



SOUTH NATION
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Fish and Wildlife Committee

Meeting Agenda

Date: March 5th, 2020

Time: 3:00 p.m. (following Joint Standing Committee meeting)

Location: Watershed Room, SNC

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

**** PLEASE NOTE TIMES BELOW:**

- ** Committee Members Lunch: 12:00 p.m.**
 - ** Joint Standing Committee meeting: 1:00 pm**
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Fish and Wildlife Committee

Meeting Agenda

March 5th, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

1. Chair's Remarks
2. Approval of Fish and Wildlife Committee Agenda (Supplemental Agenda)
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
4. SNC Fish and Wildlife Project Update – PowerPoint Presentation: Staff
5. Community Engagement Activities
6. Approval of Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting minutes of November 12th, 2019 3-6
7. Business Arising from Minutes
8. New Business:
 - a. Request for Approval: Election of Committee Chair: Ronda 7-10
 - b. Request for Approval: 2020 Committee Membership: Ronda 11-12
 - c. Request for Approval: Fish and Wildlife Committee Mandate: Ronda 13
 - d. Update: 2020 Stewardship Work Plan: Michelle 14-15
 - e. Request for Approval: Partnership Opportunity – QDMA: Philip 16
 - f. Update: South Nation Sub-Watershed Report Card: Katherine 17-26
 - g. Update: Funding Submissions: Naomi 27-28
9. Supplemental Agenda (if any)
10. Correspondence:
 - a. SNC Submission: Proposed Drainage Act Amendments 29-31
11. Roundtable Discussions
 - a. Watershed Monitoring Report
 - b. Recommendations for 'Friends of SNC'
12. Date of Next Meeting: June 4th, 2020
13. Adjournment

Ronda Boutz,
Team Lead, Special Projects.

/dm



FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday November 12th, 2019, 3:00 p.m. – Meeting 03/19
 Watershed Room, SNC



Present: Frederick Schueler, Fragile Inheritance Natural History (Committee Chair)
 Bruce Clarke, Ottawa Fly Fishers
 Stéphane Dubuc, Trapper
 Ed Fields, Delta Waterfowl
 Susan Gallinger, Member at Large
 Cyril Holmes, Grenville Fish and Game Club
 Aleta Karstad, Bishops Mills Natural History Center
 Kirk Myelde, Member of Large
 Glen Runions, Member at Large
 Bill Smirle, SNC Board of Directors, Chair, ex-officio

Regrets: Malcolm Clark, Russell Fish and Game Club
 Alvin Cluff-Clyburne, Russell Fish and Game Club
 Doug Culver, Naturalist and Recreational Angler
 Joffre Cote, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
 George Darouze, SNC Board of Directors, Vice Chair, ex-officio
 Abraham Francis, Mohawks of Akwesasne
 Larry E. Smith, South Nation Archery Supply
 Doug Thompson, SNC Board of Directors, Past Chair, ex-officio

Staff: Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects
 Michelle Cavanagh, Team Lead, Stewardship
 Brent Harbers, Watershed Biologist
 Naomi Langlois-Anderson, Senior Fish and Wildlife Technician
 Pat Piitz, Team Lead, Properties
 Kelsey Smith, Stewardship and Outreach Assistant
 Katherine Watson, Water Resources Specialist – Monitoring

Guest: Shawn Landriault



CHAIR'S REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Fred Schueler, Committee Chair, called the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting of September 3rd, 2019 to order at 3:00 p.m. Chair Schueler updated the Members on:

- Department of Fisheries and Oceans bi-annual musculus meeting in early December
 - Fred Schueler will be presenting on 'mystery snails' in this area

APPROVAL OF FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. FW-021/19

Moved by: Bruce Clarke
Seconded by: Cyril Holmes

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting agenda of November 12th, 2019 as amended:

- Item 8.a. Request for Approval: Upper South Nation Subwatershed Report Card be deferred to the next Forestry Committee meeting.

CARRIED

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Conflict of Interest.

SNC FISH AND WILDLIFE PROJECT UPDATE – POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Staff presented Fish and Wildlife project and program updates.

APPROVAL OF FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2019

RESOLUTION NO. FW-022/19

Moved by: Bill Smirle
Seconded by: Stéphane Dubuc

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting minutes of September 3rd, 2019 as submitted.

CARRIED



NEW BUSINESS

UPDATE: 2019 YEAR END REPORT

RESOLUTION NO. FW-023/19

Moved by: Glen Runions
Seconded by: Bruce Clarke

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the 2019 Year End report.

CARRIED

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: 2020 FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

RESOLUTION NO. FW-024/19

Moved by: Ed Fields
Seconded by: Kirk Myelde

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee approve the 2020 Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting schedule with the following amendment:
- Change December 1st, 2020 to November 24th, 2020

CARRIED

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

A. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Ed Fields: Delta Waterfowl Youth Hunt was held on September 28th, 2019: Good turnout, and great presentations
- Aleta Karstad: Aleta visited High Falls, September 22nd, 2019 with Charlotte King, an artist from Mohawks of Akwesasne; Aleta did a painting; there were plenty of snails; and lots of families visiting the Conservation Area.
- Aleta Karstad: Mud puppy nights in Oxford Mills has begun; this is the 21st year, each Friday at 8 pm from November until spring melt.



- Bill Smirle: Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks meeting being held on November 14th to outline SNC successes and work related to the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

B. WATERSHED MONITORING REPORT

- Fred Schueler encouraged Committee members to submit their reports, the more watershed observations the better.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- SNC Joint Standing Committees Meeting – March 5th, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.
- Fish and Wildlife Committee - March 5th, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION NO. FW-025/19

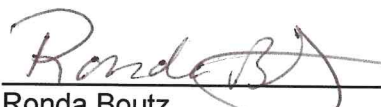
Moved by: Glen Runions

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting of November 12th, 2019 be adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

CARRIED

Fred Schueler,
Committee Chair.



Ronda Boutz,
Team Lead, Special Projects.



To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects
Date: February 27, 2020
Subject: Request for Approval: Election of Committee Chair

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee Members appoint Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects as the Acting Committee 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.

DISCUSSION:

As per the South Nation Conservation (SNC) Standing Committees Terms of Reference, each Standing Committee must appoint a Chair annually.

As Election Chair, I will solicit nominations from Committee Members for the Chair position. If only one nomination is made, there will be a motion to approve the nominated Chair. If multiple nominations are made for these positions, I will conduct a vote using the procedures outlined in Appendix A.

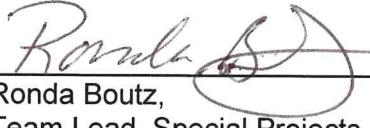
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget:

No impact on the 2020 SNC Budget.

SNC Policy Adherence:

The Election of Committee Chair adheres to the SNC Standing Committees Terms of Reference and the SNC Administrative By-laws.


Ronda Boutz,
Team Lead, Special Projects.



Election Procedures

1. Election Chair declares the position vacant, according to *SNC's Administrative By-laws*
 2. Call for nominations 3 times for election of Chair (no seconder required)
 3. Approval of the following motion:
 - Moved by:
 - Seconded by:
 - That for the year 2020, and until the Joint Standing Committee Meeting of 2021,
 - That Mr./Ms. _____ be elected as Chair of the Fish and Wildlife Committee
 4. Chair assumes their office
-

SNC Election Procedures if there is more than one candidate for Chair

1. Election Chair declares the position vacant, according to *SNC's Administrative By-laws*
2. Election procedures for Chair
 - Nominations require no seconder
 - Election chair calls for nominations from the floor
 - If a nominee does not wish to accept, they should decline immediately
 - If there are no further nominations from the floor, election chair asks if there are any further nominations
 - If none are forthcoming, the election chair declares nominations closed
 - Where a vote is required, ballots will be distributed and scrutineer(s) appointed
 - Announcement of results
3. Chair assumes their office



Appendix A

Procedures for Election of Officers

Voting

- B1.1 Voting shall be by secret ballot.
- B1.2 No Member may vote by proxy.
- B1.3 "Majority Vote" means half of the votes plus one.

Acting Chair

- B2.0 The Committee shall appoint a person, who is not a voting Member, as Acting Chair for the purpose of the election of Committee Chair.

Scrutineers

- B3.1 The Acting Chair shall call a motion for the appointment of one or more persons, who are not Committee Members or Staff of the Authority, to act as scrutineers.
- B3.2 A Committee Member, who will not stand for election, may be appointed as an additional scrutineer if requested.
- B3.3 All ballots shall be destroyed by the scrutineers after the vote.

Election Procedures

- B4.0 The Acting Chair shall advise the Members that the election will be conducted in accordance with the Act as follows:
 - a) the election shall be conducted in the following order:
 - i. Election of the Chair, who shall be a Member of the Committee;
 - b) the Acting Chair shall ask for nominations;
 - c) only current Members of the Committee who are present may vote;
 - d) nominations shall be called three (3) times and will only require a mover;
 - e) the closing of nominations shall require both a mover and a seconder;



- f) each Member nominated shall be asked to accept the nomination. The Member must be present to accept the nomination unless the Member has advised in writing or by email in advance of the election of their willingness to accept the nomination;
- g) if there is only one nominee, the individual shall be declared into the position by acclamation;
- h) in the event of an election, each nominee shall be permitted not more than three (3) minutes to speak for the office, in the order of the alphabetical listing by surnames;
- i) upon the acceptance by nominees to stand for election to the position of office, ballots shall be distributed to the Members by the scrutineers for the purpose of election and the Acting Chair shall ask the Members to write the name of one individual only on the ballot;
- j) the scrutineers shall collect the ballots, leave the meeting to count the ballots, return and advise the Acting Chair who was elected by Majority Vote.

Majority Vote required

- B5.1 A Majority Vote shall be required for election.
- B5.2 If there are more than two nominees, and upon the first vote no nominee receives the majority required for election, the name of the person with the least number of votes shall be removed from further consideration for the office and new ballots shall be distributed.
- B5.3 In the case of a vote where no nominee receives the majority required for election and where two or more nominees are tied with the least number of votes, a special vote shall be taken to decide which one of such tied nominees' names shall be dropped from the list of names to be voted on in the next vote.

Tie vote

- B6.1 Should there be a tie vote between two remaining candidates, new ballots shall be distributed, and a second vote held.
- B6.2 Should there still be a tie after the second ballot a third vote shall be held.
- B6.3 Should there be a tie after the third vote, the election of the office shall be decided by lot drawn by the Acting Chair or designate.



To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects
Date: February 20th, 2020
Subject: Request for Approval: 2020 Committee Membership

RECOMMENDATION:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee recommends to the Board of Directors to add one additional member to the Committee to bring total membership (not including ex-officio members), to 16 members for 2020; and

FURTHER THAT: The Fish and Wildlife Committee recommends the following Committee membership to the Board of Directors for 2020:

- Malcolm Clark, Russell Fish and Game Club
- Bruce Clarke, Ottawa Fly Fishers
- Alvin Cluff-Clyburne, Russell Fish and Game Club
- Joffre Cote, MNRF, (non-voting)
- Doug Culver, Naturalist and Recreational Angler (Vice Chair)
- Stéphane Dubuc, Trapper
- Ed Fields, Delta Waterfowl
- Abraham Francis, Mohawks of Akwesasne
- Susan Gallinger, Member at Large
- Cyril Holmes, Grenville Fish and Game Club
- Aleta Karstad, Fragile Inheritance Natural History
- Shawn Landriault, Member at Large
- Kirk Myelde, Member at Large
- Glen Runions, Member at Large
- **Frederick Schueler, Committee Chair**
- Larry Smith, South Nation Archery Supply
- Bill Smirle, SNC Chair, ex-officio
- George Darouze, SNC Vice Chair, ex-officio
- Doug Thompson, SNC Past Chair, ex-officio

DISCUSSION:

According to the 2016 Standing Committees Terms of Reference Committee Membership will consist of:

- 15 members maximum per Committee, plus 3 ex officio Board Members
 - i. strive for watershed representation, both geographic and functional
 - ii. with 75% majority vote of the Committee at which quorum is achieved, additional Members may be added to the Committee, subject to Board approval.
- Budgets for travel/per meeting allowances will not change from the budgeted amount, regardless of committee size
- Staff support will remain nominally the same, regardless of Committee size
- All Committee appointments to be approved annually by the Board of Directors at the March Board meeting



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- Any Committee Member (including ex officio members) missing two consecutive meetings without communicating justification, to the Committee Chair, will be removed from the Committee.


FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget:

Committee expenses are included in the approved 2020 SNC Budget, under Communications and Outreach, pages 88-89 (SNC Standing Committees).

SNC Policy Adherence:

SNC Committee's adhere to SNC Administrative By-laws and Standing Committee Terms of Reference.



Ronda Boutz,
Team Lead, Special Projects.

/dm

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To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects
Date: February 25, 2020
Subject: Request for Approval: Fish and Wildlife Committee Mandate

RECOMMENDATION:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee review the draft Fish and Wildlife Committee mandate and provide feedback to staff; and

FURTHER THAT: The Fish and Wildlife Committee recommends a Fish and Wildlife Committee mandate to the Board of Directors.

DISCUSSION:

The South Nation Conservation Standing Committees Terms of Reference references a mandate for each committee; to date, there is no Board of Directors approved mandate for any of the Standing Committees.

Staff have drafted a mandate for the Fish and Wildlife Committee and are requesting feedback on the proposed wording. Final standing committee mandates will be brought to the Board of Directors for approval at their March 19th meeting.

Fish and Wildlife Committee Mandate (draft)


The Fish and Wildlife Committee will provide stakeholder input to SNC's management, monitoring and implementation of habitat restoration and stewardship projects. Committee members will help increase public awareness of SNC's fisheries and wildlife initiatives, support the creation of partnerships and build community support with the public, stakeholder groups, government agencies, academics and other environmental organizations. Committee members will support fish and wildlife educational programs delivered to the public, youth, and student; including Youth Fish Camps and the Youth Hunt (a partnership with Delta Waterfowl).

Stakeholder representation may include, but is not limited to, the following: local fish and game clubs, program partners (e.g. Delta Waterfowl); First Nations; local anglers, hunters, and trappers; provincial and federal departments; local environmental groups; academia/ researchers, and public members-at-large with knowledge of local fisheries and wildlife.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: No impact to SNC's 2020 Budget.

SNC Policy Adherence: SNC Standing Committees adhere to SNC's Administrative By-law and the SNC Standing Committees Terms of Reference.


Ronda Boutz,
Team Lead, Special Projects.



To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: Michelle Cavanagh, Team Lead, Stewardship
Date: February 19, 2020
Subject: Update: 2020 Stewardship Work Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the 2020 Stewardship Work Plan update; and

FURTHER THAT: The Fish and Wildlife Committee provide comments for consideration on the 2021 Stewardship Workplan deliverables.

DISCUSSION:

The following activities have been planned for 2020, as per the Board approved 2020 Budget:

1. Resource Management: Water Response Programs
 - 20 data requests.
 - Complete 20 stream assessments and report on watershed health through one subwatershed report card.
 - Work with 10 volunteers to assess 3 kilometers of streams through City Stream Watch.

2. Partner Programs: Water
 - Clean Water Program
 - 4 meetings.
 - 25 grants.
 - Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program
 - Administrative support.
 - Liaise with City of Ottawa and Conservation Authority Partners.
 - Assist City of Ottawa with Program Evaluation in preparation for request to renew the Program for another five years.
 - 1 interim report and a final report.
 - 1 meeting of program steering committee.
 - 60 grants between the three Conservation Authority Partners.
 - Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program
 - Administrative support and delivery through SNC Clean Water Committee.
 - Liaise with Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program funding partners.
 - Ottawa Baseline Monitoring
 - Monthly water quality monitoring at 12 sites within the City of Ottawa during ice-free conditions.
 - Annual benthic sampling and analysis at the 12 monitoring sites.



3. Projects: Habitat Restoration

- Leitrim Wetland
 - Host two Leitrim Wetland. Advisory Committee meetings.
 - Support community stewardship projects and deliver annual tree giveaway to Findlay Creek community residents.
- Species at Risk Benefits Exchange
 - Monitor 86 acres of habitat for nesting Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark.
 - Report to Lindsay Solar on results of monitoring.
- Western Chorus Frog Project
 - Monitor water levels in 10 pools constructed in 2019.
 - Final report on project findings to Environment and Climate Change Canada.

4. Approvals: Projects: Subwatershed Studies

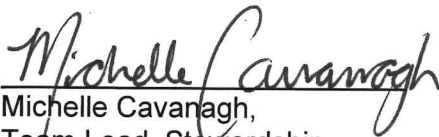
- Completion of North Castor River Catchment Study.
- Develop partnership to complete a subwatershed plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: All activities listed in the 2020 Stewardship Workplan are included in the Board approved 2020 Budget under:

- Resource Management: Water Response Programs, pages 14-15
- Resource Management: Partner Programs, Water, pages 18-19
- Projects: Habitat Restoration, pages 26-27
- Approvals: Projects, Subwatershed Studies, pages 68-69

SNC Policy Adherence: All activities required to undertake the 2020 Stewardship Team Workplan will adhere to SNC's Purchasing and Health and Safety Policies.


Michelle Cavanagh,
Team Lead, Stewardship

/dm

000015



To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: Philip Duncan, Property and Approvals Assistant
Date: February 26, 2020
Subject: Request for Approval: Partnership Opportunity- QDMA

RECOMMENDATION:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee recommends to the Board of Directors that SNC negotiate a partnership agreement with the Quality Deer Management Association.

DISCUSSION:

SNC recently met with members of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) to discuss potential partnership opportunities. QDMA is a wildlife conservation organization that strives to ensure the future of white-tailed deer and wildlife habitat through science-based programs. QDMA promotes the hunting heritage and ethical hunting as a means of conservation.

Potential partnership opportunities include:

- Develop an SNC White-tailed Deer Management Strategy
- Promote hunting on SNC land
- Identify 4 properties to be used as youth access locations for the First Hunt Program;
- Organize and promote youth events focused around hunting and conservation initiatives;
- Conduct seminars on best management practices for wildlife, hunting workshops, and forestry;
- Participate in the Forest Stewards Program and assist with stewardship opportunities such as tree planting and invasive species removals on CA lands.

