



NVCA Board Meeting Highlights May 22, 2020

Next Meeting: June 26, 2020, location to be determined

For the full meeting agenda including documents and reports, visit nvca.on.ca/about/boardofdirectors

The May 22, 2020 board meeting was held electronically through WebEx, and streamed on YouTube for public viewing due to COVID-19 restrictions.

This meeting consisted of the regular board meeting and the Nottawasaga Valley Source Protection Authority meeting. Highlights from both meetings are written below.

NVCA Board approves 2020 - 2025 Draft Strategic Plan

The NVCA Board of Directors voted to approve the 2020 – 2025 Strategic Plan.

A draft version of the 2020 – 2025 NVCA Strategic Plan was presented to the Board of Directors in February.

NVCA's strategic planning process follows the guidelines from the recently published Integrated Watershed Management Plan, a document that guides NVCA's efforts to maintain and enhance the watershed's natural heritage resources.

The strategic plan is high level and broad-based, and provides the ability for the NVCA to move in many different directions and be reactive to different situations. It is an overarching document that provides a lookout over a longer period of timeframe, and is a living guidance document.

The strategic plan will be complemented by a business plan that has five, one year incremental forecasts for NVCA's work. It will be a living document that provides a nimble ability to react.

In this board meeting, board members provided comments and insights of the draft strategic plan. Comments include whether or not the strategic plan was nimble enough to accommodate COVID-19 situations and legislative changes from the Ontario government, and whether it can guide the NVCA to provide better service to municipalities.

Letter of support for conservation authorities

On April 27, 2020, 112 environmental groups sent a joint letter to the Ontario government stating that all 36 conservation authorities (CAs) need to retain their current mandate of protecting, restoring and managing the watersheds where 95 percent of Ontarians reside.

These environmental groups include Environmental Defence, Ontario Nature and the Canadian Environmental Law Association.

The letter further states that the functions and responsibilities of CAs with respect to land use planning and permitting, monitoring, stewardship and education must be maintained.

[Download the letter here.](#)

Nottawasaga Valley Source Protection Authority

New committee members

Since the fall of 2019, the term for many members of the Source Water Protection (SPA) committee has ended.

Many long-standing members were reappointed, giving continuity to the work of the committee. With a multi-stakeholder approach in mind, the Nottawasaga Valley Source Protection Authority (NVSPA) was able to recruit four new members and two representatives from the Severn Sound Environmental Association to join the committee.

In normal situations, new members would have a thorough in-person orientation that spans over two months. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, documents and videos were sent to the members, followed by a Q&A session to clarify any questions or concerns.

Two year extension for completion of Risk Management Plans

All Risk Management Plans were scheduled to be completed by July 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all risk management work has been suspended until further notice. As such, the NVCA Board of Directors approved a proposal by staff for a two-year extension to complete Risk Management Plans.⁶

Inefficiencies in Annual Reporting Process

The annual reporting process is an extremely valuable part of the Source Protection program, it ensures that SPA staff remain aware of the state of progress made by implementing bodies, and supports staff in providing this information in a presentation to the Board of Directors, and Source Protection Committee (SPC), on an annual basis.

However, Risk Management Officials who are responsible for completing these reports have indicated that meeting the reporting requirements is a significant workload taking multiple days to complete. In addition, the large reporting burden combined with regular RMO duties and a lack of clarity in some of the questions asked, resulted in concerns that the quality of some answers may have been compromised.

To streamline the annual reporting process, staff reviewed annual report questions, and proposed removing those that:

- Are not longer needed, as answer is now known

- Is redundant
- Has not proved useful to staff or SPC
- Requires more detail than is needed by staff or SPC

The NVCA Board of Directors voted to have the Source Protection Authority Board to request the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks to initiative a review of the Regulation 287/07 in order to reduce an unnecessary workload in regards to the Annual Report.

Upcoming events

Beyond Tiffin Education – NVCA’s new online education program. These programs help families explore nature in their backyards or a safe greenspace in their neighbourhoods.

For a nominal fee of \$5/lesson (or \$20 for 5), families will have access to video lessons, activity descriptions and modelling with applicable pdf. Files. They will also have exclusive access to Club Beyond Tiffin where students will be able to adventures, pictures and ask questions.