



NVCA Board Meeting Highlights March 22, 2019

Next Board Meeting: April 26, 2019
at Tiffin Centre for Conservation, Utopia

For the full meeting agenda including documents and reports, visit nvca.on.ca/about/boardofdirectors

NVCA's 2019 Budget Approved

The board of directors approved NVCA's 2019 budget. The budget came in at \$4.9 million, up \$184,600 from 2018. Funds from municipal levy represent 49% of NVCA's revenues. Grants for special projects, revenue generated by the authority through user fees, and donations make up the remaining portion.

The budget document is available on the authority's website at

<https://www.nvca.on.ca/about/PlansFinancials>

Provincial Approach to Improving Client Experiences and Streamlining Services Endorsed

The board endorsed recommendations put forth by Conservation Ontario, the umbrella organization for the province's 36 conservation authorities, to improve client experiences and streamline services in response to the Government of Ontario's priority for housing supply in high growth areas.

Conservation authorities have mandated responsibilities with regards to the planning and development approvals process. Led by Conservation Ontario, conservation authorities identified three key solutions to aid the government in meeting their housing priorities while effectively carrying out the conservation authority mandate for hazard management and plan review.

These solutions will be worked on with development community, municipalities, and other stakeholders.

1. Improve client service and accountability
 - Provide client service training and establish client service standards.
 - Report on the commitment to timely approvals annually.
 - Initially, focus efforts on conservation authorities with high growth areas where housing supply is needed immediately.
2. Increase speed of approvals
 - Assess current application review/approval timelines, identifying problem areas where timelines are not being met and developing solutions to meet timelines.
 - Establish timelines that match the complexity of development applications (e.g. simple and complete applications can be processed more quickly).
3. Reduce "red tape" and regulatory burden
 - Examine where conservation authorities can improve or change our processes to speed up or simplify permitting in hazard areas.
 - Explore additional legislative or regulatory amendments to achieve increased housing supply and decreased approval timeframes.

NVCA staff will review these solutions against existing policies and protocols to look for opportunities for streamlining and improved service delivery. These actions will be reported back to the board at a future meeting.

In brief

During their meeting, the board also:

- approved funding to purchase seedlings in support of NVCA's forestry program, which anticipates planting more than 146,000 trees in the watershed this year. These funds are recouped through agreements with local landowners and a generous grant from Forests Ontario.
- received an update on the development of the new Integrated Watershed Management Plan. A draft of the plan will be circulated in April, with a final plan anticipated to be brought to the board for review/approval in June of this year.

Future Meetings and Events

Friends of Minesing Wetlands:

Tour of Fort Willow and AGM

Saturday, Mar. 30, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Fort Willow Conservation Area, Grenfel

Member of the public are welcome to attend.

Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival

Saturday, Apr. 6 and Sunday, Apr. 7

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Tiffin Centre for Conservation, Utopia

Friends of Minesing Wetlands Spring Paddle

Sunday, Apr. 28, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

Minesing Wetlands Conservation Area

Family Nature Days – Wilderness Survival

Friday, May 3, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Tiffin Centre for Conservation, Utopia

NVCA Arbour Day Tree Sale

Saturday, May 11, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Tiffin Centre for Conservation, Utopia

Friends of Minesing Wetlands Spring Paddle

Saturday, May 11, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

Minesing Wetlands Conservation Area

For more information on these events, please visit the [NVCA website](http://www.nvca.on.ca).