hydrology, regulations areas mapping update, flood forecasting system assessment, floodplain policy, and Lake Huron shoreline management.	Reg. 686/21 s.1	1			No
	Category 2 programs and services	Programs and services provided by a CA on behalf of a municipality.	Reg. 687/21	2	\$27,790	\$30,000	Yes
Drinking Water Source Protection	Source protection authority role as set out in the <i>Clean Water Act</i>	Source Protection Area and Region liaison, technical support, support to the source protection committee, preparation of reports and attendance at meetings, activities required by the <i>Clean Water Act, 2006</i> and its regulations.	Reg. 686/21 s.13	1	\$6,450	\$6,450	No
Watershed Monitoring	Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN)	50+ year CA/MECP partnership for stream water quality monitoring. CA takes water samples; MECP does lab analysis and data management.	Reg. 686/21 s.12(1)2, Reg. 686/21 s.12(3)	1	\$30,240	\$25,587	No
	Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN)	20+ year CA/MECP partnership for groundwater level and quality monitoring. CA maintains equipment, data transfer to MECP, water sampling; MECP provides equipment, standards, data management.	Reg. 686/21 s.12(1)1 Reg. 686/21 s.12(2)	1			No
	SVCA Water Quality Monitoring Network – chemistry	Surface water quality sampling and reporting over 15 sites.	CAA s.21(1)(a)	3	\$93,310	\$104,013	Yes
	SVCA Water Quality Monitoring Network - benthic	Benthic collection and reporting at 20 sites. 20+ year CA/MECP partnership in the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network.	CAA s.21(1)(a)	3			Yes
	Conservation Ontario Watershed Report Cards	A plain language, data driven reporting document released every 5 years describing watershed conditions in a CA.	CAA s.21(1)(a)	3			Yes
TOTAL					\$1,201,240	\$1,177,800	

Category of Program or Service – Water Resources	2025 Levy Cost
Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services	\$430,080
Category 2: Non-mandated program or service delivered to municipality as requested through an agreement or Memorandum of Understanding	\$0
Category 3: Programs and services that are either not receiving any municipal funding or services that are cost-apportioned with municipalities – other than Category 1 or 2 services	\$0
TOTAL	\$430,080

Report #EPR-2024-23

Report to: Chair and Directors, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
From: Darren Kenny, Regulations Coordinator (Acting)
Date: November 21, 2024
Subject: Status of Active Violations
Purpose: To provide an update on the status of violations under Ontario Regulation 169/06, as amended and Ontario Regulation 41/24.

Background

By Board Motion #G21-84, staff are directed to provide updates to the Board on the number of active violation files.

Analysis

SVCA staff are presently managing 68 active violation files and have rated them in accordance with the categories in the table below. Statistics from the previous reporting period (April 2024) are included for comparison:

Violation Rating and Description	Nov 2024	Apr 2024
(1) Trivial activities not worth pursuing beyond initial contact to educate. e.g., inconsequential site alteration; certain types of vegetation removal, etc.	1	2
(2) Activities unlikely to cause significant damage affecting the tests of the Regulation, the health and safety of persons, or property. e.g., development or alteration activities that usually comply with the EPR Policies Manual.	36	35
(3) Activities likely to cause significant damage affecting the tests of the Regulation, the health and safety of persons, or property. e.g., development or alteration activities that usually do not comply with the EPR Policies Manual without a favourable outcome from a technical report.	31	22
(4) Activities very likely to cause imminent and significant damage affecting the tests of the Regulation, the health and safety of persons, or property.	0	0

Violation Rating and Description	Nov 2024	Apr 2024
e.g., development or alteration activities that do not comply with the EPR Policies Manual, are not likely to be supported by a technical report and require immediate corrective action.		
TOTAL	68	59

Discussion

Staff are managing nine more violation files now compared with April 2024.

Staff continue to resolve violations through compliance approvals and site remediation where possible.

Two violation files are presently in Provincial Offences Court. A decision has been rendered on one of these files in the SVCA's favour, but remediation by the landowner is still pending.

