



02-23-AAC Minutes
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
June 29, 2023 at 10:00 AM EST

Attendance

Members Present:

Dave Ritchie, Simcoe County Federation of Agricultural
Ted Woods, Christian Farmers Assoc.
Chair, Donna Jebb, Simcoe County Federation of Agricultural
Jody Mott, Holland Marsh Growers Association
Hugh Simpson, Grey County FA
Andy Vanniekerk, North Simcoe Soil and Crop Association
Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren, NVCA Member
Vice-Chair, Cllr. Kevin Eisses, NVCA Member
Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink, NVCA Member

Members Absent:

Colin Elliot, North Simcoe Soil and Crop Assoc.
Dave Spring, Simcoe County Federation of Agricultural

NVCA Staff:

Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer
Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services
Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services
Ian Ockenden, Acting, Watershed Science Supervisor
Kerry Jenkins, Administrative Assistant/Recorder

1. Call to Order

Due to Chair Donna Jebb having technical issues, Vice-Chair Kevin Eisses called the meeting to order at 10:12am

2. Motion to Adopt the Agenda

Recommendation:

RES: 05-23

Moved by: Hugh Simpson

Seconded by: Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink

RESOLVED THAT: the agenda for the Agricultural Advisory Committee 02-23-AAC dated June 29, 2023 be approved.

Carried;

3. Declaration of Pecuniary and Conflict of Interest

None declared.

4. Approved Minutes

Approved by Consent

(Board of directors approved the minutes during the 04-23-BOD meeting)

5. Presentations

5.1 Watershed Health Checks – The State of our Natural Resources

Ian Ockenden, Acting, Watershed Science Supervisor conducted a presentation regarding Watershed Health Checks – The State of our Natural Resources.

Recommendation:

RES: 06-23

Moved by: Hugh Simpson

Seconded by: Andy Van Niekerk

RESOLVED THAT: the Agricultural Advisory Committee receive the presentation regarding the Watershed Health Checks – The State of our Natural Resources.

Carried;

****Chair Donna Jebb’s technical issues got resolved at 10:30am. Vice-Chair Kevin Eisses passed the meeting back over to Chair Donna Jebb.****

Discussion:

Questions were raised in regards to if there was any measurements upstream. NVCA staff informed the members that they are only taken upstream as we unfortunately don’t have the funding to provide downstream measurements as well.

NVCA staff informed the members that we work very closely with partner Conservation Authorities in regards to areas that are split between both Conservation Authorities.

Due to all the questions regarding well decommissioning and upgrades, Shannon Stephens, Healthy Waters Program Coordinator, will take part in the next meeting to provide more answers and clarity on this specific matter.

Ian Ockenden, Acting, Watershed Science Supervisor advised the members that he is hoping to change how the report cards are and add them online as

well. Ian would like to update them and create an easier way for the public to access them, view them, and understand them.

Doug Hevenor, CAO took this time to inform the members of Byron Wesson's retirement and introduced the members to the new Director, Conservation Services, Kyra Howes.

Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services introduced herself to the members.

6. Update on Bill 23 and 97

Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services gave updates regarding Bill 23 and Bill 97.

Discussion on Bill 23:

Questions were raised on municipalities being forced to hire consultants and if municipalities were able to hire Conservation Authorities. NVCA staff informed the members that they cannot hire Conservation Authorities, however CA's are still able to provide comments. Staff also informed members that municipalities should pick consultants who will not have a conflict of interest and that NVCA would help in confinds of the new legislation.

CAO, Doug Hevenor informed the members that MNRF is meeting today (Thursday June 29, 2023) and discussing the watershed wide policy on the wetlands. He noted that we may be able to perform watershed wide reviews and scans. NVCA can partner through agreement to look at it, however, it can't be connected to a plan review. It was also noted that the NVCA has two staff members who are certified wetland appraisers.

Members asked how municipalities are doing with absorbing the new protocols. Staff responded by stating that some municipalities are well ahead of it, some are still working through it, and others are still in-between.

Discussion on Bill 97:

NVCA staff were informed that members have meet with quite a few farmers on this subject. The OFA suggested to the government position to take a pause. Members also met with quite a few experts from the planning community, they presented lots a data which demonstrated the flaws within the plan. Though they are quite a few flaws, there is a fairly significant community of farmers who would be happy to sell some land in order to build some houses on it.

Members pointed out that the OFA held a meeting. 14 commodity groups were forced together and had a push back. They decided to extend the consultation period to August. OFA came out with a paper and are in discussion with the commodities and Ministry to work through this and disclose the land by August.

7. Other Business

Dave Ritchie extended an invitation to all members and staff to join the SCFA Summer BBQ on Thursday July 6th, 2023 from 2:00am – 6:00pm at 6890 Line 13, New Tecumseth. Tickets are now onsale through Eventbrite.

CAO, Doug Hevenor informed that staff has received the invitation to have a booth present there; Shannon Stephens, Healthy Waters Program Coordinator will be there.

8. Adjourn

Recommendation:

RES:07-23

Moved by: Dave Ritchie

Seconded by: Hugh Simpson

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting adjourn at 11:38am, to meet again on September 28, 2023 or at the call of the Chair.

Carried;