

Members Present:

Reg Cowan, Springwater Twp., Orville Brown, Clearview Township, Gordon Montgomery, Mulmur Township, Terry Dowdall, Essa Township, Ron Henderson, Essa Township, Brian Mullin, Town of the Grey Highlands, Bill Van Berkel, Town of Innisfil, Dan Davidson, Town of Innisfil, Walter Benotto, Town of Shelburne

Regrets: Fred Nix Town of Mono,

Staff: Byron Wesson, Fred Dobbs, Greg Bray, Rick Grillmayer, Shannon Stephens, Linda Raeburn

Called to order at 9:45
Agenda was accepted
No pecuniary interests

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Moved by : Terry Dowdell Seconded by : Bill Van Berkel

Resolved that: Reg Cowan be appointed Chair of the Land and Water Services Advisory Committee for 2009.

Carried

Moved by : Gord Montgomery Seconded by : Orville Brown

Resolved that: Bill Van Berkel be appointed Vice Chair of the Land and Water Services Advisory Committee for 2009.

Carried

2. Program Overview/Targets/Proposed 2010 direction

Forestry Program

Rick Grillmayer provided the committee an informative update of why, where and how the NVCA carries out its planting program. Over the past 5 years our program in partnership with agencies including, Trees Ontario, County of Simcoe, Town of New Tecumseth has assisted landowners in planting an average of 70,000 per year. It is anticipated that we will see more than ¼ million trees planted in 2014 as Trees Ontario ramps up their program. While this is a positive for our watershed residents the nurseries are experiencing stresses as they try to maintain these numbers. Staff did discuss options with regard to the NVCA undertaking its own planting similar to our program in the 1970 and 80's. Purchasing a used tree planter that could be rented to tree plant contractors was discussed and it was asked if any member hears of one for sale to notify staff.

Healthy Waters

Fred Dobbs and Shannon Stephens gave an overview of proposed direction for 2010.

The Healthy Waters program provides assistance to our watershed residents both technical and financial. More recently we have been delivering components of the Source Water Program (SWP) and have made considerable impact within our watershed. We are considered to be running 2nd in the province with regards to #'s of projects largely due to the commitment by staff and the grant dollars available. Shannon Stephens noted we were just notified on possibly receiving an additional ¼ million dollars from the MOE for the program. While our SWP program is in full gear it was also noted that our Healthy Waters program has taken a back seat in terms of attention and funding. This was deemed a concern to both staff and members. In 2009 we received over 1000 calls from landowners looking for assistance and for the most part we were unable to facilitate them. To meet our targets as documented in the Business Plan there needs to be a refocus on the Healthy Waters program. With the SWP program nearing an end over the next 2 years it is anticipated that our Healthy Waters program will resume as in past years.

Environmental Education

Linda Raeburn outlined our 2009 achievements and proposed 2010 direction

While our student numbers are up from 2009 staff continue to build capacity through deliverables in the Tiffin Education and Outreach Business Plan and other innovative ideas. We once again secured "bus subsidy" dollars from the Barrie Rotary Club and Sinton Transportation. Offered now for the second year in a row this incentive to the schools is bringing more students to Tiffin during the winter months. Our public programming schedule for 2010 currently includes events every month until June. Summer Camp with the YMCA is planned to move into its second year. Experiences gained from last year will be used to improve this year's programming.

Tiffin Centre

Greg Bray outlined the ongoing and proposed activities at Tiffin. We are seeing larger crowds at our events and more families using our facilities. Organized groups are returning after 3 and 4 years of booking our site. Site improvements have for 2009 been largely concentrated around the Maple Syrup demonstration area. Using funds largely from the Barrie Rotary Club staff have been able to make improvements to the Sugar Shack including a woodstove to keep our volunteers warm and a small rustic cabin for our education program. For the cost of materials and their experience, students at Barrie North Collegiate replaced the smoke stack and plenum for our Evaporator in the Sugar Shack.

Staff noted that our gate fees and Land Passes were on the rise with increased use. A concern was raised on the fee charged to people using the Tiffin Site. It was felt that local users should not be required to pay or at least receive a reduced rate. Staff informed members that the purchase of a Lands Pass allowed for use of all our lands including Tiffin. It was asked that staff look into developing a payment system similar to our Hunting Pass Program. Hunters that live or own property in our watershed pay a \$40 fee while people from outside our watershed pay \$70. It was noted that Land Pass information could go out in annual municipal tax bills. Staff will look at the Pass system and report back at a later date.

The Green Energy Act and alternative energy production was discussed in particular installing some solar panels on the Hix building. Current funding opportunities do exist and it was felt that both demonstration opportunities and revenue generation could make for a feasible project. Staff were asked to research this concept further including the use of the roof of the Hix building and bring forward any recommendations to the Executive and Full Board.

Lands Program

Due to timing a very quick overview of our long standing lands program was given with particular attention paid to our newest property in the Beeton area. New projects for 2010 on several properties would all be funded within our current operating budget and/or donations from other interest groups.

Recommendation: Be it resolved that the Land Operations and Stewardship Services Advisory Committee have reviewed and support the draft Land Operations and Stewardship Services 2010-12 Business Plan direction; and that staff develop a final draft version of the Program Services component of the 2010-2012 Business Plan based on the recommendations of the Land Operations and Stewardship Services Advisory Committee and the April 9, 2010 NVCA program Review Board members workshop, for consideration of the Board of Directors at their May 14, 2010 meeting.

Moved by: Bill Van Berkel

Seconded by Dan Davidson

**Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.
Carried;**