



NVCA May 2022 Board Meeting Highlights

Next Meeting: June 24, 2022, held virtually

For the full meeting agenda including documents and reports, visit [NVCA's website](#).

Restoring the Nottawasaga Watershed – a documentary

Fred Dobbs, Manager, Stewardship Services shared a documentary showcasing the importance of sports fishing in our watershed municipalities, and how NVCA and its partners are working to restore the Nottawasaga River to maintain and enhance these unique recreational opportunities.

[View the documentary here](#)

Change in service provider for conservation area remote parking payment

NVCA will be moving to HotSpot as the new remote parking payment system starting on June 8, 2022. Staff were recently notified by the current service provider that remote payment services will no longer be offered.

Staff will be waiving parking fees during Customer Appreciation Week (June 1 – 7, 2022) to thank NVCA patrons for their continued support.

Update on Phase 2 Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) is moving forward with Phase 2 of the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act (CAA) to improve the governance, oversight, transparency and accountability of CA operations.

The regulations and policy build on current CA budgetary practices with updates to align the levy apportionment methods and budget processes with the new funding framework and categories of programs and services established

by recent amendments to the CAA and first phase of regulations. The changes will ensure a smooth transition by January 1, 2024 of CAs to the new funding framework and three categories of programs and services.

Potential Appointment of Agricultural Representative

Changes to the CAA enabled the Minister of MECP to appoint a member from the agricultural sector to each conservation authority Board of Directors.

On February 8, 2022 conservation authorities were notified that the Ministry had posted job advertisements on the Public Appointments Secretariat website for an agricultural sector position for each conservation authority.

NVCA's Administrative By-law will be updated to reflect the Minister's ability to appoint an agricultural sector representative. The new member will be subject to NVCA's Administrative Bylaw including the Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest policies.

Planning Services Review

As noted in a March 2022 staff report, between 2018 and 2021, NVCA's Planning Services team has seen a 75% increase in workload, placing tremendous pressure on staff to meet provincial and municipal review timelines and has resulted in reduced efficiency in recognizing user fee revenues.

In addition, the NVCA Board of Directors approved housekeeping changes to planning and permit review fees in December 2021. It was anticipated that a more in depth review of fees would occur in 2022/23.

NVCA will examine current fees and opportunities to expand the level of service

meet the needs and expectations of our partners, as well as be more consistent with other conservation authorities. This increased level of service is expected to potentially include the addition of new technical staff

An RFP has been issued to retain consulting services to review NVCA's Planning Services department program rates and fees.

Natural Heritage Program Strategy

NVCA staff released the Natural Heritage Program Strategy. The document outlines the program's historical work completed and outlines the recommended directions in support of the NVCA's Integrated Watershed Management Plan, Strategic Plan and Business Plan.

Building on the strength of the program accomplishments to date while recognizing the value of current natural heritage monitoring and planning approaches and support the integrated watershed management framework, the core program areas include: development of a watershed-wide natural heritage system, wetland evaluation and mapping, monitoring, natural heritage inventories, and program communications.

These program components provide supports to the NVCA's vision of "a sustainable watershed that is resilient to the effects of climate change, urban growth and other stressors and provides for safe, healthy and prosperous people and communities."