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Watershed Advisory Committee

Meeting Agenda

Date: September 23rd, 2025

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Watershed Room, SNC

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

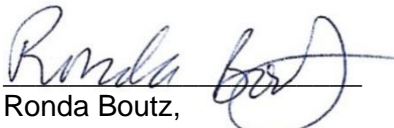


Watershed Advisory Committee

Meeting Agenda

September 23rd, 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 June 24th, 2025 3-10
6. Staff Update Presentation
7. New Business:
 - a. Update: Community Engagements: Ronda 11-13
 - b. Update: Grants Sub-Committee Meeting of September 15th, 2025: Ronda 14
 - c. Update: Low Water Conditions in the South Nation Jurisdiction: Kat/Sandra 15-18
 - d. Request for Approval: Education Program Delivery and Fee Update: John 19-20
 - e. Update: Bear Brook Watershed Study – Characterization Report: Kat/Sandra Presentation
8. Supplemental Agenda (if any)
9. Dates of Upcoming Meetings:
 - a. Watershed Advisory Committee
 - November 25th, 2025 at 12:00 p.m., at SNC Office
 - b. Grants Sub-Committee
 - November 17th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., at SNC Office
10. Adjournment


Ronda Boutz,
Secretary-Treasurer.

/rb



WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting No. 02/25

Tuesday, June 24th, 2025 1:00 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
Paul Allaire, Miitig Healing Lodge (*for Erica Louttit*)
Sarah Burger, Member at Large
Steve Densham, SNC Chair, ex-officio, Chair
Emilie DeRochie, River Institute
Jordan Graham, Member at Large
Dorothy Hamilton, Ontario Woodlot Association – SDG Chapter
Larissa Holman, Ottawa River Keeper
Murray Inch, Volunteer of Oak Valley Pioneer Park
Alain Jaquemet, Member at Large
Genevieve Lajoie, SNC Board of Directors
Glenn Mackey, ALUS - Ontario East
Jean Saint-Pierre, Boisé Est
Cindy Saucier, Member at Large
Fred Schueler, Fragile Inheritance Natural History (*electronic participation*)
Adrian Wynands, SNC Vice Chair, ex-officio
Peter Young, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry

Regrets:

Greg Faaren, St. Lawrence Parks Commission
Tim Fisher, Leeds and Grenville Municipalities
Catherine Kitts, Second Vice Chair, ex-officio
Erica Louttit, Miitig Healing Lodge
Claire McFaul/Kayla Sunday, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
Pamela O'Donnell, Member at Large
Louis Prevost, United Counties of Prescott & Russell
François St. Amour, SNC Board of Directors
Tara Redpath, City of Ottawa
Erika Sheridan, Member at Large

Staff Present:

Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer
Michelle Cavanagh, Team Lead, Special Projects
Caroline Goulet, Forester
John Mesman, Managing Director, Property, Conservation Lands and Community Outreach
Erin Thorne, Communications Specialist



TRADITIONAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

John Mesman, Managing Director, Property, Conservation Lands and Community Outreach, read an Indigenous land acknowledgement.

CHAIRS REMARKS

Bill Smirle, Committee Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. Chair Smirle informed the Committee that he would be reaching out to members in advance of the September meeting to seek feedback the Committee to date.

APPROVAL OF WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-034/25

Moved by:

Glenn Mackey

Seconded by:

Matt Alderton

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the June 24th, 2025
Watershed Advisory Committee meeting agenda
as presented.

CARRIED

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Jordan Graham, as an employee of the federal government, declared a conflict on the following agenda items 9.b. Request for Approval: Woodlot Storm Recovery Program Guidelines, 9.c. Request for Approval: 2025 Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program – Marginal Lands Initiative Guidelines and Structure, and 9.d. Request for Approval: Communications Plan: RALP - Marginal Lands Initiative.

APPROVAL OF WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 25TH, 2025

The Committee was provided with a revised summary of activities from Boisés Est under Community Engagement: Roundtable, to correct draft text.

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-035/25

Moved by:

Adrian Wynands

Seconded by:

Genevieve Lajoie

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Watershed Advisory
Committee meeting minutes of March 25th, 2025
as amended.

