



SOUTH NATION  
CONSERVATION  
DE LA NATION SUD

# PROTECTING AND INCREASING FOREST COVER

in the South Nation  
Conservation  
Jurisdiction

AUGUST 2018



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

South Nation Conservation (SNC) and its 16 member municipalities have a shared concern over the decline in forest cover within the SNC jurisdiction in Eastern Ontario.

Reports produced in 2016 analyzed aerial imagery and local land use changes to provide an update on the status of forest cover. Regional forest cover, which is closely linked to ecological health, is below Environment and Climate Change Canada's minimum recommended level of 30 percent. In 2014, forest cover was at 28.1 percent with 13,148 acres of forests lost between 2008 and 2014. Research demonstrates that this minimum only supports half of the potential species richness and marginally healthy aquatic systems.

The loss of regional forests is a result of land use changes and development; including agriculture, residential, industrial/commercial, solar farms, and unsustainable harvesting.

Consultations led the SNC Board to direct special funding to two stakeholder working groups to produce recommendations to help conserve and improve forest cover. The first working group was composed of agricultural producers, the second group included new stakeholders from partner municipalities, First Nations, land development, forestry and public.

Forests provide many important ecological, economic, social and cultural benefits to humans and the environment. Research and local data identify that decreases in forest cover result in decreases in water quality and quantity and increases in flooding, droughts and erosion. Forests also sequester carbon, release oxygen and provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife.

Protecting biodiversity is a shared responsibility for all Canadians and all levels of government; federal, provincial and local. The role of a Conservation Authority is to work with local partners to manage natural resources with human activities; to find a balance between people and the environment; economy and ecology.

This forest conservation initiative included two years of review by local stakeholders and government representatives through public working groups to create a series of recommendations for the SNC Board and member municipalities. Discussion and debate was shared by groups of diverse and passionate people who came together with a goal of protecting and increasing forest cover in the South Nation Conservation jurisdiction.

Recommendations are summarized within this report and include suggested program enhancements, forest conservation initiatives, strengthened partnerships, review of legislative tools, policy changes and a strong focus on communications, education and outreach.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The *Forest Cover and Trends Analysis* report, released in 2016, used aerial imagery from 2008 and 2014 to provide an update on the status of forest cover throughout the South Nation Conservation (SNC) jurisdiction in Eastern Ontario. This work was completed in partnership with United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (SDG); United Counties of Prescott-Russell (UCPR); United Counties of Leeds and Grenville; City of Ottawa; Raisin Region Conservation Authority; Ontario Woodlot Association – S.D.&G.; and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Development and land conversion to sustain increased populations and expanded agricultural production in Eastern Ontario is impacting forest cover and its ecological benefits for a healthy environment. The changes in forest cover can be attributed to agriculture, residential land development, industrial/commercial development, solar farms, and other causes.

Forest cover in the jurisdiction has fallen below the minimum recommended level of 30 percent (*How Much Habitat is Enough?*, Environment and Climate Change Canada, 2013). In 2014, total forest cover across SNC's jurisdiction [area of 4,384 km<sup>2</sup> (1,083,310 acres)] was 28.1 percent; approximately 5,300 hectares (13,148 acres) of forests were lost since 2008, with an average annual loss of approximately 880 hectares (2,175 acres). At the time of the study, some municipalities had forest cover as low as 3 and 13%, while some had amounts as high as 47 and 49%. Since the study period (2008-2014), the loss of forests has continued to increase.

While all member municipalities experienced forest cover loss, the Winchester Clay Plains and Ottawa Clay Flats had the lowest forest cover in the jurisdiction. Soils with clay composition, when worked properly, can produce high agricultural yields.

Forest cover is closely linked to ecological health; with the loss of trees there is an increase in erosion, droughts, floods and an increased amount of sediment and pollutants that enter rivers and streams. Riparian tree cover around watercourses is very important; SNC's *State of the Nation* Report highlights trends where water quality is very poor and phosphorous concentrations exceed provincial objectives in areas where there is little to no forest cover around watercourses. Riparian cover was reported to be 22% in 2014, with Environment and Climate Change Canada recommending that 75% of the stream length should be naturally vegetated on both sides of a stream.

The 2016 *Forest Cover and Trends Analysis* and 2018 *State of the Nation* reports are available online at <http://www.nation.on.ca/water/reports>.

## 2. AGRICULTURAL FOREST COVER COMMITTEE

Nearly 90 percent of the land in Eastern Ontario is privately owned, with agriculture being the predominate land use in the SNC jurisdiction. Starting a formal dialogue with this sector was a practical first step to addressing forest cover loss. In response to growing public concern, the SNC Board of Directors approved a 2017 Forest Conservation Special Levy of \$100,000 (BD-134/17). This Special Levy was to support the formation of an agriculturally-led committee to discuss options for protecting and increasing forest cover and to implement key recommendations on how to improve it.

The Agricultural Forest Cover Committee (AFCC) was established in January 2017 with a total of 22 members; agricultural representatives (17 seats) and municipal representatives (5 seats). Agricultural member selection was coordinated by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture through their local Member Representative. Representatives from other farm organizations also included the National Farmers Union, Christian Famer Federation of Ontario and Union des Cultivateurs Franco-Ontariens.

The AFCC met 6 times between January and April 2017, including two professionally-facilitated sessions to focus discussions and identify priorities. Committee Chair, Jacqueline Kelly-Pemberton, presented the AFCC's preliminary recommendations report to the SNC Board of Directors on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017. A copy of the report is included in Appendix A.

The top three priority areas of focus for the AFCC were:

1. Best Management Practices
2. Education and Promotion
3. Stakeholder Engagement

As part of the next steps for the Stakeholder Engagement, the Board approved the formation of a broader multi-stakeholder working group to continue developing these focus areas.

Copies of the Terms of Reference, meeting Minutes, and Preliminary Recommendations report are available online at [www.nation.on.ca](http://www.nation.on.ca).

### **3. FOREST CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP**

The formation of a broader multi-stakeholder Forest Conservation Working Group (FCWG), to continue the work started by the AFCC, was approved by the SNC Board in September 2017.

The remaining balance of the 2017 Forest Conservation Special Levy (approximately \$70,000) was carried into 2018 to support this new Working Group and their recommendations.

The Board approved the Terms of Reference (Res No. BD-070/18) included in Appendix B. The Working Group's mandate was to provide recommendations to SNC's Board of Directors and 16 member municipalities on measures to increase and/or protect forest cover within SNC's jurisdiction.

Membership for the new Working Group included representation from the following sectors:

- Agricultural Forest Cover Committee (3 seats)
- Counties (1 seat)
- Municipal (2 seats)
- Developer (1 seat)
- Forestry/woodlot organizations - Boisés Est, Ontario Woodlot Association – S.D.&G., Ontario Maple Producers – Eastern Region (3 seats)
- First Nations (2 seats)
- Community Member-at-Large (2 seats)
- SNC (1 seat)

#### **3.1 Member Selection and Appointments**

Depending on the sector, a variety of techniques were employed to solicit Working Group members, including; self-selection, formal invitations and public postings.

The Agricultural Forest Cover Committee selected 3 members, plus an alternate, through an online voting process.

The County representative was self-selected by consensus of the County representatives whom were involved with the AFCC.

An email was circulated to all municipalities inviting them to forward candidates for consideration, two municipalities responded.

Formal invitation letters were sent to the following stakeholders: developers (Greater Ottawa Home Builders Association), forestry/woodlot organizations (Boisés Est, Ontario Woodlot Association – S.D.&G. Chapter, and Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association – Eastern Region), and First Nations (Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and Algonquins of Shabot Obaadjiwan). Organizations were asked to send confirmation of their member (an alternate if one was selected) in writing.

No appointments were received from the Greater Ottawa Home Builders Association or Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association – Eastern Region.

Although the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne appointed a representative from their Department of Tehotiennawa:kon, Environmental Program, their representative was unable to attend the Working Group meetings.

The Member-At-Large seats were selected from applications submitted by the general public to participate on the Working Group. A press release, social media campaign and webpage were used to solicit applications. A selection team from SNC reviewed all submissions and ranked them based on individual's knowledge, experience, and ability to represent the general public as a Member-At-Large.

### **3.2 FCWG Meetings**

The Working Group set their meeting schedule at their first meeting, as per the Terms of Reference. The Working Group met seven times between March and July, approximately every three weeks. All meetings were held at the SNC Office, in Finch, on the following dates:

- March 21<sup>st</sup>
- April 9<sup>th</sup>
- May 3<sup>rd</sup>
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>
- June 14<sup>th</sup>
- July 5<sup>th</sup>
- July 26<sup>th</sup>

The Working Group elected a Chair, Alison McDonald (County representative), at their March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Meeting agendas were prepared based on the approved Working Group Work Plan (see Appendix C for copy of Work Plan).

Meeting Minutes were submitted to the SNC Board of Directors, the Board approved the actions and recommendations of the Working Group (BD-70/18; BD-85/18). Copies of the meeting Minutes are included in Appendix D.

## 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The mandate of the Working Group was to build on the preliminary recommendations of the Agricultural Forest Cover Committee (AFCC) and to suggest ways SNC and its municipalities could conserve and improve local forest cover.

As per the Work Plan, meetings were dedicated to each of the AFCC preliminary recommendations; facilitated discussions at the final two meetings provided an opportunity to capture additional recommendations not previously discussed.

The Forest Conservation Working Group approved recommendations to the Board of Directors, recommendations have been grouped into three categories as follows:

### 4.1 Policy

**a. Encourage Municipalities to adopt or partner on initiatives to meet upcoming *Municipal Act* Amendments.**

In 2017, the Province passed Bill 68 amending the *Municipal Act, 2001*; as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019, municipalities must adopt and maintain policies detailing the manner in which the municipality will protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation in the municipality. Not all Municipalities will choose to regulate tree cover through a tree cutting/tree conservation bylaw. As an alternative, they are encouraged to consider initiatives, such as, woodlot advisory service, tree planting (e.g. roadside, streetscapes, park/greenspace, and partnerships with developers), municipal forests (e.g. maintain landholdings in public ownership), forest management plans, and natural heritage strategies.

**b. Recommend that Municipalities consider tree conservation bylaws.**

A tree conservation bylaw is another option municipalities could consider to meet new requirements under the amended *Municipal Act*.

**c. Reaffirm SNC's commitment to promoting an increased understanding and appreciation of biodiversity, to support the Pathway to Canada – Target 1.**

The 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada ([www.biodivcanada.ca](http://www.biodivcanada.ca)) outlines Canada's goals and targets that support the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 ([www.cbd.int/sp/](http://www.cbd.int/sp/)), adopted by Canada and other Parties at the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010, many of which relate to forest conservation. Pathway to Canada – Target 1 ([www.conservation2020canada.ca](http://www.conservation2020canada.ca)) states: "By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial areas and inland water, and 10% of marine and coastal areas of Canada are conserved through networks of protected areas and other effective area-based measures." Several other targets (Target 5, 7, and 18) have commitments that are relative to forest conservation. Understanding these commitments may provide additional tools to protect significant natural features (e.g. significant woodlands) under Official Plans.



**d. Encourage municipalities to dedicate annual funding to new forest cover initiatives and additional support and promotion for SNC's forested land acquisition program.**

Municipalities have an opportunity to further protect and improve forest cover by supporting initiatives that result in maintained and/or additional tree cover on the landscape. This is especially important for municipalities that have less than fifteen percent forest cover. Dedicated funding to sponsor or partner on tree giveaways, planting of trees on municipal property (roadsides, streetscapes, parks, streambanks, etc.) can achieve incremental, long-term, increases in tree cover. Municipalities could partner with local woodlot organizations and/or Conservation Authorities that may be better resourced to deliver these initiatives. Drainage Superintendents could also advise landowners on establishing riparian tree cover that would not interfere with drain cleanouts.

**e. Undertake a feasibility review of the City of Ottawa site alteration by-law with upper tier municipalities as a mechanism to protect sensitive natural features.**

The City of Ottawa passed a Site Alteration By-law 2018-164 ([www.ottawa.ca/en/site-alteration-law-2018-164](http://www.ottawa.ca/en/site-alteration-law-2018-164)) in May 2018 to replace their Drainage By-law. This is the first of its kind within the SNC jurisdiction and provides a more comprehensive approach to protecting ecological function, as it covers activities such as: removal of topsoil, placement of fill, alteration of grades, and excavation – including clearing or stripping of vegetation. In partnership with Upper Tier Municipalities, a review of the site alteration by-law would help determine if it's a feasible option for municipalities to consider for the protection of sensitive features (e.g. Provincially Significant Wetlands, locally significant wetlands and woodlands, and riparian areas).

**f. Engage with the Province and municipalities to develop a process for disposing of public land which would consider first right of refusal to a municipality or local land trust (including Conservation Authorities).**

There have been recent local instances where public land has been sold to private individuals and forested areas cleared. There are local municipalities (Upper and Lower Tier), as well as, land trusts and Conservation Authorities that may wish to acquire these lands to maintain them in tree cover and continue to offer public access. Developing a process for cross-communication between holders of public lands (e.g. Province, municipalities, land trusts, and Conservation Authorities), when one is considering disposal of land, could provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive land to remain protected and available to the public for recreational activities.

**g. Encourage municipalities to provide updated data to Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) for accurate assessment of land parcels that have undergone land use changes.**

MPAC is responsible for assessing land in Ontario on behalf of municipalities to ensure compliance with the *Assessment Act* and accompanying regulations. MPAC relies on municipalities to provide information when land use change occurs, they do not have an active process to identify recently converted lands. As a result, activities such as land clearing are often unidentified for several years, similarly, reforestation efforts on properties may not be fully captured. With current Geographical Information Systems (GIS) information, municipalities can provide crucial data to MPAC on forest cover allowing for a more accurate parcel assessment. Municipal burn permits could also supplement this GIS data. Accurate parcel assessment ensures fair and equitable taxation for residents and would help to disincentivize pre-clearing of marginal lands, which are left in an unfinished state (cleared, but no active development or crop production). Landowners who are reforesting their property could also see benefits from having an accurate assessment of their forested land.

**h. Promote available tax incentives for maintaining or adding forested properties, including MPAC's tax free option for 20 acres of forested land for agricultural producers.**

There are several tax incentives available to landowners that have forested property or ecologically significant features (i.e. wetlands), these opportunities are not well-known to property owners. Programs include the Management Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) and Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP), both are offered Province-wide and are administered by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

MFTIP offers 75% tax saving (on 'residential' property assessments) for the forested acreage; a minimum of 4 hectares (9.88 acres) is required.

[www.ontario.ca/page/managed-forest-tax-incentive-program](http://www.ontario.ca/page/managed-forest-tax-incentive-program).

CLTIP offers up to 100% property tax exemption for portions of a property that have eligible natural heritage features (provincially significant wetlands, areas of natural and scientific interest, community conservation lands); a minimum of 1/5 hectare (1/2 acre) of eligible land types is required.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/conservation-land-tax-incentive-program>.

Under property assessment, agricultural properties are exempt from paying property tax on the first 20 acres of forested land (by municipality), many agricultural landowners are not aware of this exemption.

**i. SNC to take the lead on lobbying the Provincial and Federal government for more funding to support forest conservation programs and land acquisition of sensitive forests in low forest cover regions.**

Local municipalities and public landholders (e.g. Conservation Authorities) often have budget constraints that prevent them from engaging, to their fullest potential, in initiatives that protect and increase forest cover. Forests provide ecological functions (clean air, clean water, soil protection, etc.) that are of benefit to the broader public; there is a need for stable and consistent funding from Provincial and Federal partners to support forest conservation initiatives, including land acquisition. Local partnerships are already established between municipalities, First Nations, Conservation Authorities, woodlot associations and other local stakeholder groups; this relationship will help ensure the best use of additional funding to achieve improved local forest cover.

**j. Encourage municipalities to consider a 0% tax rate on forested land.**

Many landowners are hesitant to engage in provincially administered tax incentive programs like MFTIP; having a local program for landowners to maintain forest cover could be the economical incentive to maintain or create forested land (which provides ecological benefits such as, erosion and water quality protection and drainage management). Municipalities could consider a zero percent tax rate on forested land; depending on the impact to tax revenues, this could be restricted to managed forested land (i.e. Forest Management Plan requirement) or marginal lands (e.g. soil classifications 5, 6, and 7). Alterations to forested land (i.e. clearing) would have implications; i.e. it would no longer be eligible for the zero percent rate. This loss in tax revenue from these lands, may in some cases, be offset from appropriate taxation on cleared lands.

## 4.2 Education and Promotion

### **k. Enhance existing programs or create new forestry education and outreach initiatives.**

Initiatives would incorporate the following:

- i. Enhancement to existing buffer and windbreak demonstration sites to promote environmental best management practices with public access and videos to showcase the work and environmental benefits;
- ii. Develop partner led, targeted, outreach activities to showcase demonstration sites and videos;
- iii. Develop sign and resource displays for Municipal offices;
- iv. Develop a bilingual community campaign on ecological services provided by forests;
- v. Develop community 'Free Tree Days' to raise awareness about tree planting and forest services; and
- vi. Support environmental education within the Ontario Curriculum by providing school boards letters of support with local context and ways for students to learn more about the role trees play in a healthy environment through CA and partner-led programs, like the Maple Education Program or projects where Specialist High Skills Major Students can participate and learn first-hand.

### **l. Develop and promote a consolidated webpage with online resources and open source data available to landowners.**

There are many resources currently available to landowners, however, most is not consolidated and requires multiple searches to gather the information. The consolidated webpage will assist landowners in providing information in one location. The website would include information/links such as: resources gathered throughout the Forest Conservation Working Groups meetings, County and Municipal online map portals (geospatial data on soils, land classification, and forest cover), Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' BMP booklets, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Extension Notes, local woodlot associations (Ontario Woodlot Association, Boisés Est and the Eastern Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association), Forests Ontario, Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Landowner Resource Centre, etc.). It would also include links to local resources and funding opportunities for forest conservation related activities.

### **m. Increase public awareness of the ecological benefits of forests, through the promotion of land and water recreational activities.**

Fostering an appreciation for natural resources is key to protecting them; encouraging the public to get outdoors and explore local forests and waterways creates a sense of ownership for these resources. Having well maintained and safe trails and river access for the public are important to achieving this goal.

There are many opportunities to partner with local organizations to promote events that focus on forestry (e.g. Riceville Wood and Forest Exhibition) and water recreation (e.g. fishing derbies, poker runs). Teaching moments could be developed around the ecological benefits forests offer (e.g. protecting soil and water quality, sustaining biodiversity, mitigating climate change, carbon sequestration). Education programs could reflect curriculum, be delivered to schools and adaptable for delivery by other groups and organizations.

**n. Develop an information package targeting new politicians to reinforce the value of forest conservation initiatives and the need for appropriate funding to support local protection initiatives.**

With the municipal election occurring in October 2018, there is a need to inform new councillors on the status of forest cover in the SNC jurisdiction, the importance of forest conservation, and the need for funding support to protect and increase tree cover. An information package will be created for new council orientations which will include information on the status of forest cover and recommendations for protecting and increasing forest cover. The package will also include resources on the value of riparian and forest cover in protecting water quality. Information on tax revenue and Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) assessments as they relate to land clearing/reforestation activities will also be shared. SNC and its partners will encourage opportunities for face-to-face meetings with Council and presentations on forest conservation.

**o. In the spirit of reconciliation through shared caring of the land, reaffirm a commitment to identify and share Indigenous values and knowledge systems through forest cover initiatives. Public outreach and education will include the role of Indigenous ways of knowing, as identified in the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) principles and the Provincial Policy Statement.**

Two-Eyed Seeing is learning to see from one eye the strengths of Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledge and ways of knowing...and learning to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all. This shared approach is key to identifying and sharing Indigenous values and knowledge when implementing forest conservation initiatives. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), FSC certification confirms that forests are managed sustainably (i.e. preserve natural ecosystems, benefit local residents and is economically viable). FSC principle 3 outlines the forest owner's requirements to identify and uphold Indigenous rights and resources affected by management activities. The Provincial Policy Statement 2014 sets out the requirements for planning authorities to consult with Indigenous communities and consider their interests in conserving cultural heritage and archaeological resources. Including these principles and working with Indigenous partners when developing and delivering public outreach and education initiatives will ensure a holistic approach to protecting forest resources.

### 4.3 Best Management Practices

- p. Develop a Best Management Plan (BMP) guide that emphasizes the values and benefits of protecting riparian areas and windbreaks, including guidelines for protection during land clearing activities.**

The BMP guide would provide landowners with information to make informed decisions regarding land use changes. The guide would promote the establishment or retention of riparian buffers and windbreaks by providing information on their ecological functions and benefits to agriculture for erosion and water quality protection. Information would be consolidated from various sources (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' BMP booklets, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Extension Notes, local woodlot organizations, Forests Ontario, Eastern Ontario Model Forest, etc.). The guide will also include considerations for tax rate changes that could result from land clearing (or reforestation) activities.

Landowners choose to clear land for various reasons, while this often results in loss of forest cover, there are opportunities, through best management practices, to maintain critical tree cover in areas such as riparian buffers and windbreaks. This guide would promote riparian buffers and forest cover protection to landowners and agricultural organizations.

- q. Enhance the SNC Tree Planting Service.**

The 50 Million Tree program currently provides landowners with subsidies for tree planting, however, there is a minimum planting area of 1 hectare (2.5 acres). This requirement is a barrier to landowners who need help with smaller planting projects; namely establishment of riparian buffers or windbreaks. Offering a subsidy to tree seedling orders for riparian buffers or windbreaks would help address this barrier. Properties with 0.4 hectares (1 acre) to 1.0 hectares (2.5 acres) planting sites would be eligible for this new subsidy. Landowners would be responsible for site preparation, planting and future maintenance. SNC staff would provide advice on planting plans and species suitable for the planting site.

- r. Enhance the SNC Woodlot Advisory Service.**

The Woodlot Advisory Service offers free site visits to landowners to help them understand their woodlots and provide them with valuable resources. This program is currently municipally-funded through support from UCPR and SDG. The program framework can be used to target site visits to landowners who have completed past tree planting projects (10-15 years ago). Visits would include a survival assessment on the trees planted, resources for the landowner to help manage their woodlot, and information on opportunities such as the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program. Most of these former planting sites would not have been formally visited beyond the 5-year survival assessment and may require tending to ensure continued tree health and forest functionality.

## **5. IMPLEMENTATION**

Several of the above recommendations will be initiated in fall 2018 by SNC with the remaining 2017 Forest Conservation Special Levy funding. These initiatives include:

- Tree planting subsidy for ‘over the counter’ seedlings for riparian buffer and windbreak plantings
- Survival assessments and woodlot visits to previous tree planting sites on private land
- Evaluation of SNC’s existing buffer demonstration sites to assess potential for use in promotional materials (e.g. video, online profiles, etc.)
- Signage/display for municipal offices to house resources for landowners on forest stewardship programs
- Bilingual community campaign, using billboard signage, to promote forest conservation and tree planting
- Community “free tree” days, partnering with municipalities to offer seedlings to landowners to encourage tree planting

## **6. APPENDICES**

Appendix A – Agricultural Forest Cover Committee Report

Appendix B – Forest Conservation Working Group Terms of Reference

Appendix C – Forest Conservation Working Group Work Plan

Appendix D – Forest Conservation Working Group Meeting Minutes

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Agricultural Forest Cover Committee Report**



# AGRICULTURAL FOREST COVER COMMITTEE

Preliminary recommendations to the South Nation Board of Directors to  
ensure a strong and viable future for forest cover in our area

Preliminary  
Recommendations

# Agricultural Forest Cover Committee: Preliminary Recommendations

## Introduction

The Agricultural Forest Cover Committee (AFCC) was formed at the request of South Nation Conservation's (SNC) 16 member municipalities. These local municipalities were seeking guidance from the agricultural community to develop and implement recommendations to address concerns regarding the change in forest cover in the region.

The AFCC's goal was to formulate recommendations to ensure a strong and vibrant forest cover within the South Nation Conservation jurisdiction that provides value for all residents and future generations. The AFCC also recognized that agriculture is a significant economic and land use activity. In addition to growing crops and raising livestock, agriculture supports important services such as market gardens, food hubs, equipment sales and service, livestock feed businesses, and businesses advisory services. Our local agricultural products are also an important input to food and processing industries.

The AFCC feels there are many actions that can help ensure a strong and viable future for forest cover in our area while recognizing that agriculture is a vital element of our community.

## Committee Representation (by organization)

The AFCC is comprised of a maximum of 22 members including representation from the following:

- 8 appointed members from local county federations of agriculture
- 1 appointed member from the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO)
- 1 appointed member from the National Farmers Union (NFU)
- 1 appointed member from the Union des Cultivateurs Franco-Ontariens (UCFO)
- 6 at large/members of the agriculture community
- 2 municipal councillors
- 3 county planners

## Our Approach

As part of an initial orientation, the committee members participated in round-table discussions that focused on two important questions. These questions were also posed to municipal officials and SNC Standing Committee Members. Many likeminded themes emerged.

## Why are farmers and other landowners cutting forests/trees?

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Municipal Officials/SNC Standing Committees</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• landowner/property rights</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• landowner/property rights</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• fear of new laws</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• lack of control and regulation</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• land is needed/scarce</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• land prices increasing for farming and overall lack of available</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• fewer farms</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• increased farm scale and productivity</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• tile draining = easy access to equipment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• advancements in farming practices and infrastructure (e.g., equipment, tile drainage)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• population/city growth/speculation of development and planning</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• development of subdivisions and urban expansion</li></ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• solar and wind</li> <li>• no incentive to keep bush</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• green energy projects</li> <li>• low quality and low value of lumber; clear land has more value</li> </ul>
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What can be done to maintain forest cover?

Committee Members	Municipal Officials/SNC Standing Committees
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• stakeholder engagement/education and promotion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• public education and stakeholder discussion</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• best management practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• best practices established for clear cutting remediation in the long run</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sharing and utilizing existing programs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• taxation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• property owner incentives, discounts, tax rebates</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• economic alternatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• more purchases by public bodies of important forested land</li> </ul>

AFCC members suggested specific actions that will have a positive impact on forest cover in SNC's jurisdiction through a series of facilitated sessions. These actions will build on AFCCs goals, reduce or eliminate existing challenges, avoid consequences of inaction, while keeping the desired outcomes in mind. The committee considers this to be a preliminary report; the AFCC would like to continue to develop and refine recommendations by receiving presentations from multiple stakeholders.

The participants clustered the specific actions to identify and prioritize key areas of focus; these areas of focus were put forward to ensure a strong and vibrant forest cover within the SNC's jurisdiction.

The areas of focus listed from highest to lowest priority are:

1. **Best Management Practices**
2. **Education and Promotion**
3. **Stakeholder Engagement**
4. Programs
5. Taxation
6. Economic Alternatives

Due to time constraints, the AFCC chose to focus on the top three priorities and one general recommendation.

### AFCC General Recommendation

The AFCC recommendations require support and effort to move forward. Should the SNC Board of Directors choose to implement these recommendations, the AFCC feels they have a role and responsibility to ensure successful implementation.

Similarly, the AFCC supports the establishment of a Working Group made up of champions from the AFCC to move these recommendations forward; this could include existing municipal Agricultural Advisory Committees.

*RECOMMENDATION: That the AFCC be permitted to establish a Working Group to implement the recommendations chosen by the SNC Board of Directors; and, that the AFCC continue their mandate, as needed.*

## Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices were identified by the forest Cover Committees as the highest priority area of focus; these actions will have the most positive impact on the future of forest cover within the South Nation jurisdiction. The specific actions that the committee recommended are provided below with additional details.

### 1. Define and Establish Marginal Lands Mapping and Update the Canada Land Inventory

The committee recognizes the need to protect good agricultural land for agricultural land uses. Farm businesses form the backbone of rural communities and are poised to drive Ontario's economy. Approximately 60 % of the South Nation jurisdiction is farmed; generally, there is a mix of livestock and cash crop production on flat, tile-drained fields.

Land topography, soils, and drainage can indicate the lands capability for production. These features have been mapped by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada as part of the Canada Land Inventory (CLI) mapping. CLI maps generally rate farmlands from Class 1-7.

The committee supports the protection of classes 1-5 as farmable lands. Similarly, classes 6 and 7 are generally not farmable and may be better suited for environmental protection and forestry.

The CLI mapping should be provided to the public through an online GIS portal and promoted to the agricultural community. This science-based data can:

- Help Municipalities identify areas with the greatest ecological benefit to support policy decisions and natural systems planning;
- Identify marginal lands to help Conservation Authorities and landowners choose areas for tree planting services and forestry outreach; and
- Help the agricultural community to make good land management decisions when expanding farm operations (i.e. where to crop and where to preserve forest cover).

The AFCC recognizes that these maps were created between 1960- 1980. The AFCC feels strongly that the land inventory mapping should be updated to provide accurate information.

- A) **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Counties and City of Ottawa work with the Forest Cover Working Group, local farm organizations, and Conservation Authorities to create an online GIS pilot project to identify the marginal lands not conducive to farming (classes 6 & 7) by the end of 2017. Additional collection of soils data through Agri-Food Canada, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), the Counties, crop consultants, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry should be used to update and refine these maps.*
- B) **RECOMMENDATION:** That Municipalities work with agricultural groups, OMAFRA, stewardship stakeholders, and Conservation Authorities to ask the provincial and Federal Governments to support a pilot project within SNC jurisdiction for the collection of up-to-date soils data; this will better reflect the lands soil potential capability and support good decision-making for planning and agricultural land clearing.*

## 2. Create an Best Management Practice for Land Clearing

The committee recognizes agricultural uses and normal farm practices must be promoted and protected while balancing the health, safety, and environmental needs of the community.

The AFCC identified a need to develop a Best Management Practice (BMP) guideline for land clearing where as these activities have the potential to affect and inconvenience adjacent landowners (burning, chipping, visual impact). The committee also acknowledges there are practices that could minimize the environmental impact of land clearing (wildlife seasons, watercourse buffers, windbreaks).

The AFCC understands the need to strike a balance and ensure that tree clearing is the right choice. There are also shortfalls in education and outreach and motivation to encourage agricultural operations to follow BMPs. The AFCC feels this can be improved through training, online education, and public advertising. Land clearing BMPs can also be included in the Environmental Farm Plan.

The AFCC envisions that these BMPs would be used to evaluate use of trees from “cradle to grave”, support forest/woodlot evaluation, inform how to remove lumber (chip, burn, sell/transport), and provide minimum buffer distances, in addition to any other BMP’s.

- A) **RECOMMENDATION:** That the AFCC Working Group work with the agricultural community, the Conservation Authorities, and OMAFRA to develop a Best Management Practice (BMP) for Land Clearing. This guide should consider input from all stakeholders to develop and promote BMPs for all developments, not just agriculture.*

## 3. Encourage Windbreak Development

Windbreaks have year-round benefits and can be planted around field crops, feedlots, livestock buildings, pastures and calving areas. Windbreaks reduce wind speed, may increase crop yields, and reduce soil erosion.

The committee recognizes the need to identify key areas for wind break planting opportunities on County, municipal, and private lands. This program requires active participation from local landowners to plant windbreaks on private land.

A multi-faceted approach to strategic windbreak planting within South Nation's jurisdiction should be supported by enhancing existing stewardship programs such as SNC Clean Water Program, Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program, Alternative Land Use(ALUS), and the SNC-woodlot advisory service. By enhancing the funding for developers, farm organizations, green energy producers, and other industry stakeholders it will be easier and more financially viable to plant windbreaks.

*A) **RECOMMENDATION:** That additional funding be allocated to programs that support windbreak planting. The AFCC Working Group should also reach out to the agricultural community, stewardship stakeholders, CA's and municipalities to develop a long-term plan to increase funding for strategic planting of windbreaks within the jurisdiction.*

## Education and Promotion

Education and promotion was identified by the AFCC to be the second highest priority action to ensure strong and healthy forest cover in the region. The specific actions that the committee recommended are provided below with additional details.

### 1. Promote Agriculture

Agriculture is a major industry in eastern Ontario and has many beneficial impacts. The recent issues around forest cover have hurt relationships between farmers and the community.

The committee recognizes that the public may not be aware of good work done by local farmers. This lack of understanding can lead to divided arguments around important issues like forest cover loss. The committee strongly feels that if agriculture is promoted in a positive way it will ultimately foster a good relationship between farmers and the public and avoid restrictive tree clearing by-laws.

*A) **RECOMMENDATION:** That the AFCC Working Group and local farm organizations actively promote agriculture in our area. Through this promotion we hope to see a positive change in public understanding and more collaborative discussion about forest cover.*

### 2. Agricultural Education

The committee identified a need to improve education around agricultural best practices for farmers and non-farmers. In some cases, partnerships can be enhanced (Environmental Farm Plan, Alternative Land Use Service (ALUS), school programs). These education programs should focus on what farmers do, why, and how it impacts/benefits the land.

The committee also feels that social media, 'Agriculture in the Classrooms', farm tours, and traditional media are an important part of this action. By implementing educational programs, we hope to increase public acceptance of agricultural practices, move toward common goals around forest cover, and establish new school curriculum around agriculture.

- A) *RECOMMENDATION: That the AFCC Working Group work with local schools, OMAFRA, the Conservation Authorities, and local Municipalities to promote agricultural education.*

## Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder Engagement was identified as the third highest priority action to ensure strong and healthy forest cover in the region. The specific actions that the committee recommended are provided below with additional details.

### 1. Form a Multi-Stakeholder Committee

There are many different interests involved in the issue of forest cover. A multi-stakeholder committee could bring together representatives from several interested groups (not just agriculture) to share ideas and to provide recommendations on ways to address forest cover in the area. The committee could work to integrate agriculture, conservation goals, and ecosystem services to increase rural forest cover. This committee would benefit from facilitation.

- A) *RECOMMENDATION: That a Multi-Stakeholder Committee be established comprised of no more than 20 individuals who are representatives from groups/associations/governments and South Nation Conservation that have an interest in the topic of forest cover.*

### 2. Encourage a Coordinated Approach for Stakeholder Engagement

Every local resident is impacted to some degree by forest cover issues and is therefore a potential stakeholder in this discussion. It is important that all groups are involved in this discussion. The AFCC identified key stakeholder organizations such as the Ecological Farmers of Ontario, SDG Ontario Woodlot Association, Ontario Maple Syrup Producer's Association, Eastern Ontario Nutgrowers Association, and the Ontario Beekeepers Association.

Having many groups working together on the Forest Cover Committee will present challenges. Consensus may be difficult to achieve but having many viewpoints will result in broader acceptance of decisions and recommendations brought forth.

- A) *RECOMMENDATION: That as many groups/associations as reasonably possible be contacted to take part in the Multi-Stakeholder Committee.*

## Summary

The AFCC identified three key areas of focus to ensure strong and vibrant forest cover in our area. Through a combination of best management practices, education and outreach, and stakeholder engagement the AFCC feels that we can find common ground and overcome obstacles around forest cover issues in the South Nation jurisdiction.

The AFCC members recognize they have a role to play in ensuring these recommendations are achieved. The members worked with a facilitator to record individual personal commitments. The members identified the need to work with local Municipalities to communicate the recommendations, volunteer on future boards and committees, act as local champions, and be part of discussions with stakeholders on this issue.

This report is the first step towards achieving the vision of strong and vibrant forest cover in our area. The AFCC hopes to be given the opportunity to participate in the implementation of these recommendations.



## **APPENDIX B**

### **Forest Conservation Working Group Terms of Reference**



## **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOREST CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP**

South Nation Conservation's (SNC) 16 member Municipalities provided funding to help implement recommendations made by the Forest Conservation Working Group which help address concerns regarding the change in forest cover in SNC's jurisdiction. This Working Group will continue the work started in 2017 by the Agricultural Forest Cover Committee.

There is approximately \$60,000 included in SNC's 2018 Budget to support the operation of the Working Group and implementation of the key recommendations approved by SNC's Board of Directors.

The following Terms of Reference sets out the administrative and operating procedures of the Forest Conservation Working Group.

### **1. MANDATE**

- a. To provide recommendations to SNC's Board of Directors and 16 member Municipalities on measures to increase and/or protect forest cover with SNC's jurisdiction

### **2. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a. To make recommendations that relate to the mandate
- b. To provide stakeholder feedback and/or expert knowledge regarding forest cover
- c. Develop a work plan to guide meetings and reporting
- d. Make recommendations for program implementation to SNC's Board of Directors and member Municipal Councils
- e. Communicate recommendations and achievements to the public, member organizations, and Municipal and County Councils

### **3. MEMBERSHIP**

- a. Maximum of 15 members as follows:
  - i. 3 Agricultural Forest Cover Committee
    - *Reg Presley*
    - *Terry Otto*
    - *Michel Dignard*
    - *alternate: Bernard Van der Zweep*
  - ii. 1 Counties
    - *Alison McDonald*
  - iii. 2 Municipal
    - *Dale McLenaghan*
    - *Archie Mellan*
  - iv. 1 Developer
    - *to be confirmed*



- v. 3 forestry/woodlot organizations
    - *Boisés Est: Jean-Claude Havard and alternate: Jean Saint-Pierre*
    - *Ontario Woodlot Association – SDG Chapter: Dorothy Hamilton and alternate: Elaine Kennedy*
    - *Ontario Maple Syrup Productions Association – Eastern Region: to be confirmed*
  - vi. 2 First Nations
    - *Algonquin First Nations: Larry McDermott and alternate: Francis McDermott*
    - *Mohawk Council of Akwesasne – Environmental Program: Evan Thompson*
  - vii. 1 SNC
    - *Bill Smirle*
  - viii. 2 Community Member-at-Large
    - *Lynn Ovenden*
    - *Pete Bock*
- b. Any Working Group member missing two consecutive meetings without communicating justification, to the Working Group Chair, will be removed from the Working Group
- c. Members failing to attend a meeting without prior notification of regrets will be recorded as absent in the meeting minutes

#### **4. WORKING GROUP CHAIR**

- a. To be elected at the first meeting of the Working Group from amongst the members
- b. Acting Chair to be appointed by Working Group (if required)
- c. Chair (or designate) will represent Working Group at meetings and events as required
- d. Chair will encourage each member to bring ideas on projects, funding, partnerships, etc.

#### **5. QUORUM**

- a. 50% plus 1 of Working Group constitutes quorum for all matters relating to financial allocations or major decisions concerning program implementation
- b. Non-financial matters can be dealt with by consensus

#### **6. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS AND MANNER OF CALL**

- a. Six meetings between March and August 2018; as per established meeting schedule
- b. Additional meetings may be held with 75% concurrence of the Working Group at which there is quorum
- c. Working Group shall establish meeting dates in advance
- d. Agendas to be emailed to Working Group members 5 business days prior to meeting date
- e. (Conference calls, video conferencing, and/or electronic voting) may be utilized by the Working Group in place of an in-person meeting with concurrence of 75% of the Working Group



**7. RESOURCES**

- a. Funding provided through SNC's Forest Conservation Fund, established by member Municipalities in 2017 through a Special Levy
- b. Working Group members will be paid a meeting allowance of \$68.81 per meeting and mileage (\$0.55/km), consistent with 2018 rates approved by the SNC Board of Directors for SNC Standing Committees, if not covered by their member organization
- c. SNC will provide technical and administrative support to the Working Group
- d. Guest speakers or subject matter experts can be brought in to provide additional information if requested by the Working Group

**8. REPORTING**

- a. Chair or designate will bring a report, via the draft meeting minutes of the Working Group, to SNC Board of Directors
- b. Working Group to provide final report with recommendations by August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 to the SNC Board of Directors
- c. Final report from the Working Group will be made public

**9. COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. Media on major recommendations of Working Group or highlights/key issues of programs to be issued at the discretion of SNC

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Forest Conservation Working Group Work Plan**

Forest Conservation Working Group – Work Plan

Updated: April 9, 2018

Meeting	Items	Resources	Goal	Status
<p>#1 March 21</p>	<p><b>Membership and Introductions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Election of Chair</li> <li>- Terms of Reference and Working Group Mandate</li> <li>- 2016 Forest Cover and Trends Analysis Study (2008-2014)</li> <li>- 2018 State of the Nation</li> </ul>	<p>Working Group Establishment and CA Progress</p> <p>Working Group Work Plan</p>	
<p>#2 April 9</p>	<p><b>Working Group Areas of Focus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approval of Work Plan</li> <li>- Review of Terms of Reference and new endorsement of Working Group Mandate: group discussion</li> <li>- Presentation of a Resource Map: information only</li> <li>- Current SNC Budget: Breakdown of current funding relating to forest conservation</li> <li>- Review of Best Management Practices</li> <li>- Understanding Common Issues and Complaints: land clearance concerns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Terms of Reference and Working Group Mandate</li> <li>- Interactive Map: Land and Forest Resources (ownership &amp; type), Land Class and soil type</li> <li>- List of existing or proposed Best Management Practices</li> <li>- SNC Budget: Lands, Forest and Stewardship</li> <li>- List of existing land clearance concerns</li> </ul>	<p>Areas of Focus / Breakdown of Recommendation Categories</p>	
<p>#3 May 3</p>	<p><b>Education and Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of CA and partner programs: targets, program usage and funding</li> <li>- Areas of Focus: gaps between identified needs and existing programs</li> <li>- Targeted Outreach Opportunities – building public support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- List of current SNC projects/programming for outreach</li> <li>- List of partners, programs, targets and statistics in Eastern Ontario</li> <li>- List of other CA or municipal programs on forest conservation</li> <li>- Specialist High Skills Majors Program: Agriculture</li> </ul>	<p>Tree Conservation Program Identification and Review</p> <p>Key messaging for educational programs and resources to be developed (if any)</p>	

Forest Conservation Working Group – Work Plan

Updated: April 9, 2018

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Municipal outreach – what is their forest cover goal?</li> <li>- Ag stewards to provide peer to peer outreach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SNC ag properties or partnerships: demo sites</li> <li>- Forest cover loss breakdown by landuse (acres)</li> <li>- Any stats on cropping and development available</li> </ul>	Report vs. recommendations from Working Group	
#4 May 24	<p><b>Land Use Planning and Permitting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of existing policies</li> <li>- Gap analysis of current policies</li> <li>- Review of Existing Tree Conservation Bylaws</li> <li>- Biodiversity and water conservation</li> <li>- Significant woodlands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- County Review: Alison McDonald, SDG</li> <li>- Summary of municipal roles/responsibilities RE forest cover</li> <li>- Geoff – presentation on Reg 170/06</li> <li>- Burn Bans and municipal burn bylaws: North Dundas</li> <li>- Tree Conservation Bylaws: Lanark County and Southwestern Ontario</li> <li>- Wetlands and PSW, riparian corridors and easements</li> <li>- Forest cover loss breakdown by landuse</li> <li>- Provincial Policy Statement – significant woodlands</li> <li>- Facts on relationship between biodiversity and forests, also, water conservation and forest cover</li> </ul>	Proposals for Land Use Planning Processes	
#5 June 14	<p><b>Funding Mechanisms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resource availability on existing programs</li> <li>- New programs or program expansions: funding needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Summary of current SNC programs that support private landowner stewardship and education/outreach regarding forest conservation</li> <li>- Cost Analysis of Existing or Proposed Programs</li> <li>- List of available funding sources</li> </ul>	<p>Resource Needs and Funding Requests</p> <p>Identification of Target/Priority Areas within SNC jurisdiction</p>	

Forest Conservation Working Group – Work Plan

Updated: April 9, 2018

			Establishment of Recommendation Categories	
#6 July 5	<p><b>Municipal and CA Approaches and Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommendations for SNC Board and Member Municipalities</li> <li>- Report to the SNC Board</li> <li>- Broader recommendations to Province</li> </ul>		Report to SNC Board of Directors, including recommendations for 2019 Budget consideration	
#7 if needed July 26	To be determined			



## **APPENDIX D**

### **Forest Conservation Working Group Meeting Minutes**



**Forest Conservation Working Group Meeting**

Wednesday March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, 10:04 a.m. – Meeting 01/18

Watershed Room, SNC



**Present:**

Pete Bock, Community Member-at-Large  
 Dorothy Hamilton, Ontario Woodlot Association – SDG Chapter  
 Alison McDonald, Counties  
 Dale McLenaghan, Municipal  
 Archie Mellan, Municipal  
 Lynn Ovenden, Community Member-at-Large  
 Reg Presley, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Bill Smirle, SNC Vice Chair  
 Jean Saint Pierre, Boisés Est (alternate)  
 Bernard van der Zweep, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee (alternate)

**Regrets:**

Michel Dignard, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Jean Claude Havard, Boise Est  
 Elaine Kennedy, Ontario Woodlot Association (alternate)  
 Francis McDermott, Algonquin First Nations (alternate)  
 Larry McDermott, Algonquin First Nations  
 Terry Otto, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Evan Thompson, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne–Environmental Program

**Staff:**

Angela Coleman, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer  
 Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects  
 Dianne MacMillan, Administrative Assistant  
 John Mesman, Team Lead, Communications and Outreach  
 Katherine Watson, Water Resources Specialist

**Guest:**

Doug Thompson, SNC Past Chair



### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects opened the Forest Conservation Working Group meeting of Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at 10:04 a.m.

Members introduced themselves and provided brief background information.

### **Angela Coleman, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer**

Angela Coleman welcomed Members, and expressed appreciation on behalf of SNC Board of Directors and staff, for Members time commitment and willingness to participate in this project.

The General Manager directed Members to contact SNC staff if they have questions regarding policies and procedures, or if additional research from other areas is required.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-001/18

Moved by: Archie Mellan  
Seconded by: Alison McDonald

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Forest Conservation Working Group meeting agenda of March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, with the following addition:  
a. Agenda Item #4 h.: Administrative Information

CARRIED

### **APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUP CHAIR**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWB-002/18

RESOLVED THAT:

The Working Group appoint a Chair for 2018.

DEFEATED

### **NEW MOTION**

### **APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHAIR**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-003/18

Moved by: Bill Smirle  
Seconded by: Archie Mellan



RESOLVED THAT:

Members appoint an Interim Working Group Chair for the current meeting only; and

FURTHER THAT:

Move 'Appointment of Working Group Chair' to Agenda Item #4 g.

CARRIED

### **ELECTION OF INTERIM CHAIR**

Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects called for nominations three times for election of Interim Chair, Forest Conservation Working Group.

#### **First Call for Nominations**

Peter Bock nominated Bill Smirle for position of Interim Chair.  
Bill Smirle declined the nomination.

#### **Second Call for Nominations**

Archie Mellan nominated Reg Presley for position of Interim Chair.  
Reg Presley accepted the nomination.

#### **Third Call for Nominations**

Dorothy Hamilton nominated Alison McDonald for position of Interim Chair.  
Alison McDonald declined the nomination.

**Hearing None:** Nominations closed for the position of Interim Chair.

Approval of the following Motion:

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-004/18

Moved by: Bill Smirle  
Seconded by: Alison McDonald

RESOLVED THAT:

Reg Presley be nominated as Interim Chair, Forest Conservation Working Group, for the duration of the meeting.

Reg Presley, Interim Chair, Remarks:

Reg Presley, Interim Chair, expressed his thanks for the nomination and stressed the importance of Group Members working well together with mutual respect and collaboration.

### **WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-005/18

Moved by: Dorothy Hamilton



RESOLVED THAT:

Seconded by: Lynn Ovenden

The Working Group recommends the following Forest Conservation Working Group membership to the Board of Directors for 2018 *as amended*; and

- Reg Presley, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee
- Terry Otto, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee
- Michel Dignard, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee
- Bernard Vander Zweep, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee (alternate)
- Alison McDonald, Counties
- Archie Mellan, Municipal
- Dale McLenaghan, Municipal
- Jean-Claude Havard, Boisés Est
- Dorothy Hamilton, Ontario Woodlot Association
- Elaine Kennedy, Ontario Woodlot Association (alternate)
- Evan Thompson, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne – Environmental Program
- Larry McDermott, Algonquin First Nations
- Bill Smirle, SNC Board of Directors
- Lynn Ovenden, Community Member-at-Large
- Pete Bock, Community Member-at-Large
- *Amendment:* Addition of Jean Saint-Pierre (Alternate for Boise Est); and Francis McDermott (alternate for Algonquin First Nations);

FURTHER THAT:

The Working Group approve the updated Forest Conservation Working Group Terms of Reference.

CARRIED



**FOREST COVER TRENDS (2008-2014)**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-006/18

Moved by: CONSENSUS

RESOLVED THAT:

The Working Group receive and file the 2016 Forest Cover Trends and Analysis report.

CARRIED

**STATE OF THE NATION**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-007/18

Moved by: CONSENSUS

RESOLVED THAT:

The Working Group receive and file the State of the Nation report.

CARRIED

**AGRICULTURAL FOREST COVER COMMITTEE – PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-008/18

Moved by: CONSENSUS

RESOLVED THAT:

The Working Group receive and file the Agricultural Forest Cover Committee – Preliminary Recommendations Report.

CARRIED

**The Working Group Meeting recessed at at 12:05 a.m.**  
**The Interim Chair reconvened the meeting at 12:35 a.m.**

**FOREST COVER WORK PLAN**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-009/18

Moved by: Dale McLenaghan

Seconded by: Alison McDonald

RESOLVED THAT:

Staff will bring an updated Forest Cover Work Plan for approval to the next meeting.

CARRIED



### **WORKING GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-010/18

Moved by: Dorothy Hamilton  
Seconded by: Lynn Ovenden

RESOLVED THAT:

The Working Group approve the 2018 meeting schedule as discussed – at 9:00 a.m.:

- April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018
- May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – if required

CARRIED

### **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects called for nominations three times for election of Interim Chair, Forest Conservation Working Group.

#### **First Call for Nominations**

Dorothy Hamilton nominated Alison McDonald for position of Chair.  
Alison accepted the nomination.

#### **Second Call for Nominations**

Archie Mellan nominated Reg Presley for position of Chair.  
Reg accepted the nomination.

#### **Third Call for Nominations**

**Hearing None:** Nominations closed for the position of Chair.

The Working Group Members voted John Mesman, Team Lead, Communications and Outreach, as scrutineer.

Ballots were distributed to Members.

Ronda Boutz, counted Ballots, and announce the results:

- Reg Presley: 3 votes
- Alison McDonald: 7 votes

Approval of the following Motion:



RESOLUTION NO. FCWB-011/18

Moved by: Archie Melan  
Seconded by: Dorothy Hamilton

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve Alison McDonald for the position of Chair, Forest Conservation Working Group.

CARRIED

**Alison McDonald, Chair, Remarks:**

Chair McDonald thanked Members for the nomination, and is anticipating a positive collaboration with feed back and guidance from Members.

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Members were informed of the administrative paperwork required for SNC files. A Forest Conservation Working Group section will be developed on the SNC website and Members will be emailed the login information.

**ADJOURNMENT**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-012/18

Moved by: Reg Presley  
Seconded by: Dorothy Hamilton

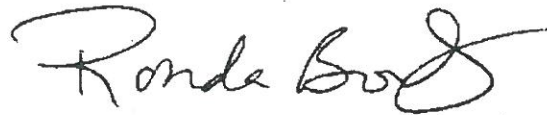
RESOLVED THAT:

The Forest Conservation Working Group meeting of March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 be adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

CARRIED



Reg Presley,  
Interim Chair.



Ronda Boutz,  
Team Lead, Special Projects.

/dm





**FOREST CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP MEETING**

Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 9:00 a.m. – Meeting 02/18

Watershed Room, SNC



**Present:**

Alison McDonald, Counties, Committee Chair  
 Pete Bock, Community Member-at-Large  
 Michel Dignard, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Dorothy Hamilton, Ontario Woodlot Association  
 Jean-Claude Havard, Boisés Est  
 Dale McLenaghan, Municipal  
 Archie Mellan, Municipal  
 Terry Otto, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Lynn Ovenden, Community Member-at-Large  
 Reg Presley, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Bill Smirle, SNC Board of Directors

**Regrets:**

Elaine Kennedy, Ontario Woodlot Association (alternate)  
 Jean Saint Pierre, Boisés Est (alternate)  
 Evan Thompson, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne–Environmental Program  
 Bernard van der Zweep, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee (alternate)

**Absent:**

Larry McDermott, Algonquin First Nations  
 Francis McDermott, Algonquin First Nations (alternate)

**Staff:**

Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects  
 Dianne MacMillan, Administrative Assistant



**CHAIRS REMARKS**

Alison McDonald, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Alison noted the importance of establishing the 2018 workplan in order to be finalized for Board of Directors approval in August. A roundtable of introductions followed.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-013/18

Moved by: Michel Dignard  
Seconded by: Bill Smirle

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Forest Conservation Working Group meeting agenda of April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 as submitted.

CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF FOREST CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP MINUTES OF MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2018**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-014/18

Moved by: Dorothy Hamilton  
Seconded by: Archie Mellan

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Forest Conservation Working Group Minutes of March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 as submitted.

CARRIED

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2018 FCWG WORK PLAN**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-015/18

Moved by: Terry Otto  
Seconded by: Dorothy Hamilton

RESOLVED THAT:

The Working Group approve the 2018 Forest Conservation Working Group Work Plan as amended by Members.

CARRIED



**WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-016/18

Moved by: CONSENSUS

RESOLVED THAT:

Report is for discussion purposes, no recommendation at this time.

CARRIED

**The Forest Conservation Working Group recessed at 10:47 a.m.  
The Chair reconvened the meeting at 10:58 a.m.**

**RESOURCE MAP (VERBAL)**

The Members reviewed the resource map, and recommended additions will be added for the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 meeting.

**SNC BUDGET: FOREST CONSERVATION INITIATIVES**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-017/18

Moved by: CONSENSUS

RESOLVED THAT:

The Working Group receive and file the SNC Budget: Forest Conservation Initiatives report.

CARRIED

**BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-018/18

Moved by: CONSENSUS

RESOLVED THAT:

The Working Group receive and file the Best Management Practices report.

CARRIED

**COMMON LAND CLEARANCE CONCERNS: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION (VERBAL)**

The Common Land Clearance Concerns discussion was deferred to the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 meeting due to time constraints.

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-018/18

Moved by: Bill Smirle  
Seconded by: Michel Dignard



RESOLVED THAT:

The Common Land Clearance Concerns:  
Roundtable Discussion be deferred to the  
May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 Working Group meeting;

AND FURTHER THAT:

Working Group members submit, via email to  
Ronda by April 24<sup>th</sup>, a list of their top 3 to 5  
priorities regarding forest conservation.

CARRIED

**DATES OF UPCOMING MEETINGS (9:00 A.M.)**

- May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018
- May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (*if required*)

**ADJOURNMENT**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-019/18

Moved by: Bill Smirle

RESOLVED THAT:

The Forest Conservation Working Group  
meeting of April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 be adjourned at  
12:20 p.m.

CARRIED



Alison McDonald,  
Chair.



Ronda Boutz,  
Team Lead, Special Projects.

/dm



**FOREST CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP MEETING**

Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, 9:00 a.m. – Meeting 03/18

Watershed Room, SNC



**Present:**

Alison McDonald, Counties, Committee Chair  
 Pete Bock, Community Member-at-Large  
 Michel Dignard, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Dorothy Hamilton, Ontario Woodlot Association  
 Jean-Claude Havard, Boisés Est  
 Larry McDermott, Algonquin First Nations  
 Dale McLenaghan, Municipal  
 Archie Mellan, Municipal  
 Terry Otto, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Lynn Ovenden, Community Member-at-Large  
 Reg Presley, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Bill Smirle, Vice Chair, SNC Board of Directors

**Regrets:**

Elaine Kennedy, Ontario Woodlot Association (alternate)  
 Francis McDermott, Algonquin First Nations (alternate)  
 Jean Saint Pierre, Boisés Est (alternate)  
 Bernard van der Zweep, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee (alternate)

**Absent:**

Evan Thompson, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne–Environmental Program

**Staff:**

Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects  
 Dianne MacMillan, Administrative Assistant  
 John Mesman, Team Lead, Communications and Outreach

**Guest:**

Jacqueline Kelly-Pemberton



### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Alison McDonald, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-020/18

Moved by: Pete Bock  
Seconded by: Bill Smirle

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Forest Conservation Working Group meeting agenda of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 with the following amendments:

- a. Addition of '*Approval of Forest Conservation Working Group Minutes of April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018*', to follow Main Agenda Item #2, '*Approval of Agenda*'.
- b. Change report title 3 a., '*Common Land Clearance Concerns: Roundtable Discussion*' to '*Group Priorities Roundtable Discussion*'.

CARRIED

### **APPROVAL OF FOREST CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP MINUTES OF APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2018**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-021/18

Moved by: Terry Otto  
Seconded by: Bill Smirle

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Forest Conservation Working Group Minutes of April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 as submitted.

CARRIED

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

#### **GROUP PRIORITIES ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: VERBAL**

Members summarized their top priorities for the Forest Conservation Working Group.

**Larry McDermott joined the meeting at 9:31 a.m.**



**ENHANCED PRIVATE LANDOWNER FORESTRY SERVICES**

SNC Tree Planting Program

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-022/18

Moved by: Terry Otto  
Seconded by: Michel Dignard

RESOLVED THAT:

The Working Group recommends the enhancements proposed for the SNC Tree Planting Service as presented; and

FURTHER THAT:

Staff bring back an estimated cost, for the enhanced delivery of this service to the June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting.

CARRIED

Woodlot Advisory Services

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-023/18

Moved by: Archie Mellan  
Seconded by: Dorothy Hamilton

RESOLVED THAT:

The Working Group recommends the enhancements proposed for the SNC Woodlot Advisory Service, as presented; and

FURTHER THAT:

Staff bring back an estimated cost, for the enhanced delivery of this service to the June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting.

CARRIED

**MAP RESOURCE – UPDATED VERSION: VERBAL**

Members were presented with updated versions of the maps and new SNC internal Geoportal layers for the Forest Conservation Working Group.



**NEW BUSINESS**

**SNC RIPARIAN BUFFER SITES**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-024/18

Moved by: CONSENSUS

RESOLVED THAT:

The Working Group receive and file the SNC Riparian Buffer Projects report.

CARRIED

**The Forest Conservation Working Group meeting recessed at 10:45 a.m.  
The Chair reconvened the meeting at 10:53 a.m.**

**FOREST CONSERVATION INITIATIVES IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-025/18

Moved by: CONSENSUS

RESOLVED THAT:

The Working Group receive and file the Forest Conservation Initiatives in other Jurisdictions report.

CARRIED

**FORESTRY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH: CURRENT PROGRAMS AND GAP ANALYSIS**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-026/18

Moved by: Archie Mellan  
Seconded by: Terry Otto

RESOLVED THAT:

The Forest Conservation Working Group receive and file the report on existing forestry – related programs; and

FURTHER THAT:

The Working Group consider identified gaps as opportunities to enhance existing programs or create new forestry education and outreach initiatives; and

FURTHER THAT:

The Working Group identified the following items to be incorporated into this initiative:  
1. Enhancement to existing buffer and windbreak demonstration sites to promote





- environmental best management practices with public access and videos to showcase the work and environmental benefits;
2. Develop partner led, targeted, outreach activities to showcase demonstration sites and videos;
  3. Develop sign and resource displays for Municipal offices;
  4. Develop a bilingual community campaign on ecological services provided by forests;
  5. Develop community 'Free Tree Days' to raise awareness about tree planting and forest services; and

FURTHER THAT:

Staff bring back an estimated cost for the forest education and outreach items to the June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting.

CARRIED

#### **MEETING RESOURCES UPLOADED TO MEMBERS SITE**

a. **FOREST COVER LOSS BY SECTOR - ONLINE**

The Working group reviewed the data on the *Forest Cover Loss by Section* information.

b. **A WATERSHED FOREST PLAN FOR THE GRAND RIVER – ONLINE**

Ronda encouraged Members to review this report, as it contains recommended action items that relate to issues currently being dealt with by this Group.

Ronda invited the Working Group to the SNC Forestry Committee tour scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup>. Details will be forwarded to Members.

#### **DATES OF UPCOMING MEETINGS (9:00 A.M.)**

- ***NEW*** date and time: May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, lunch at 12:00 p.m.: Meeting start: 1:00 p.m.
- June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (*if required*)



**ADJOURNMENT**

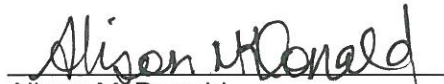
RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-027/18

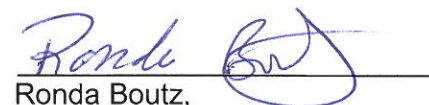
Moved by: Michel Dignard  
Seconded by: Lynn Ovenden

RESOLVED THAT:

The Forest Conservation Working Group meeting of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 be adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

CARRIED

  
Alison McDonald,  
Chair.

  
Ronda Boutz,  
Team Lead, Special Projects.

/dm



**FOREST CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP MEETING**

Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, 1:00 p.m. – Meeting 04/18

Watershed Room, SNC



- Present:** Alison McDonald, Counties, Committee Chair  
 Pete Bock, Community Member-at-Large  
 Dorothy Hamilton, Ontario Woodlot Association  
 Larry McDermott, Algonquin First Nations  
 Dale McLenaghan, Municipal  
 Archie Mellan, Municipal  
 Terry Otto, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Lynn Ovenden, Community Member-at-Large  
 Reg Presley, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Bill Smirle, Vice Chair, SNC Board of Directors
- Regrets:** Michel Dignard, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Jean-Claude Havard, Boisés Est  
 Elaine Kennedy, Ontario Woodlot Association (alternate)  
 Francis McDermott, Algonquin First Nations (alternate)  
 Jean Saint Pierre, Boisés Est (alternate)  
 Bernard van der Zweep, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee (alternate)
- Absent:** Evan Thompson, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne–Environmental Program
- Staff:** Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects  
 Dianne MacMillan, Administrative Assistant  
 John Mesman, Team Lead, Communications and Outreach



**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Alison McDonald, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-028/18

Moved by: Dorothy Hamilton  
Seconded by: Bill Smirle

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Forest Conservation Working Group meeting agenda of May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 as submitted.

CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF FOREST CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP MINUTES OF MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2018**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-029/18

Moved by: Terry Otto  
Seconded by: Dale McLenaghan

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Forest Conservation Working Group Minutes of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 as submitted.

CARRIED

**NEW BUSINESS**

**FORESTRY LEGISLATION IN ONTARIO**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-030/18

Moved by: CONSENSUS

RESOLVED THAT:

The Forest Conservation Working Group receive and file the Forestry Legislation in Ontario report.

CARRIED

**SNC REGULATIONS: Powerpoint**

Geoff Owens, Regulations Officer, presented a powerpoint explaining and clarifying SNC regulations.



**Larry McDermott, Algonquin First Nations, joined the meeting at 1:28 p.m.**

**LAND USE PLANNING**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-031/18

Moved by: CONSENSUS

RESOLVED THAT:

The Forest Conservation Working Group receive and file the Land Use Planning report and powerpoint presentation.

CARRIED

**PLANNING 101 – Powerpoint**

Alison McDonald, Chair, presented a powerpoint regarding Planning processes and regulations.

**The Forest Conservation Working Group recessed at 2:48 p.m.**

**The Chair reconvened the meeting at 2:58 p.m.**

**FOREST CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE AMENDMENTS: MUNICIPAL ACT**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-032/18

Moved by: Pete Bock  
Seconded by: Dale McLenaghan

RESOLVED THAT:

The Forest Conservation Working Group recommend that the Board of Directors encourage municipalities to adopt or partner on initiatives, such as, woodlot advisory service, tree planting, municipal forests, forest management plans, and natural heritage strategies, to meet new requirements under the Municipal Act; and

FURTHER THAT:

The Forest Conservation Working Group also recommend that municipalities consider tree conservation by-laws as an option.

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-033/18

Moved by: Bill Smirle  
Seconded by: Archie Mellan



RESOLVED THAT:

The Forest Conservation Working Group table this report to the June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting.

CARRIED

**MEETING RESOURCES UPLOADED TO MEMBERS SITE**

- a. Sample of Tree Cutting and Tree Conservation By-Laws in Ontario
- b. Provincial Policy Statement, 2014
- c. Sustaining What We Value, Natural Heritage System

**DATES OF UPCOMING MEETINGS (9:00 A.M.)**

- June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (*if required*)

**ADJOURNMENT**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-034/18

Moved by: Bill Smirle

RESOLVED THAT:

The Forest Conservation Working Group meeting of May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 be adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

CARRIED

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Alison McDonald,  
Chair.

---

Ronda Boutz,  
Team Lead, Special Projects.

/dm



**FOREST CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP MEETING**

Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - 9:00 a.m. – Meeting 05/18

Watershed Room, SNC



- Present:** Alison McDonald, Counties, Committee Chair  
 Pete Bock, Community Member-at-Large  
 Michel Dignard, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Dorothy Hamilton, Ontario Woodlot Association  
 Jean-Claude Havard, Boisés Est  
 Dale McLenaghan, Municipal  
 Archie Mellan, Municipal  
 Terry Otto, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Lynn Ovenden, Community Member-at-Large  
 Bill Smirle, Vice Chair, SNC Board of Directors
- Regrets:** Elaine Kennedy, Ontario Woodlot Association (Alternate)  
 Francis McDermott, Algonquin First Nations (alternate)  
 Larry McDermott, Algonquin First Nations  
 Reg Presley, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Bernard van der Zweep, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee (alternate)
- Absent:** Evan Thompson, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne–Environmental Program
- Staff:** Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects  
 Dianne MacMillan, Administrative Assistant  
 John Mesman, Team Lead, Communications and Outreach



### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Alison McDonald, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. The Chair updated the Members on the following items:

- Alvin Runnalls Forest official opening, bringing agricultural and forest conservation communities together toward common goals
- Review of Roberts Rules of Order to ensure proper procedures are adhered to during meetings
- Reminder to Members of the original three recommendations assigned to carry out

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-035/18

Moved by: Terry Otto  
Seconded by: Dorothy Hamilton

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Forest Conservation Working Group meeting agenda of June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 as amended.

### **MOTION TO AMEND**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-036/18

Moved by: Pete Bock  
Seconded: Dorothy Hamilton

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve moving agenda item #5 c., *Roundtable Discussion: Identifying Program Target Areas*, prior to agenda item #5 a., *2017 Forest Conservation Special Levy Budget*.

DEFEATED

### **MOTION TO AMEND**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-037/18

Moved by: Bill Smirle  
Seconded by: Michel Dignard

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve moving agenda item #5 a., *2017 Forest Conservation Special Levy*





*Budget, after agenda item #5 c.,  
Roundtable Discussion: Identifying Program  
Target Areas.*

CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF FOREST CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP MINUTES OF  
MAY 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2018**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-038/18

Moved by: Terry Otto  
Seconded by: Archie Mellan

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Forest  
Conservation Working Group Minutes of  
May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 as submitted.

CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**FOREST CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE AMENDMENTS: MUNICIPAL  
ACT**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-039/18

Moved by: Pete Bock  
Seconded by: Lynn Ovenden

RESOLVED THAT:

The Forest Conservation Working Group  
recommend that the Board of Directors  
encourage Municipalities to adopt or partner  
on initiatives, such as, woodlot advisory  
service, tree planting, municipal forests, forest  
management plans, and natural heritage  
strategies, to meet new requirements under  
the Municipal Act.

**MOTION TO AMEND**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-040/18

Moved by: Pete Bock  
Seconded by: Lynn Ovenden

RESOLVED THAT:

The following be added to the resolution:



- a. The Forest Conservation Working Group recommend that Municipalities consider tree conservation bylaws.

**Request for Recorded Vote on Amendment**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-041/18

Moved by: Dorothy Hamilton  
Seconded by: Pete Bock

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the inclusion of a recorded vote regarding the addition of the Amendment noted above:

- Yea: 5
- Nay: 4
- Abstain: 1

CARRIED

**NEW BUSINESS**

**FOREST CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP – WORK PLAN**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-042/18

Moved by: Michel Dignard  
Seconded by: Dorothy Hamilton

RESOLVED THAT:

The Forest Conservation Working Group review and update the Work Plan for the July 5 and July 26 (if needed) meetings.

CARRIED

**The Forest Conservation Working Group recessed at 10:15 a.m.**

**The Chair reconvened the meeting at 10:33 a.m.**

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: IDENTIFYING PROGRAM TARGET AREAS**

The Forest Conservation Working Group identified program target areas to be discussed and expanded on for the next meeting.

**2017 FOREST CONSERVATION SPECIAL LEVY BUDGET**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-043/18

Moved by: Terry Otto



Seconded by: Pete Bock

RESOLVED THAT:

The Forest Conservation Working Group recommend approval of the 2017 Forest Conservation Special Levy Budget to the Board of Directors.

**MOTION TO AMEND**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-044/18

Moved by: Bill Smirle

Seconded by: Terry Otto

RESOLVED THAT:

The Forest Conservation Working Group postpone this report to the July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting for additional information.

CARRIED

**DATES OF UPCOMING MEETINGS (9:00 A.M.)**

- July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (*if required*)

**ADJOURNMENT**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-045/18

Moved by: Terry Otto

Seconded by: Michel Dignard

RESOLVED THAT:

The Forest Conservation Working Group meeting of June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 be adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

CARRIED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alison McDonald,  
Chair.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronda Boutz,  
Team Lead, Special Projects.

/dm



**FOREST CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP MEETING**

Thursday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. – Meeting 06/18

Watershed Room, SNC



**Present:** Alison McDonald, Counties, Committee Chair  
 Pete Bock, Community Member-at-Large  
 Michel Dignard, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Dorothy Hamilton, Ontario Woodlot Association  
 Larry McDermott, Algonquin First Nations  
 Dale McLenaghan, Municipal  
 Archie Mellan, Municipal  
 Terry Otto, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Lynn Ovenden, Community Member-at-Large  
 Jean Saint-Pierre, Boises Est (Alternate)  
 Bill Smirle, Vice Chair, SNC Board of Directors

**Regrets:** Jean-Claude Havard, Boises Est  
 Elaine Kennedy, Ontario Woodlot Association (Alternate)  
 Francis McDermott, Algonquin First Nations (Alternate)  
 Reg Presley, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Bernard van der Zweep, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee (Alternate)

**Absent:** Evan Thompson, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne – Environmental Program

**Staff:** Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects  
 Dianne MacMillan, Administrative Assistant  
 John Mesman, Team Lead, Communications and Outreach  
 Taylor Campbell, Communications Specialist







**APPENDIX A**  
**FOREST CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Facilitated Discussion: Member Ideas (aka Sticky Notes)**



Category	Dots
<i>Big Sticky - Action</i>	
<i>Little Sticky – Idea generation</i>	
<b>Best Management Practices</b>	
Guidelines – regulation enforcement: important, but be careful of ‘big stick’ <u>but</u> penalties may be necessary	1
Guidelines for Forest Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular reports on forest cover</li> <li>Municipal</li> </ul>	0
Develop an ag-oriented Best Management Guide for land Clearing	5
Best Management Practices for Land Use	0
Create linkages between large forest blocks	1
Require/Request Municipal Action Plans from “low cover” areas	7
Work with Municipal Drainage Superintendents to pressure riparian	1
Examine Land Use planning maps to identify 6-7 class land for tree planting	0
Include beer (or other incentive) at demonstration site	1
Indigenous knowledge system and western science need to be treated as equally valued and respected parallel systems	2
<b>Taxation</b>	
Grow the Tax dollar incentive to protect forest on private land	8
Tax Benefit of Forest Cover	1
No tax property	3
Have the County treasurer talk to MPAC about forest cover	0
Support MPAC to appropriately assess lands that are cleared/forested	4
All Municipalities, County level, Conservation Authority, Conservation Ontario, private groups to lobby Provincial government for increase funding towards tree planting, woodlot management, land purchase and conservation	4
Lobby Province to provide funds to keep land in trees	1



Category	Dots
<i>Big Sticky - Action</i>	
<i>Little Sticky – Idea generation</i>	
<b>Economic Alternatives</b>	
Supporting plantation owner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having plots more than 10 years</li> <li>• Donations maintaining legacies</li> </ul>	2
Green energy credit for forest cover or conservation credit	0
Turn Forests into food group, environmental, goods and services to land owners protecting forest	0
Realize you can't force land owner to pay for it out of their pocket	0
Environmental Goods and Services to landowners protection forests	0
If society wants it, society pays for it	3
Clear cutting for non-ag purpose on all class land: there should be some form of compensation managed through or by SNC	2
Support tree and shrub giveaways that encourages success – provide technical support – recognize success: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal</li> <li>• Company (?)</li> <li>• Individuals</li> </ul>	1
Support tree planting – all: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homeowners / Small lots</li> <li>• Large plots</li> <li>• Public places               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Schools</li> <li>○ Municipalities</li> <li>○ Road sides</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	4
Purchase forested/wet lands	0
Lobby provincial government to have programs to protect	0
Lobby Province to provide \$ to keep land in trees	1
<b>Stakeholder Engagement</b>	
Encourage municipalities to budget money for forest cover programs	4
Encourage Municipal partners to plant trees on surplus lands	0
Develop specific riparian forest cover and forest interior cover numbers for each municipality	0
Educate municipalities about big block forests – their locations & their importance	0
Organize a meeting with Provincial and federal government partners to	4





Category	Dots
<i>Big Sticky - Action</i>	
<i>Little Sticky – Idea generation</i>	
discuss importance of maintaining crown land as part of the region's forest cover strategy	
Partner with OMAFRA: counties, SNC, and municipality to update land use (class) mapping to identify lands best suited for Ag – or tree (forest)	2
Lobby the province to regulate riparian protection	2
Municipalities should investigate policy options to prevent pre-clearing for development and amend official plans as needed	1
Organize a meeting between the planners of SDG, PR, LG, to initiate ongoing forest cover discussions	1
Organize a meeting between South Nation, Rideau Valley, Raisin Region officials to initiate ongoing discussions	0
Continuity in some form of FCWG	1
<b>Programs</b>	
Recommend that the municipality approach the provincial government to commit funding for forest conservation and restoration programs for local landowners	2
Government help pay to take care of forest	2
Increase, promote, advertise programs provided by SNC tree planting	1
Promote tree planting in parks and open spaces	0
Program to establish trees around farm building	0
Reduce land required for tree planting grant program	3
Re-think zoning for subdivision	0
Stop developers; encourage country estate subdivisions, all are heavily forested or soon will be	0
Stop development	0
Encourage public ownership of ecologically significant land through donation or acquisition	4
Continue to support South Nation purchasing forest	1
Municipalities own more forest	0
Program Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider reports from Pathways: “we rise together” and “Canadas Conservation Vision”</li> <li>• Incorporate “Two eyed Seeing” see top of page 57 – “we’re together”</li> </ul>	0
Environment and Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational use</li> <li>• Improved water and air quality</li> <li>• CO<sub>2</sub> reduction</li> </ul>	1



Category	Dots
<i>Big Sticky - Action</i>	
<i>Little Sticky – Idea generation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve biodiversity</li> </ul>	
Set 5-year goal for water quality of South Nation River and main tributaries	1
Bylaw requiring informing municipality prior to clear-cutting 10 acres	4
Penalty for clearcutting without informing municipality – bylaw to penalize tree cutting or disturbance of shoreline	0
Bylaw to penalize tree cutting or disturbance of shoreline	0
Prevent livestock from river access	1
<b>Education and Promotion</b>	
Promote through SNC – education for value of trees by increase expense and funding to general public; ag land (former)	0
Free trees for landowners with small acreage	0
Establish a forest education program which can be incorporated into school curriculum: education	0
Educate municipalities about link between forest cover and water quality	2
Best management practice for dealing with forest cover	0
Promote good forest management and protection of cover	0
That municipalities and CA update forest cover stats to inform decision making	1
Publish data, GIS resources, and research online (aka OPEN DATA) including the research done for this committee	3
Promote environmental easements along riverbank, when land with shoreline is to be sold	1
That municipalities promote and enhance trails and recreation in local forests	0
Encourage swimming and fishing from river	0
Public trails along riverbank	0
Picnic areas beside creeks and rivers	0
Swimming or paddling race on river	0
Promote good forest management and protection of forest cover to landowners	1
Encourage managed forest plans	1
Promote forest cover to agriculture organizations	1
Education and communication ‘go together’	0
Educate all of the public re: value, importance of environmental benefits of forest cover	0
Public awareness of clear cutting	0



Category		Dots
<i>Big Sticky - Action</i>		
<i>Little Sticky – Idea generation</i>		
	Billboards about managed forests	0
	Billboards about riparian buffer	0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public</li> <li>• Municipality</li> <li>• Schools</li> <li>• Other groups? (farm/focus groups)</li> </ul>	2
Understanding our Residents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmers</li> <li>• Forest owners</li> <li>• Focus groups</li> <li>• General public</li> </ul>		1
Understanding Governments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal</li> <li>• Provincial</li> <li>• Federal</li> </ul> ...to working with		5
SNC educate all of the public, especially non-landowners re: the importance of forest cover to water quality – drinking and recreation, as well as flood erosion control and GHG reduction		4
Education Strategy: Risk: Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society Target 1 By 2020 at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably		1
Education Educate how increased forest cover is one of the most important steps to achieve local, national, and global sustainability		4



Category	Dots
<i>Big Sticky - Action</i>	
<i>Little Sticky – Idea generation</i>	
Communicating with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> <li>• Ideas and facts</li> <li>• Newspapers</li> <li>• Ads and handouts</li> <li>• Media</li> <li>• Directly and indirectly</li> </ul>	1
Openness to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideas</li> <li>• Suggestions</li> <li>• Discussion</li> <li>• Listening</li> <li>• Integration</li> <li>• Increased engagement</li> </ul>	0
Communicate specific details to public in areas needing most attention	0
Education on value of Ag land and Forest land	0
Education & Communication “go together”	0
Establish a Forestry Education Program which can be incorporated into the school curriculum	0
School Programing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding</li> <li>• Whys</li> <li>• Benefits</li> </ul> Grades, 3, 6, 10	2
Teach kid value of trees	0
Course for kids	2
Expand and promote marginal lands mapping in all Counties	0



<b>Category</b>		<b>Dots</b>
<i>Big Sticky - Action</i>		
	<i>Little Sticky – Idea generation</i>	
Recommend municipalities enact site alteration by-law to protect the most vulnerable forests		4
	Reduce world population (people)	0



**FOREST CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP MEETING**

Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. – Meeting 07/18

Watershed Room, SNC



**Present:**

Alison McDonald, Counties, Committee Chair  
 Pete Bock, Community Member-at-Large  
 Michel Dignard, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Dorothy Hamilton, Ontario Woodlot Association  
 Jean Claude Havard, Boise Est  
 Larry McDermott, Algonquin First Nations  
 Dale McLenaghan, Municipal  
 Archie Mellan, Municipal  
 Terry Otto, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Bill Smirle, Vice Chair, SNC Board of Directors  
 Jean Saint-Pierre, Boise Est

**Regrets:**

Elaine Kennedy, Ontario Woodlot Association (Alternate)  
 Francis McDermott, Algonquin First Nations (Alternate)  
 Lynn Ovenden, Community Member-at-Large  
 Reg Presley, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee  
 Bernard van der Zweep, Agricultural Forest Cover Committee (Alternate)  
 Evan Thompson, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne – Environmental Program

**Guests:**

Long Sault Community Group

**Staff:**

Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects  
 Dianne MacMillan, Administrative Assistant  
 John Mesman, Team Lead, Communications and Outreach





**The Forest Conservation Working Group meeting recessed at 10:55 a.m.  
The Chair reconvened the meeting at 11:05 a.m.**

RESOLVED THAT: The Forest Conservation Working Group recommend to the Board of Directors to approve the following recommendations:

Policy

1. Reaffirm SNC's commitment to promoting an increased understanding and appreciation of biodiversity, to support the *Pathway to Canada – Target 1*
2. Encourage Municipalities to dedicate annual funding to new forest cover initiatives, including additional support and promotion of SNC's forested land acquisition program.
3. Undertake a feasibility review of the City of Ottawa site alteration by-law with upper tier Municipalities as a mechanism to protect sensitive natural features for local Municipalities.
4. SNC to take the lead on lobbying the Provincial and Federal government for more funding to support land acquisition of sensitive forests in low forest cover regions. Partnerships with First Nations, Conservation Authorities (CAs), Municipalities, and stakeholders is required.
5. Encourage Municipalities to provide updated data to Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) for accurate assessment of land parcels which have undergone land use changes.
6. Promote available tax incentives for maintaining or adding forested properties, including MPAC's tax free option for 20 acres of forested land for agricultural producers.
7. SNC to take the lead on lobbying the Provincial and Federal government for more funding to support forest conservation programs and land acquisition of sensitive forests in low forest cover regions.
8. Encourage municipalities to consider a zero percent tax rate on forested land.









**ADJOURNMENT**

RESOLUTION NO. FCWG-057/18

Moved by:

Terry Otto

Seconded by:

Michel Dignard

RESOLVED THAT:

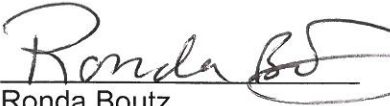
The Forest Conservation Working Group meeting of July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 be adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

CARRIED

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Alison McDonald,  
Chair.

/dm



Ronda Boutz,  
Team Lead, Special Projects.