



SOUTH NATION
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DE LA NATION SUD

38 rue Victoria Street, Finch, ON K0C 1K0 Tel: 613-984-2948 Fax: 613-984-2872 Toll Free: 1-877-984-2948 www.nation.on.ca

Fish and Wildlife Committee

Meeting Agenda

Date: June 4th, 2019

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Location: Watershed Room, SNC

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



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Fish and Wildlife Committee

Meeting Agenda

June 4th, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.

1. Chair's Remarks
2. Approval of Fish and Wildlife Committee Agenda
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
4. SNC Project Update – PowerPoint Presentation: Staff
5. Approval of:
 - a. Joint Standing Committee meeting minutes of March 7th, 2019 3-6
 - b. Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting minutes of March 7th, 2019 7-13
6. Business Arising from Minutes
 - a. OFAH Student Work Plan: Ronda Verbal
 - b. SNC Joint Committee Visioning Exercise Findings: John 14-15
7. New Business
 - a. Update: Environmental Bill of Rights Postings Regarding Conservation Authorities: John 16-27
 - b. Update: Bill 108: Angela PowerPoint
 - c. Update: *Fisheries Act* Amendments: Brent 28-29
8. Supplemental Agenda (if any)
9. Roundtable Discussion
 - a. Community Engagement Activities
 - b. Watershed Monitoring Report
10. Date of Next Meeting
 - September 3rd, 2019
11. Adjournment

Ronda Boutz,
Team Lead, Special Projects.

/dm



Joint Standing Committee Meeting

Thursday March 7th, 2019: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
South Nation Conservation Meeting Rooms

Present

SNC Board of Directors:

Bill Smirle, Interim Chair
Doug Thompson, Past Chair
Stéphane Sarrazin, Director
Peggy Taylor, Director

Committee Members:

Jacqueline Kelly-Pemberton, Committee Chair, Clean Water
Russell Bennett
Jack Hoogenboom
Glenn Mackey

Fred Schueler, Committee Chair, Fish and Wildlife
Malcolm Clark
Stéphane Dubuc
Susan Gallinger
Cyril Holmes
Aleta Karstad
Glen Runions
Larry E. Smith

Dave Robertson, Committee Chair, Forestry
Alain Bertrand
Achille Drouin
Dorothy Hamilton
Tony Ricard

Lawrence Levere, Committee Chair, Communications
Gerry Boyce
Murray Inch
Tim Jackson
Glen Runions
Cindy Saucier
Tom Van Dusen
Byron Vienneau
Charles Armstrong

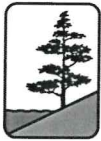
Staff Present:

Angela Coleman, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects



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Cheyene Brunet, Forestry Technician
Taylor Campbell, Communications Specialist
Chris Craig, Senior Forestry Technician
Linda Hutchinson, Director, Organization Effectiveness
Elise Lefebvre, Administrative Assistant II
Dianne MacMillan, Administrative Assistant II
Sandra Mancini, Team Lead, Engineering
Alison McDonald, Team Lead, Approvals
John Mesman, Team Lead, Communications and Outreach
Holly Nyenkamp, Communications and Outreach Assistant
Pat Piitz, Team Lead, Property
Ryan Robson, Resource Technician
Kelsey Smith, Stewardship and Outreach Assistant



WELCOME:

Bill Smirle, SNC Interim Chair, opened the Joint Standing Committee meeting of March 7th, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed Committee Members.

APPROVAL OF JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. JSC-001/19

Moved by: Doug Thompson
Seconded by: Jacqueline Kelly Pemberton

RESOLVED THAT:

The Committee Members approve the Joint Standing Committee agenda for March 7th, 2019 as presented.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 1st, 2018

RESOLUTION NO. JSC-002/19

Moved by: Lawrence Levere
Seconded by: Doug Thompson

RESOLVED THAT:

The Committee Members approve the Joint Standing Committee meeting minutes of March 1st, 2018 as presented.