Strategic Plan Linkages

A1.6 – Accessibility

E1.5 – Liability Assessment and Action

C1.8 – Violations Decrease

Prepared by:

[Original Signed by:]

Darren Kenny

Regulations Coordinator (Acting)

Approved by:

[Original Signed by:]

Matt Armstrong

Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations (Acting)

Approved by:

[Original Signed by:]

Erik Downing

General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

Report #EPR-2024-24

Report To: Chair and Directors, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
From: Matt Armstrong, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations (Acting)
Date: November 21, 2024
Subject: Request for Endorsement: Permits Issued
Purpose: To seek endorsement for permits issued pursuant to Ontario Regulation 169/06, as amended, and Section 28.1 (1) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Recommendation

THAT SVCA permit applications 24-010, 24-075, 24-237 to 24-255, and 24-257 to 24-262 as approved by staff, be endorsed.

Background

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) staff issue permits in accordance with SVCA policies and then present them to the Board for endorsement at each Authority meeting.

The list below includes the 27 permits issued between October 1, 2024, and November 5, 2024.

Permit	Location	Address	Proposed Works
24-262	Huron	30 Bell Drive, PLAN 2A LOT 8 S PT LOT 9 RAGLAN W/S RP 3R3308 PART 13 CL 3536	Completion of maintenance dredging of the mouth of the Pine River from Lake Huron (in an area of approximately 30 feet wide by 100 feet long, no deeper than four (4) feet and the temporary placement of spoil on the existing driveway for dewatering.
24-261	Huron	529 Lighthouse Road, HURON CL 3595 PT BED LAKE HURON IN FRONT OF CON A PT LOTS 7 AND 8 LO 9996	Completion of maintenance dredging of the Point Clark Marina from Lake Huron and the temporary placement of spoil adjacent to the existing breakwater for dewatering.
24-260	Hanover	819-18th Street, Lot 70 Plan 16M95	Installation of a wood fence, and a chain link fence.

Permit	Location	Address	Proposed Works
24-259	Durham	Multiple locations - Park St. West from east of 511 to 300; 174 Elizabeth St. W to 192 Elizabeth St. E; 378-497 Garafraxa St. S; Park St. E; Elm St. E; 482 Albert St. S to Elm St. E.	Installation of fibre optic cable by horizontal directional drill and plow as part of Durham Phase 4 and related excavation, filling, and grading.
24-258	Walkerton	77 Griffith Street, Lot H Lot I Pt Lot G and K, Plan 88	To construct a 20-foot by 16-foot three-season room; construct a 40-foot by 16-foot in-ground fibre glass pool, with an at-grade paver-style patio; construct a 16-foot by 16-foot pergola; and replace a wooden retaining wall with an armour stone retaining wall, with related excavation, filling and grading.
24-257	Bruce	95C John Street, Plan 372 Pt Lot 18; Inverhuron	To decommission an existing septic system and install a new septic system, with related excavation, filling and grading.
24-255	Southampton	302 Albert Street South Lot 45, Plan M61	To construct a two-storey addition (515 square foot footprint) with crawl space, and a 48 square foot deck, with related excavation, filling and grading
24-254	Durham	Riverside Park, 196 Queen St., Part Lot 11 & 12 Plan 500	Construction of a 375 square foot open-walled pavilion.
24-253	Egremont	183520 Grey Road 9, Lot 2 Concession 15	Construction of a 150-foot (east-west) by 80-foot (north-south) barn, with related excavation, filling, and grading, all within the adjacent lands to wetlands/swamps.
24-252	Turnberry	Multiple Locations - Huron-Bruce Rd, County Rd 4, Gilmour Line	Alteration of a watercourse and works within floodplain and adjacent to wetland consisting of the installation of fibre optic cable by directional drill and plow, with related excavation, filling and grading (Universal Broadband Fund Project 00297).

