



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD

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Forestry Committee

Meeting Agenda

Date: September 5th, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Watershed Room, SNC

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



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Forestry Committee

Meeting Agenda

September 5th, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

1. Chair's Remarks
2. Approval of Forestry Committee Agenda (Supplemental Agenda)
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
4. SNC Forestry Project Update – PowerPoint Presentation: Staff
5. Community Engagement
6. Approval of the Forestry Committee meeting minutes of June 6th, 2023 3-6
7. Business Arising from Minutes (if any)
8. New Business:
 - a. Update: Derecho Storm Recovery Program: Pat 7
 - b. Update: FSC Certification and FSI Certification: Pat 8
 - c. Update: SNC Standing Committees: Ronda 9-13
9. Supplemental Agenda (if any)
10. Correspondence (if any)
11. Adjournment

Ronda Boutz,
Secretary-Treasurer.



FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, June 6th, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – Meeting 02/23

SNC Watershed Room



Present: Glenn Mackey, Committee Chair
Dorothy Hamilton, Stormont Dundas Glengarry Chapter – Ontario Woodlot Association
Steve Hunter, United Counties of Prescott Russell
Murray Inch, Public Citizen
Dave Robertson, Public Citizen
Bill Smirle, SNC Board of Directors
François St. Amour, SNC Board of Directors
Ron Toonders, Agriculture
Adrian Wynands, SNC Board of Directors

Regrets: François Allard, Public Citizen
Alain Bertrand, Public Citizen
Maurice Chabot, Public Citizen
George Darouze, SNC Board of Directors, Past Chair, ex-officio
Steve Densham, SNC Board of Directors, Vice Chair, ex-officio
Phil Duncan, United Counties of Stormont Dundas Glengarry
Pierre Leroux, SNC Board of Directors, Chair, ex-officio
Doug Thompson, Public Citizen

Staff: Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer
Cheyene Brunet, Forestry Technician
Chris Craig, Senior Forestry Technician
Caroline Goulet, Forester
Tavish MacLeod, Forestry Assistant
Pat Piitz, Team Lead, Property
Spencer Van Putten, Property Student

Guest: Ben Gwilliam, Ontario Woodlot Association (*electronic participation*)
Lester McInnis, Oak Valley Pioneer Park Volunteers
Jean Saint-Pierre, Boisés Est



CHAIR'S REMARKS

Glenn Mackey, Committee Chair, called the Forestry Committee meeting of June 6th, 2023 to order at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF FORESTRY COMMITTEE AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. FC-014/23

Moved by: Bill Smirle
Seconded by: Dorothy Hamilton

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the June 6th, 2023 Forestry Committee main and supplemental agendas as submitted.

CARRIED

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Conflict of Interest.

LIDAR PRODUCTS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Ben Gwilliam from the Ontario Woodlot Association gave a virtual presentation to the Committee on the LiDAR Products for Sustainable Forest Management project.

SNC FORESTRY PROJECT UPDATE – POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Staff presented forestry program and project updates.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ROUNDTABLE:

- Bill Smirle – reminded the Committee that he provides regular updates on SNC business to North Dundas Council
- Adrian Wynands – informed the Committee that as Deputy Mayor for Augusta Township, he also provides updates to his Council on SNC business
- Murray Inch – updated the Committee on the Oak Valley field day, shagbark hickory seeds provided to SNC for planting, and re-appointment of Lester McInnis as the leader for the Oak Valley Pioneer Park Volunteer group

APPROVAL OF: FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28th, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. FC-015/23

Moved by: Dave Robertson
Seconded by: François St. Amour

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Forestry Committee meeting minutes of February 28th, 2023 as submitted.

CARRIED



BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

NEW BUSINESS

UPDATE: SNC FOREST ANNUAL REPORT 2022

RESOLUTION NO. CWC-016/23

Moved by:

Adrian Wynands

Seconded by:

Steve Hunter

RESOLVED THAT:

The Forestry Committee receive and file the SNC Forest Annual Report.

CARRIED

UPDATE: DRAFT SNC FOREST OPERATING PLAN 2024-2028

RESOLUTION NO. CWC-017/23

Moved by:

Dorothy Hamilton

Seconded by:

Ron Toonders

RESOLVED THAT:

The Forestry Committee receive and file the Draft SNC Forest Operating Plan 2024-2028 update.

CARRIED

UPDATE: 2023 TREE PLANTING AND FREE TREE DAYS

RESOLUTION NO. FC-018/23

Moved by:

Adrian Wynands

Seconded by:

Bill Smirle

RESOLVED THAT:

The Forestry Committee receive and file the 2023 Tree Planting and Free Tree Days.

CARRIED

Bill Smirle left the meeting at 12:07 p.m.



SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: 2024 TREE PLANTING FEE SCHEDULE

RESOLUTION NO. FC-019/23

Moved by: François St. Amour
Seconded by: Murray Inch

RESOLVED THAT:

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

CARRIED

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE (SFI) CERTIFICATION

RESOLUTION NO. FC-020/23

Moved by: Adrian Wynands
Seconded by: François St. Amour

RESOLVED THAT:

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

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Forestry Committee Meeting, September 5th, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., SNC Office.

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION NO. FC-021/23

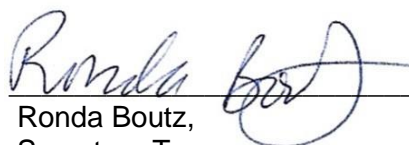
Moved by: Ron Toonders

RESOLVED THAT:

The Forestry Committee meeting of June 6th, 2023 be adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

CARRIED

Glenn Mackey,
Committee Chair.



Ronda Boutz,
Secretary-Treasurer.

/rb



To: Forestry Committee
From: Pat Piitz, Team Lead Property
Date: August 29, 2023
Subject: Update: Derecho Storm Recovery

RECOMMENDATION:

The Forestry Committee receive and file the update on the Derecho Storm Recovery.

DISCUSSION:

Project Milestones:

2 Billion Tree Funding Application Submission:	February 16, 2023
UCPR Forestry Service Agreement:	May 8, 2023
2 Billion Tree Program Conditional Notice of Approval	June 12, 2023
Project Announcement Press Release:	July 7, 2023
2 Billion Tree Contribution Agreement:	August 14, 2023
Revised Ottawa Tree Replacement Program	August 17, 2023

Project Statistics (as of August 29, 2023):

Number of Applications Received:	64
Number of Site Eligible Applications:	58
Number of Ineligible Applications:	6
Number of Site Visits Completed:	20

Planned Activities:

- Upload FAQ to project website
- Prepare workplans for each site visit (start September)
- Site preparation and salvage (start October)
- Planting (Spring 2024)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: Full Cost Recovery

SNC Policy Adherence: Adheres to SNC Forest Policy

Programs and Services Category: Category 2 – Municipal Agreements: Forestry Services and Category 3 – Watershed (Other) Programs: Private Land Stewardship

Pat Piitz,
Team Lead Property.



To: Forestry Committee
From: Pat Piitz, Team Lead Property
Date: August 29, 2023
Subject: Update: Forest Certification

RECOMMENDATION:

The Forestry Committee receive and file the update on forest certification.

DISCUSSION:

The SNC Forest will soon be managed sustainably in compliance with two certification systems. Both certification systems have similar standards and require third-party audits to demonstrate compliance with standards. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) focuses on marketing of sustainably sourced forest products, while Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) focuses on the resource managers who seek to demonstrate responsible resource management and provides services and programs to enable sustainable forest management.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

The SNC Forest has been FSC-certified since 2005. The forest has been re-certified for an additional five years. The High Conservation Value report was updated and submitted to the EOMF along with the annual report of operations for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 was submitted on August 29, 2023. FSC audits are scheduled for November 20, 2023 to November 24, 2023. SNC is not scheduled for field audit during 2023.

Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI)

The Board of Directors (BD-111/23) approved the recommendation of the Forestry Committee (FC-020/23) to seek SFI Certification for the SNC Forest. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on August 21, 2023, with the the Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF). Like FSC Certification, the EOMF will hold the SFI certificate on behalf of the community forests including SNC.