CARRIED

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REMARKS:

- Jacqueline Kelly Pemberton, Clean Water Committee
- Dave Robertson, Forestry Committee
- Fred Schueler, Fish and Wildlife Committee
- Lawrence Levere, Communications Committee

The Committee Chairs provided an overview of their Committee programs and projects.

RESOLUTION NO. JSC-003/19

Moved by: Peggy Taylor
Seconded by: Doug Thompson

RESOLVED THAT:

The Committee Members receive and file the verbal updates of the Standing Committee Chairs.

CARRIED



BEYOND 2020

John Mesman, Team Lead, Communications and Outreach lead a visioning exercise with Committee Members.

HOUSEKEEPING

Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects reminded attendees to fill and return the email survey and if there are any issues with website access to Members pages, to contact Dianne MacMillan.

CLOSING REMARKS

Bill Smirle, Interim Chair, thanked all Committee Members for attending the Joint Standing Committee meeting day, and their continued work for SNC programs and projects.

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION NO. JSC-004/19

Moved by: Glenn Mackey

RESOLVED THAT:

The Joint Standing Committee meeting of
March 7th, 2019 be adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

CARRIED

Bill Smirle,
SNC Interim Chair.

Ronda Boutz,
Team Lead, Special Projects.



FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, March 7th, 2019, 3:05 p.m.
Watershed Room, SNC

- Present:** Frederick Schueler, Fragile Inheritance Natural History (Committee Chair)
Malcolm Clark, Russell Fish and Game Club
Bruce Clarke, Ottawa Fly Fishers
Stéphane Dubuc, Trapper
Susan Gallinger, Member at Large
Cyril Holmes, Grenville Fish and Game Club
Aleta Karstad, Bishops Mills Natural History Center
Glen Runions, Member at Large
Larry E. Smith, South Nation Archery Supply
Bill Smirle, SNC Board of Directors, Interim Chair, ex-officio
Tyler Sunday, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Department of Environment
- Regrets:** Alvin Cluff-Clyburne, Russell Fish and Game Club
Joffre Cote, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Doug Culver, Naturalist and Recreational Angler
Barry Keicks, Delta Waterfowl
Doug Thompson, SNC Board of Directors, Past Chair, ex-officio
- Staff:** Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects
Brent Harbers, Stewardship Technician
Naomi Langlois-Anderson, Senior Fish and Wildlife Technician
Ryan Robson, Resource Technician
Kelsey Smith, Stewardship Outreach Assistant
Katherine Watson, Water Resources Specialist



CHAIR'S REMARKS

Fred Schueler, Committee Chair, called the March 7th, 2019 Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. FW-001/19

Moved by: Larry E. Smith
Seconded by: Bruce Clarke

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting agenda of March 7th, 2019 as presented.

CARRIED

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Conflict of Interest.

SNC PROJECT UPDATE – POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Staff presented project and program updates.

APPROVAL OF:

Fish and Wildlife Committee Meeting Minutes of December 4th, 2018

RESOLUTION NO. FW-002/19

Moved by: Malcolm Clark
Seconded by: Glen Runions

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting minutes of December 4th, 2018 with the following amendment:

- a. Move Bruce Clarke as Regrets for the meeting
- b. Correction of Member spelling

CARRIED



BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: OFAH SUMMER STUDENT WORK PLAN

RESOLUTION NO. FW-003/19

Moved by: Bruce Clarke
Seconded by: Malcolm Clark

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee Members approve the OFAH Summer Student Work Plan.

CARRIED

Bill Smirle, SNC Chair, joined the meeting at 3:56 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: 2019 COMMITTEE CHAIR ELECTION

RESOLUTION NO. FW-004/19

Moved by: Larry E. Smith
Seconded by: Stéphane Dubuc

RESOLVED THAT:

The Committee Members appoint Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects as the Election Chair; and

FURTHER THAT:

SNC Administrative By-law 15.3: *'All elections shall be in accordance with the Procedures for Election of Officers'* be adhered to.

CARRIED

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

Call for nominations three times for election of Chair (no seconder required)

First Call for Nominations:

Moved by: Glen Runions

Fred Schueler be nominated for Chair, Fish and Wildlife Committee.

Second Call for Nominations: None



Third Call for Nominations: None

Hearing none, nominations closed for the position of Chair, Fish and Wildlife Committee.

Fred Schueler accepted the nomination for Chair, Fish and Wildlife Committee.

Approval of the following Motion:

RESOLUTION NO. FW-005/19

Moved by: Stéphane Dubuc
Seconded by: Larry E. Smith

RESOLVED THAT:

That for the year 2019, and until the Joint Standing Committee Meeting of 2020, that Dr. Frederick Schueler be elected as Chair of the Fish and Wildlife Committee

CARRIED

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: 2019 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

RESOLUTION NO. FW-006/19

Moved by: Glen Runions
Seconded by: Bruce Clarke

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee recommends the following Committee membership to the Board of Directors for 2019:

- Frederick Schueler, Fragile Inheritance Natural History (Committee Chair)
- Malcolm Clark, Russell Fish and Game Club
- Bruce Clarke, Ottawa Fly Fishers
- Alvin Cluff-Clyburne, Russell Fish and Game Club
- Doug Culver, Naturalist and Recreational Angler



- Joffre Cote, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Stéphane Dubuc, Trapper
- Susan Gallinger, Member at Large
- Cyril Holmes, Grenville Fish and Game Club
- Aleta Karstad, Bishops Mills Natural History Center
- Barry Keicks, Delta Waterfowl
- Glen Runions, Member at Large
- Larry E. Smith, South Nation Archery Supply
- Bill Smirle, SNC Board of Directors, Interim Chair, ex-officio
- Tyler Sunday, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Department of Environment
- Doug Thompson, SNC Past Chair, ex-officio; and

FURTHER THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee recommend to the Board of Directors to send a letter to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) to request participation of MNR staff on SNC Standing Committees.

CARRIED

UPDATE: NORTH CASTOR CATCHMENT STUDY

RESOLUTION NO. FW-007/19

Moved by: Malcolm Clark
Seconded by: Bruce Clarke

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the North Castor Catchment Study Update.

CARRIED



UPDATE: OPG BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

RESOLUTION NO. FW-008/19

Moved by: Aleta Karstad
Seconded by: Susan Gallinger

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee Members receive and file the OPG Biodiversity Project Update.

CARRIED

UPDATE: LOWER SOUTH NATION SUBWATERSHED REPORT CARD

RESOLUTION NO. FW-009/19

Moved by: Larry E. Smith
Seconded by: Stéphane Dubuc

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the Lower South Nation Subwatershed Report Card report.

CARRIED

UPDATE: 2019 FISH AND WILDLIFE WORK PLAN

RESOLUTION NO. FW-010/19

Moved by: Bruce Clarke
Seconded by: Malcolm Clark

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the 2019 Fish and Wildlife Work Plan update; and

FURTHER THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee provide comments for consideration on the 2020 Stewardship Team Workplan deliverables.

CARRIED

Bill Smirle, SNC Chair, left the meeting at 4:55 p.m.



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

A. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Fred Schueler and Aleta Karstad informed the Committee Members of an Art Camp which will have painting outings on SNC lands. This event is open to local artists with a show being held in November.
- Stéphane Dubuc suggested SNC consider requesting reports from hunters/trappers on SNC of any wildlife harvests or sitings.
- Cyril Holmes mentioned the Grenville Fishing Derby hosted on the St. Lawrence River in February.

B. WATERSHED MONITORING REPORT

- The Committee Members reviewed a Watershed Monitoring report submitted by Larry E. Smith.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- June 4th, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., SNC Office, Watershed Room, Finch, ON

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION NO. FW-011/19


Moved by: Larry E. Smith

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting of March 7th, 2019 be adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

CARRIED

Fred Schueler,
Committee Chair.


Ronda Boutz,
Team Lead, Special Projects.



To: Fish and Wildlife Committees
From: John Mesman, Team Lead, Communications and Outreach
Date: May 7, 2019
Subject: SNC Joint Committee Visioning Exercise Findings

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the SNC Joint Committee Visioning Exercise Findings report. Information presented for discussion.

DISCUSSION:

In 1992, a Conservation Strategy was undertaken by SNC to produce a Conservation Authority Plan for the 21st Century: Vision 2020.

With a need for renewed reflection and visioning, SNC has initiated a strategic planning process to position the Authority *Beyond 2020* as we encounter a changing landscape, climate, and shifting economic and environmental dynamics.

To kickstart the 2019 strategic planning process, SNC Committee members participated in an interactive two-step exercise to reflect and visualize future direction of programs and services offered by SNC at the March Joint Committee Meeting.

Key areas of focus identified by Committee Members for *Beyond 2020* are summarized below:

- Environmental Stewardship Advocacy and Public Program Support
- Forest Conservation Programs
- Improved Planning and Approvals Process
- Expand Recreation and Program Partnerships with Municipalities, Community Groups and Tourism Organizations
- Invasive Species Program Outreach
- Water Quality Program Improvements
- Training Centre Development

Committee members are encouraged to provide individual and group feedback on SNC Programs and Services through their respective Committee Chair and staff lead.

Committee members are also encouraged to review SNC's response to provincial budget and program changes: "Conserving What We Value".

Through understanding the needs of communities and environment SNC's work, now and future, will improve and create valued programs and services.

Committees are tasked with creating a list of future actions to be considered, supported by community environmental values.



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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: Expenses for *Beyond 2020* is included in SNC's 2019 Budget under Communications and Outreach: Partnership Development, pages 102 and 103.

SNC Policy Adherence: All expenditures will adhere to SNC's Purchasing Policy. For purchases of \$200 up to \$5,000 competitive quotes will be obtained when practical.

John Mesman
Team Lead, Communications and Outreach



To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: John Mesman, Team Lead, Communications and Outreach
Date: May 28th, 2019
Subject: Update: Environmental Bill of Rights Postings
Regarding Conservation Authorities

RECOMMENDATION:

Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the update on the Environmental Bill of Rights Postings Regarding Conservation Authorities and Bill 108, More Homes, More Choices Act;

FURTHER THAT: Fish and Wildlife Committee receive a copy of SNC's response to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

FURTHER THAT: Fish and Wildlife Committee receive a summary of partners who shared their responses to the postings with South Nation Conservation.

DISCUSSION:

Bill 108, More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019

Currently in second reading in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and includes proposed legislative changes to the Conservation Authorities Act, including proposed changes from the following environmental registry postings which closed on May 21, 2019.

**1. *Modernizing Conservation Authority Operations:
Conservation Authorities Act (MOECP)***

Proposes to introduce amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act, which if passed, focuses a core mandate for Conservation Authorities and improving governance.

Summary of proposed changes:

- Define core mandatory programs and services provided by conservation authorities to be: natural hazard protection and management; conservation and management of conservation authority lands; drinking water source protection (as prescribed under the Clean Water Act); and protection of the Lake Simcoe watershed (as prescribed under the Lake Simcoe Protection Act);
- Increase transparency in how conservation authorities levy municipalities for mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services;
- Update the Conservation Authorities Act an Act introduced in 1946, to conform with modern transparency standards by ensuring that municipalities and conservation authorities review levies for non-core programs after a certain period of time (e.g., 4 to 8 years);



- Establish a transition period (e.g. 18 to 24 months) and process for conservation authorities and municipalities to enter into agreements for the delivery of non-mandatory programs and services and meet these transparency standards;
- Enable the Minister to appoint an investigator to investigate or undertake an audit and report on a conservation authority; and
- Define the duty of conservation authority Board Members is to act in the best interest of the conservation authority, similar to not-for profit organizations.

Proclaim un-proclaimed provisions of the Conservation Authorities Act related to:

- Fees for programs and services;
- Transparency and accountability;
- Approval of projects with provincial grants;
- Recovery of capital costs and operating expenses from municipalities (municipal levies);
- Regulation of areas over which conservation authorities have jurisdiction (e.g., development permitting);
- Enforcement and offences, and
- Additional regulations.

2. Focusing Conservation Authority Development Permits on the Protection of People and Property (MNR)

Proposes a regulation that outlines how conservation authorities permit development and other activities for impacts to natural hazards and public safety. The proposed regulation would make rules for development in hazardous areas more consistent to support faster, more predictable, and less costly approvals.

The Ministry is proposing to create a regulation further defining the ability of a conservation authority to regulate prohibited development and other activities for impacts to the control of flooding and other natural hazards.

This regulation would replace Ontario Regulation 97/04 which governs the content of conservation authority regulations under the current Section 28(1) of the Act, as well as all existing conservation authority regulations (O.Reg. 42/06, O. Reg. 146-148, O. Reg. 150-153, O. Reg. 155-172, O. Reg. 174-182, and O. Reg. 319/09).

Consolidating and harmonizing the existing 36 individual conservation authority-approved regulations into one Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry approved regulation.

For the purposes of this regulation the Ministry is also proposing to:

- Update definitions for key regulatory terms to better align with other provincial policy, including: "wetland", "watercourse" and "pollution";



- Define undefined terms including: “interference” and “conservation of land” as consistent with the natural hazard management intent of the regulation;
- Reduce regulatory restrictions between 30m and 120m of a wetland and where a hydrological connection has been severed;
- Exempt low-risk development activities from requiring a permit including certain alterations and repairs to existing municipal drains subject to the Drainage Act provided they are undertaken in accordance with the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol;
- Allow conservation authorities to further exempt low-risk development activities from requiring a permit provided in accordance with conservation authority policies;
- Require conservation authorities to develop, consult on, make publicly available and periodically review internal policies that guide permitting decisions;
- Require conservation authorities to notify the public of changes to mapped regulated areas such as floodplains or wetland boundaries; and
- Require conservation authorities to establish, monitor and report on service delivery standards including requirements and timelines for determination of complete applications and timelines for permit decisions.

Once established, the province is also proposing to bring into force un-proclaimed sections of the Conservation Authorities Act associated with conservation authority permitting decisions and regulatory enforcement.

South Nation Conservation worked with Conservation Ontario and other Conservation Authority's on feedback for formal submission. Staff shared letters of endorsement to local MPP's, member Municipalities, First Nations, and partner organizations seeking support and feedback on the postings.

The following partner organizations shared their submissions to the Province with SNC:

Municipalities:

	MNRF	MECP
Ottawa	No	No
Russell	Yes	Yes
Clarence Rockland	Yes	Yes
Alfred Plantagenet	Yes	Yes
Champlain	Yes	Yes
Nation	Yes	Yes
Casselman	Yes	Yes
North Grenville	No	Yes
Edwardsburgh/Cardinal	Yes	Yes
Augusta	Yes	Yes
Elizabethtown Kitley	No	No



	MNRF	MECP
North Stormont	Yes	Yes
South Stormont	Yes	Yes
North Dundas	Yes	Yes
South Dundas	No	No
North Glengarry	Yes	Yes

Community Partners:

- Ottawa Carleton District School Board
- Bois s Est
- Ontario Woodlot Association - SDG Chapter
- Spencerville Mill and Museum
- Chesterville Kayak Club
- Chesterville Waterfront Market
- St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences
- Kin Club of Russell
- Friends of the Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary
- Cardinal Legion
- Dundas County 4H
- EscarpAction Jessups Falls
- Russell Pathfinders Girl Guides
- South Dundas Chamber of Commerce

Development Community Members:

- Brittstate Holdings
- Dimensional Analysis
- Gerry Leroux Excavation
- Lamoureux Plumbing
- LRL Associates
- McIntosh Perry
- Moran and Sons

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: Not applicable.

SNC Policy Adherence: Not applicable.

John Mesman,
Team Lead, Communications and Outreach.

Attachment: Draft Municipal Responses to Environmental Registry Postings,
Attachment: SNC Response to MNRF and MECP

April 17, 2019

The Honourable John Yakabuski
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
84 Isabella Street, Unit 6
Pembroke, Ontario
K8A 5S5

Re: Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting Number 013-4992

Subject: In response to the April 5th, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's posting number 013-4992 on the Environmental Registry of Ontario; 'Focusing conservation authority development permits on the protection of people and property'.

Dear Minister Yakabuski,

The <<*insert municipality name*>> has a strong history of close collaboration with South Nation Conservation (SNC) on shared priorities, which protect the environment and engage communities while balancing people and nature.

SNC has a streamlined, convenient and pragmatic approach to local regulation and permit approvals that adhere to their environmental mandate of protecting people and property from natural hazards; including:

- Delivering municipal watershed planning reviews on behalf of member municipalities to determine if development is susceptible to natural hazards.
- Offering pre-consultation meetings to review development proposals with residents, municipal staff and developers, leading to more efficient approvals.
- Delivering cost-effective municipal programs through memorandum of understanding agreements, including issuing permits and performing inspections for septic installation and maintenance on behalf of 13 participating municipalities under Part 8 of the Ontario Building Code.
- Preparing floodplain maps and updating regulated areas for municipalities to guide official plans and zoning by-laws, and guide future development away from flood and erosion-prone areas; SNC holds public open houses and communicates directly with residents to inform updated mapping.

000020

Conservation Authorities are one of the only boots-on-the-ground agencies working directly with municipalities, residents, and stakeholders in a timely and meaningful way; with international recognition for their approach to integrated watershed management.

Strengths in the Conservation Authority service delivery model include:

- The ability to streamline approvals from several agencies and work directly with applicants through site visits and pre-consultations.
- Local knowledge and expertise as assets to communities and the environment.
- An effective and efficient approach to reduce red tape for development.

The <<insert municipality name>> supports the Province's effort to:

- Consolidate regulations to ensure consistency throughout the Province, while still allowing local flexibility based on differences in risks posed by natural hazards.
- Allow exemptions for low-risk development activities from requiring permits, provided in accordance with local policies.

Partnerships with SNC have enabled our resilient communities to grow safely and sustainably and have allowed us to come together on shared environmental priorities.

We encourage the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to consider the value in existing approaches by Conservation Authorities which work closely with municipalities to deliver local permit approvals for development to protect people and property.

Sincerely,

Name,
Title
Organization

April 17, 2019

The Honourable Rod Phillips
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Ferguson Block
11th Floor
77 Wellesley St. W
Toronto, ON M7A 2T5

Re: Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting Number 013-5018

Subject: In response to the April 5th, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' posting number 013-5018 on the Environmental Registry of Ontario; 'Modernizing conservation authority operations – *Conservation Authorities Act*'.

Dear Minister Phillips,

The <<*insert municipality name*>> has a strong history of close collaboration with South Nation Conservation (SNC) on shared priorities which protect the environment and engage communities while balancing people and nature.

SNC has local knowledge and expertise required to make informed decisions on project proposals. Staff are committed to ensuring that projects proceed successfully while fulfilling their environmental mandate of protecting people, places and property.