Permit	Location	Address	Proposed Works
24-251	Culross	1112 Concession 10, Part Lot 17, Con 11	The construction of a dwelling with related excavation, filling and grading and alterations to a gravel driveway including re-grading and the installation of two, 12-inch diameter balancing culverts.
24-250	Kincardine Township	31 Red Cedar Drive North, Pt Lot 53, Con A, RP 3R7154 Parts 1 & 2	To dredge a 50-metre long, by 12-metre wide, by 2-metre-deep channel, with related excavation.
24-249	Normanby	Multiple Locations – See Schedule 1 in Permit	For the alteration of a watercourse and works within/adjacent to wetland consisting of the installation of fibre-optic cable by horizontal directional drill and plow, with related excavation and grading.
24-248	Kincardine Township	2559 Bruce Road 15, and No Civic Address; Pt Lot 6, Con 12, and Pt Lot 7, Con 12	To complete an approximately 809-metre-long vegetation-only watercourse cleanout.
24-247	Southampton	480 Eckford Avenue, Lots 25 and 26, Plan 318	to construct a single detached dwelling (footprint of 3,264 square feet, including attached double garage) with basement, attached deck (704 square feet), and to relocate an existing cottage (footprint 780 square feet) with crawl space and attached deck (300 square feet), including related excavation, filling and grading.
24-246	Artemesia	280399 Road 190, Lot 189, Pt Lot 190, Con 1 NETSR	to install systematic tile drainage (catchment area of 152,125 square metres), and 12" drain outlet with temporary rock flow check dam and sediment trap, with related excavation, filling and grading.
24-245	Saugeen	40 Miramichi Bay Road, Part Lot 52, Lake Range	To demolish the existing dwelling and construct a new 3600 square foot dwelling and septic system, with related excavation, filling and grading.

Permit	Location	Address	Proposed Works
24-244	Artemesia	257 Saugeen Street, Lot 10, Plan 816	For the demolition of the existing mobile home and construction of a new 1400 square foot dwelling, with related excavation, filling and grading.
24-243	Egremont	Multiple locations along Southgate Sideroad 49 between Grey Road 9 and Southgate Road 8	For the replacement of 8 culverts along Southgate Sideroad 49 between Grey Road 9 and Southgate Road 8, and the removal and installation of a new culvert in the intersection of Southgate Sideroad 49 and Southgate Road 10 with related excavation, filling and grading.
24-242	Greenock	Watercourse within Sideroad 20 Road Allowance between Con Rd 10 and Con Rd 6	To remove accumulated sediment and vegetation debris from the bed of a watercourse, with related excavation, filling and grading.
24-241	Proton	Multiple Locations - See Schedule 1 in permit	For the alteration of watercourses and works adjacent to wetland consisting of the installation of fibre-optic cable by horizontal directional drill and plow with related excavation and grading.
24-240	Egremont	044493 Southgate Road 04, Lot 22 Concession 6	Construction of a covered manure storage yard, and related excavation, filling, and, grading.
24-239	Durham	Bruce St. N. from 266 to Lambton St.; Saddler St. W.; Bruce St. S. from 250 to Saddler St. W.; George St. W. from College St. N. to Bruce St. N.; Lambton St. W. from 585 to Bruce St. N.; 168-242 College St. N.	Installation of fibre optic cable by horizontal directional drill and plow as part of Durham Phase 2 and related excavation, filling, and grading.
24-238	Huron	305 Hunt Club Drive, CON A PT LOT 12 PLAN 3M-127; LOT 21	Construction of a new detached 113 square metre (1216 sq. ft.) garage.

Permit	Location	Address	Proposed Works
24-237	Euphrasia	685391 Sideroad 19, Pt Lot 19, Con 10	To expand an existing driveway entrance with the placement of 50 cubic metres of gravel fill, and install a 450mm diameter HDPE culvert 15.0m in length, with related excavation, filling and grading
24-075	Carrick	1405 Highway 9, Pt. Lot 10, Con 12	Alteration of a watercourse consisting of the installation of fibre-optic cable by directional bore (Project 367-1-SO6-W-A1)
24-010	Proton	Unassigned Civic Address, Southgate Road 10, Part Lot 5 Concession 6	Construction of a driveway through wetlands and/or floodplain of the South Saugeen River, and related excavation, filling, and grading.

