



NVCA September 2021 Board Meeting Highlights

Next Meeting: October 22, 2021, held virtually.

For the full meeting agenda including documents and reports, visit [NVCA's website](#).

Achieving Net Gains through Ecological Offsetting

Chris Hibberd, NVCA's Director, Watershed Planning Services gave a presentation on achieving net gains through ecological offsetting.

The Nottawasaga Valley watershed contains a diverse and interconnected system of natural features. Within this system, wetlands play an important role in terms of the services they offer to both humans and the natural environment. Some examples include:

- maintaining healthy drinking water
- providing flood and climate change mitigation functions
- providing diverse recreational opportunities
- ensuring that native plants and wildlife have the necessary space to thrive.

Population growth, and resulting urbanization, presents a challenge for the protection and enhancement of wetlands throughout the watershed.

NVCA has formalized an approach to ecological offsetting through the guidelines for Achieving Net Gains through Ecological Offsetting. This guideline aims to ensure that further losses of regulated natural heritage features within the Nottawasaga Valley watershed are highly limited and, where appropriate, met with equal or greater gains in area, value, and function.

It's important to note that by instituting a formal offsetting policy, NVCA is not promoting or supporting an increase in removal of wetlands and associated natural features throughout the watershed. The intention of this formal offsetting policy is to ensure that, moving forward, wetland offsetting is conducted using standardized criteria and metrics. To

accomplish this, natural features must be assigned a standardized value, and natural feature losses must be quantified on a project-specific basis.

The NVCA Board of Directors approved the guidelines in this board meeting. [The approved guidelines can be found on the NVCA website.](#)

NVCA Property Use Update

In early 2009 NVCA took possession of 73 acres of land within Town of New Tecumseth close to the village of Beeton. This land was donated to NVCA in hopes that it remains development free and provide eventual use by general public as a green space.

A local cash crop company has been leasing 36 acres of this land for agricultural purposes, with the lease ending in 2022. NVCA has determined the field would be best as a permanent greenspace through the planting of trees.

A total cost to plant was prepared by our forestry program of which realized ~ \$38,000. In late August a grant for a portion of the plant was approved by Tree Canada for \$24,000. The \$14,000 balance of the plant costs would come from available development offsetting funds.

NVCA 2022 Draft Budget

Sheryl Flannagan, NVCA's Director, Corporate Services gave a presentation on [NVCA's Draft 2022 Budget](#) in this board meeting.

This year's budget is accompanied by a [program overview](#), which highlights the work that each program area does for the watershed.

The NVCA Board of Directors has approved the draft budget and program overview for circulation to municipalities for a 30-day review period. The final budget vote will be on December 10, 2021.

In the August 2021 board meeting, staff was directed to develop a draft budget with a \$90,000 increase to municipal levy. Through looking at three-year trends, eliminating one full-time position through attrition/retirement, finding savings through expenditures, and increasing potential revenues, staff are pleased to present a budget with an increase of \$89,768 to the general levy, below the approved guideline.