



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD

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Fish and Wildlife Committee

Meeting Agenda

Date: June 6th, 2023

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Location: Watershed Room, SNC

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

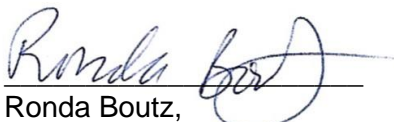


Fish and Wildlife Committee

Meeting Agenda

June 6th, 2023 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. Roundtable Discussions
 - a. Community Engagement Activities
 - b. Watershed Monitoring Report
6. Approval of the Fish and Wildlife Committee virtual meeting minutes of February 28th, 2023 3-9
7. New Business:
 - a. Update: 2023 Land Securement Strategy: Pat 10
 - b. Update: 2023 Tree Planting and Free Tree Days: Cheyene 11-13
 - c. Update: European Water Chestnut Management: Michelle 14
 - d. Request for Approval: OFAH Summer Student Work Plan: Michelle 15-16
 - e. Update: State of the Nation Watershed Report Card: Kat 17
 - f. Update: 2023 Monitoring: Brent 18-20
8. Supplemental Agenda (if any)
9. Correspondence (if any)
10. Date of Next Meeting:
 - Fish and Wildlife Committee Meeting, September 5th, 2023 at 3:00 p.m., SNC Office
11. Adjournment


Ronda Boutz,
Secretary-Treasurer.



FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, February 28th, 2023, 3:00 p.m. – Meeting 01/23

By Electronic Participation



Present: Frederick Schueler, Committee Chair
Malcolm Clark, Russell Fish and Game Club
Alvin Cluff-Clyburne, Russell Fish and Game Club
Joffre Cote, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (non-voting)
Aleta Karstad, Fragile Inheritance Natural History
Bill Smirle, SNC Board of Directors
Larry Smith, South Nation Archery Supply
Doug Thompson, Public Citizen (*electronic participation*)

Regrets: Doug Culver, Naturalist and Recreational Angler
George Darouze, SNC Board of Directors, Past Chair, ex-officio
Steve Densham, SNC Board of Directors, Vice Chair, ex-officio
Stéphane Dubuc, Trapper
Pierre Leroux, SNC Board of Directors, Chair, ex-officio
Kirk Myelde, Public Citizen
Susan Gallinger, Public Citizen (non-voting)

Absent: Abraham Francis, Mohawks of Akwesasne

Staff: Carl Bickerdike, Chief Administrative Officer
Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer
Hope Boyle, Stewardship Assistant
Michelle Cavanagh, Team Lead, Stewardship
Brent Harbers, Watershed Biologist
Naomi Langlois-Anderson, Senior Fish and Wildlife Technician
Arielle Noonan, Stewardship and Outreach Assistant
Ryan Robson, Resource Technician
Katherine Watson, Water Resources Specialist, Monitoring



CHAIR'S REMARKS

Fred Schueler, Committee Chair, called the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting of February 28th, 2023 to order at 3:05 p.m.

Fred commented on potential work this year in the South Nation jurisdiction relating to freshwater mussels; with monitoring focused on the upper St. Lawrence River and its tributaries. A funding request was submitted for this work and a decision is pending.

APPROVAL OF FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. FW-001/23

Moved by: Larry Smith

Seconded by: Bill Smirle

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting agenda of February 28th, 2023 as submitted.

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 THE FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 29TH, 2022

RESOLUTION NO. FW-002/23

Moved by:

Alvin Cluff-Clyburne

Seconded by:

Bill Smirle



RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting minutes of November 29th, 2022 with the following amendment:

- Joffre Cote be moved from “Present” to “Regrets”.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

RESOLUTION NO. CWC-003/23

Moved by: Alvin Cluff-Clyburne

Seconded by: Larry Smith

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee appoint Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer as the Acting Committee Chair; and

FURTHER THAT:

SNC Administrative By-law 16.3: ‘*All elections shall be in accordance with the Procedures for Election of Officers*’ be adhered to.

CARRIED

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

First Call for Nominations:

Moved by: Larry Smith

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

Fredrick Schueler accepted the nomination 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.



