



For immediate release

Overwhelming majority of NVCA Board Members support continuation of conservation authority

UTOPIA, Ontario, Oct. 9, 2009 –Board members of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) voted today to support the continuation of the NVCA.

Of the 20 members present, 19 members voted in favour of the motion moved by Mayor Cal Patterson of Wasaga Beach and seconded by Mayor Chris Carrier of Collingwood. Only one member voted no because of a concern over procedure, not because of a lack of support for the NVCA.

The motion was brought forward to communicate to the watershed public that a motion for dissolving the NVCA, originally tabled at a council meeting of the Township of Essa, is not widely supported. Board members cited the need to send a clear message of support to potential land donors, community partners, and users of NVCA services.

“We had a thorough discussion on alternatives to conservation authorities with a representative from the Ministry of Natural Resources today. At the end of the discussion, we came full circle and realized that the best way to meet our municipal obligations to deliver environmental protection on a watershed basis is through a conservation authority,” says Walter Benotto, NVCA Chair.

All NVCA policies, including the fee schedule, annual budget and business plan, are set by the Board of Directors, comprised of 26 members representing 18 municipalities. Budgetary policies are reviewed annually.

The NVCA Board of Directors also unanimously passed a motion to support in principle the draft *NVCA-Municipal Streamlining Partnership Agreement for Plan Review and Technical Clearance & Fee Collection*. Staff was directed to circulate the draft agreement to the NVCA’s 18 member municipalities for their consideration.

The report will outline what the NVCA and local municipalities are responsible for in regards to plan input and review to help avoid duplicated processes and identify opportunities to work together in the event that overlap or information gaps exist.

Finally, the Board passed a motion to direct staff to bring back a report on the cost and benefits of a third party review of NVCA planning services.

“We are encouraged by the strong support we received from our board members today,” says Wayne Wilson, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer. “We hope that any future concerns raised by members or municipalities would come before the board for full review and consideration to ensure the protection of the environment for our watershed municipalities.”

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Member Municipalities

Adjala-Tosorontio

Amaranth

Barrie

The Blue Mountains

Bradford-West Gwillimbury

Clearview

Collingwood

Essa

Innisfil

Melancthon

Mono

Mulmur

New Tecumseth

Oro-Medonte

Grey Highlands

Shelburne

Springwater

Wasaga Beach

Watershed Counties

Simcoe

Dufferin

Grey

Member of



Conservation ONTARIO
Natural Champions

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NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY • Centre for Conservation

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About the NVCA

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is a public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment through specialized programs to protect, conserve and enhance our water, wetlands, forests and lands.

For more information or to conduct an interview, please contact:

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