

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

*Meeting Held In-person and Electronically due to COVID-19 Pandemic*

**APPROVED MINUTES**

<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>8/22</b>	<b>November 24, 2022</b>
<b>Present:</b>	Jeff Banks Judy Brown Brian Dowdall Robin Jones Pieter Leenhouts Shawn Pankow	Gerry Boyce Jamie Crawford Steve Fournier Andy Jozefowicz Dale McLenaghan Anne Robinson
<b>Staff:</b>	Sommer Casgrain-Robertson Dan Cooper Marissa Grondin Glen McDonald	Ian Cochrane Kathy Dallaire Marika Livingston Brian Stratton
<b>Regrets:</b>	Vince Carroll Bob Foster Julie Graveline Gene Richardson Kristin Strackerjan	George Darouze Mel Foster Susan Irwin Rob Rothgeb

Pieter Leenhouts, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m.

Chair Leenhouts introduced members who were reappointed or newly appointed for the 2023-2026 term.

General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer conducted a roll call.

**1.0 Land Acknowledgement Statement**

Chair Leenhouts gave the Land Acknowledgement statement.

**2.0 Agenda Review**

Chair Leenhouts reviewed the Agenda.

### **3.0 Adoption of Agenda**

**Motion 1-221124**

**Moved by:** Brian Dowdall  
**Seconded by:** Anne Robinson

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

**Motion Carried**

### **4.0 Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **5.0 Approval of Minutes of October 27, 2022**

**Motion 2-221124**

**Moved by:** Robin Jones  
**Seconded by:** Steve Fournier

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approves the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting #07/22, October 27, 2022, as amended.

**Motion Carried**

### **6.0 Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising.

### **7.0 Motts Mills Channel and Ponds Project (Phase II)**

Dan Cooper, Director of Conservation Lands and Stewardship provided an overview of the Motts Mills Channel and Ponds Project Phase II.

Chair Leenhouts opened the floor to questions.

A member inquired about any potential landowner concerns along the bordering lands where the project is proposed. Mr. Cooper explained that all landowners adjacent to the wetland have received a letter outlining the project and the property owners where the project is taking place have given their permission.

In response to an inquiry from a member regarding responses to RFPs, Mr. Cooper explained that in general, the RVCA has not experienced

challenges with receiving proposal responses and has found that there are contractors who are eager to be involved with RVCA projects as they positively impact the community and natural environment.

In response to a project timeline question from a member, Mr. Cooper stated that the project is scheduled to begin in January and should take approximately three weeks to complete.

*Rob Rothgeb joined the meeting at 6:50 p.m.*

In response to a member inquiry about the project's potential impact on hibernating wildlife, Mr. Cooper confirmed that a wildlife impact assessment had been completed and because the area is 90% cattails, there is low likelihood of hibernating wildlife. Mr. Cooper also confirmed that the RVCA applied for and received permits from DFO and MNRF.

In response to a member inquiry about the pond's refresh rate, Sommer Casgrain-Robertson stated that it would be dependent on the time of year and watershed conditions as the wetland would see a higher flushing rate during a heavy spring freshet as the water control structure has a bypass for 1:100 year flood.

**Motion 3-221124**

**Moved by:** Jeff Banks  
**Seconded by:** Rob Rothgeb

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approves Mike Redpath Dragline Service to complete the Motts Mills Channel & Ponds Project Phase II at a cost of \$82,000 plus HST; and

THAT staff be authorized to spend up to an additional \$12,300 (15 percent contingency) to cover any unforeseen project expenses.

**Motion Carried**

## **8.0 2023 Conservation Ontario Levy**

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager highlighted the value of Conservation Ontario to member conservation authorities and reviewed their 2023 levy.

In response to an inquiry from a member, Ms. Casgrain-Robertson explained that the Conservation Ontario levy would not be affected by Bill 23 as changes only grant the Minister the ability to freeze conservation authority fees.

**Motion 4-221124**

**Moved by:**

Robin Jones

**Seconded by:**

Anne Robinson

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approve payment in the amount of \$45,453 to Conservation Ontario for their 2023 levy to the RVCA.

**Motion Carried**

**9.0 2023 Fee Schedules (Batch 2)**

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson presented the 2023 Fee Schedules for conservation lands, education programs, stewardship programs and general services. Fee Schedules G through J are in addition to Fee Schedules A through E that were brought to the Board on October 27, 2022. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson noted that under Regulation 400/22 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, conservation authorities are required to post all fee schedules on their websites.

In response to a member inquiry about fees for facility rentals not exceeding what the market can bear, Mr. Cooper stated that the RVCA sets fees that are in line with our repeat clientele which are largely service groups like scouts and guides and that RVCA's rental spaces are fully booked throughout the year including weekends.

**Motion 5-221124**

**Moved by:**

Brian Dowdall

**Seconded by:**

Shawn Pankow

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approve the following fee schedules to take effect as indicated on each schedule:

- Schedule G: Conservation Areas
- Schedule H: Education Programs
- Schedule I: Stewardship Programs
- Schedule J: General Services

AND THAT the Board of Directors add the following fees to RVCA's Schedule E: Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems fee schedule that was approved by the Board at their October 27, 2022 meeting to take effect January 1, 2023:

- Planning Comment (Per lot for Subdivision Plan Review) \$220
- Consent Application \$330
- Additional Consent Applications (same retained parcel) \$150

**Motion Carried**

## **10.0 Financial Reports for the Period Ending September 30, 2022**

Kathy Dallaire, Manager of Finance presented third quarter Financial Reports and opened the floor to questions.

In response to a member inquiry about forecasting a Planning and Regulations deficit, Ms. Dallaire explained that costs in each program can be higher or lower than budgeted as staff resources are deployed to address fluctuating application numbers.

**Motion 6-221124**

**Moved by:** Judy Brown  
**Seconded by:** Anne Robinson

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approve the Revenue and Expenditure Reports and Balance Sheet for the period ending September 30, 2022.

**Motion Carried**

## **11.0 2023 Revised Draft Budget and Levy Apportionment**

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson presented revised budget options for Board consideration pertaining to levy and cost of living increases in response to direction received from the Board in October as well as updated information regarding assessment growth and budget direction from the City of Ottawa and neighbouring conservation authorities. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson explained that RVCA's management team was recommending scenario B1 as it balanced financial prudence during a period of record inflation with maintaining competitive wages in a tight labour market.

A member stated that they agreed with the recommendation and supported a 3.0% cost of living increase.

A member commented that the board has a responsibility to ensure the budget is sustainable and less of a burden on taxpayers, and therefore supports scenario B1 as the best solution.

A member commented on the thoroughness of the report and noted they were impressed with the number of scenarios that were taken into consideration by staff. They thanked the General Manager and staff for their time to run the various scenarios. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson stated that she would pass along the complement to Kathy Dallaire who provided all the analysis for the various scenarios and to the management team who

spent considerable time reviewing and considering the various scenarios to land on a recommendation to the Board.

In response to a member inquiry, Ms. Casgrain-Robertson indicated that the municipal population data shown in the levy apportionment chart comes from MNR and it is believed that the data comes from the federal census which means the data is always lower than actual. The assessment value data however, is based on MPAC data and is therefore more recent.

In response to a member inquiry about borrowing money to balance the budget, Ms. Casgrain-Robertson stated that she could confirm that in the last ten years, the RVCA had never borrowed money for this reason. Instead, the RVCA has worked hard to increase its reserves in recent years at the recommendation of the auditor so that reserves can equalize revenue during periods of fluctuating user fees or costs.

A member commented on the critical need to retain staff and supports scenario B1.

**Motion 7-221124**

**Moved by:** Robin Jones  
**Seconded by:** Rob Rothgeb

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority directs staff to revise RVCA's 2023 Draft Budget and Levy Apportionment sheet (dated October 20, 2022) to reflect Scenario B1;

AND THAT the Board directs staff to circulate this revised Draft Budget and Levy Apportionment sheet to all member municipalities for review and comment.

**Motion Carried**

## **12.0 Bill 23: More Homes Built Faster Act**

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson provided an overview of Bill 23 (*More Homes Built Faster Act*) and the proposed changes outlined in four key postings on the Environmental Registry. She highlighted the potential impacts on the work of both conservation authorities and member municipalities.

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson noted that Eastern Ontario conservation authorities are making use of all avenues to raise concerns (media releases and interviews as well as submissions to Standing Committee and the ERO) and expressed gratitude to the overwhelming support received from member municipalities, especially the 35 Mayors and Reeves who endorsed the joint letter submitted to Standing Committee by the 10 Eastern Ontario conservation authorities.