Strategic Plan Linkages

A1.6 – Accessibility;

E1.7 – Expertise;

R1.3 – Resiliency;

R1.8 – Resiliency;

Prepared by:

[Original Signed by:]

Matt Armstrong, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations (Acting)

Approved by:

[Original Signed by:]

Erik Downing, General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

Report COR-2024-25

Report To: Chair and Directors, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
From: Erik Downing, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Date: November 21, 2024
Subject: 2025 Fee Schedules
Purpose: To Approve 2025 Schedule A Fee Schedule

Recommendation

THAT the Board of Directors of Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority approve the approve the following fee schedule to take effect on January 1, 2025:

- Schedule A – Environmental Planning and Permitting Services

Background

Section 21.2 of the *Act* sets out that every conservation authority shall prepare fee schedules with respect to the fees that it charges for the programs and services it provides. All conservation authorities are required to have fee schedules approved by their Board of Directors and posted on their website.

Analysis

There are four fee schedules (Corporate Services, Forestry Services, Environmental Planning and Permitting, and Camping and Lands). All Fee Schedules except Environmental Planning and Regulations (EPR) were approved by the Board of Directors. These fees are reviewed annually. Schedule A has been frozen by the province for 2023 and 2024. This freeze is anticipated to continue through 2025. Staff have indicated the proposed fees for Board consideration in the event the freeze does not continue.

The SVCA has completed a fee review (Watsons and Associates, economists) indicating current review fees are not achieving cost recovery. In this department though the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has not allowed fees to be changed since January 1, 2023, at any conservation authority associated with planning or permitting. Cost of living increases, or any increases or decreases are not permitted in these fees until directed by the Minister. The drafted fee schedule indicates the frozen fees if deemed necessary, as well as 50% of the Economists 2023 increase recommendations (COLA corrected for 2025) which would be utilized if the freeze is lifted. This 50% increase relative to the economist recommendation was approved by the SVCA Board associated with the 2024 budget, but not realized due to the fee freeze from MNR.

Financial Implications

SVCA's EPR Fee Schedule outlines user fees. User fees are key to the continued viability of SVCA, reducing reliance on municipal levy contributions, and offsetting lost revenue from province in recent years. The SVCA's draft 2025 budget has not assumed fees will be allowed to be increased. In the event that fees are allowed to be increased additional revenues will be realized by the EPR dept. for 2025 and into the future. As identified by the economists review fees more closely reflecting cost recovery reduces levy needs of EPR at the SVCA, supports timely reviews, and increase resources for EPR to ultimately improve service to the watershed.

Strategic Plan Linkages

A1.6 - Access

R1.1 – Resiliency

Prepared by:

[Original Signed By]

Adam Chalmers, Manager of Corporate Services

Approved by:

[Original Signed By]

Erik Downing, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer



2025 Proposed Fee Schedule

Schedule A – Planning and Regulations Fees

Planning and Regulations (HST not applicable)	2024 \$ Rates	2025 \$ Rates
Permit Application		
Minor Works	493	550
Standard Works	850	1110
Major Works	2,000	2490
Complex Works	4007	4980
Other Works		
Accessory Building	280	315
Secondary Building or Structure	280	315
Exempt Works	No permit or fee required	No permit or fee required
Other permit related fees		
Permit renewals (one year extension) and amendments	130	215
Municipal Projects (including Counties)	Regular applicable fee	Regular applicable fee
Works commenced without permission (violation)	2 times applicable fee	2 times applicable fee
Property clearance fee	160	225
Rush property clearance fee	275	390
Stormwater Management Plan Review Fee per lot or large block (surcharge)	135	145
Specific Property Inquiry (fees apply to all consultant requests for information)		
Verbal general response	No fee	No fee
File initiation and specific response	116	140

Planning and Regulations (HST not applicable)	2024 \$ Rates	2025 \$ Rates
Letter specific response	280	335
Letter specific response and site inspection	493	550
Large development area proposal (greater than 1 ha)	920	1100
Verification of hazard boundary (including request by CBO)	Same fee as property inquiries	Same fee as property inquiries
Municipal and county inquiries	Same fee as property inquiries	Same fee as property inquiries
Aggregate proposal	4,678	5335
Environmental Assessment Review		
Class A (Minor)	440	740
Class B (Major)	795	1490
Class C		2450
New Municipal Drain Review		
New Municipal Drain Review	920	1345
Maintenance Review (no site review)	280	310
Maintenance Review (site review required)	493	565
Engineering Report Review		
Geotechnical, Coastal Study, Environmental Impact Study, or Floodplain Analysis, per report when not accompanied by a planning application or a Complex Application review fee.	594	780
Other Projects		
Commercial Renewable Energy Project	2 times applicable permit application review fee	2 times applicable permit application review fee
Conservation project (intended to protect or enhance the natural environment and is proposed by a recognized conservation or environmental organization)	One-half of applicable permit application review fee	One-half of applicable permit application review fee
Floodplain Mapping Review Fee	SVCA engineering consultant fee plus 20%	SVCA engineering consultant fee plus 20%
Professional Services or Expert Witness Fee	Rate per hour = Payroll costs x 2 (plus disbursements)	Rate per hour = Payroll costs x 2 (plus disbursements)
Planning Fees		
Zoning By-Law Amendment	181	575

Planning and Regulations (HST not applicable)	2024 \$ Rates	2025 \$ Rates
Official Plan Amendment	196	580
Severances	269	615
Minor Variance	198	325
Subdivision/Condominium within a Regulated area	1758	2655
Subdivision/Condominium outside a Regulated area	1758	2400
Plan Review Fee/ lot or large block (Multi Lot Development)	139	145
Site Plans		
Site Plan – Single Lot Residential/Minor Non-Residential	211	590
Site Plan – Single Lot Residential/Major Non-Residential	211	1775
Technical Reviews		
Scoped Site	205	585
Full Site	205	940
Pre-consultation Fee		
Pre-consultation	118	190
Map and Air Photo Products		
Photocopies maps/air photos	18	35
Emailed Air Photos & Other Map Products	41	40
Bulk Orders for Air Photos, Photo base, Maps, Related Map Products, Large Format Copies	1-9 items - standard fee (no reduction) over 9 items - standard fee reduced by 10%	1-9 items - standard fee (no reduction) over 9 items - standard fee reduced by 10%

Report #WR-2024-10

Report To: Chair and Directors, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
From: Katie Thomas, Manager of Water Resources
Date: November 21st, 2024
Subject: Durham Upper Dam Next Steps
Purpose: To acquire authorization from the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) Board of Directors to cease ice operations at the Durham Upper Dam and to continue the Class Environmental Assessment process.

Recommendation

THAT the SVCA Board of Directors approve the cessation of winter operations at the Durham Upper Dam, as recommended based on ongoing engineering reports, with a provision for annual re-evaluation; and further

THAT staff proceed with Phase 2 of a Class Environmental Assessment for the Durham Upper Dam, pending Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) funding; and further

THAT the Municipality of West Grey be deemed the benefiting municipality, contributing 100% of the project costs not covered by grant funding.

Background

Since 1977, the stoplogs and flashboards at Durham Upper Dam have been removed each fall and reinstalled after the spring freshet. In 1997, a severe frazil ice buildup below the Durham Lower Dam led to extensive flooding, prompting a study into frazil ice management options. In October 2006, the Municipality of West Grey voted to manage frazil ice by storing it at the Durham Dams and operating dams in a way that reduces frazil ice creation. However, in December 2006, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) declined approval, citing that the dam was not designed for ice control and lacked supporting studies.

In March 2008, the south embankment and the north-side park of Durham Upper Dam sustained damage due to reduced capacity due to frazil ice operating practice, which was temporarily repaired. A letter from MNR in February 2009 directed Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) to adhere to the historical operating plan until Hatch's recommendations were implemented and an updated operating plan was approved.

Despite no directive to alter operations, SVCA and West Grey deemed winter frazil ice operations necessary and continued them in July 2013. By October of that year, West Grey Council resolved to abandon the structural assessment and emergency spillway projects, opting

to continue frazil ice operation methodology at the dam. In May 2015, SVCA staff observed that operational changes were impacting the concrete structure.

