



Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

HIGHLIGHTS

of the NVCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS - No. 07/13 – Aug. 30, 2013

NVCA ASSISTS ESSA, SIMCOE COUNTY WITH OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT

The NVCA provided input to the Township of Essa on an amendment to their Official Plan that would change the municipal designation on a specific piece of land from "Commercial Recreation" to "Institutional". The amendment is intended to ensure that future development applications for the property take into consideration floodplain and erosion hazards, while allowing the existing institutional structures to continue to operate. It also gives the opportunity for existing permanent residences to seek consent or condominium application, if environmental and hazard issues are not aggravated and if servicing meets current standards.

The County, the Township and the NVCA worked with the applicant on a satisfactory settlement, which was presented to the Ontario Municipal Board on August 6, 2013. Counsel for the County and Township suggested the NVCA also sign the agreement as a symbolic gesture, as the NVCA played a strong role in ensuring hazard and environmental policies were adhered to.

The NVCA Board of Directors received Essa OP Amendment 14 at the August 30 meeting and directed the CAO to sign the OMB settlement agreement.

AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS REQUEST GREATER VOICE

The NVCA Board received written and in-person deputations from members of agricultural organizations including the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture with regards to the role of the NVCA in agricultural matters, and establishing more regular and effective communication between the Conservation Authority and the agricultural community. Representatives of these groups will be meeting with the NVCA in September to determine the parameters for establishing an ongoing forum to discuss policy and decision making at the NVCA.

NVCA TO COMMENCE PHASE 2 OF DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PROJECT

In July 2013, the NVCA received a request from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to enter into an agreement to undertake Phase 2 of the Drought Management Pilot Project on Innisfil Creek. The total project budget would be \$300,000, with \$30,000 to be used to cover NVCA project management costs.

This phase of the project will run from August 2013 to March 2014, and the results will be used by the NVCA and the Province to support the Ontario Low Water Response program, including developing a drought management strategy for the Innisfil Creek subwatershed.

Due to an August 2 deadline to commit to the project, the request was presented to members of the NVCA Board via e-mail. Board members responded electronically, approving the Authority's participation (17 in favour and 0 opposed). This was

reviewed at the August 30 meeting to confirm the Board's direction and enter the decision into public record.

MNR AWARDS ADDITIONAL GROUNDWATER PROJECTS TO NVCA

The Board voted to endorse the NVCA's participation in three additional groundwater projects as awarded by the Ministry of Natural Resources, and directed the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer to sign the agreements on behalf of the NVCA. The projects will be completely funded by MNR, including administration and a contract staff position.

Two projects are related to groundwater as a drought indicator in support of the Ontario Low Water Response Program, and one project is related to determining the role of groundwater with regards to the endangered Hines Emerald Dragonfly in the Minesing Wetlands.

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH STUDENTS SUBMIT ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

Each year, the University of Guelph's senior Environmental Sciences students examine a real-world environmental problem in order to obtain realistic research experience. This presents a unique opportunity for organizations like the NVCA – which endeavour to work with the best science possible but lack the funds to commission research – to work with the University to gain access to original research to help guide their environmental work.

The NVCA submitted five research project proposals to the program, and three were chosen to be worked on in the 2012-2013 school year. Over eight months, teams of students conducted comprehensive background research, visited sites to collect field data and analyzed existing collected data. At the end of the projects, the teams communicated their results orally, by report and by poster. These reports were presented to the Board and posted on the NVCA website.

BOARD APPROVES PERMIT APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT , WITH CONDITIONS

The NVCA Board of Directors sat as a Hearing Board to consider an application submitted by Mr. Larry Smilsky for permission to construct a single family dwelling in the Town of New Tecumseth.

The Board heard evidence regarding the development application, presented by NVCA technical staff and the applicant. After careful consideration and deliberation, the Board supported the proposal (11 in favour and 10 opposed). The Board provided the following direction: "That the Smilsky application be approved subject to a detailed site plan and permit application being submitted to the satisfaction of the NVCA."

Mr. Smilsky and NVCA staff will discuss the required technical information to satisfy the direction of the NVCA Board in addressing flood related matters. NVCA staff will also consult with staff at the Town of New Tecumseth regarding this matter.

Conservation Authorities work with member municipalities to ensure that development proceeds in a safe and environmentally sound manner. In regards to this application the NVCA will ensure that the proposed structure will be adequately protected from the flood hazards.

For the full agenda including documents and reports, please visit our website:
<http://nvca.on.ca/meetings/BoardofDirectors/Agendas/>

Future meetings and events:

Board Meeting 08/13 – Sept.27, 2013
Festival at Fort Willow – Sept.14, 2013

For more information, please contact:

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