Approval of the following Motion:

RESOLUTION NO. CWC-004/23

Moved by: Larry Smith
Seconded by: Alvin Cluff-Clyburne

RESOLVED THAT:

For the year 2023, and until the Joint Standing Committee meeting of 2024, that Fredrick Schueler be elected as Chair of the Fish and Wildlife Committee.

CARRIED

Bill Smirle joined the meeting at 3:25 p.m.
Doug Thompson joined the meeting at 3:36 p.m.

UPDATE: FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

RESOLUTION NO. FW-005/23

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

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife receive and file the Fish and Wildlife Committee Membership update.

CARRIED

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: CATEGORY 3 PROGRAM BUSINESS CASE DEVELOPMENT

RESOLUTION NO. FW-006/23

Moved by: Doug Thompson
Seconded by: Larry Smith

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish & Wildlife Committee approve the development of Business Cases for "Category 3: Other Programs and Services an authority determines advisable." and

FURTHER THAT:

The Fish & Wildlife Committee recommend that the Board of Directors support the development of Category 3 Programs and Service agreements for Private Land



Stewardship and the Land Securement Program; and

FURTHER THAT:

The Committee members be directed to provide feedback on the Business Cases and provide stakeholder testimonials.

CARRIED

UPDATE: FINDLAY CREEK BOARDWALK EXTENSION PROJECT

RESOLUTION NO. FW-007/23

Moved by: Alvin Cluff-Clyburne
Seconded by: Malcolm Clark

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the Findlay Creek Boardwalk Extension Project.

CARRIED

UPDATE: OAK VALLEY EROSION CONTROL PROJECT

RESOLUTION NO. FW-008/23

Moved by: Alvin Cluff-Clyburne
Seconded by: Larry Smith

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the Oak Valley Erosion Control Project update.

CARRIED

UPDATE: SNC 2023 INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

RESOLUTION NO. FW-009/23

Moved by: Malcolm Clark
Seconded by: Alvin Cluff-Clyburne



RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the SNC 2023 Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Management Plan update.

CARRIED

UPDATE: FOREST STEWARD PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO. FW-010/23

Moved by: Doug Thompson
Seconded by: Malcolm Clark

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the Forest Steward Program update.

CARRIED

UPDATE: LAND SECUREMENT STRATEGY

RESOLUTION NO. FW-011/23

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

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the SNC Land Securement Strategy and provide comment by March 23, 2023.

CARRIED

SUPPLEMENATL AGENDA

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

A. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Fred Schueler – gave a presentation of World Wetland Day to a group in Toronto about wetlands and has received a request to present again to Canadian Parks and Wilderness café. Fred is using as many SNC examples as possible to showcase this area. Fred will share the recorded presentation with SNC once its available.

B. WATERSHED MONITORING REPORT

Fred Schueler reminded Committee members to submit their Watershed Monitoring reports by email.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Joint Standing Committee Meeting, March 23rd, 2023 at 1:00 p.m., SNC Office
- Fish and Wildlife Committee Meeting, June 6th, 2023 at 3:00 p.m., SNC Office

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION NO. FW-012/23

Moved by: Alvin Cluff-Clyburne

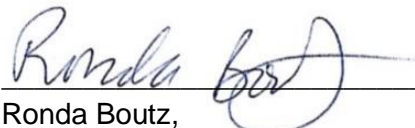
RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting of February 28th, 2023 be adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

CARRIED

Fred Schueler,
Committee Chair.

/rb



Ronda Boutz,
Secretary-Treasurer.



To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: Pat Piitz, Team Lead Property
Date: May 30th, 2023
Subject: Update: 2023 Land Securement Strategy

RECOMMENDATION:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the 2023 Land Securement Strategy.

DISCUSSION:

South Nation Conservation (SNC) acquired its first conservation land in 1960, now home to the Robert Graham Forest Conservation Area. Since 1960, SNC has secured over 12,500 acres of conservation land and manages it for economic, social, cultural, and environmental benefits.

In 2013, the Board of Directors directed staff to create a strategy to guide the acquisition of conservation land. The SNC Land Securement Strategy was adopted the following year.

Staff have reviewed the Strategy and completed the following updates:

- Increased recognition of the importance of municipal partners in land securement;
- A redrafted description of the land securement process to increase transparency for property owners considering a sale or donation to SNC;
- Additional consideration for natural hazards (the protection of people and property) during land securement;
- Increased emphasis on the importance of land securement in a changing climate;
- Recognition of the role of SNC within a broader public land securement context with principles consistent with the Standards and Practices established by the Canadian Land Trust Alliance; and
- Updates to references, statistics, and regional information to help guide decision-making.

The updated Strategy was approved by the Board of Directors in May. A copy of the final Strategy is uploaded to the Member's webpage.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: Included in the 2023 SNC Budget: Property: Conservation Lands: Lands on pages 34 and 35.

SNC Policy Adherence: Clauses 21 (1) (c) and (l) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* enables SNC to purchase land and to use land owned or controlled by the Authority for purposes, not inconsistent with its objects, as it considers proper.

Programs & Services Category: Category 3 – Conservation Land Securement

Pat Piitz,
Team Lead Property.



To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: Cheyene Brunet, Forestry Technician
Date: May 29, 2023
Subject: Update: 2023 Tree Planting and Free Tree Days

RECOMMENDATION:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the 2023 Tree Planting and Free Tree Days update.

DISCUSSION:

This spring South Nation Conservation (SNC) had another successful tree planting season which included the planting of 82,270 trees through the Forests Ontario Program (50 Million Tree Program), 77,200 trees at Larose Forest, and 38,260 trees sold through the Over-the-Counter program.

The planting season lasted 31 days over April and May. For the fourth year, SNC enlisted staff to plant 25,270 trees on 30 properties for the Forests Ontario Program. Staff completed the planting over a 4-week period. A list of 2023 customers per municipality is attached.

In total, 34 landowners across SNC's jurisdiction and in the United Counties of Prescott Russell planted a new project through the 50 million Tree program in spring 2023. These sites will attribute to an estimated 75 acres (890 per acre) of increased forest cover in the future.

SNC currently has 1,500 trees reserved for spring 2024 by 5 landowners, with over 50 landowners on the wait list for a summer 2023 site visit for spring 2024 planting.

For the fifth year in a row, SNC offered municipalities free tree seedlings as part of the 2023 Free Tree Days. Each member municipality was supplied with 380 tree and shrub seedlings consisting of 10 native species. There have been 15 giveaways totalling over 7,500 trees including a tree giveaway to nurses and healthcare workers at the Winchester and District Memorial Hospital, the Glengarry District Memorial Hospital, and the Cornwall Community Hospital.

Over 2,500 residents throughout the jurisdiction applied for this years Free Tree Pick Ups. Approximately 80-150 households in each municipality received a bundle of 5 tree seedlings based on their indicated species preference. Pickups were held at a central location in each municipality and took place throughout the month of May.



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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: The tree planting program is included in the 2023 Budget under Resource Management, Partner Programs, Forests pages 16-17.

SNC Policy Adherence: SNC Forest Policy 2 and 3: The South Nation Forest shall be managed to provide a range of products and services that will maintain or enhance the long-term economic viability and a range of environmental and social benefits; and South Nation Conservation will employ silvicultural practices that are ecologically appropriate for the vegetation, species, sites and management objectives that maintain and/or enhance long-term forest diversity, health and productivity of the South Nation Forest.

Cheyene Brunet

Cheyene Brunet,
Forestry Technician.

Attachment: 2023 Tree Planting Statistics by Municipality



2023 Tree Planting Statistics by Municipality		
Municipality	No. of Landowners	No. of Trees
Alfred and Plantagenet	13	15,400
Champlain	4	1,050
East Hawkesbury	8	5,700
Nation	12	6,700
Russell	7	17,150
Clarence Rockland	11	7,200
Ottawa	13	22,650
North Grenville	5	1,700
Edwardsburgh Cardinal	2	2,600
Augusta	2	1,000
North Dundas	13	8,800
South Dundas	14	13,120
North Stormont	16	11,530
South Stormont	6	3,570
North Glengarry	4	2,400
Larose Forest	1	77,200
Total	130	197,770

* Includes plantings through Forest Ontario's: 50 Million Tree Program, Over the Counter and Larose Forest. These numbers do not include trees provided through the municipal tree giveaway program



To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: Michelle Cavanagh, Team Lead, Special Projects
Date: May 30th, 2023
Subject: Update: European Water Chestnut Management

RECOMMENDATION:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the European Water Chestnut Management update.

DISCUSSION:

In August 2022, South Nation Conservation (SNC) received public reports of invasive European Water Chestnut (EWC) in the South Nation and Castor Rivers. This aquatic plant is aggressive and quickly forms dense floating mats of vegetation that impact native species and reduce recreational opportunities.

SNC staff verified the sightings and submitted the information to an online database tracking invasive species (EDDMapS). The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) contacted SNC to discuss the observations as these sightings were outside the known range for the species.

At MNR's request, SNC staff submitted a proposal that included upstream and downstream monitoring of known EWC locations; removal of EWC; and Environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling at 15 key locations. MNR accepted the proposal and will provide SNC with approximately \$24,000 to undertake EWC management in 2023.

The Invasive Species Centre (ISC) is also providing support to SNC by providing a field crew and equipment for 2 weeks to help survey and remove EWC from both rivers. Additionally, the ISC is providing the eDNA sample kits and covering the cost for the analysis.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: This project is not included in the 2023 Budget. All work undertaken will be on a 100% cost recovery basis.

SNC Policy Adherence: Clause 21.1.2 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* enables SNC to provide, within its jurisdiction, a program or service that it determines is advisable to further the purpose of the Act.

Programs and Service Category: Category 3 – Watershed Programs and Services – not financed by municipal levy.

Michelle Cavanagh,
Team Lead, Special Projects.



To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: Michelle Cavanagh, Team Lead, Stewardship
Date: May 30, 2023
Subject: Request for Approval: OFAH Summer Student Work Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

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

DISCUSSION:

SNC has partnered with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) since 2007 to support a yearly summer student at SNC. The OFAH student typically has tasks assigned by OFAH that include education and outreach, distributing information, and keeping a log of Invasive Alien Species encountered. The remainder of their time is spent assisting with SNC programs and projects, with a focus on invasive species.

A brief work plan has been prepared which outlines this year's tasks for the OFAH student. There is flexibility in the work plan and new tasks may be added as the summer progresses depending on priorities and identification of new issues.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: OFAH pays the student's salary for 10 weeks. SNC pays any top-ups and extensions, as needed. Funding for student positions is included in the 2023 Budget, under Corporate and Community Services, Corporate Services, Administration, pages 70-71.

SNC Policy Adherence: Students adhere to SNC's Personnel Policy and Health and Safety Policy and Procedures.

Programs and Service Category: Category 3 – Watershed Programs and Services – not financed by municipal levy.

Michelle Cavanagh,
Team Lead, Stewardship

Attachment: OFAH Student 2023 Work Plan



2023 OFAH Student Work Plan

Major Tasks Related to Invasive Alien Species (IAS)

*Subject to change depending on priorities and identification of new or emerging issues.

Education and Outreach:

- Attend fairs and events to circulate flyers and pamphlets on IAS management
- Provide information and educational materials to:
 - Local bait shops and fishing/outdoors
 - Local plant nurseries
- Contact and participate in fishing tournaments held throughout the jurisdiction
- Contact local horticultural societies to offer IAS presentations
- Attend the SNC Youth Fishing Camps to provide presentations on IAS

Data Management:

- Review past SNC spreadsheets, IAS collection methods, and consolidate SNC IAS files
- Add invasive species control projects to Survey 123 app for restoration projects
- Enter IAS monitoring data into EDDMapS Ontario and SNC property files

Monitoring and Removal:

- Re-visit past IAS control sites to report on effectiveness of control methods and suggest follow-up work
- Complete IAS monitoring at newly acquired properties for inclusion in the Baseline Documentation Reports
- Identify high priority infestation locations by species/location/size/feasibility
- Assist SNC staff with dog-strangling vine, garlic mustard, buckthorn, and phragmites removal projects as needed
- Assist SNC staff with the European Water Chestnut Management project and collaborate with staff from the Invasive Species Centre



To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: Katherine Watson, Water Resources Specialist
Date: March 30th, 2023
Subject: Update: State of the Nation Watershed Report Card

RECOMMENDATION:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the State of the Nation Watershed Report Card.

DISCUSSION:

The State of the Nation Watershed Report Card is an important communication product that relays information on the state of SNC's forest, wetland, surface water, and ground water quality conditions.

Watershed Report Cards are produced every 5 years by Ontario Conservation Authorities. A provincial campaign that began on World Water Day (March 22nd, 2023) launched a new interactive map and online platform to share information from all of Ontario's Watershed Report Cards.

Resource conditions are assessed using published guidelines and objectives. Measuring helps identify areas that are faring well versus those needing improvement so that projects and programs can be focused where they are needed most. This report also tracks changes and progress over time.

Hard copies of the report were distributed to municipalities in April 2023 and will be provided at the Committee Meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget:

Monitoring and analysis to support the Watershed Report Cards are included in the 2023 SNC Budget: Resource Management; Water Response Programs: p. 14-15.

Development of the publication and community outreach is included in the 2023 SNC Budget: Communications and Outreach: Media and Communications Products, pages 84 and 85.

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

Programs and Services Category: Category 1 - Mandatory: Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy.

Katherine Watson,
Water Resources Specialist.



To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: Brent Harbers, Watershed Biologist
Date: May 30, 2023
Subject: Update: 2023 Monitoring

RECOMMENDATION:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the 2023 Monitoring update.

DISCUSSION:

Each year, a wide variety of environmental projects are undertaken which require the collection, analysis and reporting of scientific data. This work begins in the spring once the majority of the snow on the landscape has melted, and the watercourses are ice-free.

Monitoring activities vary annually depending on the previous year's projects and the funding received for new or ongoing programs and projects.

The following are the various field activities currently planned for 2023.

Biological Community Sampling

Municipal drain classification work is planned for July through to November and typically involves backpack electrofishing. A total of 6 municipal drains will be sampled and the information will be provided to Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Benthic invertebrate sampling occurs annually in the Fall using nets to collect invertebrates by kicking up the substrate. The samples are sent to a consultant for processing and identification. Approximately 35 sites will be sampled and the data will support the Ottawa Baseline Monitoring Program, the Bear Brook Watershed Study and the Bear Brook Subwatershed Report Card.

Water Quality Sampling

The Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) is a long-standing partnership program with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). Typically running from April to November, water samples are collected monthly from 14 stations within the watershed and sent to the MECP lab for a detailed analysis.



Through a special levy from the City of Ottawa, SNC completes water quality sampling at 12 locations within the City. Water samples are collected monthly during ice free conditions and delivered to the City of Ottawa lab for analysis. Sampling began in April and will continue until November.

The Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) is another partnership program with the MECP. SNC conducts water quality sampling at 17 monitoring wells throughout the jurisdiction. This sampling is completed annually in the Fall.

Invasive Alien Species

Monitoring of invasive species on SNC properties provides important information for our property inventories and management plans. The data are also valuable when assessing past and future control efforts. All newly acquired properties will be surveyed for invasive species, especially invasive plants.

A targeted monitoring project for European Water Chestnut will be completed on the Castor River and South Nation River to determine the extent of the populations and plan removal efforts.

Restoration Projects

A key component of restoration projects involves post-construction monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the project design and to facilitate adaptive management. Survival assessments of past plantings will be completed along with any other performance metrics defined in the project plans.

Bear Brook Watershed Study - Characterization Report

Under an agreement with the City of Ottawa, SNC will be completing the Bear Brook Watershed Study over the next several years. The first component of the study is the Characterization Report which involves a detailed look at the existing conditions within the watershed.

Monitoring work for this report will include stream temperature profiles, biological community sampling, water chemistry analysis, stream morphology, and identification of impoundments, erosion, and invasive species.

The scope of the monitoring and a detailed workplan are in progress.



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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget:

All activities are included in the 2023 SNC Budget under Resource Management, Water Response Programs, pages 14-15; Partner Programs, Water, pages 18-19; and Projects, Habitat Restoration, pages 24-25.

SNC Policy Adherence:

Field work adheres to the SNC Health and Safety Policy.

Programs and Service Category: Category 1 – Mandatory Programs – Watershed Monitoring, Category 2 – Municipal Agreements, Category 3 – Watershed Programs and Services – not financed by municipal levy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brent Harbers". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Brent Harbers,
Watershed Biologist.