CARRIED



BUSINESS ARISING

UPDATE: 2025/2026 PRIVATE LAND STEWARDSHIP FEE SCHEDULE

Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer, provided the Members with a verbal update on the 2025/2026 Private Land Stewardship Fee Schedule.

STAFF UPDATE

Staff presented project and program updates.

Larissa Holman joined the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: ROUNDTABLE

Fred Schueler

- Working on an article about guiding principles of land management, triggered by questions about SNC's treatment of a former Soybean field near Snake Island Road:
 - a. reintroduce extirpated species of native taxa,
 - b. provide habitat for species that can disperse across the landscape, and
 - c. deplete or augment mineral nutrients as appropriate for diverse communities

Jean Saint-Pierre

- Upcoming Wood and Forest Expo 2025 scheduled for September 14, 2025 in Riceville. Many exhibitors involved in forests related activities will be present, including SNC, artisans will be in attendance. Over 1000 visitors attended the last three events prior to the pandemic to learn about the importance of trees of our forests; Bois s Est held two public events/workshops on good forest management where SNC staff presented and shared their specific expertise with participants.
- Bois s Est also participated in a daylong event on April 14 with the Conseil des  coles catholiques at their Science Forum in Limoges. The focus of the event was to share and mobilize students to think and act to create a more respectful and resilient manner toward our environment. SNC (Chris Craig) was also present at the event.

Cindy Saucier

- Noticed lots of turtles crossing roads in her area, working on getting turtle crossing signs installed
- Cornwall Kingsman Club Market will have SDG Turtles onsite to provide information on safe handling of turtles on July 6th and August 10th
- All About the River event in Morrisburg will be held July 12th; Cindy will attend to support SNC booth and Tackle Share program

Glenn Mackey

- ALUS Ontario-East hosted a lunch and learn event at Yolanda Farms on June 11th; 45 participants attended, event was very successful
- ALUS Ontario-East meeting of June 17th was rescheduled to July 10th



Genevieve Lajoie

- Casselman Community Horticulture Club hosted a successful rain barrel initiative in partnership with RainBarrel.ca; event coincided with SNC's Free Trees give away (Gen, not sure if I captured my note on this part correctly)

Larissa Holman

- The Ottawa Riverkeeper released their 5-year review of road salt use; this year Road Salt Management Plans are being developed
- Successful in an application to the Invasive Species Action Fund to support a mapping tool for species density with a focus on 15 aquatic species
- Received Canada Water Agency funding to assess phosphorus levels in the Ottawa River Watershed. South Nation River contributes high concentrations of phosphorus to the Ottawa River.
- Host speaker series, Current Conversations, every second Wednesday, tickets available through Ottawa Riverkeeper website (www.ottawariverkeeper.ca)

Murray Inch

- Oak Valley Pioneer Park volunteer group hosted their annual field day in May; in addition to park maintenance, the group planted some Carolinian species at the Park
- Noted the impact of the Emerald Ash Borer is very evident this spring with tree losses along roadways and watercourses; need for future program to respond to this tree loss
- Bur Oak seedlings were planted this year to replace trees removed along the road allowance

Dorothy Hamilton

- International Model Forest Network Global Forum was hosted in Kemptville on May 26 – 30; coincided with the 32nd Annual Woodlot Tour and Conference hosted May 28-29; over 400 delegates in attendance
- Eastern Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Summer Tour will be hosted on July 9th to 12th in Cornwall; SNC is a sponsor for the event

Emilie DeRochie

- Emilie thanked SNC for its continued support and participation in the River Strategy
- River Institute's Freshwater Explorer offers volunteer opportunities to sample local rivers with Water Rangers test kits; a workshop is being offered on July 8th

Sarah Burger

- Attended RVCA workshop in February on the Spotted Lantern Fly
- Supported the Osgoode Township High School with some pollinator species seeds for their project and shared links to potential SNC grants to support the project
- Attended the Ferguson Forest Nursery open house
- New Councillor, Isabelle Skalski, was elected in a by-election to replace former Councillor George Darouze

Paul Allaire

- In the spirit of Two-Eyed Seeing, Paul shared the need for balance and the importance of connecting to the land, trees, animals as we're all part of Mother Earth.



