

**RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Box 599, 3889 Rideau Valley Drive
Manotick, Ontario, K4M 1A5
(613) 692-3571, 1-800-267-3504**

Hybrid meeting held in-person and electronically.

APPROVED MINUTES

Board of Directors 6/23 Thursday, September 28, 2023

Present: David Brown Barry Card
 Brian Dowdall Steve Fournier
 Mel Foster Susan Irwin
 Theresa Kavanagh Morgan Kenny
 Wilson Lo Shawn Pankow
 Anne Robinson Kristin Strackerjan
 Gary Waterfield Adrian Wynands

Regrets: Anne Barr Jeff Banks
 Riley Brockington Charlene Godfrey
 Angela Pierman

Staff: Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager
 Dan Cooper, Director of Conservation Lands and Stewardship
 Terry Davidson, Director of Engineering and Regulations
 Marissa Grondin, Executive Assistant

Chair Strackerjan called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

1.0 Roll Call

General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer conducted a roll call.

2.0 Land Acknowledgement Statement

Chair Strackerjan gave the Land Acknowledgement statement.

Susan Irwin joined the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

3.0 Agenda Review

Chair Strackerjan reviewed the Agenda.

4.0 Adoption of Agenda

Resolution 1-230928

Moved by: Adrian Wynands
Seconded by: Brian Dowdall

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority adopts the Agenda as circulated.

Resolution Carried

5.0 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

6.0 Approval of Minutes of July 27, 2023

Resolution 2-230928

Moved by: Gary Waterfield
Seconded by: Anne Robinson

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approves the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting #05/23, July 27, 2023 as circulated.

Resolution Carried

7.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising.

Theresa Kavanagh joined the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

8.0 Completion of Truck Purchases

Terry Davidson, Director of Engineering and Regulations, provided an update on the purchase of three trucks, which had been approved by the Board on March 23, 2023.

In response to questions, Mr. Davidson confirmed that the RVCA receives fleet pricing for vehicles and that staff will be bringing forward an analysis on the procurement of electric vehicles to the Board at their October meeting.

A member commended Mr. Davidson for his approach to completing the purchases which achieved the intended purpose which was to save money.

Mel Foster joined the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Resolution 3-230928

Moved by:

Susan Irwin

Seconded by:

Anne Robinson

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority receive this report for information.

Resolution Carried

9.0 Partial Washroom Renovation at Baxter Conservation Area

Dan Cooper, Director of Conservation Lands and Stewardship, provided an update on renovations to the washrooms at the Baxter Conservation Area Interpretive Centre which had been approved by the Board on March 23, 2023.

In response to questions, Mr. Cooper confirmed that reverting to the original renovation plan to improve accessibility but not reconfigure the stalls and create a shared sink, falls within the parameters of the grant which was for accessibility improvements. He also clarified that the Accessibility Audit completed for Baxter Conservation Area was not a legislative requirement, but a best practice initiated by the Nature for All Committee to better assess the accessibility improvements that would benefit Baxter Conservation Area.

Resolution 4-230928

Moved by:

Adrian Wynands

Seconded by:

David Brown

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority receive this report for information.

Resolution Carried

10.0 Category 3 Cost-Appportioning Agreements Status

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager presented a status update on Category 3 cost apportioning agreements with member municipalities. She also recommended that the Board seek a short extension from the province in case any agreements get delayed.

In response to questions, Ms. Casgrain-Robertson explained that she had worked with municipal staff to schedule presentations to Council and provided the necessary information for staff reports. Municipal staff then determined how best to bring forward the agreement to Committee and/or Council.

Councillor Dowdall praised the presentation by Sommer and Sally McIntyre, General Manager of Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority to Beckwith Council. The member also noted that their Council was waiting to approve the agreement until after the City of Ottawa's decision. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson thanked the member and emphasized that the current agreement was

structured that Ottawa's portion would not be reapportioned to other municipalities should Ottawa City Council not support the agreement.

Another member emphasized the importance of RVCA Board members actively participating in council presentations.

Chair Strackerjan thanked Sommer, as well as Carl Bickerdike and Ronda Boutz from South Nation Conservation, for their joint presentation to North Grenville Council

Resolution 5-230928

Moved by:

Shawn Pankow

Seconded by:

Anne Robinson

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority receive this report for information and direct staff to submit a request to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for an extension to February 29, 2024 to complete cost-apportioning agreements with municipalities.

Resolution Carried

11.0 Activity Report: August to September 2024

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager gave an update on program delivery, operations, events, and news items for August and September.

In response to a question, Mr. Cooper responded that all ash trees are susceptible to the Emerald Ash Borer, that most local ash trees are Green Ash although all species of Ash grow locally, and that he was not aware of any recovery program aimed specifically at Black Ash but could look into it.