QDMA offers financial and volunteer support to achieve its objectives

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: Forest Steward expenses are included in the approved 2020 SNC Budget, under Community Lands- SNC Forests, pages 38 and 39. QDMA to provide in-kind and financial contributions.

SNC Policy Adherence: All project expenditures will adhere to SNC's Purchasing Policy.

for:


Philip Duncan,
Property and Approvals Assistant.



To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: Katherine Watson, Water Resources Specialist
Date: February 6, 2020
Subject: Update: South Nation Subwatershed Report Card

RECOMMENDATION:

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

DISCUSSION:

The Upper South Nation Subwatershed Report Card provides information on the state of forest, wetland and surface water quality conditions within the headwaters of the South Nation River and the South Branch of the South Nation River. This area includes several municipalities including Elizabethtown-Kitley, Augusta, North Grenville, Edwardsburgh-Cardinal, North Dundas, and South Dundas.

The main objectives are to assess resource conditions using published guidelines and objectives and to communicate the information to partner agencies and watershed residents. Some findings are summarized below.

Forest Conditions

- Overall, forest conditions are good. Total forest cover is 40% and interior forest cover is 13%. Riparian cover is low at 29% and needs improvement (based on 2014 DRAPE Imagery).

Wetland Conditions

- The South Nation River arises out of a series of wetlands in the upper reaches of the jurisdiction. Wetland conditions are excellent at 25% (based on best available data).

Water Quality Conditions

- The biological condition of streams is generally fair (data collected 2014 – 2018). A correlation exists between the amount of natural cover on the landscape, particularly forest cover, and the condition of surface water resources.

Natural Heritage Features

- Most forest and wetland cover is owned and managed by private landowners, highlighting the importance of working with watershed residents.



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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: Project included in the 2019 budget: Resource Management; Monitoring and Restoration: pages 16-17.

SNC Policy Adherence: All purchases followed SNC Purchasing Policy for purchases \$200-\$5,000. All field work followed SNC's Health and Safety Policies.

Katherine Watson,
Water Resources Specialist.

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UPPER SOUTH NATION

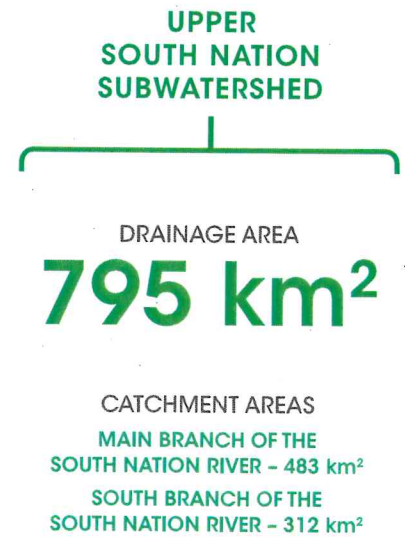
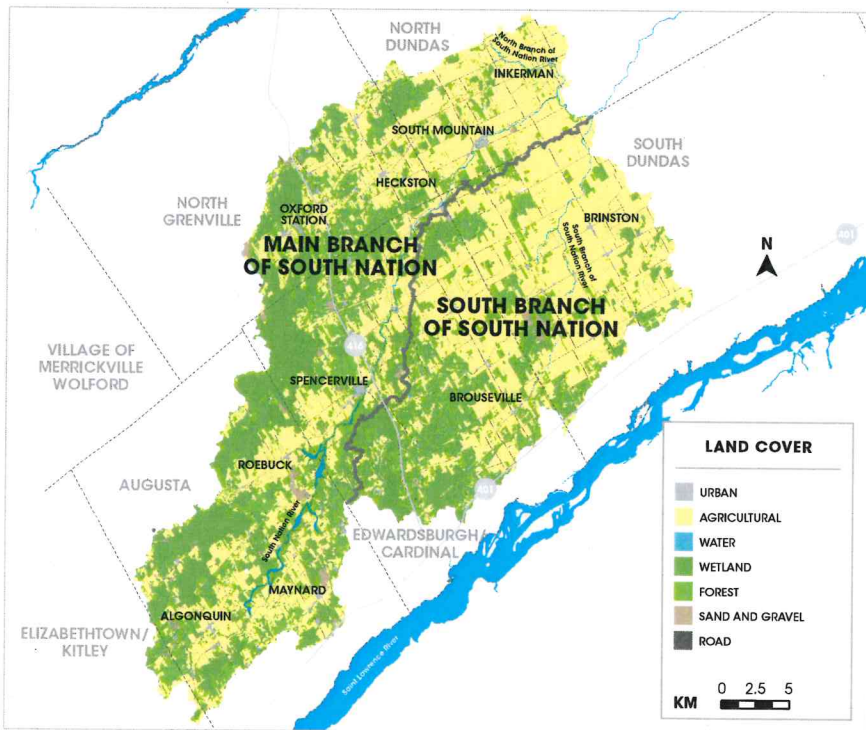
SUBWATERSHED REPORT CARD

NOVEMBER 2019

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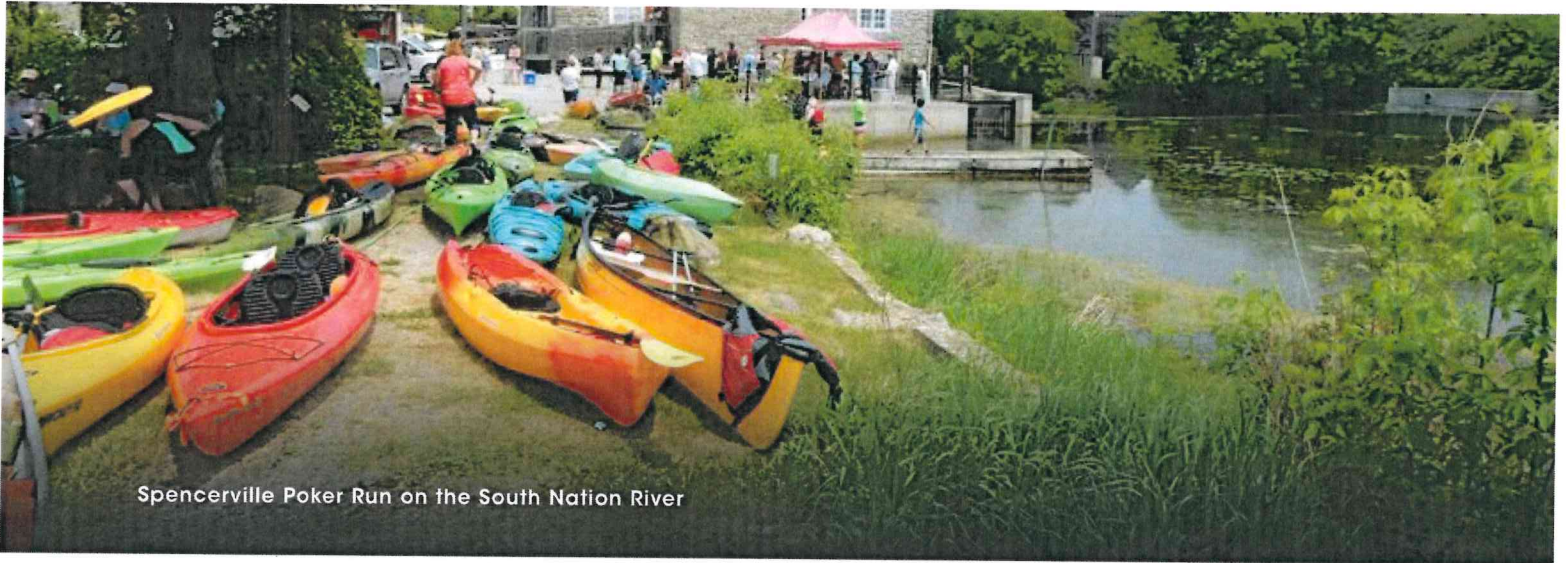
SOUTH NATION CONSERVATION

SOUTH NATION CONSERVATION (SNC) works with partners to conserve, restore, and manage natural resources in local watersheds. Monitoring helps us better understand our watershed, focus our efforts where they are needed most, and track changes over time. The South Nation River gets its start through a series of wetlands in the Upper South Nation Subwatershed. The Upper South Nation Subwatershed is part of the larger South Nation Watershed and comprises parts of the following townships: Elizabethtown-Kitley, Augusta, North Grenville, Edwardsburgh/Cardinal, North Dundas and South Dundas. This report is a snapshot of current conditions, using key indicators such as forest, wetland, and water resources. Resource conditions will be revisited within 5 years to review changes and trends.



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SNC MAINTAINS AND PROTECTS 4,384 KM² OF EASTERN ONTARIO



Spencerville Poker Run on the South Nation River

WHAT IS SOUTH NATION CONSERVATION DOING?

PROTECTING THE SNC JURISDICTION

SNC is a local organization with a mandate to conserve, restore, and manage the water, land, and natural habitats of the SNC jurisdiction, a 4,384 km² area. SNC works closely with partner municipalities, government agencies, individual landowners, and community groups to maintain and improve the natural environment.

FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING, AND LOW WATER RESPONSE

Data, including weather information, water levels and flows, snow pack, and ice conditions, are used to help protect life and property from natural hazards such as high and low water conditions. For watershed conditions, visit www.nation.on.ca

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Land use planning input and administration of Ontario Regulation 170/06 (Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses) ensures the protection of people and their property, and that development does not negatively impact wetlands, shorelines, or waterways.

EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND STEWARDSHIP

Public workshops, school programs, and local events provide environmental education opportunities. Programs exist to provide technical advice and financial assistance to landowners to implement stewardship projects that enhance and protect the jurisdiction.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND REPORTING

Data collected through a variety of monitoring activities, including surface water, groundwater, and fisheries sampling, is used to evaluate and report on existing watershed conditions, identify changes, and target stewardship activities.

FORESTRY PROGRAM

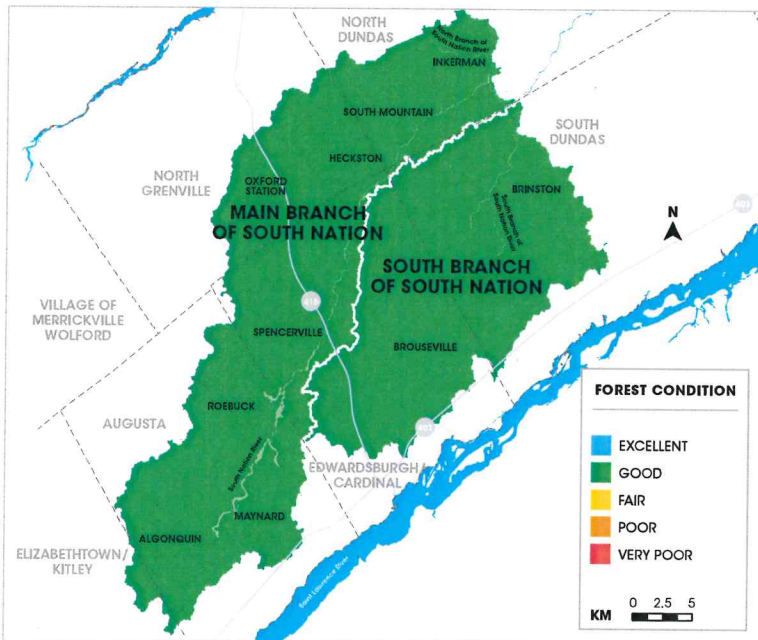
SNC has planted over 3 million trees locally to act as windbreaks, control erosion along stream banks, and reforest idle land. More than 1,000 landowners in the SNC jurisdiction have been served by our tree planting program. SNC is a partner in the management of over 20,000 acres of community forest land in Eastern Ontario. SNC encourages responsible, recreational use of our forests.



FOREST CONDITIONS

Forests are an essential part of a healthy watershed. Trees filter our air and water, prevent flooding and erosion, and provide food and habitat for wildlife. They also provide many economic, recreational, cultural, and social benefits. The quality of forest cover conditions is based on: **FOREST COVER** – the total area that is covered in trees; **FOREST INTERIOR** – the wooded area that is more than 100 metres from a forest’s edge (required by many species for survival); and **FOREST RIPARIAN ZONE** – the amount of forest within 30-metres on either side of a watercourse.

Environment and Climate Change Canada recommends a minimum of 30% Forest Cover, 10% Forest Interior, and that 75% of stream length should be naturally vegetated on both sides of the stream.



Forest Cover in the Upper South Nation Subwatershed is excellent with total forest cover at **39%** and forest interior at **13%**. The riparian cover is fair at **29%** cover and needs improvement. With such productive agricultural land in the South Nation jurisdiction, SNC is helping landowners and municipalities increase forest cover through Tree Planting Programs, Woodlot Advisory Services, and the Clean Water Grant Program. Over **60,000 TREES** have been planted in the past 5 years in this subwatershed, with approximately **400 ACRES** being approved under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP).

EMERALD ASH BORER

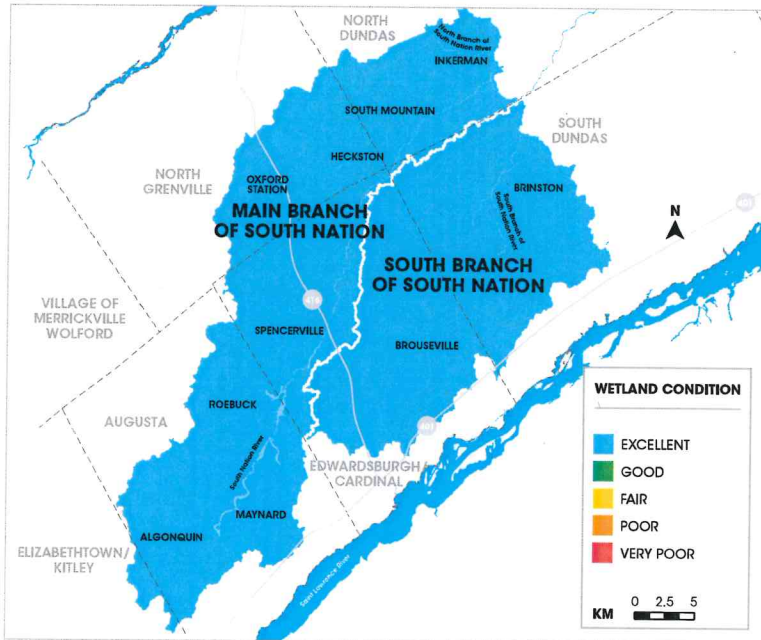
The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle, native to Asia, that has caused considerable damage to ash trees across SNC’s jurisdiction. SNC is helping to manage these pests by releasing 1 mm non-stinging wasps, within controlled areas throughout the jurisdiction, that target EAB eggs and larvae. Invasive species management initiatives help SNC protect biodiversity across the watershed.



WETLAND CONDITIONS

Wetlands provide natural flood control during peak flows and act as water reservoirs during dry weather. They filter pollutants before they enter streams, provide important habitat for plants and animals, and provide numerous economic, recreation, and aesthetic benefits. **WETLAND COVER** is the total area that is covered in swamp, marsh, fen, and bog habitat.

Environment and Climate Change Canada recommends 10% wetland cover.



UPPER SOUTH NATION SUBWATERSHED

TOTAL WETLAND COVER

25.2%

Wetland cover is excellent across the Upper South Nation Subwatershed at **25%** total wetland cover. Higher wetland cover is located throughout the Main Branch of the South Nation Catchment where shallow soil over limestone creates gentle gradients and poor drainage. Important wetlands in this area include the Long Swamp Fen, Charleville Creek Wetland, Limerick Wetland and the Edwardsburgh Marsh.

LIMERICK FOREST

Limerick Forest is a 5782-hectare community forest located in Eastern Ontario, owned and managed by the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. It forms part of the headwaters of the Upper South Nation Subwatershed and is home to several significant natural features including the Groveton Bog – an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest. Groveton Bog is comprised of undisturbed domed peatland overtop a sand plain outwash deposit. The bog is approximately 1,200 ha in size and is home to many flora and fauna.

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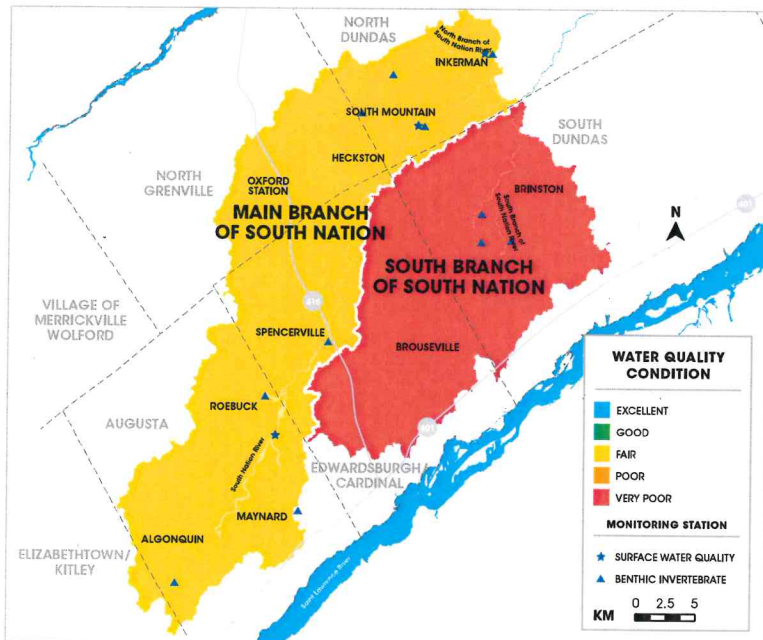


SURFACE WATER QUALITY

Healthy river systems provide invaluable services and benefits that sustain life and fuel human economies. Surface water quality is essential to healthy rivers. Two indicators that help determine water quality are:

- **TOTAL PHOSPHORUS** is naturally occurring in rivers, but can be elevated due to detergents, fertilizers, and sewage. Too much can result in algae blooms, affecting oxygen levels, and the fish and biota that live there.
- **BENTHIC MACROINVERTEBRATES** are small creatures that live in the river including: insects, mollusks, and worms. They are very sensitive to pollution and are excellent indicators for water quality and stream health.

Overall, water quality in the Upper South Nation Subwatershed is fair. Phosphorus levels slightly exceed the Provincial Water Quality Objective (0.03 mg/L), while benthic invertebrate communities range from good condition to poor condition depending on location. Sites in good stream health have good forest cover, especially along the banks of the rivers. Sites requiring improvement have low forest cover and are prone to erosion. Good surface water quality is essential to healthy rivers.



Programs administered by SNC offer grants to landowners to help improve the condition of rivers. These programs have received national and international recognition as effective tools to improve water quality.

GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS

Groundwater, an important and vital natural resource found in aquifers below the Earth's surface, supplies more than 95% of the rural population in SNC's jurisdiction with water. Approximately 42% of the population within SNC's jurisdiction rely on groundwater for drinking water supplies, with 12% coming from municipal wells, and 30% from private wells.

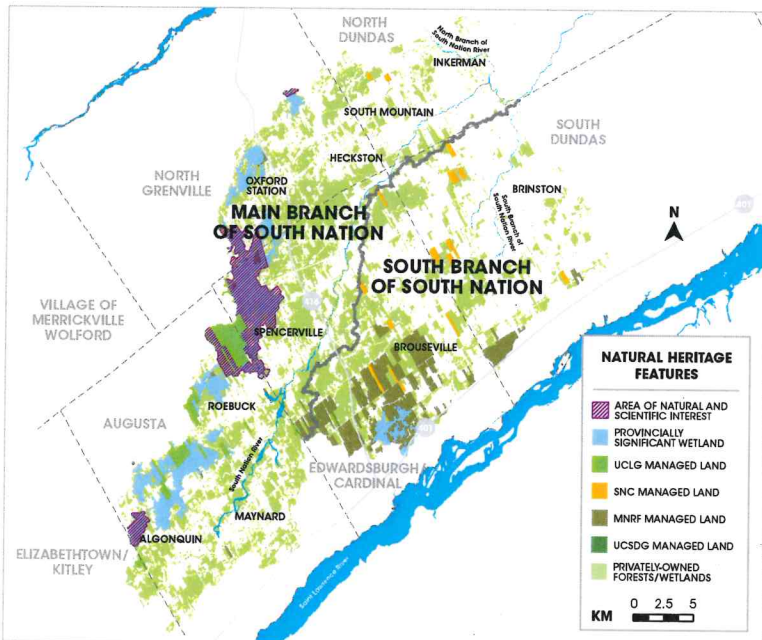
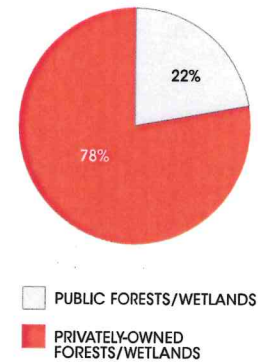


NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURES

The Upper South Nation Subwatershed has many natural spaces that support a rich diversity of plants and animals, wetlands, forests, streams, significant geological formations, and important corridors for wildlife. The following map displays forests and wetlands that are protected as conservation lands or public land. Most forests and wetlands in the watershed are privately owned and managed and provide important linkages to other natural heritage features on the landscape.

UPPER SOUTH NATION SUBWATERSHED NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURES	% OF SUBWATERSHED
Privately-Owned Forests and Wetlands	37%
SNC Land	1%
Crown Land	6%
Area of Natural and Scientific Interest	4%
Provincially Significant Wetlands	7%

*There is some overlap between categories



SNC can help people manage, enhance, and protect natural heritage features located on their properties through the Woodlot Advisory Service, Tree Planting Program, and Clean Water Program, among others.

UPPER SOUTH NATION FISH

The Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol was followed at all monitoring stations in 2018 to monitor fish species and habitat. A species of interest found in the Upper South Nation River is the Northern Pike. They are ambush predators that hold perfectly still waiting for prey such as fish, crayfish, frogs, mice, muskrat and young waterfowl. Pike strike with remarkable speed, clutching prey sideways in their mouths. Pike spawn in the spring; breeding grounds include areas that flood only in the spring and early summer and may be dry the remainder of the year. During spawning, Pike swim through vegetated areas of shallow water, randomly scattering their eggs, which then attach to the vegetation.

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Painted turtle basking in the South Nation River

TOGETHER WE CAN IMPROVE THE UPPER SOUTH NATION SUBWATERSHED

BE A WATERSHED STEWARD!

By working together, we can make a difference. Improving the health of the Upper South Nation Subwatershed requires us to make choices that balance environmental concerns with everyday life. Here are some examples of stewardship activities that we can help you undertake to enhance your property and protect human and environmental health.

CLEAN WATER GRANTS

There is funding available to landowners in the SNC jurisdiction for cost-share projects that help improve water quality including: stream bank erosion control, decommissioning abandoned wells, education initiatives, among many others. Ask for more information on the Clean Water Program and Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program.

STREAM WATCH

The Stream Watch program uses a macro stream assessment protocol and local volunteers for surveying streams. Volunteers are guided by an experienced coordinator to help collect field data in shallow streams. Volunteers participate in activities such as fish sampling, aquatic invertebrate sampling, stream clean-ups, and habitat rehabilitation projects.

PROVIDING NATURAL SPACES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO GET OUTDOORS

SNC wants you to get outdoors and enjoy natural spaces. SNC has over 12,000 acres of public natural space that includes 14 day-use parks and trails, 9 river access points, 5 canoe/kayak routes along the South Nation River, and 3 Geo-Passports – self-guided geocaching adventures. SNC looks to acquire environmentally significant properties, protecting important natural resources for future generations.

WOODLOT ADVISORY SERVICE

Would you like to save up to 75% on your property taxes, while maximizing the potential of your woodlot? SNC's Woodlot Advisory Service promotes efficient and sustainable management of forests and establishes additional forest cover across the jurisdiction. A Woodlot Advisory Service technician will assist you in becoming aware of the value of your forest and the benefits it can provide.

TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

Everyone can benefit from planting suitable trees on their property. SNC partners with Forest Ontario to offer seedlings, site preparation/tending, and planting for a subsidized fee to landowners within the jurisdiction. There may be additional subsidies available if you are a City of Ottawa resident through the Green Acres Program or the Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program.

This subwatershed report was prepared following the
2012 Conservation Authority Watershed Report Card Guidelines.

000026

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To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: Naomi Langlois-Anderson, Senior Fish and Wildlife Technician
Date: February 26, 2020
Subject: Update: Funding Submissions

RECOMMENDATION:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the grant submission update report.

DISCUSSION:

The following is a summary of funding submissions from October 2019 to date:

Grant Name	Project Name	Status	Amount
Wildlife Habitat Canada	Habitat Restoration – Gamble Property	Submitted: October 16, 2019 Status: Denied	\$30,000
One Tree Canada	Habitat Restoration – Gamble Property	Submitted: October 16, 2019 Status: Pending	\$10,000
Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program	Infrastructure Investment to SNC Conservation Areas	Submitted: November 12, 2019 Status: Pending	\$75,000 annually (2020-2025)
Intact Adaptation Action Fund	Flood Preparedness Project	Submitted: November 30, 2019 Status: Pending	\$400,000 over 3 years
Enbridge Community Investment Fund	Chesterville Dam Generator Upgrades	Submitted: October 2019 Status: Approved	\$5,000
Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Regional Biodiversity Program	South Nation Lakes/Rivers & Woodlands Project	Submitted January 17 th , 2020 Status: Pending	Up to \$225,000 (maximum of \$75,000/year for 3 years)
RBC Tech for Nature	York Creek Catchment Study	Submitted February 3, 2020 Status: Pending	\$75,000



Grant Name	Project Name	Status	Amount
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program	Mitigating Flood Risk at the Chesterville Dam – Phase 2	Submitted: February 21, 2020 Status: Pending	\$80,000
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program	Casselman Weir Concrete Assessment and Remediation	Submitted: February 21, 2020 Status: Pending	\$60,000
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program	Crysler Dyke Integrity Assessment	Submitted: February 21, 2020 Status: Pending	\$38,500
Habitat Stewardship Program	Acquisition of Land with Species at Risk Habitat Potential	Submitted: February 27, 2020 Status: Pending	\$100,00
EcoAction Community Funding Program	Shoreline Restoration at Oak Valley Conservation Area	Submitted: March 3, 2020 Status: Pending	\$100,000 over 2 years
United Counties of Prescott and Russell: Programme de Support au Développement Touristique Riverain 2020	St. Albert Conservation Area – new dock	Submitted: February 28, 2020 Status: Pending	\$32,000 total amount available for UCPR municipalities
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry: Stay Discover Grow Regional Incentives Program	McIntosh Park Conservation Area and Robert Graham Conservation Area Upgrades	Submitted: February 28, 2020 Status: Pending	\$50,000 maximum per property

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: Funding applications listed above are not included in the 2020 SNC Budget as revenue; required matching funds are SNC staffing and resources included in the 2020 budget and partner in-kind contributions.

SNC Policy Adherence: All expenditures will adhere to SNC's Purchasing Policy and SNC's Health and Safety Policies and Procedures.

Naomi Langlois-Anderson,
Fish and Wildlife Technician.



February 5, 2020



Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Food Safety and Environmental Policy Branch
1 Stone Road West
Ontario Government Building, 2nd Floor, Southwest
Guelph, ON
N1G 4Y2



c/o Sara Peckford



**RE: Comments Submission: Drainage Act Discussion Paper, ERO
Posting 019-1187**



The Municipalities in South Nation Conservation's (SNC) jurisdiction have some of the highest numbers of municipal drains in Ontario: with over 1,200 drains throughout the watershed.



We provide local, practical, knowledge and expertise to drainage superintendents, the Province, and municipalities to ensure timely and efficient reviews for drain maintenance and improvements supporting our 16 member municipalities.



As a Conservation Authority and municipal partner, SNC is pleased to provide the following comments on the Drainage Act Discussion Paper.



Local Challenges expressed by Member-Municipalities



Within SNC's jurisdiction, certain areas include soils prone to erosion that are challenging to manage during drain maintenance and improvement projects. These types of soils require appropriate reviews of proposed work to manage negative impacts on neighbouring property owners, individual properties, and the environment. Minor projects, as proposed, in some areas could lead to major issues if not appropriately reviewed.



With productive agricultural lands and lower levels of forest cover in the region, some Municipalities are already experiencing an increase in drain maintenance and improvement requirements. Further, additional fields being tile drained, change of agricultural land use from pasturelands to





corn and soybeans for example, and high runoff rainfall events have demonstrated lack of capacity in certain municipal drains.

With excellent farmland, our area has observed many farm purchases and consolidation of farm fields. For example, when fields merge, the proposed amendments categorize “minor improvements” as: creating or widening a crossing, and relocation of a drain on an individual property as minor improvements to be streamlined. Where drains, drain hundreds of acres, these drain relocations on “individual properties” could cause unintended consequences on receiving drains (specifically, drains that are currently undersized to receive run off more quickly from larger fields and where windbreaks and hedgerows have been removed to consolidate fields to accommodate larger equipment).

The Conservation Authority and Municipalities are often called to assist in mediating disputes between property owners on these matters. These calls could be more frequent should processes lack oversight and accountability.

In Eastern Ontario, there is a serious shortage of drainage engineers. In our view, this issue is sometimes the cause of delays on drainage projects. Unless this situation is remedied, there will continue to be delays, regardless of other streamlining measures.

Current Efforts

SNC understands the government’s commitment to streamline approvals. We work proactively with drainage superintendents to find efficiencies and support the important role drainage plays in our agricultural landscape. We continuously update information available on municipal drains in our jurisdiction. This includes the fish and fish habitat data, which provides clarity and certainty for drainage superintendents on project timelines.

We helped create the DART Protocol that streamlines project reviews under the Conservation Authorities Act. SNC further streamlined project approvals by reviewing drain projects under the Fisheries Act through our agreement with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. This one window approach allowed drainage superintendents to work directly with SNC staff who had the local knowledge and experience to ensure projects proceeded safely and timely.



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
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South Nation Conservation looks forward to opportunities to work with the Ontario government on water management in Eastern Ontario. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Michelle Cavanagh, Team Lead, Stewardship at mcavanagh@nation.on.ca or 613-984-2948.

000031