



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD

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Fish and Wildlife Committee

Meeting Agenda

Date: September 1st, 2020

Time: 3:00 p.m.

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

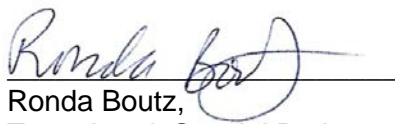


Fish and Wildlife Committee

Meeting Agenda

September 1st, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

1. Chair's Remarks
2. Approval of Fish and Wildlife Committee Agenda (Supplemental Agenda)
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
4. SNC Fish and Wildlife Project Update – PowerPoint Presentation: Staff
5. Roundtable: Community Engagement
6. Approval of the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting minutes
of June 2nd, 2020 3-8
7. Business Arising from Minutes (if any)
8. New Business:
 - a. Update: 2020 Monitoring: Michelle 9-10
 - b. Update: Catchment Studies: Katherine 11-12
 - c. Update: Low Water Conditions: Sandra 13-15
9. Supplemental Agenda (if any)
10. Roundtable: Watershed Monitoring Report
11. Date of Next Meeting: November 24th, 2020
12. Adjournment


Ronda Boutz,
Team Lead, Special Projects.

/dm



FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, June 2nd, 2020, 3:00 p.m. – Meeting 02/2020

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
 - Doug Culver, Naturalist and Recreational Angler
 - Ed Fields, Delta Waterfowl
 - Abraham Francis, Mohawks of Akwesasne
 - Aleta Karstad, Bishops Mills Natural History Center
 - Shawn Landriault, Member at Large
 - Kirk Myelde, Member of Large
 - Larry E. Smith, South Nation Archery Supply
 - Bill Smirle, SNC Board of Directors, Chair, ex-officio
 - Doug Thompson, SNC Board of Directors, Past Chair, ex-officio
- Regrets:**
- George Darouze, SNC Board of Directors, Vice Chair, ex-officio
 - Joffre Cote, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (non-voting)
 - Stéphane Dubuc, Trapper
 - Susan Gallinger, Member at Large
 - Cyril Holmes, Grenville Fish and Game Club
- Staff:**
- Carl Bickerdike, Team Lead, Corporate Services
 - Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects
 - Michelle Cavanagh, Team Lead, Stewardship
 - Brent Harbers, Watershed Biologist
 - Omar Kana'n, Water Resources Specialist - Engineering
 - Naomi Langlois-Anderson, Senior Fish and Wildlife Technician
 - Dianne MacMillan, Administrative Assistant
 - Sandra Mancini, Team Lead, Engineering
 - 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 June 2nd, 2020 to order at 3:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. FW-012/20

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

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting agenda of June 2nd, 2020 as submitted.

CARRIED

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Conflict of Interest.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: ELECTRONIC MEETING PROCEDURES

RESOLUTION NO. FW-013/20

Moved by: Larry Smith
Seconded by: Malcolm Clark

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee approve the Electronic Meeting procedures as outlined in this report.

CARRIED

SNC FISH AND WILDLIFE PROJECT UPDATE – POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Staff presented Fish and Wildlife project and program updates.

Doug Thompson, SNC Past Chair, joined the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

Abraham Francis joined the meeting at 3:27 p.m.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: ROUNDTABLE

Abraham Francis:

- Most youth and elder events cancelled due to COVID 19
- Students will be assisting with summer projects: food distribution; food security; building raised garden beds; and a comprehensive education series

Fred Schueler/Aleta Karstad

- Received funding from Ottawa Field Naturalist Club to monitor calling frogs (mink frogs)

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF:

A. FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 5TH, 2020

RESOLUTION NO. FW-014/20

Moved by: Alvin Cluff-Clyburne
Seconded by: Ed Fields

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting minutes of March 5th, 2020 as submitted.

CARRIED

B. JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 5TH, 2020

RESOLUTION NO. FW-015/20

Moved by: Doug Thompson
Seconded by: Kirk Myelde

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Joint Standing Committee meeting minutes of March 5th, 2020 as submitted.

CARRIED



NEW BUSINESS

PRESENTATION: MONITORING TOOLS AND DECISION MAKING

RESOLUTION NO. FW-016/20

Moved by: Alvin Cluff-Clyburne

Seconded by: Abraham Francis

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the Monitoring Tools and Decision Making powerpoint presentation.

CARRIED

UPDATE: OPG REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO. FW-017/20

Moved by: Alvin Cluff-Clyburne

Seconded by: Ed Fields

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the OPG Regional Biodiversity Program update.

CARRIED

UPDATE: CATCHMENT STUDIES

RESOLUTION NO. FW-018/20

Moved by: Malcolm Clark

Seconded by: Doug Thompson

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the Catchment Study Update.

CARRIED

UPDATE: 2020 MONITORING

RESOLUTION NO. FW-019/20

Moved by: Alvin Cluff-Clyburne

Seconded by: Kirk Myelde



RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the 2020 Monitoring update.

CARRIED

WATERSHED MONITORING REPORT: ROUND TABLE

Fred Schueler

- Many chorus frogs had a lapse in spring with the cooler weather; plants and animals progress affected by weather changes; beetle on purple loosestrife has been working, noticing holes through the leaves
- Mystery snails found at Cass Bridge

Abraham Francis

- In Akwesasne very cold weather lately, interfering with gardening efforts; a bear has been sighted which is not a usual occurrence in the community

Alvin Cluff-Clyburne

- Many ash trees have been affected in Russell by the Emerald Ash Borer

Kirk Myelde

- Have observed many foxes around my area; have also more observed waterfowl compared to other years; and a moose was seen in the Jessup's Falls area this spring

Larry E. Smith

- Noticed many frogs in spring with the warm weather, but none observed/heard after the cooler weather

Malcolm Clark

- Observed more rabbits in my area, and a ground hog was also seen

Doug Culver

- Decrease in purple loosestrife has been noticed; in last 15 years it has decreased by 80%
- Not many amphibians, but quite a few species of birds observed around my area

Shawn Landriault

- Abundance of ticks and bears this year in my area



- Moose was seen in Larose Forest

Doug Thompson

- Fox and two owls were spotted, which is rare in my community

Shawn Landriault left the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Bill Smirle

- Black bear spotted near Morewood; many squirrels, raccoons, ducks and geese this year in the area
- On behalf the SNC Board of Directors, congratulations to Aleta and Fred on winning the Glen Davis Conservation Leadership Prize and their continued dedication and knowledge
- SNC donated 500 free trees to the Winchester District Memorial Hospital and Dundas Manor for National Nursing Week in May
- Thank you to staff for continued work throughout COVID 19 and to Committee members for meeting online

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 1st, 2020: 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION NO. FW-020/20

Moved by: Alvin Cluff-Clyburne

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting of June 2nd, 2020 be adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

CARRIED

Fred Schueler,
Committee Chair.

Ronda Boutz
Ronda Boutz,
Team Lead, Special Projects.

/dm



To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: Michelle Cavanagh, Team Lead, Stewardship
Date: August 24, 2020
Subject: Update: 2020 Monitoring

RECOMMENDATION:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the 2020 Monitoring update.

DISCUSSION:

At the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting on June 2, 2020, a summary of the 2020 monitoring activities was provided along with the impacts on the scheduling and operation of the activities due to COVID-19. This report provides an update on the status of these monitoring activities.

SNC developed standard operating procedures (SOP) to specifically address protecting staff and the public from transmission of COVID-19 while performing field work. Procedures are used in conjunction with other relevant Health and Safety Policies. All SNC field activities require work plans with detailed job tasks and measures to specifically address COVID-19 transmission (e.g. social distancing, personal protective equipment, etc.). These documents are updated based on information and direction provided by government and health authorities.

For all work activities, staff maintain minimum distances of 2 metres from others when possible and wear face masks when distancing is not possible. Staff have assigned personal protective equipment and do not share equipment and tools. When travelling together in SNC vehicles, staff must wear a face mask.

Biological Community Sampling

Fish sampling is in progress as part of the South Bear Brook Catchment Study. Staff are using trap nets set at key locations within the catchment. This methodology allows for physical distancing between staff and adherence to the SOP.

Municipal drain classification work is almost complete and involves backpack electrofishing. It is not possible to electrofish effectively while keeping 2 m apart, therefore staff completing this work must wear face masks. Trap netting was an alternate methodology available if staff were not comfortable electrofishing.

Benthic invertebrate sampling occurs annually in the Fall using nets to collect invertebrates by kicking up the substrate. The work requires 2 staff; however, they do not need to be in close proximity and staff will have no difficulty adhering to the SOP.



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. This program is still on hold as the MECP lab is closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) is also a long-standing partnership with the MECP. Routine maintenance and manual water level readings are occurring as normal at the 14 wells within the program; however, the annual water quality analysis has been cancelled for 2020. The MECP lab normally completes the analysis at their own expense.

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. The sampling began in July and is completed by two staff who are able to adhere to the SOP.

City Stream Watch

This program is volunteer-based and involves walking a length of watercourse and recording morphological characteristics of the watercourse, as well as identifying areas in need of stewardship activities. All work with outside volunteers is still postponed. Staff have modified the data collection portion of this program so that meaningful information can be collected while adhering to the SOP. Sites in the South Bear Brook catchment are being targeted for assessment in September.

Invasive Species

Invasive species distribution mapping on select SNC properties has been completed. This work was completed by one staff person and adhered to the SOP. As a result of this work, two *Phragmites* control efforts were carried out: one in the Leitrim Wetland and the other at the Robert Graham Conservation Area. Monitoring of the sites will continue annually.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: No impact on 2020 SNC Budget.

SNC Policy Adherence: Field work adheres to the SNC Health and Safety Policy.

Michelle Cavanagh,
Team Lead, Stewardship.



To: Fish and Wildlife Committee
From: Katherine Watson, Water Resources Specialist
Date: August 21, 2020
Subject: Update: Catchment Studies

RECOMMENDATION:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the Catchment Study update.

