



Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority **HIGHLIGHTS**

of the NVCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - No. 4/11- April 29, 2011

DRAFT GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN PRESENTED

NVCA staff presented the draft Groundwater Management Plan to the Board for consideration. The plan focuses on taking advantage of existing NVCA groundwater science and coordinating current and future NVCA efforts to protect this critically important resource for future generations. This plan is also consistent with the NVCA groundwater protection target as well as the NVCA's vision of "Conserving Our Healthy Waters". The Board directed that consideration of this large and comprehensive report be deferred to give Board members more time for review.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE/NVCA WINDBREAK AND SHELTER BELT PARTNERSHIP

The NVCA and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) have entered into a pilot project with local farmers to establish windbreaks and shelter belts in the south-eastern portion of the NVCA watershed. The windbreaks are intended to reduce the amount of phosphorous attached to soil that is blown into Lake Simcoe. The project will include holding workshops with landowners and establishing pilot windbreak projects on private lands. More details will be provided shortly on workshop locations and grants for eligible land owners.

OGS AND NVCA PARTNER TO STUDY UNDERGROUND RIVER VALLEY

The NVCA has partnered with the Ontario Geological Survey (OGS) group, who are conducting tests to find the location and extent of a buried ancient river running from Georgian Bay to Lake Ontario. It is anticipated that the buried river will represent a very large supply of groundwater. Understanding the location, size and quality of this feature is important for future groundwater and surface water management and protection.

AUDIT COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP TERMS OF REFERENCE

At the March NVCA Board meeting, the Board established an Audit committee consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Past Chair and the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer. NVCA staff have now been directed to develop terms of reference (outlining roles and responsibilities) for the audit committee for future review and consideration by the Board.

WEIGHTED VOTING

Within the NVCA, each member has one vote as per the Conservation Authorities Act, except for the non-matching levy budget vote, which is weighted according to the municipal share of the NVCA Current Value Assessment, provided by the Province of Ontario. As per the Board's direction during the March meeting, CAO/Secretary Treasurer Wayne Wilson sought legal advice concerning the possibility of having other significant votes weighted, and found that the current legislation would not permit this. The NVCA continues to encourage municipalities to voluntarily appoint only one Board member to help keep the board at a manageable size and reduce costs.

BOARD ORIENTATION KICKS OFF WITH OVERVIEW OF NVCA BUSINESS PLAN AND THE ENGINEERING & TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Wayne Wilson, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer, provided Board members with a brief overview of the NVCA's Business Plan, highlighting the organization's vision, objectives and targets for watershed conservation. Glenn Switzer, Director of Engineering and Technical Services, spoke regarding the types of engineering support provided by his staff. Also from this department were overviews from Tina DesRoches, Manager of Geographic Information Systems and Information Technology, Brian Smith, Water Resource Technologist and Flood Warning Coordinator, David Featherstone, Manager of Watershed Monitoring, and Ryan Post, Hydrogeologist and Source Water Protection Coordinator.

Future meetings and events:

Arbour Day Tree Sale – May 14, 2011
Board meeting member orientation May 20th
Board Meeting 05/11 – May 27, 2011
Community Tree Planting – throughout May

For more information, please contact:

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