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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: March 4th, 2021

Time: 3:00 p.m.

****Conference/Video Call:** Meeting link, call in number, and conference PIN to follow by email



Fish and Wildlife Committee

Meeting Agenda

March 4th, 2021 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. Approval of the Fish and Wildlife Committee virtual meeting minutes of November 24th, 2020 3-7
6. New Business:
 - a. Request for Approval: 2021 Committee Chair Election: Ronda 8-12
 - b. Request for Approval: 2021 Committee Members: Ronda 13-14
 - c. Update: 2021 Stewardship Work Plan: Michelle 15-17
 - d. Update: Indigenous Partnerships: Ronda 18-20
 - e. Update: Emerald Ash Borer Parasitoid Release Project: Ronda 21-22
 - f. Update: Funding Submissions: Michelle 23-25
7. Supplemental Agenda (if any)
8. Correspondence
 - a. Conservation Ontario's Comments on the Drainage Act Regulatory Proposal 26-30
9. Roundtable Discussions
 - a. Community Engagement Activities
 - b. Watershed Monitoring Report
10. Date of Next Meeting:
 - June 1st, 2021, virtual, at 3:00 p.m.
11. Adjournment

Ronda Boutz,
Team Lead, Special Projects.



FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, November 24th, 2020, 3:00 p.m. – Meeting 04/2020

By Electronic Participation

-
- Present:** 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
Joffre Cote, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (non-voting)
Doug Culver, Naturalist and Recreational Angler
Stéphane Dubuc, Trapper
Aleta Karstad, Fragile Inheritance Natural History
Shawn Landriault, Member at Large
Kirk Myelde, Member of Large
Bill Smirle, SNC Board of Directors, Past Chair, ex-officio
Larry E. Smith, South Nation Archery Supply
- Regrets:** George Darouze, SNC Board of Directors, Chair, ex-officio
Pierre Leroux, SNC Board of Directors, Vice Chair, ex-officio
Ed Fields, Delta Waterfowl
Abraham Francis, Mohawks of Akwesasne
Susan Gallinger, Member at Large
Cyril Holmes, Grenville Fish and Game Club
- Staff:** Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects
Michelle Cavanagh, Team Lead, Stewardship
Brent Harbers, Watershed Biologist
Naomi Langlois-Anderson, Senior Fish and Wildlife Technician
Dianne MacMillan, Administrative Assistant
Katherine Watson, Water Resources Specialist, Monitoring



CHAIR'S REMARKS

Fred Schueler, Committee Chair, called the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting of November 24th, 2020 to order at 3:00 p.m. The Committee Chair welcomed everyone and updated the Members on the Emerald Ash Borer project he is currently working on.

APPROVAL OF FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE MAIN AND SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDAS

RESOLUTION NO. FW-027/20

Moved by: Bill Smirle
Seconded by: Alvin Cluff-Clyburne

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting agenda of November 24th, 2020 with the following amendment:

- a. Move Supplemental Agenda Item #1 a., Update: Bill 229, to follow Main Agenda Item #2, Approval of Fish and Wildlife Committee Main and Supplemental Agendas

CARRIED

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

UPDATE: BILL 229

Angela Coleman, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer presented a PowerPoint presentation indicating the highlights of Bill 229, *Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures)*, 2020.

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 THE FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
OF SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2020**

RESOLUTION NO. FW-028/20

Moved by: Kirk Myelde
Seconded by: Malcolm Clark

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Fish and Wildlife
Committee virtual meeting minutes of
September 1st, 2020 as submitted.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

UPDATE: 2020 YEAR END REPORT

RESOLUTION NO. FW-029/20

Moved by: Bruce Clarke
Seconded by: Larry Smith

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and
file the 2020 Year End report.

CARRIED

Shawn Landriault joined the Fish and Wildlife meeting at 4:01 p.m.

UPDATE: FUNDING SUBMISSIONS

RESOLUTION NO. FW-030/20

Moved by: Malcolm Clark
Seconded by: Stéphane Dubuc

RESOLVED THAT:

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

CARRIED

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: 2021 FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

RESOLUTION NO. FW-031/20

Moved by: Alvin Cluff-Clyburne
Seconded by: Shawn Landriault



RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee approve the Fish and Wildlife Committee 2021 meeting schedule as presented.

