



SOUTH NATION  
**CONSERVATION**  
DE LA NATION SUD

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## **Forestry Committee**

# **Supplemental Agenda**

**Date:** June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Time:** 10:00 am

**Location:** Watershed Room, SNC

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



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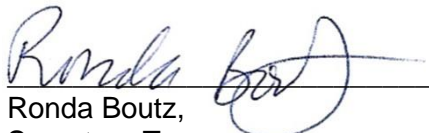
## Forestry Committee

# Supplemental Agenda

June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 10:00 am

### 1. New Business

- a. Request for Approval: 2024 Tree Planting Fee Schedule: Ronda/Cheyene 3-5
- b. Request for Approval: Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Certification 6

  
Ronda Boutz,  
Secretary-Treasurer.



**To:** Forestry Committee  
**From:** Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer  
Cheyene Brunet, Forestry Technician  
**Date:** June 5, 2023  
**Subject:** Request for Approval: 2024 Tree Planting Fee Schedule

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Forestry Committee approves recommending to the Board of Directors that the 2024 Tree Planting Fee Schedule be approved as presented.

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**BACKGROUND:**

The majority of trees planted by South Nation Conservation (SNC) qualify for Federal Government funding through the 50 Million Tree Program which provides \$1.85/seedling in subsidy for program coordination and delivery, site preparation/tending (if required), seedlings, planting, and survival assessments.

For 2023 and 2024, the Provincial Government has provided additional funds to increase the subsidy to \$2.50/seedling. Landowners contribute as per the Board approved annual tree planting fee schedule (2023 fees: \$1.00/conifer and \$1.50/hardwood). At this point, there is no confirmed additional subsidy beyond 2024.

While these revenues help to offset the program costs, they do not fully cover program delivery; it takes approximately 1,000 hours of staff time to deliver the current tree planting program. This estimate does not include any additional time needed for staff to plant trees when external contractors can not be secured.

Staff time includes submitting annual allocation requests and reporting to Forests Ontario, landowner inquiries and site visits, preparing landowner site plans/agreements, sourcing stock, landowner invoicing, securing and coordinating contracted services, site preparation, sorting of stock at cold storage facilities, supervision of planting and tending, post-plant reporting, and survival assessments.

Under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, tree planting on privately owned sites is a category 3 program and as of 2024 will require a signed agreement with all municipalities to use levy to support the program.

As per the Board approved business case (BD-073/23), *Watershed Programs and Services: 2024 and Beyond*, the annual request for Private Land Stewardship and Outreach is approximately 3.15%, maximum, of the levy. This percentage equates to approximately \$135,000 for delivery of the tree planting program, clean water program, community environmental grants, plus some outreach activities, and any support required to facilitate restoration projects on private land.

With the current economic environment, costs are continuing to rise, including seedlings prices, contracted planting, and staff time. Contracted planting increased 15-20%

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depending on site size between 2022 and 2023. Seedling price increases vary depending on species, generally they were 5-15% from 2022 to 2023.

**DISCUSSION:**

Costs vary greatly from planting site to planting site based on number of seedlings, contractor planting price, species (hardwood vs. conifer), and whether site preparation and/or tending are needed. Typically, the smaller sites have higher costs per seedling resulting from higher contracted planting fees. Small sites also tend to take the same, or more, staff time to coordinate start to finish than larger planting sites.

Staff are recommending that the minimum order for trees under the 50MTP be increased to 1,000 from 500 seedlings. These are the most expensive sites to plant and in 2023, SNC was not able to contract out the smaller planting sites, they had to be completed in-house with SNC staff. SNC does not have the capacity to continue planting large volumes of seedlings.

The proposed fee schedule is based on a review of Program costs, working with an aggregated average cost per seedling, and considers the Forests Ontario subsidy. The trend of increasing costs due to inflation was also considered. Staff will review the Program cost-analysis with the Committee at the meeting.

It should be noted that a future reduction of the Forests Ontario subsidy (i.e., back to the previous \$1.85/seedling amount if not extended beyond 2024) will require future fee increases to deliver the Program within the municipal levy allocation specified in the category 3 agreements.

The proposed fee schedule would be in effect from June 2023 (following Board approval) to June 2024.

**Proposed 2024 Tree Planting Fee Schedule**

Program	Landowner Fee	Potential Forests Ontario Subsidy*
50 Million Tree Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$1.05/conifer</li><li>• \$1.58/hardwood</li><li>• \$551/ha band spray and scribe</li><li>• \$525/ha scribe</li><li>• Order minimum of 1,000 trees</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$2.50/seedling</li></ul>
Over the Counter Sales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• nursery stock cost plus 25% for shipping and handling</li></ul>	None

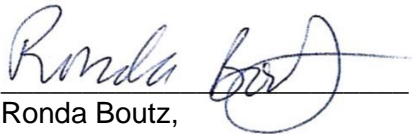


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**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:**

Compliance with Budget: There is no impact on the 2023 Budget.

SNC Policy Adherence: Annual fee schedules are approved by the Board of Directors. As of January 1, 2023, all SNC fee schedules will adhere to the Minister's Fee Classes Policy as per section 21.2 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

  
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Ronda Boutz,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

For:   
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Cheyene Brunet,  
Forestry Technician.



**To:** Forestry Committee  
**From:** Pat Piitz, Team Lead Property  
**Date:** June 1, 2023  
**Subject:** Request for Approval: Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Certification

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Forestry Committee recommends to the Board of Directors participation in the EOMF-led SFI Certification Trial at no cost to SNC.

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**DISCUSSION:**

The Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF) is seeking volunteer managed forests to participate in an SFI Certification Trial at no cost to the participant. EOMF is the certificate holder for our Forest Steward Council (FSC) certificate. The SNC Forest has been FSC-certified since 2005.

Both certification systems have similar standards and require third-party audits to demonstrate compliance with standards. FSC focuses on marketing of sustainably sourced forest products, while SFI focuses on the resource managers who seek to demonstrate responsible resource management and provides services and programs to enable sustainable forest management.

SNC already maintains documentation and policies to meet a variety of audit requirements including FSC, the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP), Heritage Conservation Easement Agreements, the Ecological Gifts Program, and the Canadian Protected & Conserved Areas. The trial imposes no additional cost or work for SNC.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:**

Compliance with Budget: Full Cost Recovery.

SNC Policy Adherence: Adheres to SNC Forest Policy.

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Pat Piitz,  
Team Lead Property.