SNC provides significant value to <<*insert municipality name*>> as well as the local communities we serve through the following core services:

- **Fostering Landowner Stewardship** – plant trees, manage community lands, offer resources, work with partners on important water quality improvement projects.
- **Protecting People and Property** – Map and regulate floodplains and natural hazards, work closely with municipalities, residents and build community to support sustainable development, deliver flood forecasting programs and protect drinking water sources.
- **Providing Natural Spaces and Recreational Opportunities** – own and manage over 20,000 acres of public natural spaces.
- **Making Science-Based Decisions** – collect water, stream, fisheries, forestry and wetland data to support stewardship programs and guide sustainable development.
- **Empowering Communities and Youth** – Partner with schools and communities to deliver on-the-ground stewardship work and environmental education.

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Conservation Authorities are one of the only boots-on-the-ground agencies working directly with municipalities, residents, and stakeholders in a timely and meaningful way; with international recognition for their approach to integrated watershed management.

Partnerships with South Nation Conservation have enabled our resilient communities to grow sustainably and come together on shared environmental priorities.

We are committed to supporting SNC's ability to deliver important on-the-ground environmental work for watershed communities on behalf of our municipality.

We encourage the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to consider the value in existing services provided by Conservation Authorities as they protect people and property from natural hazards, while supporting safe and sustainable development.

It is this commitment and hard work that will reap future benefits for our communities as well as the Province of Ontario, today and into the future.

Sincerely,

Name,
Title
Organization



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May 17, 2019

The Honourable John Yakabuski
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
84 Isabella Street, Unit 6
Pembroke, Ontario
K8A 5S5

Re: Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting Number 013-4992

Subject: In response to the April 5th, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's posting number 013-4992 on the Environmental Registry of Ontario; 'Focusing conservation authority development permits on the protection of people and property'.

Dear Minister Yakabuski,

The South Nation Conservation Authority has a strong history of close collaboration with its 16 member municipalities on shared priorities, which protect the environment and engage communities while balancing people and nature.

SNC has a streamlined, convenient and pragmatic approach to local regulation and permit approvals that adhere to their environmental mandate of protecting people and property from natural hazards; including:

- Delivering municipal watershed planning reviews on behalf of member municipalities to determine if development is susceptible to natural hazards.
- Offering pre-consultation meetings to review development proposals with residents, municipal staff and developers, leading to more efficient approvals.
- Delivering cost-effective municipal programs through memorandum of understanding agreements, including issuing permits and performing inspections for septic installation and maintenance on behalf of 13 participating municipalities under Part 8 of the Ontario Building Code.
- Preparing floodplain maps and updating regulated areas for municipalities to guide official plans and zoning by-laws, and guide future development away from flood and erosion-prone areas; SNC holds public open houses and communicates directly with residents to inform updated mapping.
- Deliver drought and flood forecasting and warning programs to provide advanced notice to municipalities, emergency responders and residents.



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Conservation Authorities are one of the only boots-on-the-ground agencies working directly with municipalities, residents, and stakeholders in a timely and meaningful way; with international recognition for their approach to integrated watershed management.

Strengths in the Conservation Authority service delivery model include:

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- Local knowledge and expertise as assets to communities and the environment.
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The South Nation Conservation Authority supports the Province's effort to:

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- Allow exemptions for low-risk development activities from requiring permits, provided in accordance with local policies.

Partnerships with SNC have enabled our resilient communities to grow safely and sustainably and have allowed us to come together on shared environmental priorities.

We encourage the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to consider the value in existing approaches by Conservation Authorities which work closely with municipalities to deliver local permit approvals for development to protect people and property.

