

## **02-22-AAC**

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

Jun 30, 2022 at 10:00 AM EDT to Jun 30, 2022 at 12:00 PM EDT

### **Agenda**

#### **1. Call to Order**

#### **2. Motion to Adopt the Agenda**

Recommendation:

**RESOLVED THAT:** the Agenda for the Agricultural Advisory Committee 02-22-AAC dated June 30, 2022 be approved.

#### **3. Declaration of Pecuniary and Conflict of Interest**

#### **4. Approved Minutes**

Recommendation:

**RESOLVED THAT:** the minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting 01-22-AAC dated on March 31, 2022 be approved.

#### **5. Presentation by Fred Dobbs Stream Restoration Video**

A short documentary showcasing the importance of sports fishing in our watershed municipalities, and how NVCA and its partners are working to restore the Nottawasaga River to maintain and enhance these unique recreational opportunities.

#### **6. Discussion on the Purpose of Meetings between Agriculture and NVCA Senior Staff**

The purpose of the Ad-Hoc committee is to: Improve communications with a diverse agricultural representation group, Identify areas of common interest/issues and or concerns with respect to NVCA programs as they relate to the agricultural community. Act as a discussion group to bring forward communication and recommendations to the NVCA Board of Directors.

#### **7. Discussion on Circulated Staff Report No. 18-05-22-BOD Regarding Natural Heritage Program Strategy**

Staff Report No. 18-05-22-BOD from Ryan Post, Manager, Watershed Science and Dave Featherstone, Senior Ecologist on NVCA Natural Heritage Program Strategy.

#### **8. Discussion Arising from Simcoe County MCR Natural Heritage**

NVCA's Senior Staff entertains questions from Committee.

#### **9. Discussion Concerning Permit Timing**

NVCA's Senior Staff entertains questions from Committee.

#### **10. Discussion Concerning Swaley Drain**

NVCA's Senior Staff entertains questions from Committee.

## **11. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

Recommendation:

**RESOLVED THAT:** members accept the 3rd and 4th quarter meeting dates.

**3rd Quarter Meeting Date:** Thursday September 29, 2022

**4th Quarter Meeting Date:** Thursday December 1, 2022

## **12. Other Business**

## **13. Adjourn**

Recommendation:

**RESOLVED THAT:** this meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee 02-22-AAC adjourn at \_\_\_\_\_.



01-22-AAC Minutes  
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority  
Mar 31, 2022 at 10:00 AM EDT

**Attendance**

**Members Present:**

Cllr. Donna Jebb, NVCA Member  
Cllr. Gail Little, NVCA Member (Dufferin County FA Representative)  
Cllr. Dane Nielsen, NVCA Member  
Chair, Colin Elliott, North Simcoe Soil and Crop Assoc.  
Dave Ritchie, President, SCFA  
Dave Spring, Spring Fally Farms Inc.

**Members Absent:**

Vice-Chair, Hugh Simpson, Grey County FA  
Ted Woods, President, Christian Farmers Assoc.

**NVCA Staff:**

Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer  
Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services  
Byron Wesson, Director, Conservation Services  
Kerry Jenkins, Administrative Assistant/Recorder

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Colin Elliott called the meeting to order at 10:08am.

**2. MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA**

Recommendation:

*RES: 01-22*

Moved by: Cllr. Donna Jebb

Seconded by: Cllr. Gail Little

**RESOLVED THAT:** the agenda for the Agricultural Advisory Committee 01-22-AAC dated March 31, 2022 be approved.

**Carried;**

**3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None declared.

**4. REVIEW OF MINUTES**

The minutes were approved by the Board of Directors on August 27, 2021.

**5. DISCUSSIONS ON ELECTIONS/APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS**

Chair, Colin Elliott voted in Dave Spring, Spring Valley Farms Inc to join the Committee. Dave Spring accepted.

**6. CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES CORE MANDATES**

**Doug Hevenor, CAO went over the recent changes to the Conservation Authorities Act.**

*Discussion Ensued*

**7. AGRICULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE**

**Byron Wesson, Director, Conservation Services went over the MECP Agricultural Representative.**

*Discussion Ensued*

**8. NVCA'S 5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**

**Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services went over NVCA's 5 Year Strategic Plan.**

*Discussion Ensued*

**9. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Doug Hevenor, CAO went over the Terms of Reference**

*Discussion Ensued*

**10. TENTATIVE 2022 MEETING DATES**

The committee decided to meet for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter on Thursday June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and to select a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter at a later date.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair, Colin Elloit requested for Other Business to be included in all AAC agendas going forward.

Doug Hevenor, CAO requested to everyone in the committee to inform NVCA staff one week prior to the meeting if changes need to be made to the agenda.

**12. ADJOURN**

Recommendation:

*RES:02-22*

Moved by: Cllr. Donna Jebb

Seconded by: Dave Sprig

**RESOLVED THAT:** this meeting adjourn at 11:29am and to meet again on June 30, 2022 or at the call of the Chair.

**Carried;**



**NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**AGRICULTURAL AD-HOC COMMITTEE**  
**TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
**April 25, 2014**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the Ad-Hoc committee is to:

- Improve communications with a diverse agricultural representation group,
- Identify areas of common interest/issues and or concerns with respect to NVCA programs as they relate to the agricultural community.
- Act as a discussion group to bring forward communication and recommendations to the NVCA Board of Directors.

**Mandate:**

The mandate of the Agricultural Ad-Hoc Committee shall be to act as an information sharing body to:

1. Increase communications with a diverse agricultural committee, representing a broad range of agricultural interests within the NVCA watershed.
2. Provide input/recommendations on matters referred to it by the agricultural community regarding areas of interest to the community that are relevant to NVCA programs including but not limited to; NVCA stewardship programs, land programs, regulations and plan review policies.

**Composition:**

The Agricultural Ad-Hoc Committee shall be composed generally of 11 members, who live, farm or work or represent an organization within the NVCA watershed. It will be the responsibility of the individual Organizations to appoint annually in writing their representatives, by Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> to the NVCA Chief Administrative Officer. An invitation for membership would be sent to the following organizations:

**Ontario Federation of Agriculture:**

- 3 representatives from Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture
- 1 representative from Dufferin County Federation of Agriculture
- 1 representative from Grey County Federation of Agriculture

**Other Agricultural Groups:**

- 1 representative from Christian Farmers Association
- 2 additional representatives from the Agricultural Community (selected annually by the Advisory Committee through an open/by invitation selection process)
  - Simcoe County Farm Fresh has been selected for 2014

**NVCA Representatives:**

- 3 members from the Board of Directors appointed at large.

**Staff Resources:**

Depending on the topics to be discussed, any of the following three Directors could take the meeting lead:

Director, Land, Operations and Stewardship  
Director, Planning  
Director, Engineering and Technical Services.

**Meetings:**

The committee will meet up to 4 times per year subject to agenda content and need. Additional meetings will be at the call of the Chair if required for timely matters.

The Committee will set the meeting schedule annually at the first meeting of the year.

Meetings will be generally held during regular business hours at the NVCA Tiffin Administration Centre, 8195 8<sup>th</sup> Line, Utopia, Ontario at the call of the Committee Chair.

**Procedural Rules:**

The Committee will follow the administrative procedural policies of the NVCA. In the case where the policy is silent, Roberts Rules of Order will take precedent.

The agenda will be developed by the NVCA Staff with input from the Committee Chair.

The Committee does not have the authority to specifically direct the activities of NVCA staff and will communicate through the NVCA CAO/Secretary-Treasurer.

**Committee Chair - Vice Chair:**

The Committee will elect a Chair and Vice Chair from its membership annually at the first meeting of the year.

**Decision Making:**

Consensus based decisions will be encouraged for all matters, however if required, normal simple majority rules will be implemented. Each Ad-Hoc Committee member shall have full voting rights, (excluding NVCA CAO/staff)

**Remuneration:**

Remuneration will be pursuant to the policies established by the NVCA.

**Reporting:**

The Committee Chair shall report to the NVCA Board of Directors in the form of a report containing Committee Agendas, meeting minutes, and recommendations. When required the Committee may appoint a representative who best represents the topic of discussion to speak to the report. The Committee shall provide the CAO and Executive Assistant with a copy of the reports to be circulated to the NVCA Board of Directors.

**Resources:**

NVCA staff and other resource experts will be invited as required, to provide additional input to the Committee. NVCA will provide administrative support, including the preparation of reports to the NVCA Board of Directors, distribution of agendas and the general administrative co-ordination of the meetings.

Approved by the BOD: December 13, 2013

Amended by NVCA Agricultural Committee April 11, 2014

Approved by the BOD: April 25, 2014





Staff Report: 18-05-22-BOD  
Date: 27/05/2022  
To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors  
From: Ryan Post, P.Geo.  
Manager, Watershed Science  
David Featherstone, B.Sc.  
Senior Ecologist

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**SUBJECT: Natural Heritage Program Strategy**

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### **Recommendation**

**RESOLVED THAT: The Natural Heritage Program Strategy staff report be received for information.**

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### Purpose of the Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report is to provide the NVCA Board of Directors, for information, an overview of the Natural Heritage Program strategy.

### Background

The release of the Integrated Water Management Plan, the 2020-2025 NVCA Strategic Plan, and the 2021-2025 NVCA Business Plan in combination with Bill 108 and associated regulations (e.g. Ontario Regulation 686/21) provides a strategic time to overview the recently completed NVCA Natural Heritage Program strategy; building on the presentation provided to the NVCA Board of Directors at meeting 2-22-BOD on February 25, 2022.

### Analysis

Natural heritage is comprised of geological features and landforms and their associated terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems which sustain plants, fish and wildlife populations. This is inclusive of habitat features and functions such as forests, streams, wetlands, regenerating fields and the linkages that connect these features which all support key ecological processes within the watershed.

The objective of the internally completed NVCA Natural Heritage Program strategy is to outline the historical work completed within each program core area and recommend the directions to support to the recently released NVCA corporate strategic documents. The natural heritage program supports the NVCA's vision of "a sustainable watershed that is resilient to the effects of climate change, urban growth and other stressors and provides for safe, healthy and prosperous people and communities". This is achieved through biophysical investigation, monitoring and analysis delivered by natural heritage technical staff. The Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP; NVCA, 2019), followed by a new Strategic Plan and Business Plan (NVCA, 2020) provides the ideal opportunity to evaluate and refocus the natural heritage program.

The NVCA natural heritage program was informally initiated in 2003; recognizing that initial natural heritage work was included in previous subwatershed studies, in particular the Willow Creek and Innisfil Creek subwatershed planning efforts. Preliminary mapping of wetland features throughout the watershed was developed in 2005 and forest bird monitoring (Tiffin) commenced in 2005 with marsh bird monitoring (Minesing) added in 2008. Natural Heritage systems were completed on a municipal basis as a fee for service project for Essa, New Tecumseth, Wasaga Beach and Collingwood in addition to provide supporting technical expertise (e.g. Town of Mono and the Barrie annexation lands). In addition, the program historically and continues to map and digitally manage the wetlands in the NVCA jurisdiction. Throughout the early stages of the natural heritage program, NVCA responded to the need for invasive species identification and management projects. Natural heritage input to NVCA Lands (Tiffin CA, Nottawasaga Bluffs, Minesing Wetlands) was provided in support of management plans and other reporting. The watershed report card/health check reporting program was initiated in 2007 and included reporting on watershed forests, wetlands and riparian cover.

The forward positioning NVCA Natural Heritage program corresponds to the five core program areas consisting of:

- 1) Development of a Natural Heritage System (including ELC mapping),
- 2) Wetlands (wetland regulations layer including field verification mapping),
- 3) Conservation land inventories, and
- 4) Natural heritage monitoring and
- 5) Program communications.

The following philosophies is used to frame the program's direction per component:

- Builds on the strengths of the past while recognizing the value of current natural heritage monitoring and planning approaches.
- Designed to support integrated watershed management needs and an array of NVCA programs.
- Aims to assist in the NVCA understanding and communication of watershed health as well as the understanding of the watershed natural heritage system and its protection as a means to provide resilience for the watershed and its natural and human communities in the face of climate change.

The short-term program goals consist of:

1. Completion of the watershed-wide land use cover update using recent orthophotography imagery. This will allow for the coarse community class level ecological land classification mapping which will form the basis for the natural heritage system and possibly the natural asset evaluation.
2. Develop a watershed-wide natural heritage system.
3. Field-based work including the undertaking of one prioritized wetland evaluation per year.
4. Data visualization of key program elements completed through story board maps and dashboards.
5. Business development via planning to support performance and compliance monitoring and other program growth areas.

#### Relevance to Authority Policy/Mandate

On October 4, 2021, the MECP released the Phase 1 regulations to implement amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act, including Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services. As noted in NVCA staff report 06-03-22-BOD ([https://www.nvca.on.ca/Shared%20Documents/03-22-BOD\\_Agenda.pdf](https://www.nvca.on.ca/Shared%20Documents/03-22-BOD_Agenda.pdf)) entitled "Update Inventory of Programs and Services for Submission to Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)", this Regulation outlines the mandatory services and programs that conservation authorities are required to provide and that we can levy municipalities for. Further, this regulation also requires conservation authorities to develop agreements with their member municipalities for any additional services and programs that are not considered mandatory by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

The Natural Heritage Program provides services and program delivery for both category 1 (e.g. wetland regulations layer and field verification mapping and conservation land inventories) and category 3 items (e.g. development of a Natural Heritage System (including ELC mapping)). The foundational watershed management category 3 activities identified above support the mandatory

program areas via the integrated watershed management model. Following the release of the regulations, member municipalities will be required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for the payment and delivery of these program areas.

Impact on Authority Finances

The program is funded predominantly through municipal levy contributions with secondary site/project specific special benefitting projects. As noted above, portions of this program may require the development of a Memorandum of Understanding for the delivery of Category 3 components of the program delivery.

Reviewed by:  
*Original Signed by*  
Chris Hibberd  
Director, Watershed Management Services

Approved for submission by:  
*Original Signed by*  
Doug Hevenor  
Chief Administrative Officer