Important to lead with your heart and mind to see and respect the land in a different way, as a living being, with a voice if we learn to listen.

Matt Alkerton

- Update from the Eastern Ontario Deer Management Unit, White Tail Deer populations are low overall, but very low in this area and increases as you head towards Ottawa

Adrian Wynands

- As a member of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's Board, attended their tour at the Perth Wildlife Reserve on June 20th; during the tour, the 25th anniversary of the Walkerton tragedy and beginnings of source water projects were highlighted

Steve Densham

- Steve echoed the news of a new Councillor for Osgoode Ward in the City of Ottawa; the Board of Directors looks forward to having a replacement appointed to replace former Councillor Darouze
- Steve commented on meetings with two local MPPs and that there are upcoming meetings being scheduled with the remaining MPPs within SNC's jurisdiction

Jackie Kelly-Pemberton

- Jackie noted her regrets at the last meeting as she was a panel speaker at the Farm Land Trust Forum in Elora, ON, where she provided her perspective as a farmer and agricultural representative on a Source Water Protection Committee

NEW BUSINESS

UPDATE: GRANTS SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF JUNE 16TH, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-036/25

Moved by: Cindy Saucier
Seconded by: Genevieve Lajoie

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the Grants Sub-Committee Meeting of June 16th, 2025 update.

CARRIED

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: WOODLOT STORM RECOVERY PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Having declared a conflict of interest, Jordan Graham did not participate in this item.

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-037/25

Moved by: Jackie Kelly-Pemberton
Seconded by: Glenn Mackey



RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee approve the update Woodlot Storm Recovery Program Guidelines as amended.

CARRIED

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: 2025 RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE PROGRAM – MARGINAL LANDS INITIATIVE GUIDELINES AND STRUCTURE

Having declared a conflict of interest, Jordan Graham did not participate in this item.

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-038/25

Moved by: Alain Jaquemet
Seconded by: Emilie DeRochie

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee approve the 2025 Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program – Marginal Lands Initiative grant structure as discussed.

CARRIED

Genevieve Lajoie left the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: COMMUNICATIONS PLAN: RALP – MARGINAL LANDS INITIATIVE

Having declared a conflict of interest, Jordan Graham did not participate in this item.

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-039/25

Moved by: Adrian Wynands
Seconded by: Glenn Mackey

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee approve the 2025 Communications Plan developed to support the implementation of the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP).

CARRIED

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: SNC LOGO EVOLUTION AND BRAND GUIDE UPDATE

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-040/25

Moved by: Alain Jaquemet
Seconded by: Emilie DeRochie



RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee recommend that the Board of Directors approve updates to SNC's Brand Guidelines to support a logo evolution and updates to SNC's colour palette.

CARRIED

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: SNC SIGN STRATEGY UPDATE

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-042/25

Moved by: Jackie Kelly-Pemberton
Seconded by: Sarah Burger

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee recommend that the Board of Directors approve updates SNC's Sign Strategy.

CARRIED

UPDATE: NEW SNC WEBSITE DEMONSTRATION

Erin Thorne, Communication Specialist, provided the Committee with a presentation on the new SNC website.

Steve Densham left the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

None

DATES OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

- a. Watershed Advisory Committee
 - September 23rd, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.
 - November 25th, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.
- b. Grants Sub-Committee
 - September 15th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
 - November 17th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

TRADITIONAL CLOSING

Paul Allaire shared a traditional closing in song with his drum.



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ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-043/24

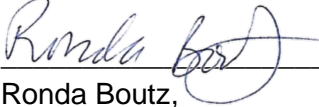
Moved by: Jackie Kelly-Pemberton
Seconded by: Glenn Mackey

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee meeting of
June 24th, 2025 be adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

CARRIED

Bill Smirle,
Committee Chair.



Ronda Boutz,
Secretary-Treasurer.

/rb



To: Watershed Advisory Committee
From: Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer
Date: September 16th, 2025
Subject: Update: Community Engagements

RECOMMENDATION:

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

DISCUSSION:

A key role of the Watershed Advisory Committee is to promote and advocate for South Nation Conservation (SNC) and its role in watershed management and to communicate results of program achievements to the public.

SNC relies on its members to share updates and information to their member organizations and local communities. Members attendance at meetings and events help to strengthen SNC's partnerships across the jurisdiction.

The attached provides a summary of community engagements, since the last meeting, provided by Committee members. Members will have an opportunity at the meeting to ask questions or provide additional comments on this update.

Ronda Boutz
Secretary-Treasurer.

Attachment: Community Engagement Update – as of September 15th, 2025



Community Engagement Update – as of September 15th, 2025

Emilie DeRochie

- updates from the River Institute includes:
 - Water quality community meeting (road salt testing input)
 - Wednesday, September 24th @ Cooper Marsh Visitor's Centre
 - Links coming soon
 - Science + Nature Speaker Series - Invasive species
 - Thursday, September 25th @ Schnitzels + Facebook Live
 - Links coming soon
 - 32nd Annual River Symposium
 - October 22-24
 - In-person @ DEV Hotel & Conference Centre & YouTube Live
 - Website: <https://riversymposium.riverinstitute.ca/2025/>

Tara Redpath

- The City of Ottawa has launched the review of the 2021-2025 Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program. Part of this review includes an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback and share insights on the program with the aim of improving it in the future. The City of Ottawa sent out email invitations to participate in this survey on July 17, and a reminder email was shared on September 3. We encourage all Watershed Advisory Committee members to share any feedback, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts. Please note that the survey will close on September 30.

Sarah Burger

- Participated in was an event hosted by Ontario Nature (I couldn't make the Ottawa event but attended the Kingston one on Aug 28)
- It was at Lemoine Point in Kingston and it was an opportunity to meet with the new executive director of Ontario Nature, and hear some updates in the wider conservation space.
- A few topics that are universal concern was:
 - Bill 5 in Ontario
 - youth engagement
- Nature Ontario is still working on responses/action to Bill 5.
- On youth engagement, I learned they actually have a really well developed youth program, including a youth council. Some of the elements of their framework might be of interest to SNC if they are looking to do any work in this area as part of the educational component <https://ontarionature.org/programs/nature-guardians/>



Jacqueline Kelly-Pemberton

- Since last meeting I have been pretty engage with the low water response team and promoting info both from SNC and my ag organizations on drought conditions, thru out social media. As well as promoting our program funding dollars & Site visits for program as well

Murray Inch

- North Dundas Township told us that Baldwin Road/Lane into the Oak Valley Pioneer Park was no longer a maintained Township Road when we reported a very large branch had fallen from a tree in the road allowance and blocked the road. Neighbours used a tractor to remove the branch. The township later confirmed the road is a maintained road. There is another very large hanging Branch from the same tree that threatens to fall in a significant wind. We will have to bring it to the Township's attention.
- Members of the Volunteers have been working with the Chesterville and District Historical Society on an October presentation about the history of the village including numerous references to the river, the mills, dams, bridges, ice harvest etc.

Glenn Mackey

- ALUS – Ontario East has held two meetings since June, one on July 10th and the second on September 11th
- Twilight Tour hosted on September 11th at Raisin River Farm on South Branch Road, Cornwall, ON
- 2024 ALUS – Ontario East Annual Report now available

Jean Saint-Pierre

- Boisés Est proudly organized the return of the Wood and Forest Expo 2025 on Sunday, September 14. The event brought together over 50 exhibitors showcasing their expertise and services highlighting the importance of forests and wood products in Eastern Ontario.
- The Expo, sponsored by SNC and OWA, welcomed ALUS, Ferguson Tree Nursery, local maple syrup producers, the Forestry Program of the College La Cité, the local woodturners club, distributors of forestry tools and machinery as well as many talented artisans who presented their woodcrafts.
- Two of the most popular activities were tree identification and guided mushroom collection and identification in the nearby mixed forest. The well sought after wood auction, featuring more than 100 lots of primarily local lumber, was once again much appreciated by local buyers.
- The Expo welcomed about 600 visitors, who enjoyed our program and expert advice provided by exhibitors in the beautiful setting of the Riceville Agricultural Society Fairgrounds. Next year's Expo is scheduled for September 13, 2026.



To: Watershed Advisory Committee
From: Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer
Date: September 16th, 2025
Subject: Update: Grants Sub-Committee Meeting of September 15th, 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

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

DISCUSSION:

Grants Sub-Committee Meeting: September 15th, 2025

- Sub-Committee approved the following:
 - Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program (EOWRP) Grant: Salt Responsibly Campaign final report and 2025 expenditures of \$3,972
 - 6 Clean Water Program grants for a total of \$11,240
- Sub-Committee received updates and had discussions on:
 - EOWRP 2025 Financial Statement as of August 31st, 2025
 - Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program evaluation
 - Eligibility for equipment crossings
 - Promotional opportunities for the Clean Water Program



Ronda Boutz
Secretary-Treasurer.



TO: Watershed Advisory Committee
FROM: Kat Watson, Coordinator, Early Warning Systems and Watershed Plans
DATE: September 15, 2025
SUBJECT: Update: Low Water Conditions in the SNC Jurisdiction

RECOMMENDATION:

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

DISCUSSION:

On August 25th, 2025, the South Nation Conservation Water Response Team approved a Level 3 Low Water Advisory for the South Nation Conservation jurisdiction due to persistent hot temperatures, lack of precipitation, and extremely low baseflow conditions in watercourses across the South Nation River watershed.

The Level 3 Low Water Advisory was prepared and disseminated on August 26th. Memos went out to all municipalities on August 27th that described existing conditions and included recommendations for messaging to various water users. Staff continue to follow watershed conditions daily and will provide biweekly updates to the Water Response Team.

Weather Forecast:

Environment and Climate Change Canada's short-term forecast indicates mostly seasonal temperatures with no rain. While there is a greater degree of uncertainty, the long-term forecasts are predicting regional rainfall amounts up to 20mm from Sunday September 21st to Tuesday September 23rd.

Precipitation:

The following table presents rainfall received over a 30-d, 90-d, and 540-d period at Environment and Climate Change Canada monitoring stations in Ottawa, Cornwall and Brockville compared to normal. A Level 1 Low Water condition occurs when the 3-month or 18-month total precipitation drops below 80% of normal, with a Level 2 condition occurring when the 1-month, 3-month or 18-month drops below 60% and a Level 3 condition occurring when the 1-month, 3-month or 18-month drops below 40%. The data shared below is current to September 15th, 2025.



| Climate Station | 1-month Moving Total | Historical 1- month Normal | 1-month Precipitation Indicator Percent | Low Water Condition |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Ottawa International Airport* | 45.6 | 82.31 | 55.4% | Level 2 |
| Brockville Climate* | 38.8 | 85.88 | 45.2% | Level 2 |
| Cornwall* | 65.2 | 84.24 | 77.4% | Level 1 |
| Berwick** | 36.6 | 84.1 | 43.5% | Level 2 |
| Finch** | 29.7 | 84.1 | 35.3% | Level 2 |
| Winchester ** | 41.5 | 84.1 | 49.3% | Level 2 |
| South Mountain** | 35.8 | 84.1 | 42.6% | Level 2 |
| Carlsbad Springs** | 53.8 | 84.1 | 64.0% | Level 1 |

| Climate Station* | 3-month Moving Total | Historical 3- month Normal | 3-month Precipitation Indicator Percent | Low Water Condition |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Ottawa International Airport* | 147.1 | 267.55 | 55.0% | Level 2 |
| Brockville Climate* | 117.6 | 253.13 | 46.5% | Level 2 |
| Cornwall* | 190.2 | 271.06 | 70.2% | Level 1 |

| Climate Station* | 18-month Moving Total | Historical 18- month Normal | 18-month Precipitation Indicator Percent | Low Water Condition |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Ottawa International Airport* | 1320 | 1393.23 | 94.7% | None |
| Brockville Climate* | 1126.3 | 1433.73 | 78.6% | Level 1 |
| Cornwall* | 1401.6 | 1468.83 | 95.4% | None |

*Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada's climate stations

** Source: SNC Climate Stations



Streamflows:

Streamflows have been extremely diminished for over a month due to the persistent hot temperatures in August and lack of rainfall. 30-d streamflow averages are variable across the jurisdiction, with all watercourses still exceeding Level 3 Low Water Conditions despite some recent rainfall.