Sincerely,

Linda Hutchinson
Director, Organization Effectiveness
South Nation Conservation
38 Victoria Street, P.O. Box 29
Finch, Ontario, K0C 1K0

000025



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May 17, 2019

The Honourable Rod Phillips
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Ferguson Block
11th Floor
77 Wellesley St. W
Toronto, ON M7A 2T5

Re: Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting Number 013-5018

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SNC provides significant value to its member municipalities as well as the local communities we serve through the following core services:

- **Fostering Landowner Stewardship** – plant trees, manage community lands, offer resources, work with partners on important water quality improvement projects.
- **Protecting People and Property** – Map and regulate floodplains and natural hazards, work closely with municipalities, residents and build community to support sustainable development, deliver flood forecasting programs and protect drinking water sources.
- **Providing Natural Spaces and Recreational Opportunities** – own and manage over 20,000 acres of public natural spaces.
- **Making Science-Based Decisions** – collect water, stream, fisheries, forestry and wetland data to support stewardship programs and guide sustainable development.
- **Empowering Communities and Youth** – Partner with schools and communities to deliver on-the-ground stewardship work and environmental education.



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Conservation Authorities are one of the only boots-on-the-ground agencies working directly with municipalities, residents, and stakeholders in a timely and meaningful way; with international recognition for their approach to integrated watershed management.

Municipal partnerships have enabled our resilient communities to grow sustainably and come together on shared environmental priorities.

Our member municipalities support SNC's ability to deliver important on-the-ground environmental work for watershed communities.

We encourage the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to consider the value in existing services provided by Conservation Authorities as they protect people and property from natural hazards, while supporting safe and sustainable development.

It is this commitment and hard work that will reap future benefits for our communities as well as the Province of Ontario, today and into the future.

Sincerely,

Linda Hutchinson
Director, Organization Effectiveness
South Nation Conservation
38 Victoria Street. P.O. Box 29
Finch, Ontario, K0C 1K0

000027



To: Board of Directors
From: Brent Harbers, Watershed Biologist
Date: May 28, 2019
Subject: Update: *Fisheries Act* Amendments

RECOMMENDATION: The Board of Directors receive and file the update report on *Fisheries Act* Amendments.

DISCUSSION:

On February 6th, 2018 Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) introduced proposed amendments to the *Fisheries Act*. Essentially, the proposed amendments are to restore environmental protections that were changed in June 2012.

The following table summarizes the before and after implications associated with amendments to the *Fisheries Act* (table information taken directly from DFO website):

Current	Proposed
Protection for commercial, recreational or Aboriginal fisheries	Protection for all fish and fish habitat
Uncertainty around requirements for development projects	Clearer permitting for development projects
No provisions referencing the independence of inshore fishers	New ability to enshrine inshore fishing policies into regulations
No provisions specifically designed to create marine refuges	Better ability to protect biodiversity in the long-term
No provisions to include Indigenous participation in decision making	Indigenous traditional knowledge must inform habitat decisions
No provisions to restore degraded habitat and rebuild fish stocks	Increased focus on habitat restoration and rebuilding fish stocks

Further amendments and opportunities to be created from the proposed changes include:

- Increased transparency and consultation for projects that interfere with fish and fish habitat through the creation of an online project registry.
- Enhanced enforcement and monitoring of projects: DFO has advised SNC that there will be a new group of DFO staff established to directly deal with potential cases of harm to fish and fish habitat.
- The ability to establish standards and codes of practice for the avoidance of the death of fish and harmful alteration, disruption and destruction of the fish habitat, the conservation and protection of fish or fish habitat, and the prevention of pollution.
- The establishment of a new system for project proponents to create fish habitat banks in exchange for habitat credits to offset a project's adverse effects on local fish and fish habitat.

To date, the amended *Fisheries Act* has passed its Second Reading in the Senate and



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was referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Fisheries and Oceans December 11, 2018.

SNC will continue to advocate for local delivery of this program, in the most timely and cost-effective manner.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: Not applicable at this time.

SNC Policy Adherence: Not applicable at this time.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brent Harbers", written over a horizontal line.

Brent Harbers,
Watershed Biologist

000029