A member inquired about what would happen if the government chose not to have a consultation period for the regulations required to implement the changes outlined in Bill 23. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson stated that new regulations are traditionally introduced twice a year in January and July, so conservation authorities are anticipating that new regulations would likely be released in the summer. All sectors including conservation authorities, municipalities and development are calling on Minister Smith to reconvene the Conservation Authorities Working Group that Minister Piccinni led to provide advice and input into the regulations.

In response to a member inquiry about a possible delegation at ROMA, Ms. Casgrain-Robertson stated that she would follow up with Mayor Jones and other Mayors and Reeves on the Board about the potential to submit a delegation request.

A member commented that these changes must affect staff morale and inquired about how citizens can express their thoughts to the province. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson commented that these proposed changes have been very hard on staff and are reminiscent of the changes implemented two years ago. The difference is that in 2020 the changes were followed by the formation of the provincial working group in response to significant municipal and public pressure which led to a collaborative and consultative approach to the creation of regulations in 2021 and 2022. Bill 23 presents significant challenges to the work we do and the protection of critical natural features in the watershed. The management team has tried to keep staff as informed as possible about the bill and the legislative process and has involved staff in the preparation of key messaging as well as the attached ERO comments to leverage their knowledge and expertise. The public can also submit comments to ERO and were also able to submit comments to the Standing Committee.

A member thanked the General Manager for the report and commented on the important role of wetlands. They inquired about risks to Source Water Protection and stated that Bill 23 has the potential to increase pollutants in sources of drinking water which would mean more required treatment at municipal drinking water plants leading to higher costs for taxpayers and municipalities. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson stated that Bill 23 goes against what science is telling us to do and disregards the critical role wetlands play in mitigating flooding, drought and improving water quality.

A member commented that they worry for first time homeowners whose homes may be threatened by floods or other natural hazards in ten years due to the changes implemented by Bill 23 and the potential that houses will be built in areas affected by natural hazards.

A member relayed shared concerns from their municipality regarding the future of Ontario housing, and lack of faith that Bill 23 will provide more affordable homes.

A member noted that they can understand the provinces' need to take action on the housing crisis, but not at the expense of wetlands and the work of conservation authorities. They expressed concerns for housing affordability, individual taxpayers' burdens and the need to amend the Building Code to ensure all parties are on the same page. They stated that if we continue to raise our voice, perhaps we can make a difference.

Chair Leenhouts commented that he shares everyone's thoughts and opinions and reminded the board why conservation authorities were formed in the first place – to protect the safety of people from natural hazards like hurricane Hazel.

**Motion 8-221124**

**Moved by:** Anne Robinson  
**Seconded by:** Shawn Pankow

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approves the attached comments to include in RVCA's submission to the Environmental Registry of Ontario regarding posting numbers 019-6141, 019-2927, 019,6161 and 019,6160.

**Motion Carried**

*Robin Jones left the meeting 8:09*

### **13.0 Meetings**

- a) MNRF Webinar on Bill 23: November 1, 2022
- b) Source Protection Committee Meeting: November 2, 2022
- c) Council Training within Leeds and Grenville: November 5, 2022
- d) Council Training within Frontenac: November 9, 2022
- e) Executive Committee Hearings: November 10, 2022
- f) Provincial General Managers Meeting: November 15, 2022
- g) Ottawa Riverkeeper Annual Public Meeting (speaker): November 22, 2022

#### Upcoming

- h) Conservation Ontario Council Meeting: November 28, 2022
- i) Provincial General Managers Meeting: December 12, 2022
- j) City of Ottawa Member Recruitment Info Session (in person): December 12, 2022
- k) RVCF Board of Directors Meeting: December 14, 2022
- l) City of Ottawa Member Recruitment Info Session (virtual): December 19, 2022
- m) RVCA New Member Orientation: January 30, 2022



**14.0 Member Inquiries**

None.

**15.0 New Business**

Reeve Fournier informed the Board that Derek Matheson from RVCA provided an informative presentation on the new ALUS Lanark chapter. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson stated she would pass the compliment along to Derek.

**16.0 Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m. on a motion by Andy Jozefowicz which was seconded by Steve Fournier.

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**Pieter Leenhouts**  
Chair

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**Marissa Grondin**  
Recording Secretary

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**Sommer Casgrain-Robertson**  
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer