



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD

Watershed Advisory Committee

Meeting Agenda

Date: September 24th, 2024

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Watershed Room, SNC

Address: 38 Victoria Street, Finch, ON K0C 1K0





Watershed Advisory Committee

Meeting Agenda

September 24th, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

1. Traditional Land Acknowledgement and Traditional Opening: John
2. Chair's Remarks
3. Approval of Agenda (Supplemental Agenda)
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
5. Presentations
 - a. SNC Public Mapping Portal: Ben
 - b. How to "Report a Concern" Online: Eric
 - c. Staff Update
6. Request for Approval: Approval of Watershed Advisory Committee meeting minutes of June 25th, 2024 3-7
7. New Business:
 - a. Watershed Strategies
 - i. Request for Approval: Communications Plan – Watershed Development Strategies: Erin 8-11
 - ii. Update: Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy – Risks and Opportunities Claire 12-14
 - iii. Activity: Watershed Programs and Services SWOT Analysis: Ronda 15
 - b. Update: Community Environmental Grants: Kelsey 16-17
8. Supplemental Agenda (if any)
9. Community Engagement: Roundtable
10. Dates of Upcoming Meetings:
 - a. Watershed Advisory Committee
 - November 26th, 2024 at 1:00 pm, at SNC Office
 - b. Grants Sub-Committee
 - September 26th, 2024 at 9:00 am, virtual
 - November 18th, 2024 at 9:00 am, at SNC Office
11. Correspondence (if any)
12. Adjournment

Ronda Boutz,
Secretary-Treasurer.



WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting No. 02/24
 Thursday, June 25th, 2024 1:00 p.m.

Watershed Room, SNC



Directors Present:

Bill Smirle, SNC Board of Directors, Committee Chair
 Jackie Kelly-Pemberton, Member at Large, Committee Vice Chair
 Matt Alkerton, Member at Large
 Sarah Burger, Member at Large
 Steve Densham, SNC Chair, ex-officio
 Emilie DeRochie, St. Lawrence River Institute
 Jordan Graham, Member at Large
 Dave Grant, Leeds and Grenville Municipalities
 Larissa Holman, Ottawa River Keeper
 Murray Inch, Volunteer of Oak Valley Pioneer Park
 Alain Jaquemet, Member at Large
 Genevieve Lajoie, SNC Board of Directors
 Glenn Mackey, ALUS - Ontario East
 Pamela O'Donnell, Member at Large
 Louis Prevost, United Counties of Prescott & Russell
 Tara Redpath, City of Ottawa
 Jean Saint-Pierre, Bois  Est
 Cindy Saucier, Member at Large
 Fred Schueler, Fragile Inheritance Natural History
 Fran ois St. Amour, SNC Board of Directors
 Peter Young, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry

Regrets:

Greg Faaren, St. Lawrence Parks Commission
 Dorothy Hamilton, Ontario Woodlot Association – SDG Chapter
 Erica Louttit, Miitig Healing Lodge
 Erika Sheridan, Member at Large
 Kayla Sunday, Mohawks of Akwesasne
 Adrian Wynands, SNC Vice Chair, ex-officio

Staff Present:

Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer
 Claire Lemay, Senior Planner
 John Mesman, Managing Director, Property, Conservation Lands and
 Community Outreach
 Pat Piitz, Team Lead, Property



RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the results received from the Watershed Advisory Committee – Environmental Priorities survey; and

FURHTER THAT:

The Committee discussion on environmental priorities be considered in the development of the Watershed Strategies.

CARRIED

The Committee recessed for a break at 2:32 p.m.

The Committee reconvened from break at 2:40 p.m.

UPDATE: GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF JUNE 17th, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-014/24

Moved by: Jackie Kelly-Pemberton
Seconded by: Louis Prevost

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the Grants Sub-Committee Meeting of June 17th, 2024 update.

CARRIED

WATERSHED STRATEGIES

DRAFT TABLE OF CONTENTS

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-015/24

Moved by: Dave Grant
Seconded by: Sarah Burger

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the update on draft Table of Contents for the Watershed Strategies; and

FUTHER THAT:

The Committee provide staff with feedback on these draft Table of Contents.

CARRIED



WATERSHED BASED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – SUMMARY OF EXISTING KNOWLEDGE

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-016/24

Moved by: François St. Amour
Seconded by: Genevieve Lajoie

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the update on the Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy.

CARRIED

CONSERVATION AREA LAND INVENTORY

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-017/24

Moved by: Glenn Mackey
Seconded by: Alain Jaquetmet

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the Conservation Area Land Inventory update.

CARRIED

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

No Supplemental Agenda

Steve Densham left the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: ROUNDTABLE

Committee members shared the following updates:

- Volunteers have identified approximately 50 Swamp white oak in the region to date
- The Eastern Chapter of the Society of Ontario Nut Growers is working with Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to complete site preparation and planting of nut trees on OPG lands
- The Chesterville District Historical Society held a very successful event with support from a South Nation Conservation (SNC) Community Environmental Grant
- ALUS (Alternative Landuse Services) – Eastern Ontario will hold their next meeting on June 26th, 2024 at the South Nation Conservation office
- Boisés Est completed a tree giveaway at Nokomis Park and also published a “lessons learned” article regarding the derecho storm
- The “Riceville Wood and Forest Expo”, hosted by Boisés Est, is scheduled for September 8th, 2024
- “All About the River” event in Morrisburg, ON is scheduled for this coming Saturday; SNC staff will be in attendance with their “Tackle Share” program
- “Meet on Main Street” events throughout the Township of North Dundas this summer



DATES OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

- a. **Watershed Advisory Committee**
- September 24th, 2024 at 1:00 p.m., at SNC Office
 - November 26th, 2024 at 1:00 p.m., at SNC Office
- b. **Grants Sub-Committee**
- September 16th, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., at SNC Office (to be confirmed)
 - November 18th, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., at SNC Office

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-018/24

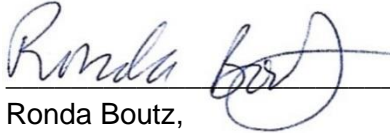
Moved by: Glenn Mackey

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee meeting of June 25th, 2024 be adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

CARRIED

Bill Smirle,
Committee Chair.


Ronda Boutz,
Secretary-Treasurer.

/rb



To: Watershed Advisory Committee
From: Erin Thorne, Communications Specialist
Date: September 16, 2024
Subject: Request for Approval: Communications Plan – Watershed Development Strategies

RECOMMENDATION:

The Watershed Advisory Committee approve the Communications Plan for the Watershed-Based Resources Strategy and the Conservation Lands Strategy.

DISCUSSION:

South Nation Conservation is developing a Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy and a Conservation Lands Strategy, as part of the requirement of Ontario Regulation 686/21.

These strategies will establish guiding principles and objectives to guide the design and delivery of program and services, including supporting information, reviews, and future updates (WAC-007/24, WAC-008/24, WAC-015/24, WAC-16/24).

Consultation is an important part of strategy development and must be completed before the strategies are finalized by December 31, 2024.

Stakeholder feedback will be shared with the Watershed Advisory Committee and incorporated into the strategies. Public feedback will be solicited once the draft strategies are available and will be guided through an online information session and public feedback forms. Feedback will be advertised through newspaper and social media advertisements.

The attached Communications Plan includes target dates, timelines, and deliverables for public consultation on Conservation Authority Strategies.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: The budget for the communications deliverables is included in the 2024 Budget under Communication: Media and Communications Products, pages 85-89.

SNC Policy Adherence: Ontario Regulation 686/21 sets out the Mandatory Programs and Services which must be delivered by all Conservation Authorities in Ontario. Subsection 12(1)3 of the Regulation requires all Conservation Authorities to prepare a "watershed-based resource management strategy" in accordance with subsections 12(4) through (9). Subsection 9(1)1 of the Regulation requires all Conservation Authorities to prepare a "Conservation Areas Strategy" and Subsection 10(1) includes the components of the Strategy.

Programs and Services Category: Category 1 – Mandatory Programs and Services

Erin Thorne
Communications Specialist

Attachment: Communications Plan for Watershed and Conservation Lands Strategies.



DRAFT COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Watershed-Based Resources Strategy and Conservation Area Strategy

September - December 2024

Objectives:

- SNC's Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy (Watershed Strategy) and Conservation Lands Strategy have been developed to establish guiding principles and objectives for the delivery of Conservation Authority Mandatory Programs and Services.
- The strategies will also identify other local programs and services that are delivered through municipal and partner agreements and on SNC Conservation Lands.
- The Strategies are developed to help improve the delivery of local programs while identifying current and future risks to program delivery. Both strategies will also outline opportunities and future actions needed to support objectives and long-term goals.
- Section 21.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 686/21 (Mandatory Programs and Services) outline required strategy components.
- Stakeholder feedback will be coordinated through the Watershed Advisory Committee.
- Public consultation will encourage feedback from residents and community groups on the draft strategies.

Target Audiences:

- Members of the Watershed Advisory Committee and Board of Directors
- Municipalities: Key Staff and Councillors
- Public (watershed residents, business owners, community groups, etc.)

Key Messages:

- The Watershed Strategy and Conservation Areas Strategy establish guiding principles and objectives to inform the decision-making on conservation lands and delivery of SNC's programs and services.
- Strategies will be updated regularly to provide opportunities for stakeholder participation and public input into strategy development.

Communication Deliverables and Products:

Consultation Website and Online Feedback Forms

- Dedicated consultation webpage with draft strategies and resources
- Online Feedback Forms for each Strategy:
 - Watershed-Based Resource Strategy
 - Conservation Areas Strategy

Press Release and Advertisements

- Press Release with invitation to provide input and share feedback on the draft strategies
- Newspaper Advertisements on Draft Strategies Available Online
- Social Media Campaign and Advertisements for Feedback Forms

| Timeline (2024) | Meeting Dates and Timelines | Deliverables |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Early Engagement with Board, Committee, and Staff | | |
| Spring | April 17, 2024 WAC Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Project Charter with the project scope, staff resources, and program areas for review. • Deliver presentations on new requirements for the development of Watershed and Conservation Areas Strategies. • Identify the categorization and funding of all programs. • Establish a Watershed Advisory Committee to provide input into SNC programs and services and future strategy development. |
| Summer | June 25, 2024 WAC Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarize existing datasets, inventories, and reports that contribute to the characterization and knowledge of the South Nation Watershed Jurisdiction. • Identify publications that will contribute to the development of the Watershed and Conservation Areas Strategies. • Draft and obtain feedback on the Table of Contents to identify sections of the publications that will be developed. |

| Strategy Development and Consultations | | |
|---|---|---|
| September | <p>Report Creation and Review Exercises</p> <p>Sept 24, 2024 WAC Meeting</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarize risk and opportunity analysis completed by staff for Category 1 Programs. Engage the Watershed Advisory Committee on a risk and opportunity analysis for Category 3 Programs. Communications Plan developed to solicit feedback on Strategies. |
| October | <p>Draft Reports Published</p> <p>Engagement and Feedback</p> <p>Oct 17, 2024 Board Meeting</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Watershed Strategy and Conservation Areas Strategy to be prepared by October 7th, 2024. Consultation Webpage to be published with summary information, draft strategies, and online feedback forms. Issue Press Release and social media ads to solicit public input into the draft strategies beginning the week of October 14th, 2024. Memos to Municipal Councils distributed October 14th, 2024. |
| November | <p>Nov 6, 2024 Online Meeting</p> <p>Nov 21, 2024 Board Meeting</p> <p>Nov 26, 2024 WAC Meeting</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider hosting an online information session with recording available online in November 2024 (5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14). Offer opportunities for 1-on-1 meetings with partner organizations, local groups, and interested individuals. Encourage feedback to be received by November 15th, 2024. Provide update to the Board of Directors on November 21st, 2024. Address feedback and comments received from the public consultations at WAC meeting on November 26th, 2024 |
| December | <p>Dec 12, 2024 Board Meeting</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update final versions of the Watershed Strategy and the Conservation Areas Strategy. Approve publications at the December Board of Directors Meeting. |



To: Watershed Advisory Committee
From: Claire Lemay, Senior Planner
Date: September 16, 2024
Subject: Update: Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy – Risks and Opportunities

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the update on the Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy risks and opportunities.

BACKGROUND:

Section 21.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (the "Act") and Ontario Regulation 686/21 under this Act requires that each Conservation Authority develop a Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy by December 31, 2024. A presentation was made to the Committee in April 2024, explaining the requirements and process, and in June, summarizing the existing knowledge SNC relies on for program and service delivery.

DISCUSSION:

SNC staff participated in a series of brainstorming sessions to identify risks to effective program and service delivery and opportunities to address those risks, for each program area. The brainstorming sessions included general discussion and an identification of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for each program area.

The attached table summarizes the outcomes of the discussions, which have been grouped into the following key themes: Financial, Strategic, Compliance, Operational, Reputational, and Climate Change.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: The preparation of the Strategy is included in the 2024 Budget under Approvals: Projects: Watershed Studies, pages 90-91.

SNC Policy Adherence: Ontario Regulation 686/21 sets out the Mandatory Programs and Services which must be delivered by all conservation authorities in Ontario. Subsection 12(1)3 of the Regulation requires all conservation authorities to prepare a "watershed-based resource management strategy" in accordance with subsections 12(4) through (9).

Programs and Services Category: Category 1 – Mandatory Programs and Services

Claire Lemay
Senior Planner

Attachment: Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy – Risks and Opportunities [DRAFT]



WATERSHED BASED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES [DRAFT]

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>FINANCIAL</p> <p>Risks</p> <p>Increasing capital costs put timely inspection, maintenance, and repair of infrastructure at risk. Infrastructure failure would create a risk to public health and safety and may cause flooding and property damage.</p> <p>Continued provincial freeze on application fees for planning and regulations.</p> | <p>Opportunities</p> <p>Address budgetary constraints by exploring the option of implementing a capital levy to cover costs of infrastructure maintenance and replacement.</p> <p>Ensure that, when possible, development pays for development through appropriate user fees for planning and regulations.</p> <p>Investigate opportunities for Category 3 agreements with municipalities relating to improvements to watershed monitoring.</p> |
| <p>STRATEGIC</p> <p>Risks</p> <p>Staff turnover and lack of qualified staff create shortfalls and risk of losing institutional knowledge.</p> <p>Natural hazards and watershed management programs rely on outside sources of funding, including grants from the federal and provincial governments, which include additional requirements and strict timelines. This adds to uncertainty and hinders long-term work planning.</p> | <p>Opportunities</p> <p>Engage in succession planning and increase opportunities for cross-training between departments to enhance operational resiliency.</p> <p>Use data to identify strategic priorities for stewardship activities.</p> <p>Leverage the expertise on the Watershed Advisory Committee to guide strategic program direction.</p> <p>Continue to engage municipal staff with Municipal Information Day and maintain good relationships on an ongoing basis.</p> |
| <p>COMPLIANCE</p> <p>Risks</p> <p>Some of SNC's mapping of natural hazards is outdated or incomplete. For example, older floodplain studies did not include erosion hazards. SNC has limited or incomplete mapping for wetlands, karst features, and potential retrogressive landslide risk areas.</p> | <p>Opportunities</p> <p>Continue to use the 10-year workplan to prioritize new floodplain and erosion control mapping projects as funding becomes available.</p> |



| | |
|--|--|
| <p>OPERATIONAL</p> <p>Risks Sediment accumulation & erosion along shorelines due to cumulative impacts of loss of riparian vegetation.</p> <p>Monitoring data collection relies on external agencies, telecommunications networks, etc.</p> <p>Without standardization, application submissions are inconsistent, presenting challenges for technical reviews.</p> | <p>Opportunities Advertise and prioritize clean water program and other opportunities for restoration of shorelines and riparian areas.</p> <p>Acquire, develop, and use new software and hardware tools to improve data collection and analysis.</p> <p>Continue to develop technical guidelines and detailed submission requirements for permit applications.</p> |
| <p>REPUTATIONAL</p> <p>Risks Public understanding of the interconnectedness of development and flooding and erosion is limited.</p> | <p>Opportunities Design and implement public education programs to address: water safety, flooding, drought, landslides, shoreline restoration, cumulative impacts of development on watershed conditions.</p> <p>Improve the public geoportal and consider making more SNC data available to the public.</p> |
| <p>CLIMATE CHANGE</p> <p>Risks Climate change effects flooding, erosion, and landslides due to higher temperatures, more rain, increased severe weather events, changes to ice cover, and water temperature.</p> | <p>Opportunities Use new technologies to enhance modelling and include more data in modelling.</p> <p>Analyse large flood/drought events.</p> <p>Develop a Climate Change Strategy for SNC.</p> |



To: Watershed Advisory Committee
From: Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer
Date: September 16, 2024
Subject: Activity: Watershed Programs and Services SWOT Analysis

RECOMMENDATION:

None, report is for information purposes.

DISCUSSION:

South Nation Conservation (SNC) is preparing a Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy (the "Strategy") in accordance with Ontario Regulation 686/21 Mandatory Programs and Services under the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

The Strategy includes SNC's guiding principals and objectives, and a review of a programs and services to identify issues and risks that limit effective program delivery.

In support of the Strategy, the Committee completed a survey and environmental priorities exercise at the June meeting. Building on this work, Staff will guide the Watershed Advisory Committee through a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis of Watershed Programs and Services during the meeting. Program analysis will include:

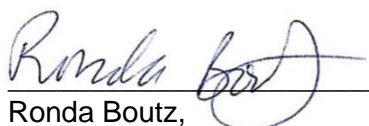
- landowner stewardship (tree planting and clean water program)
- outreach and education (youth and school programs)
- habitat restoration
- conservation lands

This analysis will help to identify mitigating actions to reduce identified issues and risks and provide input for future direction of these programs and services.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: No impact on the 2024 Budget.

SNC Policy Adherence: Ontario Regulation 686/21 sets out the Mandatory Programs and Services which must be delivered by all conservation authorities in Ontario. Subsection 12(1)3 of the Regulation requires all conservation authorities to prepare a "watershed-based resource management strategy" in accordance with subsections 12(4) through (9). Subsection 9(1)1 of the Regulation requires all Conservation Authorities to prepare a "Conservation Areas Strategy" and Subsection 10(1) includes the components of the Strategy.



Ronda Boutz,
Secretary-Treasurer.



To: Watershed Advisory Committee
From: Kelsey Smith, Stewardship and Outreach Assistant
Date: September 16, 2024
Subject: Update: Community Environmental Grants

RECOMMENDATION:

The Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file an update on the Community Environmental Grant Program.

DISCUSSION:

South Nation Conservation's popular Community Environmental Grants Program has traditionally supported community events across the Conservation Authority's Eastern Ontario watershed jurisdiction that promote recreational use of our rivers, protect the environment, or celebrate our natural heritage.

Program funding was previously approved the former Communications Committee and approvals are now completed at a staff level. This new process has reduced administrative effort and timelines to ensure that community groups can receive support and funding certainty.

The following grants have been approved so far in 2024:

- Avonmore Elementary School – Community Garden
 - St. Albert Optimist Club – Youth Fishing Derby
 - Rural Woodlands – Hometown Habitat Community Event
 - Kin Club of Russell – Poutmasters Fishing Derby
 - Spencerville Mill Foundation – The Spencerville Poker Run
 - The River Institute – Eastern Ontario Water Festival
 - Knights of Columbus – Council 11725 – Community Duck Race
 - Chesterville Historical Society – 40th Anniversary Celebration
 - Osgoode Fish and Game Club – Annual Kids Fishing Day
 - Chesterville Kayak Club – The Chesterville Poker Run
 - Glengarry Pioneer Museum – The Glengarry Honey Fair
 - Russell Historical Society – Annual Heritage Festival
 - Township of Russell – Library Community Garden
 - Township of North Dundas – Community Butterfly Garden
 - Greely Community Association – Community Clean Up
 - Eco East – Swamp White Oak Harvesting
 - River Institute – 30th Anniversary Gala
-



Below is a summary of Community Environmental Grant Funding for 2024:

| Funding Distributed | Remaining Funding |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| \$5,300 | \$4,700 |

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: Funding for Community Environmental Grants is included in the 2024 SNC Budget under Landowner Stewardship and Outreach: Education and Outreach on pages 16-17.

SNC Policy Adherence: Disbursement of Community Environmental Grants is compliant with the Purchasing Policy – Purchasing Limits/Authorized Buyers – Team Lead’s approved limit of up to \$5,000.

Kelsey Smith
Kelsey Smith,
Stewardship and Outreach Assistant