The EOMF maintains on file baseline documentation for the SNC Forest, such as the SNC Forest Management Plan and SNC Forest Policy. SNC has also provided documentation of recent forest operations for review and a Stage 1 Audit is scheduled for mid-September. No issues are anticipated with achieving SFI certification.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: Full cost recovery

SNC Policy Adherence: Adheres to SNC Forest Policy

Programs and Services Category: Category 1 – Conservation Lands Management

Pat Piitz,
Team Lead Property.



To: SNC Standing Committees
From: Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer
John Mesman, Managing Director, Property, Conservation Lands, and
Community Outreach
Date: August 29th, 2023
Subject: Update: SNC Standing Committees

RECOMMENDATION:

The SNC Standing Committees receive and file the update on the South Nation Conservation Standing Committees.

BACKGROUND:

The Board of Directors approved a work plan to review the South Nation Conservation (SNC) Standing Committees at the August 2022 Board meeting (BD-127/22). The work plan included a review of current Standing Committees, recommendations for Committees moving forward, and drafting updates for the Committees Terms of Reference.

Staff undertook a review of the Standing Committees for the past 5 years (2018-2022); the following provides a summary of the review findings provided to the Board of Directors at their August 2023 meeting.

Staff will provide additional information on the review at each Standing Committee's September 2023 meeting.

SUMMARY OF STANDING COMMITTEES REVIEW:

Membership

As per the current Terms of Reference, Committees can have up to 15 members with additional membership at the discretion of the Board. Membership does not include the Board Executive who are ex-officio members of all Standing Committees.

The following table summarizes Committee membership between 2018-2022. These numbers include Board members that are not ex-officio.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Clean Water*	22	23	21	17	16
Communications	14	15	15	14	13
Fish and Wildlife	15	17	17	17	14
Forestry	17	19	17	17	15

* The Clean Water Committee and Eastern Ontario Water Resources Committee merged in 2015 and accounts for the higher number of members.



Attendance

A review of Committee attendance for the past five years (2018-2022) offers insight into pre, during, and post the COVID-19 pandemic conditions, noting that most of the meetings during 2020-2021 occurred through a virtual platform.

Generally, meeting attendance was around 75% for all Committees, except Forestry which was slightly lower at 63%. Individual member attendance varied, with some at 100% attendance and others as low as 20% attendance.

During this period, only one meeting (Fish and Wildlife Committee) was cancelled when quorum could not be achieved. However, there were several occurrences, with various Committees, that required repeated contact from Staff or Committee Chairs to confirm member attendance to establish quorum.

Community Engagement

A primary function of each Committee is to promote SNC programs and services to member's communities and affiliated organizations. Community engagement is a standing agenda item for all Committees; members are asked to report any engagement or partnership opportunities that they have been involved with since the previous meeting.

A review of the number of Committee members compared to the number of members that provided community engagement reports was used to determine an approximate rate of return on member community engagement.

Communications had the highest membership engagement at 25% rate of return, Forestry and Fish and Wildlife had 13% and 12% respectively, with Clean Water with the lowest rate of return at 6%. These community engagements include updates from Board members, which account for approximately 16% the engagement over the 5-year period.

Agendas and Committee Business

The Clean Water Committee agendas primarily focus on review and approval of grant applications for the Clean Water Program, Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program, and Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program. The Communications Committee agendas focus on review and approval of communication products, education and outreach, and community environmental grants. Generally, agendas for these Committees do not overlap with the other Standing Committees.

The Fish and Wildlife and Forestry Committees generally receive updates on programs and projects and provide input on annual work plans. Most agenda items are 'receive and file', with a few 'requests for approval'. Agendas for these two Committees had significant overlap between 2018-2022 and fourteen reports went to both Committees in the same meeting month. Several attempts were made in the past to merge these two Committees, through joint meetings, without success.

Updates related to the Act and Committee membership were brought to all Standing Committees; this accounts for six separate reports between 2018-2022.