DISCUSSION:

South Nation Conservation undertakes monitoring initiatives to assess the condition of local river catchments. Funding was provided in 2020 under the Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program as a special project with the City of Ottawa to finalize the North Castor River Catchment Study and begin field work associated with the South Bear Brook Catchment Study.

These projects include the collection of baseline surface water quantity and quality data to support City of Ottawa subwatershed reporting initiatives and recommendations for best management practices to protect and enhance water resources. Study updates are provided below.

North Castor Catchment

Baseline data was collected in 2018 and 2019. Data has been analyzed and summarized into a final report, currently under review by City of Ottawa staff. The report provides a summary of past restoration projects achieved, recommendations for future rehabilitation within the catchment, as well as constraint mapping related to groundwater-surface water interactions throughout the study area.

A presentation, including results on investigative efforts and recommendations will be provided at the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting.

South Bear Brook Catchment

This is a two-year study, with data collection occurring in 2020 and 2021. Data being collected in 2020 includes:

- Water quality (via grab samples and deployment of long-term water quality sensors)
- Temperature (via deployment of several long-term sensors)
- Biological communities – benthic invertebrates and fish
- Radon sampling to identify groundwater inflow areas



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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget:

These projects are included in the 2020 Budget under Approval: Projects: Subwatershed Studies, page 68-69.

SNC Policy Adherence:

All purchases will follow the SNC Purchasing Policy for purchases \$200 up to \$5,000. All field work will follow SNC's Health and Safety Policies.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katherine Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Katherine Watson,
Water Resources Specialist.



TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee
FROM: Sandra Mancini, Team Lead, Engineering
DATE: August 25, 2020
SUBJECT: Update: Low Water Conditions

RECOMMENDATION:

The Fish and Wildlife Committee receive and file the Low Water Conditions update report.

DISCUSSION:

On June 29, 2020, South Nation Conservation (SNC) declared a Level I Low Water Condition for its watershed. Due to persistent dry and hot weather, the Water Response Team declared a Level II Low Watershed Condition for the entire South Nation River watershed on July 23, 2020.

In the past few weeks, Eastern Ontario received significant amounts of rainfall across the jurisdiction. This rain has helped replenish watercourses within the South Nation River Watershed. However, stream flow averages in all watercourses have yet to reach normal levels, due to the dry conditions earlier this summer.

Field observations around the watershed indicate that ecological conditions have improved compared to a few weeks ago.

Precipitation

Precipitation data collected over a 3-month period at the Environment Canada Climate Station in Ottawa, Brockville, and Cornwall shows substantial improvement. The Ottawa gauge data is within the normal range, while the Cornwall and Brockville gauge data has receded back to the Level I threshold.

A Level I condition occurs when the 3-month or 18-month total precipitation drops below 80% of the historical total, 60% for Level II, and 40% for Level III.



Table 1: Precipitation 3-month moving average (mm) for Ottawa, Brockville, and Cornwall for May, June, and July 2020 compared to the historical 3-month total.

Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada climate stations

Climate Station*	June (mm)	July (mm)	Aug** (mm)	3-month Moving Total	Historical 3-month Total	3-month Precipitation Indicator Percent	Low Water Condition
Ottawa International Airport	88.7	54.0	48.2	224.2	262.2	86.04	Normal
Brockville Climate Station	63.4	62.3	38.3	197	267.0	74.34	Level I
Cornwall	30.2	86.3	46.2	128.1	283.9	68.90	Level I

** Data up to Aug 6, 2020

Streamflows

Streamflow levels for August 6, 2020 have improved for the Bear Brook, Castor River, and Lower South Nation River subwatersheds, flows are within or close to the Level I threshold. Streamflows within the Upper South Nation River subwatershed has seen some improvement but remain within the Level III threshold.

A Level I condition occurs when the monthly stream flow drops below 70% of the lowest average summer monthly flow (LASMF), 50% for Level II, and 30% for Level III.

Table 2 Average monthly streamflows (m³/s) for August 6, 2020 compared to the lowest average summer monthly flows (LASMF).

Stream Gauge Station	LASMF (m ³ /s)	August 6, 2020		Low Water Condition
		Mean Flow (m ³ /s)	Percent of LASMF	
South Nation River at Plantagenet	7.28	3.66	50.21	Level I
Bear Brook near Bourget	1.25	0.66	52.65	Level I



Stream Gauge Station	LASMF (m ³ /s)	August 6, 2020		Low Water Condition
		Mean Flow (m ³ /s)	Percent of LASMF	
Castor River at Russell	0.97	0.544	56.02	Level I
South Castor River at Kenmore	0.41	0.13	32.17	Level II
Payne River near Berwick	0.32	0.043	13.58	Level III
South Nation River near Heckston	0.10	0.005	4.78	Level III
South Nation River at Spencerville	0.40	0.001	0.25	Level III

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: No impact on 2020 SNC Budget.

SNC Policy Adherence: Field work adheres to the SNC Health and Safety Policy.

Sandra Mancini

Sandra Mancini, P.Eng.,
Team Lead, Engineering.