



03-23-AAC Minutes  
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority  
December 7, 2023 at 10:00 AM EST

**Attendance**

**Members Present:**

Dave Spring, Simcoe County Federation of Agricultural  
Ted Woods, Christian Farmers Assoc.  
Chair, Donna Jebb, Simcoe County Federation of Agricultural  
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 Ritchie, Simcoe County Federation of Agricultural  
Jody Mott, Holland Marsh Growers Association

**NVCA Staff:**

Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer  
Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services  
Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services  
Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning & Permits  
Kerry Jenkins, Administrative Assistant/Recorder

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Donna Jebb called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

**2. Motion to Adopt the Agenda**

Recommendation:

*RES: 08-23*

Moved by: Dave Spring

Seconded by: Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink

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

**Carried;**

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

None declared.

### **4. Approved 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**

Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning & Permits conducted the presentation on behalf of Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services regarding NVCA Planning Services Fee Schedule (2024 Draft).

Recommendation:

*RES: 09-23*

Moved by: Hugh Simpson

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren

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

**Carried;**

#### **Discussion:**

Members raised questions about the feedback NVCA received regarding the proposed fee increases.

NVCA staff informed the members that feedback from the municipalities were pretty consistent. Staff also received really good feedback from Watson and Associates as well as agricultural communities.

Questions were asked regarding why the fee's are doubled and what was the reasoning for doubling them.

Staff informed the members that NVCA froze their fees from 2016 to 2019, therefore, they are playing "catch-up."

NVCA Board Member mentioned to the committee how most people are aware that NVCA's budget comes from user fees, as well as help from the municipalities. He also noted that NVCA's number one goal is better service for their applicants and agreed with NVCA staff that this is "catch-up" time and is much needed.

Questions were asked regarding where NVCA came up with the price increases and if staff took into consideration the populations of other municipalities in other Conservation Authorities.

NVCA staff informed the members that the Watson review looked into NVCA's neighbouring conservation authorities to ensure they were consistent with the price increases. Staff also noted that they tried to find as much commonality in demographics among municipalities in neighbouring conservation authorities.

Members asked when the proposed fees will go into effect.

NVCA staff told the members that the proposed fees will go into effect when the MNR lifts their freezes, which will then allow NVCA to enter into phase one of the proposed fee schedule for 2024. Staff also informed members that communication regarding the proposed fee schedule 2024 will be on their website for the public to see once NVCA receives more news.

NVCA staff as well as members all agreed that once the Board of Directors approve the fee increases, staff will circulate all the information to the Agricultural Advisory Committee members for them to see and distribute to their agricultural community.

## **6. Other Business**

Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren informed the members of an issue that is going on in the Township of Clearview. He asked if it was possible to put on NVCA's website to contact their drainage supervisor in their area, should a resident have any issues with their drainage. AAC Members also agreed to ask if NVCA can input the difference between municipal drains and farm drains.

CAO, Doug Hevenor informed the members that Conservation Ontario is submitting an application on December 8, 2023 on behalf of several conservation authorities (NVCA being one of them), to hopefully receive 75% federal funding to complete Shoreline Evaluations on all the Great Lakes, including Georgian Bay with the exception of Lake Erie.

## **7. Adjourn**

Recommendation:

*RES:10-23*

Moved by: Hugh Simpson

Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Eisses

**RESOLVED THAT:** this meeting adjourn at 11:08am, to meet again on March 28, 2024 or at the call of the Chair.

**Carried;**