Joint Standing Committees Meeting

In 2014, the Board updated the Standing Committees Terms of Reference to include an annual joint meeting of all Standing Committees. The purpose was to provide an opportunity for cross discussions and networking between Committees. The meeting is typically held in March of each year.

Attendance at the annual joint meeting has been declining throughout 2018-2022. The 2021 joint meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The table below summarizes the attendance to the Joint Standing Committee meeting by Committee and Board members between 2018-2022.

	2018 (in-person)	2019 (in-person)	2020 (in-person)	2022 (virtual)	
Committee	% Attendance	% Attendance	% Attendance	% Attendance	Avg % Attendance
Board of Directors	8.3%	33.3%	25.0%	25.0%	22.9%
Clean Water	60.6%	20.2%	25.3%	20.2%	31.6%
Communications	83.3%	60.6%	60.6%	22.7%	56.8%
Fish and Wildlife	62.5%	50.0%	68.8%	12.5%	48.4%
Forestry	47.1%	35.3%	29.4%	17.6%	32.4%

Note: 2021 meeting cancelled because of the pandemic.

Annual Committee Costs

SNC provides volunteer Committee members with per diem, mileage, and a light lunch at each meeting. Annual cost for each Committee averaged \$7,300 pre pandemic (2018-2019) with the annual cost decreasing to \$3,100 during the pandemic (2020-2022) due to virtual and hybrid meetings. These costs do not include staff time.

DISCUSSION:

Recent amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* require SNC to develop prescribed plans, policies, and strategies by December 31st, 2024. Two of the strategies – the Conservation Area Strategy and Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy – require public stakeholder engagement during development and for future updates. SNC has relied on Standing Committees to provide stakeholder input on these types of documents and has continued to secure meaningful participation, interest, feedback, and implementation support on SNC strategies and plans.



While the Standing Committees serve a valuable role to SNC, the current structure and makeup of Committees does not fully align with SNC's future needs. The review's findings suggest there are opportunities for efficiencies through restructuring the Committees.

Staff recommend that the four Standing Committees be dissolved, and a new Watershed Advisory Committee be established for 2024 and beyond. One Committee with additional and diverse stakeholder membership will be more effective and will eliminate redundancies, streamline input, reduce staff time, and manage budget expectations.

Updates to the Standing Committee structure will help reduce the staffing and administrative resources required to manage over 16 committee meetings per year. Staff time is currently required to preparing meeting agendas, staff reports, meeting facilitation, committee member engagement, and meeting minutes.

Proposed Watershed Advisory Committee

The proposed Watershed Advisory Committee membership would reflect the diversity of the existing Committees, with some members appointed from identified sector/partner organizations, and others selected through a public application process. The Committee would meet four times per year, once each quarter.

A sub-committee of the Watershed Advisory Committee could be appointed to review grant applications and recommend grant approvals to the Board for the Clean Water Program, Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program, and Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program. This sub-committee would meet 2-3 times per year as required for funding allocation.

The Community Environmental Grants (up to \$300 each), currently approved by the Communications Committee, can be administered and approved at the staff level. Staff would provide a summary of approved grants to the Watershed Advisory Committee at their quarterly meeting. This would streamline the process and eliminate the need for electronic voting between Committee meetings for time-sensitive requests for project and event support.

Next Steps

The Board of Directors supported the recommendation to move to one Standing Committee. Staff will bring a Watershed Advisory Committee Terms of Reference to the Board for approval at their September 2023 meeting. The updated Terms of Reference will replace the current SNC Standing Committee Terms of Reference; effective January 1st, 2024. Watershed Advisory Committee membership recruitment would be completed in Fall 2023.



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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: No impact to the 2023 Budget, the 2024 draft Budget will reflect the revised Standing Committees structure.

SNC Policy Adherence: Subsection 18 (2) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* allows SNC to establish advisory boards as it considers appropriate. Standing Committees are governed in accordance with SNC's Administrative By-laws and the SNC Standing Committees Terms of Reference.

Programs and Services Category: General Operating: Governance

Ronda Boutz,
Secretary-Treasurer.

John Mesman,
Managing Director, Property,
Conservation Lands, and Community Outreach.