



NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

NVCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING –No. 07/09, August 28, 2009

STAFF RECOGNIZED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Chair Benotto and Wayne Wilson, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer recognized the following staff for their years of service with the NVCA: Byron Wesson, Director of Lands, Operations and Stewardship Services, 20 years; Sue Whitters, Manager of Finance, 10 years; and Kimberly Winder, Receptionist/Admin Associate, 10 years.

BOARD ENDORSES PLAN TO MANAGE THE MINESING WETLAND

The Board of Directors voted to endorse the *2009-2013 Minesing Wetlands Management Plan*, written in partnership between the NVCA and Nature Conservancy Canada (NCC). The plan outlines how the agencies will assess biodiversity targets, threats, and conservation actions for the protection, recovery and enhancement of the internationally-significant wetland. NVCA staff are working with the NCC and Friends of Minesing Wetlands to identify funding opportunities to meet these deliverables.

2010 FORESTRY PROGRAM FEE SCHEDULE APPROVED

The Board of Directors approved the 2010 forestry program fee schedule which has an approximate 5 per cent increase over 2009 to ensure costs are met and the NVCA maintains its competitiveness. Our forestry program has expanded beyond the planting of trees and now includes a site tending and preparation option for the landowner, in large part due to funding from Ontario's *50 Million Trees Program*. The NVCA will plant about 100,000 trees in 2010.

NVCA PLANNING AND REGULATION GUIDELINES APPROVED

The Board of Directors unanimously approved the *NVCA Planning and Regulation Guidelines* which will be used by staff when commenting on development proposals and reviewing Ontario Regulation 172/06 permit applications. The guidelines are posted on the NVCA web site under the "planning policies" section.

UPDATE ON NVCA/SSEA/ORO-MEDONTE JOINT REPORT ON SERVICE DELIVERY IN THE SEVERN SOUND SUBWATERSHED

On July 21st four NVCA staff and board members met with representatives from Oro-Medonte and the Severn Sound Environmental Association to assess short and long term options for environmental service delivery in the Severn Sound subwatershed. No consensus was reached on a single preferred option. The group will meet again but a meeting date has yet to be confirmed. Wayne Wilson, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer, hopes to present the joint report at the September 25th Executive Committee meeting as a draft report for review, and then submit it at the October 9th Board meeting as a final report for consideration.

For more information contact:

Wayne Wilson, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
705-424-1479, ext. 225
wwilson@nvca.on.ca



NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY HIGHLIGHTS FROM MEETINGS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2009

NVCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING –No. 08/09

NVCA MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ONTARIO LOW WATER RESPONSE POLICY REVISION

The Board of Directors gave direction to NVCA staff to ask the Ministry of Natural Resources to consider the NVCA's 19 recommendations for improving the *Ontario Low Water Response Plan*. The 19 recommendations come from the *Innisfil Creek Low Water Response Pilot Project*, the most significant of which is to change the declaration of a level 3 drought condition to a two-phased approach whereby the Conservation Authority and the MNR confirm the technical drought conditions and the Water Response Team provides recommendations for water conservation actions to be approved at the provincial level. The MNR is planning to conduct a complete policy review on the *Ontario Low Water Response Plan* in late fall 2009.

NVCA SUPPORTS GROWTH PLAN FOR SIMCOE COUNTY

Board members endorsed NVCA staff comments on the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure's strategy entitled "*Simcoe Area: A Strategic Vision for Growth*." In general, NVCA staff are supportive of the document, particularly its advocacy for holistic environmental and servicing planning principles which protect key natural heritage and hydrologic features. Staff have provided the province with recommendations to further address/clarify the *Vision* regarding: integrated watershed planning, natural hazards, water quantity/quality, and natural heritage systems.

NVCA REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND TOWNSHIP OF ESSA COUNCIL MEETING WHERE MOTION TO DISSOLVE THE NVCA WILL BE BROUGHT FORWARD BY COUNCIL

At the September 2nd meeting of the council of the Township of Essa, Mayor Guergis brought forward a motion to support the dissolution of the NVCA and that the NVCA re-form into an association similar to the Severn Sound Environmental Association. The motion was deferred when several councillors requested more background information. It was also suggested by a councillor to consider using a third party/consultant to develop a report to address concerns. Essa staff will bring a report to Essa Council meeting on Sept. 16th, a meeting which NVCA Chair Walter Benotto, CAO Wayne Wilson, and Admin & HR Manager Susan Richards will attend.

UPDATE ON PROCEEDINGS WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF ORO-MEDONTE AND THE SEVERN SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION REGARDING ORO-MEDONTE'S REQUEST TO REDUCE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY JURISDICTION

Wayne Wilson told the Board of Directors he met with staff from the Township of Oro Medonte and Severn Sound Environmental Association again on September 10th. He said a draft report will be presented at the October 9th NVCA Board of Directors meeting outlining what options have been considered with respect to Oro-Medonte's request to reduce conservation authority jurisdiction.

GRAND OPENING OF THE NEEVA GAYLE HIX GREENWAY

The covered boardwalk at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation has been completed as a result of a generous donation received from John and Neeva Gayle Hix. Chair Benotto and the Board of Directors, along with NVCA staff and guests of John and Neeva Gayle Hix, acknowledged the Hix's contribution with a grand opening celebration and unveiling of the "NEEVA GAYLE HIX GREENWAY" plaque.

**NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY (NVSPA) MEETING –
No. 02/09, September 11, 2009**

NVSPA TERMS OF REFERENCE APPROVED BY THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The NVSPA Terms of Reference were approved by the province on July 13th, 2009. The Severn Sound SPA terms were approved on the same day and the Lake Simcoe and Couchiching-Black River SPA terms were approved on June 29th. These approvals trigger the deadline for the Technical Assessment Reports one year later.

INVITATION TO ATTEND MUNICIPAL SOURCE WATER PROTECTION WORKSHOP SERIES

Source Protection Committee Chair, Lynn Dollin, reminded NVSPA members of the final two Source Water Protection municipal workshops to be held this fall. The next workshop is on September 17th at Casino Rama and includes sessions on enforcement and monitoring, water budgets, and Source Water Protection & Emergency Response. The final workshop is on October 29th. NVSPA members, as well as all municipal councillors and staff who deal with Source Water Protection in the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region, may register for the workshops at www.ourwatershed.ca.

WATER BUDGET PRESENTATION GIVEN BY DON GOODYEAR

Don Goodyear, Manager of Source Water Protection for the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region, gave members an update on water budgets in the NVSPA area. Tier 1 water budgets have been completed for the entire area and four sub-watersheds are undergoing tier 2 budgets. They are the Innisfil Creek, Pine River, Middle Nottawasaga River and Willow Creek sub-watersheds.

Future Meetings and Events

Nine Mile Portage Heritage Festival, Sept. 19
Executive meeting 11/09, Sept. 25
Friends of Minesing Wetlands annual meeting, Sept. 26
Friends of Minesing Wetlands fall canoe trip, Oct. 3
Board meeting 09/09, Oct. 9
Deadline for Conservation Champion nominations, Oct. 9
NVCA Evening of Thanks, Nov. 3

For more information contact:

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