In 2021, engineering assessments by BM Ross identified that the metal walkway at Durham Upper Dam was not designed to withstand the lateral stress from high flows, ice buildup, and extreme runoff events, which placed undue stress on the steel joists. They also noted significant deterioration in the concrete, particularly in the wingwalls and piers, which required urgent repair.

Subsequent inspections reinforced these concerns. A September 2022 report by DM Wills highlighted poor conditions, seepage, and erosion, recommending full rehabilitation. By June 2024, further concrete deterioration, delamination, and severe spalling led to a considerable increase in the estimated rehabilitation costs.

Through Motion #G24-89 (amended) the SVCA Board of Directors directed staff to address all operator and public safety recommendations, as detailed in the June 7, 2024, D.M. Wills letter, titled Durham Upper Dam, Operator and Public Safety Review. The SVCA Board of Directors supported fulsome public consultation through an EA process as it relates to operations at, and future of the Durham Upper Dam, and directed that their decision regarding winter operation be deferred to a future meeting.

Current Status

Operator and Public Safety Recommendations

Action was taken on addressing operator and public safety recommendations as follows:

Operator Safety:

- Wearing Transport Canada approved PFDs
 - Adopted by operations
- Use an engineered anchor point when using fall arrest
 - Awaiting decision on winter configuration before action is taken
- Development of a rescue plan
 - Awaiting decision on winter configuration before action is taken
- Do not complete work on unsupported ice (confirm thickness) and only enter water when depths and velocities are safe
 - Adopted by operations
- Establish procedures to determine when it is safe to work if ice is present (due to deformation of the bridge)
 - Awaiting decision on winter configuration before action is taken
- Complete structural evaluation of the walkway
 - No action taken yet
- Develop OMS manual to expand on Ice Operating Plan
 - Awaiting decision on winter configuration before action is taken
- Consider modifying dam operating procedures
 - Awaiting decision on winter configuration before action is taken

Public Safety:

- Moving the swimming area at least 25 m away from the dam
 - To be implemented for 2025 swimming season
- No swimming outside of delineated area
 - To be implemented for 2025 swimming season
- SVCA staff to check velocities at the beach
 - Completed by Water Resources staff in 2024
- Install a public safety boom
 - Initial conversations with DM Wills regarding design for a safety boom. Estimated cost of \$5,000.00 for design.
- Close steel walkway to the public when there is ice pressure
 - Will be implemented 2024/2025 by operations when ice is present.

Winter Configuration

Without board direction to change operations, SVCA staff moved forward with winter configuration at the Durham Upper, Middle and Lower Dams in mid-October as per their regular schedule.

Class Environmental Assessment

Funding for Phase 2 of the Class EA was unsupported by West Grey for 2024. WECl funding for Phase 2 of the Class EA was approved for 2025 pending confirmation of matched funding from West Grey.

Financial Implications

Winter Configuration:

Staff Requirement: Staff time allocated to remove flashboards.

Operator and Public Safety Recommendations:

Safety Boom Design: \$5,000 estimated for the design of a safety boom to enhance operator and public safety.

Phase 2 of Class Environmental Assessment (EA):

Total Cost: \$50,000

Cost Allocation for West Grey: \$25,000

Prepared by:

[Original signed by:]

Katie Thomas, Water Resources Manager

Approved by:

[Original signed by:]

Erik Downing, General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

Durham Upper Dam – Next Steps

Katie Thomas, Ph.D.
Water Resources Manager
Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

November 21st, 2024





Presentation Summary – July 18th, 2024

- Continued operation of dam for frazil ice control despite clear direction from MNR
- Concrete deterioration significant and continuing to rapidly decline
- Operator and public safety issues, worsened by ice operations
- Damage to southern embankment with continued seepage
- Funding for EA unsupported by WG for 2024
- Recommendation for discussion: cease ice operations and leave dam open; continue EA process



Motion – July 18th, 2024

Motion #G24-89 (amended)

THAT *the Board of Directors directs staff to address all operator and public safety recommendations, as detailed in the June 7, 2024, D.M. Wills letter, titled Durham Upper Dam, Operator and Public Safety Review; and further*