Councillor Lo commended Mike Yee, RVCA Environmental Planner and Biologist, for being so communicative with his office and local residents regarding recent repairs to the Hearts Desire Rocky Ramp. The member also shared that the community was pleased that the repairs had been completed.

Mr. Cooper addressed a member's question by indicating that staff had not been involved in the completion of a compensation project for Blanding's Turtles but would be open to one should the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation be asked to complete one. To date the RVCA has assisted with compensation projects for butternut, bobolink and barn swallows.

Another member praised the 50th Anniversary event for Foley Mountain Conservation Area and indicated a desire to see higher attendance from Board members at events. He also thanked staff for attending the Friends of the Tay Watershed Discovery Day as the RVCA booth with benthic invertebrates was very popular.

Chair Strackerjan echoed the sentiments regarding the Foley Mountain anniversary event and encouraged members to attend RVCA events whenever their schedules permit.

12.0 2024 Budget and Workplan Direction

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager, delivered a presentation on preliminary 2024 budget factors and sought feedback and input from members regarding budget direction.

One member indicated that their municipality was just starting the budget process, and another indicated that their municipality was aiming for a tax increase of 2% plus assessment growth.

In response to a member's inquiry, Ms. Casgrain-Robertson confirmed that staff were in the process of polling the conservation authorities to see how many provide post-retirement benefits and that more information would be brought to the next meeting.

13.0 Meetings

- a) Elizabethtown-Kitley Council Meeting: August 14, 2023
- b) Rideau Lakes Council Meeting: August 28, 2023
- c) Ontario East Municipal Conference (OEMC): September 6-8, 2023
 - Ms. Casgrain-Robertson thanked Conservation Ontario for funding a conservation authority booth at the conference again this year and thanked South Nation Conservation for preparing the booth and display which was staffed by SNC and RVCA.
- d) Athens Council Meeting Presentation: September 11, 2023
- e) Tay Valley Township Council Presentation: September 12, 2023
- f) RVCF Board of Directors Meeting: September 13, 2023
- g) North Grenville Council Meeting Presentation: September 13, 2023
- h) Beckwith Council Meeting Presentation: September 19, 2023
- i) Foley Mountain 50th Anniversary Celebration: September 22, 2023
- j) Conservation Ontario Council Meeting: September 25, 2023
 - Anne Robinson provided a summary of the meeting which she attended with Ms. Casgrain-Robertson on behalf of Chair Strackerjan. She indicated that it was interesting to see the scope of the Council and that it emphasized the importance for conservation authorities to have an umbrella organization. She highlighted two partner presentations that followed the meeting – one from ECCC and one from Forests Ontario which showcased funding opportunities for conservation authorities.
- k) Central Frontenac Council Meeting Presentation: September 26, 2023
- l) Drummond/North Elmsley Council Meeting Presentation: Sept 26, 2023

Upcoming

- m) Montague Council Meeting Presentation: October 3, 2023
- n) Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, City of Ottawa: October 5, 2023
- o) Source Protection Committee Meeting: October 5, 2023
- p) Merrickville-Wolford Council Meeting Presentation: October 10, 2023
- q) Clarence-Rockland Council Meeting Presentation: October 11, 2023
- r) North Dundas Council Meeting Presentation: October 17, 2023
- s) Latonell Conservation Symposium: October 23 & 24, 2023
- t) RVCA Board of Directors Meeting: October 26, 2023

Councillor Wynands, who is also a member of South Nation Conservation, encouraged Board members to attend SNC's upcoming Thanksgiving Harvest being held on October 4, 2023 at the Healing Place. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson confirmed that SNC's invitation had been forward to all staff and Board members and that a number of staff were planning to attend.

14.0 Member Inquiries

Reeve Fournier expressed appreciation for Derek Matheson, Rural Clean Water Program Manager and Amanda Lange, Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat Monitoring Coordinator for attending the Friends of the Tay Watershed Discovery Day and thanked Ms. Casgrain-Robertson for all her evening presentations to municipal councils over the past couple of months.

15.0 New Business

A member inquired about the role of the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation and expressed interest in having the Foundation's Chair make a presentation at a future meeting. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson explained that the mandate of the Foundation is to raise money that supports priorities set by the RVCA, and that in recent years, Foundation members have been invited to join RVCA's annual watershed tour as well as other events to promote a greater awareness amongst the RVCA and RVCF Boards. Staff committed to look into a presentation by the Foundation to the RVCA Board.

In response to a member inquiry, Ms. Casgrain-Robertson confirmed that past Foundation members and Chairs had been recognized in a variety of ways and that how staff, members and volunteers are recognized has been identified as a workplan item.

16.0 Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m. on a resolution by Wilson Lo which was seconded by Steve Fournier.

Kristin Strackerjan
Chair

Marissa Grondin
Recording Secretary

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer