



SOUTH NATION
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Watershed Advisory Committee

Meeting Agenda

Date: November 25th, 2025

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Watershed Room, SNC

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



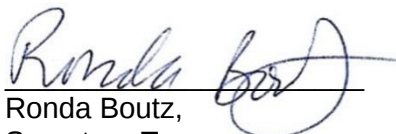


Watershed Advisory Committee

Meeting Agenda

November 25th, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.

1. Traditional Land Acknowledgement: John
2. Chair's Remarks
3. Approval of Agenda (Supplemental Agenda)
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
5. Approval of Watershed Advisory Committee meeting minutes of September 23rd, 2025 3-7
6. Staff Update Presentation
7. New Business:
 - a. Update: Bill 68 and Proposed Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities: Carl 8-10
 - b. Request for Approval: Work Plan Development for Forest Cover and Water Budget Studies: John 11-12
 - c. Update: Low Water Conditions: Kat and Sandra Presentation
 - d. Update: Grants Sub-Committee Meeting of November 17th, 2025: Ronda 13
 - e. Request for Approval: 2026 Committee Meeting Schedule: Ronda 14
8. Supplemental Agenda
 - a. Update: Community Engagements: Ronda
9. Dates of Upcoming Meetings:
 - To be confirmed at the meeting.
10. Adjournment


Ronda Boutz,
Secretary-Treasurer.

/rb



WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting No. 03/25

Tuesday, September 23rd, 2025 12:00 p.m.

Watershed Room, SNC



Members Present: Bill Smirle, SNC Board of Directors, Committee Chair
Jackie Kelly-Pemberton, Member at Large, Committee Vice Chair
Matt Alkerton, Member at Large
Emilie DeRochie, River Institute
Dorothy Hamilton, Ontario Woodlot Association – SDG Chapter (*electronic participation*)
Murray Inch, Volunteer of Oak Valley Pioneer Park
Genevieve Lajoie, SNC Board of Directors (*electronic participation*)
Glenn Mackey, ALUS - Ontario East
Pamela O'Donnell, Member at Large
Louis Prevost, United Counties of Prescott & Russell
Tara Redpath, City of Ottawa (*electronic participation*)
Jean Saint-Pierre, Boisé Est
Cindy Saucier, Member at Large
Fred Schueler, Fragile Inheritance Natural History
Adrian Wynands, SNC Vice Chair, ex-officio

Regrets: Sarah Burger, Member at Large
Steve Densham, SNC Chair, ex-officio, Chair
Greg Faaren, St. Lawrence Parks Commission
Tim Fisher, Leeds and Grenville Municipalities
Jordan Graham, Member at Large
Larissa Holman, Ottawa River Keeper
Alain Jaquemet, Member at Large
Catherine Kitts, Second Vice Chair, ex-officio
Erica Louttit, Miitig Healing Lodge
François St. Amour, SNC Board of Directors
Erika Sheridan, Member at Large
Kayla Sunday, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
Peter Young, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry

Guests: Linda Payant, SNC Board of Directors

Staff Present: Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer
John Mesman, Managing Director, Property, Conservation Lands and Community Outreach



Sandra Mancini, Managing Director, Natural Hazards and Infrastructure
Katherin Watson, Coordinator - Early Warning Systems and Watershed
Plans

TRADITIONAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer, read an Indigenous land acknowledgement.

CHAIRS REMARKS

Bill Smirle, Committee Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

APPROVAL OF WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-044/25

Moved by: Glenn Mackey
Seconded by: Pam O'Donnell

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the September 23rd, 2025
Watershed Advisory Committee meeting agenda
as presented.

CARRIED

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

**APPROVAL OF WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF
JUNE 24TH, 2025**

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-045/25

Moved by: Murray Inch
Seconded by: Cindy Saucier

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Watershed Advisory
Committee meeting minutes of June 24th, 2025
as submitted.

CARRIED



STAFF UPDATE

Staff presented project and program updates.

NEW BUSINESS

UPDATE: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-046/25

Moved by: Adrian Wynands

Seconded by: Emily DeRochie

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the Community Engagement Update.

CARRIED

UPDATE: GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-047/25

Moved by: Glenn Mackey

Seconded by: Louis Prevost

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the Grants Sub-Committee Meeting of September 15th, 2025 update.

CARRIED

The Watershed Advisory Committee recessed for a break at 1:22 p.m.

The Watershed Advisory Committee reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

UPDATE: LOW WATER CONDITIONS IN THE SNC JURISDICTION

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-048/25

Moved by: Adrian Wynands

Seconded by: Pam O'Donnell

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the update on Low Water Conditions; and



FURTHER THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee supports the Water Response Team recommendations encouraging municipalities to enact and/or strengthen water use by-laws.

CARRIED

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: EDUCATION PROGRAM DELIVERY AND FEE UPDATE

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-049/25

Moved by: Glenn Mackey
Seconded by: Jean Saint-Pierre

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee recommend the continued delivery of the full suite of SNC Education Programs, including, but not limited to Maple Education, Stream of Dreams, and Watershed Adventures, Youth Fish and Hunt Camps, Student Summit Partnerships, and Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Certifications; and

FURTHER THAT:

The Committee recommend adjustments to the education program fee schedule to support increased participation.

CARRIED

UPDATE: BEAR BROOK WATERSHED STUDY – CHARACTERIZATION REPORT

Staff provided an update presentation on the Bear Brook Watershed Study – Characterization Report.

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

None

DATES OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

- a. Watershed Advisory Committee
 - November 25th, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.



b. Grants Sub-Committee

- November 17th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-050/25

Moved by: Glenn Mackey
Seconded by: Pam O'Donnell

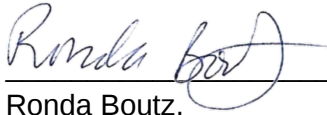
RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee meeting of
September 23rd, 2025 be adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

CARRIED

Bill Smirle,
Committee Chair.

/rb



Ronda Boutz,
Secretary-Treasurer.



To: Watershed Advisory Committee
From: Carl Bickerdike, Chief Administrative Officer
Date: November 12, 2025
Subject: Update: Bill 68 and Proposed Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

RECOMMENDATION:

The Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the update on amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* as proposed by Bill 68 *Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025 (No. 2)*; and

FURTHER THAT the Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the update on Environmental Registry of Ontario proposal #025-1257 regarding "Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities".

DISCUSSION:

Bill 68 amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*

On November 6, 2025, the Government of Ontario introduced Bill 68 *Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025 (No. 2)* ("Bill 68")

Schedule 3 of Bill 68 proposes amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* (the "CA Act") to create a new crown corporation known as the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (the "Agency").

The objects of the agency will be to:

1. Oversee the governance of authorities and other aspects of authorities such as their operations, including the programs and services they provide.
2. Oversee the transition to a regional watershed-based framework for authorities in Ontario.
3. Promote consistent policies, standards, and fees for programs and services provided by authorities.
4. Assess and report on the effectiveness of authorities.
5. Oversee and evaluate the financial performance of authorities.
6. Guide and evaluate the strategic planning by authorities to ensure it aligns with provincial objectives.
7. Support the development and implementation of a standardized and centralized system for processing applications for permits issued by authorities.
8. Lead the development and implementation of digital strategies and shared services.
9. Support strategic investment in programs and services provided by authorities.
10. Advise the Government of Ontario in respect of the programs and services authorities provide.

The Agency will have a Board of Directors comprised of five to twelve members appointed



by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

The Minister will have the ability to issue directions to the Agency. The Agency, in turn, will have the ability to issue directions to one or more authorities governing the operations of authorities, including the programs and services authorities provide. A direction may address, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Key performance indicators, key results, or service delivery targets.
2. Service standards.
3. Information technology.
4. Procurement.
5. Training of members and employees.
6. Budgeting.
7. Asset management plans.
8. Strategic planning.

Authorities will be required to comply with every direction of the Agency.

To recover the Agency's costs and expenses, the Agency will have the ability to determine amounts the authorities collectively owe to the Agency and apportion those amounts to the authorities.

Bill 68 is expected to be expedited through the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Most of the amendments to the CA Act come into force on the day Bill 68 receives Royal Assent. Provisions relating to the apportionment of the Agency's costs to the authorities come into force on a day to be determined.

ERO #025-1257 re proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of conservation authorities

On November 7, 2025, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks posted a proposal on the Environmental Registry of Ontario titled "Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities" (the "ERO Proposal").

The ERO Proposal outlines a plan to consolidate the province's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional conservation authorities ("regional CAs"). The ERO Proposal states regional CAs will remain independent organizations operating with municipal oversight.

The consultation period is open. Comments can be submitted by December 22, 2025.

Consultation topics include the delineation of regional CA boundaries, the governance model for the regional CA board of directors, and strategies to ensure continuity of programs and services during the transition to governance under the Agency and the regional CAs.

Feedback may be used to refine the configuration of regional CAs, establish a governance model, and inform the development of further proposed changes to the CA Act that may be introduced at a later date.



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The new framework and regional CAs are expected to be implemented post October 26, 2026, municipal elections. Current CA boards are expected to continue serving until regional authorities are formally constituted.

The ERO Proposal and supplementary document with maps of the proposed regional CAs are attached.

Regional Considerations

The ERO Proposal purposes the St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority ("SLRCA") be the regional CA for Eastern Ontario. The current authorities that would make up the proposed SLRCA include:

1. Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
2. Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority
3. Raisin Region Conservation Authority
4. Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
5. South Nation River Conservation Authority

The proposed jurisdiction of SLRCA would include 45 participating municipalities across 10 upper-tier and single-tier municipalities.

SNC is reviewing the proposal with Conservation Ontario and peer conservation authorities and preparing to provide coordinated feedback by the end of the consultation period on December 22, 2025.

A draft submission will be brought to the Board of Directors for approval at the December 11, 2025, meeting.

Carl Bickerdike,
Chief Administrative Officer.



To: Watershed Advisory Committee
From: John Mesman, Managing Director, Property, Conservation Lands
and Community Outreach
Date: November 19, 2025
Subject: Request for Approval: Work Plan Development for Forest Cover and Water Budget
Studies

RECOMMENDATION:

The Watershed Advisory Committee recommends the development of a Work Plan to study forest cover and the characterization of water resources for the South Nation River Watershed; and

FURTHER THAT staff bring forward a detailed Work Plan at the next Committee meeting outlining timelines, objectives, deliverables, and resource requirements.

DISCUSSION:

Understanding the relationship between land use, forest cover, and water resources is increasingly important as the watershed faces ongoing development pressures, land-use change, and the worst prolonged drought in recorded history. These conditions reinforce the need to update SNC's core watershed science products.

The Forest Cover Analysis provides a watershed-wide assessment of forest conditions and trends, and its update will strengthen implementation of SNC's Forest Conservation Initiative (2018). The last comprehensive update was completed in 2014 and updated data (2024) will improve understanding of forest distribution and priority areas for stewardship actions.

The Watershed Characterization is essential for quantifying how water enters, moves through, and is stored within the watershed. An updated Water Budget—last completed in 2007—will better reflect current hydrologic conditions, including surface water and groundwater interactions, and support planning for drought and flood resilience.

New tools and datasets now support more accurate and timely analyses. High-resolution imagery and LiDAR topography have improved the quantification of existing land uses, vegetation coverage, and forest conditions. Upgraded climate stations and new watershed models also enable a more modern and robust Water Budget. Together, these tools will help produce clear, science-based recommendations to strengthen watershed resilience.

Both studies require significant technical and modelling work and should be scheduled across a 18-month period while balancing existing deliverables. Staff will prepare a detailed Work Plan, including scope, timelines, and resource needs, for presentation at the next Watershed Advisory Committee meeting.



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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: Work associated with watershed science and data management is supported through existing program budgets.

Work to support the Water Budget is included in the Draft 2026 SNC Budget under Resource Management: Projects, pages 18 and 19.

Work to support the Forest Cover Analysis is included in the Draft 2026 SNC Budget under Property Management: Conservation Lands, pages 22 and 23.

Any additional resource requirements will be identified in the forthcoming 2026 Work Plan.

SNC Policy Adherence: All work activities are expected to be completed with existing staff resources. Any expenditures will adhere to SNC's Purchasing Policy. For purchases from \$200 - \$5,000, competitive quotes will be obtained where practical.

Program and Services Category: Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services – Watershed Resource Management.

John Mesman

Managing Director, Property, Conservation Lands and Community Outreach



To: Watershed Advisory Committee
From: Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer
Date: November 19th, 2025
Subject: Update: Grants Sub-Committee Meeting of November 17th, 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

The Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the update from the Grants Sub-Committee meeting of November 17th, 2025.

DISCUSSION:

Grants Sub-Committee Meeting: November 17th, 2025

- Sub-Committee approved the following:
 - Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program (EOWRP) Grant final reports and expenditures:
 - Eastern Ontario Children's Water Festival - \$5,000
 - 2025 Eastern Ontario Geoscience Open House - \$1,500
 - Advancing Early Warning Systems in the SNC Jurisdiction - \$15,000
 - Clean Water Program grants
 - 2 approved for a total of \$6,000
 - 3 conditionally approved pending 2026 Budget approval
 - 3 denied, retroactive applications that were not eligible
- Sub-Committee received updates and had discussions on:
 - EOWRP 2025 Financial Statement as of October 31st, 2025

Ronda Boutz
Secretary-Treasurer.



To: Watershed Advisory Committee
From: Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer
Date: November 19th, 2025
Subject: Request for Approval: 2026 Committee Meeting Schedule

RECOMMENDATION:

The Watershed Advisory Committee approve the meeting schedule for 2026 as presented.

DISCUSSION:

As per the Watershed Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, the Committee will meet at least 4 times per year. The Committee is also required establish meeting dates for the next year at the last meeting of the year. The Terms of Reference allows for additional meetings to be called if there is 75% concurrence of the Committee at which there is quorum, subject to Board approval.

Staff recommend scheduling meetings in each quarter of the year, if the Committee followed a similar timeline to 2025, the dates would be as follows:

Watershed Advisory Committee

Meeting start time: 12:00 p.m.:

- Tuesday, March 24th, 2026
- Tuesday, June 23rd, 2026
- Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026
- Tuesday, November 24th, 2026

Grants Sub-Committee

Meeting start time 9:00 a.m.:

- Monday, March 9th, 2026
- Monday, June 15th, 2026
- Monday, September 14th, 2026
- Monday, November 16th, 2026

All meetings are held at the SNC office unless otherwise stated on the Agenda.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: Committee expenses for the Watershed Advisory Committee are included in the draft 2026 Budget.

SNC Policy Adherence: Watershed Advisory Committee meeting schedule adheres to the Watershed Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.

Ronda Boutz,
Secretary-Treasurer.