CARRIED

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Bill Smirle

- SNC Board of Directors Executive was elected at the September meeting: George Darouze, City of Ottawa, Chair; Pierre Leroux, Mayor of Russell, Vice Chair, and Bill Smirle, Stormont Dundas, Glengarry, Past Chair
- SNC Board of Directors approved the 2021 budget at the November meeting; hand delivered copies to UCPR, SDG and LG Counties as well as Municipalities without a representative sitting on the Board
- Presentation to North Dundas Council regularly to provide them with a SNC update
- Thank you to staff for the continued work throughout the year regardless of Covid-19 restrictions

Fred Schueler

- Working with North Grenville Environmental Advisory Committee to enhance Council's understanding of Conservation Authority roles and responsibilities

B WATERSHED MONITORING REPORT

Fred Schueler

- Working mostly in the Rideau drainage, spent the latter part of the summer searching for Hickorynut under a contract with DFO

Larry Smith

- Provided an email monitoring report

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- March 4th, 2021: Joint Standing Committee Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- March 4th, 2021: Fish and Wildlife Committee Meeting, 3:00 p.m.



ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION NO. FW-032/20

Moved by: Kirk Myelde

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting of
November 24th, 2020 be adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

CARRIED

Fred Schueler,
Committee Chair.

/dm

Ronda Boutz,
Team Lead, Special Projects.



To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects
Date: February 22, 2021
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 2021 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 Bylaws*
 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 2021, and until the Joint Standing Committee Meeting of 2022,
 - 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.



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- 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 22, 2021
Subject: Request for Approval: 2021 Committee Membership

RECOMMENDATION:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee recommends the following Committee membership to the Board of Directors for 2021:

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



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- All Committee appointments to be approved annually by the Board of Directors at the March Board meeting
- 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 2021 SNC Budget, under Communications and Outreach, pages 86-87 (SNC Standing Committees).

SNC Policy Adherence:

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ronda Boutz', is written over a horizontal line.

Ronda Boutz,
Team Lead, Special Projects.

/dm



To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: Michelle Cavanagh, Team Lead, Stewardship
Date: February 22, 2021
Subject: Update: 2021 Stewardship Work Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the 2021 Stewardship Work Plan update; and

FURTHER THAT: The Fish and Wildlife Committee provide comments for consideration on the 2022 Stewardship Workplan deliverables.

DISCUSSION:

The following activities have been planned for 2021, as per the Board approved 2021 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.
 - 20 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.
 - Administer Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program grants.
- 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 shrub giveaway to Findlay Creek community residents.
 - Ontario Power Generation Biodiversity Project
 - Remove invasive buckthorn and dead ash trees on Gamble and Garlandside Road properties.
 - Design erosion repair at three locations within J. Henry Tweed Conservation Area.
 - Site preparation for erosion repair work at J. Henry Tweed Conservation Area.
 - East York Creek Erosion Repair
 - Design erosion repair and shoreline restoration at one location along East York Creek.
 - Partner with Russell Township to complete remedial work.
 - Species at Risk Benefits Exchange
 - Monitor 86 acres of habitat for nesting Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark.
 - Report to Lindsay Solar on results of monitoring.
- 4. Approvals: Projects: Subwatershed Studies
 - Continue the South Bear Brook Catchment Study.
 - Develop partnership to complete a subwatershed plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: All activities listed in the 2021 Stewardship Workplan are included in the Board approved 2021 Budget under:

- Resource Management: Water Response Programs, pages 14-15
- Resource Management: Partner Programs, Water, pages 18-19
- Projects: Habitat Restoration, pages 24-25
- Approvals: Projects, Subwatershed Studies, pages 70-71



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SNC Policy Adherence: All activities required to undertake the 2021 Stewardship Team Workplan will adhere to SNC's Purchasing and Health and Safety Policies.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Cavanagh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Cavanagh,
Team Lead, Stewardship.



To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects
Date: February 23, 2021
Subject: Update: Indigenous Partnerships

RECOMMENDATION:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the Indigenous Partnerships update report.

DISCUSSION:

SNC has a long history of partnering with local First Nation communities, the following report summarizes several of SNC's past, present, and potential projects.

1. Eastern Ontario First Nations Working Group

SNC has been working with the Mohawk and the Algonquin Nations for approximately 20 years. South Nation hosts the Eastern Ontario First Nations Working Group. This group is chaired by SNC, Plenty Canada (Indigenous not-for-profit), and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) Environment Department. Co-chairs include: SNC's Senior Forestry Technician, Chris Craig, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan; Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada, Shabot Obaadjiwan First Nation, and Abraham Francis, Mohawks of Akwesasne, Department of Environment. This group works on the ground with agencies in Eastern Ontario to collaborate on projects.

2. 2007-Present: Forest Stewardship Council Certification

SNC's forests are Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certified, as such, SNC is committed to FSC Principal 3: Indigenous Peoples' Rights. SNC works with local First Nation communities to share knowledge and information on local forests. This includes hosting joint workshops for FSC landowners to help them understand and uphold their duties and obligations to these Principals.

3. 2005-2006: Black Ash Partnership

The Black Ash Management partnership (2005-2006) was an innovative partnership between the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and South Nation Conservation. The project included black ash inventories on properties owned by South Nation Conservation, the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry, plus two properties owned by Domtar. Program objectives included: preserving and enhancing the natural regeneration of black ash species, a culturally important species that has been declining over the past several decades. The resulting management plans and protocols helped determine the number of



black ash trees per hectare in a specified area; and an educational component taught students the value of forest resources and their cultural, economic, and ecological significance to different community groups.

4. 2007-2008: Medicinal Plant Inventory

The Medicinal Plant Project is another innovative partnership between the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, and the Aboriginal Strategy Group (the Eastern First Nations Working Group), and South Nation Conservation. In 2007-2008, the Ecological Land Classification (ELC) for Southern Ontario was used to determine medicinal plant species and their sustainability in the South Nation Watershed.

Program objectives included: identification of numerous medicinal plants and promotion of their use, strengthening existing relationships between First Nation groups and non-Native groups, enhancement of greater communication between youth and Elders to ensure traditional healing knowledge is strengthened and passed on and the creation of a medicinal plant database which was mapped to inform management decisions regarding holistic use of forest resources. Prior to this project there was a lack of information on herbaceous plants, birds, reptiles, mammals, and other wildlife prevented strategic targets that prevented them from being identified for their environmental or cultural values.

5. 2018-2019: Edible Buffers

In 2018/19, SNC partnered with First Nations to establish 2 km of edible buffers, at four sites, along watercourses in the South Nation River watershed. The incorporation of First Nation Traditional Knowledge was a key principle in the species selection at the sites and the educational programming offered to local schools during the site planting. This project was featured by Ontario Power Generation in 2020 as the first project highlighted in the “Power of Nature” series; the project video can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xseEOzxOTE0&list=PLULHkA9f3CYaDDMbWNI72KCQMz6JzqLXH>

6. 2019-2020: Healing Place

SNC partnered the Mohawk and the Algonquin Nations on a Reconciliation and Climate Change Planting. A working group of partners (SNC, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Department of Environment, Plenty Canada, Forests Ontario, and Ontario Power Generation) continues to meet to further develop The Healing Place, a site on an SNC property near Shanly, ON, where over 100 culturally significant trees and shrubs were planted. The working group plans on hosting at least one annual event at the site to “polish the belt” / “feasting the bundle”.



SNC recently submitted an Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Regional Biodiversity Funding proposal to support site development and education and outreach. SNC will work with First Nation partners to develop and deliver several education and outreach initiatives throughout the SNC jurisdiction. Work will include researching and documenting local First Nations and early settlers' history, where people lived and how they interacted with the environment and each other. This foundational knowledge is key to our journey to reconciliation and will form the basis for proposed initiatives.

SNC will also work with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne – Department of Environment and Plenty Canada (Algonquin First Nations) to host community tree giveaways of culturally significant species. A factsheet will be developed to accompany each seedling to explain why the tree is culturally significant.

7. 2021-2023 Species at Risk (Potential Project)

SNC is partnering with Plenty Canada, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, and Algonquins of Pikwakanagan in a 2-year joint proposal to the Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk (AFSAR) to conduct inventories, surveys, and monitoring with in Eastern Ontario for the following species: Monarch butterfly, Western Chorus Frog, Black Ash, Algonquin Wolf, little brown Myotis bat, Northern Myotis Bat, and the Tri-coloured bat.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: SNC's contributions of staff time are included in the 2021 SNC Budget under Property: Community Lands: Lands and SNC Forests, pages 34-37. Staff carries out cultural value components of projects while in the field conducting regular forestry activities.

SNC Policy Adherence: Consistent with SNC Forest Policy.

Ronda Boutz,
Team Lead, Special Projects.



To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects
Date: February 4, 2021
Subject: Update: Emerald Ash Borer Parasitoid Release Project

RECOMMENDATION:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the update on the Emerald Ash Borer Parasitoid Release Project.

DISCUSSION:

SNC partnered with the Canadian Forestry Service (CFS) to release three species of parasitoid wasps to control local Emerald Ash Borer infestations. The CFS program began in 2014 and has released nearly 240,000 parasitoid wasps.

After site establishment and training from the CFS staff, SNC staff released the following parasitoids during summer months of 2017-2019: *Tetrastichus planipennisi* (15,747), *Oobius agrili* (3,600), and *Spathius galinae* (2,192).

The SNC release sites were two of twenty-seven sites throughout Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick. The SNC sites were located at the Two Creeks Forest and at an SNC property on Hwy 138 near Monkland.

The SNC release sites were sampled during the fall of 2019 to determine release success. On each site 4 trees were removed and transported to the CFS lab in Sault Ste. Marie for rearing of parasitoids. *Tetrastichus planipennisi* were successfully found at the Monkland site but not yet at the Two Creeks forest site. Small quantities of *Oobius agrili* were found at both sites. No *Spathius galinae* were found. It takes 3 years of sampling to determine whether a viable population has become established.

It is still too early in the development of the biological control program to have an impact on EAB in Canada. Sites established in 2014, have shown a high degree of success and that the population will spread once established, up to 1.5 - 5 km per year.

Subject to Covid-19 restrictions, CFS staff plan to continue sampling in the fall 2021. No samples were taken in fall 2020.



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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: Not applicable.

SNC Policy Adherence: Consistent with SNC Forest Policy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ronda Boutz", is written over a horizontal line.

Ronda Boutz,
Team Lead, Special Projects.



To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: Michelle Cavanagh, Team Lead, Stewardship
Date: February 24, 2021
Subject: Update: Funding Submissions

RECOMMENDATION:

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

DISCUSSION:

The following is a summary of funding submissions from December 2020 to date:

Grant Name	Project Name	Status	Amount
Wildlife Habitat Canada, Habitat Conservation Stamp Program	Leitrim Wetland Restoration	Submitted: October 21, 2020 Status: Denied	\$50,000
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program	Casselman Weir Concrete Assessment and Remediation	Submitted: February 21, 2020 Status: Approved	\$60,000
Great Lakes Local Action Fund	Oak Valley Restoration	Submitted: November 6, 2020 Status: Denied	\$50,000
Great Lakes Local Action Fund	East York Creek Erosion Repair	Submitted: November 6, 2020 Status: Denied	\$50,000
Great Lakes Local Action Fund	Leitrim Wetland Restoration	Submitted: November 6, 2020 Status: Denied	\$50,000
Climate Action and Awareness Fund	Low Impact Development Workshops	Submitted: November 6, 2020 Status: Pending	\$112,888
Climate Action and Awareness Fund	Flood Preparedness and Erosion Assessment	Submitted: November 6, 2020 Status: Pending	\$122,825
Grasslands Ontario: Grassland Stewardship Initiative	Grassland Habitat Enhancement and Hay Field Rejuvenation	Submitted: January 22, 2021 Status: Pending	\$22,184



Grant Name	Project Name	Status	Amount
Ontario Power Generation	Biodiversity Conservation in Partnership with Indigenous Communities	Submitted: February 11, 2021 Status: Pending	\$225,000 (3-year)
Habitat Stewardship Program	Forest Bird Monitoring	Application Due: March 2, 2021 Status: In Progress	\$6,000
National Disaster Mitigation Program	Bear Brook and Tributaries Hazard Mapping	Submitted: December 1, 2020 Status: Pending	\$265,747
	Ottawa River Flood Hazard Mapping		\$170,056
	Flood Forecasting and Warning Improvements in the South Nation River Watershed		\$85,028
	Flood Risk Assessment Partnership		\$168,881
	Data Acquisition to Support Eastern Ontario Flood Risk Assessments, Floodplain Mapping, and Flood Forecasting and Warning		\$899,546
Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk	Multiple SAR Monitoring	Application Due: March 2, 2021 Status: In Progress	\$200,000 (2-year)
EcoAction Community Funding Program	Oak Valley Restoration	Application Due: March 3, 2021 Status: In Progress	\$100,000 (2-year)
Canada Healthy Communities Initiative	Larose Forest Low Impact Development Demonstration Site	Application Due: March 9, 2021 Status: In Progress	\$250,000



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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget:

The 2021 SNC Budget includes external grants under Resource Management, Projects, Federal and Provincial Grant Programs, p. 26-27.

SNC Policy Adherence:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Cavanagh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Cavanagh,
Team Lead, Stewardship



February 4, 2021

Sara Peckford
Food Safety and Environmental Policy Branch
1 Stone Road West
Ontario Government Building, 2nd Floor, Southwest
Guelph, On N1G 4Y2

Re: Conservation Ontario's Comments on the "Drainage Act Regulatory Proposal" (ERO #019-2814)

Dear Ms. Peckford:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the "Drainage Act Regulatory Proposal" and to participate in the drainage stakeholder webinars. Conservation Ontario is the network of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities (CAs). Comments submitted by Conservation Ontario are not intended to limit comments submitted by individual CAs as part of the consultation process.

In general, conservation authorities are quite supportive of the proposal. In addition, we appreciate the proposed inclusion of CAs as "prescribed persons" through the regulation made under the *Drainage Act*. Conservation Ontario offers the following comments in relation to the discussion questions with an aim of improving the overall proposal.

1. Do you agree with the proposed minor improvement criteria?

The majority of the criteria is administrative in nature and does not address technical matters or project scope. Having clearly defined technical and project scope criteria would assist in determining whether or not a project is truly minor in nature and whether the intent of the proposed regulation is being achieved. Having these criteria more clearly defined will serve to limit differences of opinion regarding what is considered to be a "minor improvement". Failure to do so could ultimately undermine the intent of efficiency and timeliness.

Proposed Criteria	Conservation Ontario's Comments
The improvement would be initiated by the property owner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None
The improvement would take place on an individual property	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For clarity, we recommend including, "owned by the initiating property owner".• The requirement for the landowner to have to apply for and pay for the work and have the work solely on their property may limit the amount of works that can be done under this option – especially if the intention of the works are to improve a municipal road but the work or part of the work

	<p>would need to expand onto private property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A drainage area can extend beyond an individual property. Clarification is needed that to be eligible for the proposed minor improvement process any changes will not impact the drainage area beyond the individual property boundary
The property owner would pay the full cost of construction for the minor improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
There would be no need for construction access on neighbouring properties or the property owner has already obtained consent from applicable neighbouring properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend a formal process/form for demonstrating a landowner has obtained consent from applicable neighbouring property owners
The proposed minor improvement would not lead to changes as to how future repair and maintenance costs are allocated to other property owners in the watershed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further clarity is required on this point. For example, if a farm crossing is installed and in the future needed to be remediated, would that be assessed as a special assessment to that property owner or would it be included in the overall assessment for maintenance and repair?
The minor improvement project would maintain the existing drainage capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In some cases the objective of a proposal may be to retain and/or slowly release drainage from a feature on the property. For example, rural stormwater management may benefit from restrictions on flow rates. Similarly, in some cases enhancements to drainage capacity should be considered, e.g. floodplain enhancements or engineered wetlands • As per the comments related to technical criteria and scope, it is recommended that drain enclosures should not be considered to be minor • Additional criteria should include not having an impact on upstream or downstream erosion rates

General Comments - Minor Improvement Process

Conservation authorities would appreciate the opportunity to participate as part of the initial site visit to identify any technical or regulatory constraints up front, which could then be included as part of the work of the appointed engineer. This will help to expedite the approval process when permission under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* is being sought.

The proposal identifies that the regulation may permit a municipality to rely on a municipal staff engineer who has P.Eng credentials. It is recommended that the regulation instead reference that the municipality rely on a P.Eng. who has experience in this field. The engineer should be familiar with the *Drainage Act*, the DART protocol and any other protocol that may be provided for in the regulation.

Given the reduced timeframe proposed for appeals (10 days) the regulation should specify that the reports/notices should be sent to regulatory agencies and landowners via electronic means. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many letters are not making it to their destination within 10 days. Conservation Ontario is concerned that the reduced timeframes may not give landowners (including CAs) and regulatory agencies adequate time to review a proposal. It is recommended that the proposal be increased to 20 **business** days (or approximately one month).

This proposal would allow for an appellant to sidestep the Drainage Tribunal and go directly to the Drainage Referee. The advantage of this proposal is unclear given the Drainage Tribunal's expertise in handling appeals.

Examples of minor projects were provided but were limited to examples related to agricultural farmlands. The *Drainage Act*, however, is also used to provide legal outlet for drainage associated with urban development. It is unclear whether some drainage associated with urban development may be considered minor projects. Given the heightened risk to people and property, it is recommended that drainage associated with urban development should not be considered a minor project.

Finally, the relative age of the Engineer's Reports should be considered when defining "minor improvements". Conservation authorities identify that many of the Engineer's Reports in their watersheds are more than 20 years old and therefore not reflecting current engineering best practices and regulatory approval standards. In some cases, these reports do not contain cross-section data. The lack of information in some of these reports will make it difficult for CAs to assess potential impacts upstream and downstream of a "minor improvement".

2. What types of improvements do you foresee fitting under the minor improvement process?

Conservation Ontario would be very supportive of the use of the minor improvement process to help incentivize stewardship activities for individual landowners. Improvements that could fit under the minor improvement process include: green infrastructure projects that maintain or improves the drainage capacity of the system; environmentally friendly bank stabilization/erosion protection works; replacement of existing gabion baskets or hardened retaining walls; and installation of vegetated buffers. In addition, replacement or repair of existing infrastructure, such as culverts and crossings on a like-for-like basis or upsizing where the risk of increasing flooding or erosion is low could be considered under the minor improvement process. Finally, localized bank stabilization and erosion control at outlets and bends should also be considered as a type of improvement fitting under the minor improvement process.

In general, Conservation Ontario does not support the use of the minor improvement process in wetland areas, associated with urban development or for drain enclosures.

3. What potential pre-approved designs do you foresee for being possible under a protocol for minor improvements?

Conservation Ontario is supportive of the proposal to develop pre-approved practices and respectfully requests an opportunity to participate in their development. It is recommended that the term "practice"

be used in place of “design”; this change in terminology would serve as a reminder to the Engineers and the regulators to ensure that the proposal fits the situation.

In general, Conservation Ontario supports the recommendation to consider straightforward farm crossings and erosion protection as potentially eligible projects for pre-approved designs.

4. Are there other opportunities to further reduce burden for minor improvements?

In order to further reduce burden for minor improvements, it is recommended that the province consider allowing a qualified conservation authority staff engineer who has P.Eng credentials to be appointed by a municipality to prepare a report. Many smaller municipalities do not have P.Eng on staff and this could be a way to support those municipalities on a watershed basis. Moreover, having the ability to appoint a conservation authority staff member may further serve to incentivize landowners to undertake stewardship programs.

It is recommended that the province form a working group with CAs and other regulatory agencies to create criteria for determining what should be considered a minor improvement as compared one that should follow the typical process. This will help to streamline the overall drain approval process. Moreover, the regulation should be designed to require that the Drainage Engineer engage as early as possible with conservation authorities and other regulatory bodies. In addition to undertaking regulatory approvals, CAs have considerable knowledge about the form and function of watercourses, which could assist with the design and approval of a project.

5. Are the proposed criteria for updating an Engineer’s Report appropriate?

It is understood that the proposed new Minister’s regulation would establish a new process for reflecting changes to a drain design in an Engineer’s Report. In the discussion paper, a variety of draft eligibility criteria are proposed. The first criterion is that “current agency approvals would support the required changes to the drain design”. The criterion does not identify who would be responsible for making that determination. Therefore, it is recommended that the criterion be amended to require consultation and clearance from approval agencies to reflect the changes to a drain design. This should be undertaken prior to granting the municipality authority to maintain the drain “as built”.

As a final step, the council-approved Engineer’s Report should be electronically distributed to approval agencies, including conservation authorities.

6. What new protocols would you prioritize?

Conservation authorities have experience administering streamlined Section 28 approvals for municipal drain maintenance and repair in accordance with the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act (DART) Protocol since 2012. Our experience has confirmed that it provides consistency and efficiency for the approvals process. Adoption of the DART protocol by reference will formalize its status and will further the objectives of consistency and efficiency.

A second installment of the DART protocol to address these minor improvements on drains would be a welcomed addition and provide a standard throughout the province where conservation authorities

exist. There is also a need and opportunity for DART to refine what constitutes drain improvement under Section 78 of the *Drainage Act*.

Finally, as discussed, CAs are supportive of a protocol for pre-approved engineered designs for minor improvements. CAs should be consulted on these pre-approved designs to ensure that they are compliant with CA Act Section 28 requirements. Consideration should be given to including designs which prioritize green infrastructure as a way to further incentivize landowners to employ best management practices.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the “Drainage Act Regulatory Proposal”. We are appreciative of the ongoing efforts to consult directly with conservation authorities throughout the process and we look forward to working with you as you further refine these proposals. Should you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at extension 226.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leslie Rich', written in a cursive style.

Leslie Rich
Policy and Planning Liaison

c.c. All CA CAOs/GMs

Conservation Ontario
120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket ON L3Y 3W3
Tel: 905.895.0716 Email: info@conservationontario.ca
www.conservationontario.ca

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