A Level 1 Low Water condition occurs when the monthly stream flow drops below 70% of the lowest average summer monthly flow (LASMF), while the Level 2 Low Water threshold is 50% and the Level 3 Low Water threshold is 30%.

Table 2 – Average monthly streamflows (m³/s) (from July 23rd - August 22nd) compared to the *Lowest Average Summer Monthly Flows* (LASMF).

| Stream Gauge Station | LASMF (m ³ /s) | August | | Current Low Water Condition | Low Water Condition as of September 2nd, 2025 |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| | | 30-d Average Flow (m ³ /s) | Percent of LASMF | | |
| South Nation River at Plantagenet | 7.28 | 2.631 | 17% | Level 3 | Level 3 (29%) |
| South Nation River at Spencerville | 0.40 | 0.005 | 1% | Level 3 | Level 3 (5%) |
| North Branch of the South Nation River near Heckston | 0.10 | N/A | N/A | Level 3 | Level 3 (10%) |
| Castor River at Russell | 0.97 | 0.207 | 21% | Level 3 | Level 3 (21%) |
| South Castor River at Kenmore | 0.41 | 0.075 | 18% | Level 3 | Level 3 (37%) |
| Payne River near Berwick | 0.32 | 0.003 | 1% | Level 3 | Level 3 (3%) |
| Bear Brook near Bourget | 1.25 | 0.208 | 17% | Level 3 | Level 3 (18%) |



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Discussion:

Streamflows remain well below Level 3 Low Water thresholds, leading to water quality issues such as harmful algae blooms along the South Nation river. Although some rainfall has been received (as evidenced by 30-d total rainfall values), it has not been enough to return surface water resources to normal baseflow levels. Groundwater concerns continue to be an issue, with reports of dry wells.

Staff will provide a presentation with updated low water conditions at the meeting.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Katherine Watson', is written over a horizontal line.

Katherine Watson,
Coordinator, Early Warning Systems and Watershed Plans



To: Watershed Advisory Committee
From: John Mesman, Managing Director, Property, Conservation Lands and
Community Outreach
Date: September 17, 2025
Subject: Request for Approval: Education Program Delivery and Fee Update

RECOMMENDATION:

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.

DISCUSSION:

South Nation Conservation's (SNC) Watershed Education Programs offer hands-on, curriculum-aligned experiences that engage students and community members in local ecology, environmental stewardship, and watershed health.

Programs such as Maple Education, Youth Fish and Hunt Camps, Stream of Dreams, Watershed Adventures, and Student Summit Partnerships serve a wide range of ages through a mix of classroom visits, outdoor activities, and volunteer opportunities. These initiatives build environmental awareness, reinforce Ontario curriculum objectives, and foster lifelong stewardship.

Participation remains below pre-pandemic levels due to staffing constraints, limited budgets, and financial barriers for schools and families. Adjusting user fees, strengthening program budgets, and pursuing external funding or sponsorships would reduce these barriers and help increase participation while preserving program quality.

Proposed User Fee Adjustments for 2025/26:

Youth Fish Camp – remains at \$95 per participant

Maple Syrup Education – reduced from \$8 to \$5 per participant

Stream of Dreams – reduced from \$17 to \$15 per participant

Other education offerings are delivered on a cost-recovery basis, with fees or funding determined in collaboration with schools, community partners, and funding agencies to match program needs and available resources.



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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: Education Program Deliverables are included in the 2025 SNC Budget under Landowner Stewardship and Outreach: Education and Outreach on pages 14-15.

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

HST Status – Summer camps are subject to HST, while curriculum-linked education programs (e.g., Maple Education, Stream of Dreams, and SHSM Certifications, etc) are HST-exempt under CRA rules for educational services.

SNC's fees adhere to the "Policy: Minister's list of classes of programs and services in respect of which conservation authorities may charge a fee" (April 11, 2022).

Program and Services Category: Category 3: Watershed (Other) Programs – Outreach and Education

John Mesman
Managing Director, Property, Conservation Lands and Community Outreach