THAT *the Board of Directors support fulsome public consultation through an EA process as it relates to operations at, and future of the Durham Upper Dam, and*

THAT *the decision regarding winter operation be deferred to a future meeting.*

Historical Condition Summary – pt 1



Date

Description

- October 2006
 - December 2006
 - November 2008
 - February 2009
 - May/June 2021
- West Grey in favour of operating Durham dams to store frazil ice
 - MNR letter says no analysis was undertaken to determine if the dam can withstand ice loading; recommend safer, more reliable options
 - MNR will not approve the change in operation as the dam was not designed for ice control and studies have not been done to confirm it is capable
 - Letter from MNR - "SVCA are **directed** to follow the historic operating plan until Hatches recommendations are acted upon and a revised operating plan is approved"
 - BM Ross – "the metal walkway was not designed to withstand the configuration of the dam uprights and flash boards that transfer the lateral pressure and stress during high flows, ice build-up, and extreme runoff events directly to the steel joist of the walkway"

Historical Condition Summary – pt 2

Date	Description
• May 2021	• BM Ross inspection report noted condition worse than 2015, walkway has deflected sideways under the pressure of the brace posts, structure of walkway not designed for such lateral loads and system is not recommended
• June 2021	• BM Ross reported excessive and continued deterioration of the concrete that need repair with the wingwalls and piers in biggest need, recommendation to install H-beam by fall
• June 2024	• Continued concrete deterioration, additional delamination, severe spalling noted in inspection report; significant increase to rehabilitation estimate



Recommendation

THAT *the Board approve the cessation of winter operations at the Durham Upper Dam, as recommended based on ongoing engineering reports, with a provision for annual re-evaluation; and further*

THAT *staff proceed with Phase 2 of a Class Environmental Assessment for the Durham Upper Dam, pending Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) funding;*

AND FURTHER THAT *the Municipality of West Grey be deemed the benefiting municipality, contributing 100% of the project costs not covered by grant funding.*



Report #NWMO-2024-01

Report To: Chair and Directors, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
From: Brandi Walter, Coordinator, NWMO Special Project
Date: November 21, 2024
Subject: Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA)/Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) Special Project – Environmental Media Baseline Program (EMBP) Update
Purpose: To provide an update on SVCA’s special project with NWMO.

Recommendation

THAT the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive the NWMO-SVCA Environmental Media Baseline Program update for information.

Background

From September 2021 to September 2024, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) staff conducted surface water and hydrology data collection for NWMO’s EMBP within the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON)-South Bruce area. The EMBP program supports NWMO’S investigation into the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. Data collected from the EMBP will inform NWMO’S site selection process for the proposed Deep Geological Repository (DGR). NWMO is conducting a similar program in the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON)-Ignace area. On December 30, 2023, SVCA entered its third Service Level Agreement (SLA) with NWMO [for the final phase of the project] effective to December 31, 2024. This SLA includes the Scope of Work and deliverables to be completed by SVCA over the course of the 12-month agreement.

Update

To date, SVCA staff have completed all field work required for data collection, and on November 1, 2024, SVCA submitted our (Year 3) EMBP report to NWMO. This annual report was submitted on schedule and includes a summary of data collection results and analysis. Remaining deliverables include several data transfers, two remaining monthly reports, equipment decommissioning, and final invoicing. Cost forecasting indicates that the SVCA – NWMO special project is operating within budget.

Program Results

The EMBP program is mutually beneficial for both the SVCA and NWMO. While the program is designed to inform NWMO’s DGR selection process, SVCA has access to additional expertise and data collected through the program. The surface water and hydrology data will be available to inform future SVCA environmental initiatives.

Strategic Plan Linkages:

C1.0 Cultivating strong relationships, increased collaboration

R1.1 Revenue Generation Planning and Action

E1.8 Access to Technical Expertise and Professionals

Prepared by:

[Original Signed By]

Brandi Walter, Special Projects Coordinator

Approved by:

[Original Signed By]

Erik Downing, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer