

03-23-AAC

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Dec 7, 2023 at 10:00 AM EST to Dec 7, 2023 at 12:00 PM EST
8195 8th Line, Utopia ON, L0M 1T0

Agenda

1. Call to Order

2. Motion to Adopt the Agenda

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the agenda for the Agricultural Advisory Committee 03-23-AAC dated December 7, 2023 be approved.

3. Declaration of Pecuniary and Conflict of Interest

4. Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting 02-23-AAC dated on June 29, 2023 was approved by the Board of Directors during the 08-23-BOD meeting dated on September 22, 2023.

5. Presentations

5.1. NVCA Planning Services Fee Schedule

Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services will conduct a presentation regarding NVCA Planning Services Fee Schedule (2024 Draft).

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the Agricultural Advisory Committee receive the presentation as presented.

6. Other Business

7. Adjourn

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee 03-23-AAC adjourn at _____.

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Planning and Permitting Fees

Presented by:

Chris Hibberd and Ben Krul

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



Legislation

- ▶ Conservation authorities (CA) are permitted to charge fees for a program or service that is included in the Minister's list of classes of programs and services ("Minister's Fee Classes Policy") pursuant Section 21.2 of the Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act).
- ▶ CAs must develop a written fee policy and fee schedule for all chargeable programs and services. The policy and fee must include principles and practices regarding fees charged under un-proclaimed provisions of Section 21.2 of the CA Act.

Background

- ▶ In 2022 the NVCA Board of Directors approved the current “Fee Policy & Fee Schedules”.
- ▶ When developing the policy and fees, NVCA included input from key partners and stakeholders, such as municipalities, development sector, the agricultural community, and the aggregate industry.
- ▶ The 2022 Fee Policy & Fee Schedules also includes a Policy Review and Public Notification section noting that the policy shall be evaluated from time to time to evaluate its effectiveness and fairness.
- ▶ On December 28, 2022, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry directed conservation authorities to not to change the amount of the fees it charges, or the way conservation authorities determine how fees are charged. This direction is effective until December 31, 2023.

Current Fee Review

- ▶ In June 2023, NVCA staff presented a comprehensive review of NVCA's planning and regulation program rates and fees to the Board of Directors. The review was completed by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.
- ▶ The Watson report recommends increasing review fees for site-specific Official Plan and Zoning By-law Applications, Minor Variance, Consents, and Niagara Escarpment Commission applications.
- ▶ The report also suggests maintaining existing subdivision, residential site plans and aggregate proposals. In addition, permit fees are proposed to be increased to full cost recovery levels while maintaining competitiveness with other conservation authorities.

Stakeholder Engagement

- ▶ In August 2023, NVCA staff shared Watson's recommended fee changes and a few additional housekeeping changes with our municipal partners and stakeholders and requested input by September 8, 2023.
- ▶ It was also noted that any new or updated fees would be implemented after the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry's freeze on conservation authority fees expires.
- ▶ The results of the stakeholder engagement primarily focused on phasing the recommended Watson fees over a 2-year time period.

NVCA Board and Public Input

- ▶ At the October Board meeting NVCA Staff present results of stakeholders and draft fee schedule.
- ▶ The draft fee schedule was posted on our website for a 30-day period in November <https://www.nvca.on.ca/public-consultation-on-proposed-changes-to-planning-and-permitting-review-fees/>
- ▶ In December NVCA staff provided an overview to the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Next Steps

- ▶ Present final fee schedule to the Board of Directors for approval in 2024 after the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry's freeze on conservation authority fees expires.

Questions

