

Resolution 1-260326

Moved by: Steve Fournier
Seconded by: Adam Turcotte

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority adopts the Agenda as circulated.

Resolution Carried

5.0 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

6.0 Approval of Minutes of February 26, 2026

Resolution 2-260326

Moved by: Brian Dowdall
Seconded by: Adrian Wynands

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approves the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting #02/26 held February 26, 2026 as circulated.

Resolution Carried

7.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising.

8.0 Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager, provided an overview of a recent Decision Notice posted on the ERO regarding the proposed consolidation of Conservation Authorities and responded to questions from members.

A member asked if any additional concerns had been raised by the City of Ottawa during recent discussions and Ms. Casgrain-Robertson clarified that it was the province who briefed municipalities on March 10, not the conservation authorities.

A member asked if municipalities would be able to opt out of their conservation authority during the transition period. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson confirmed that the province planned to suspend those provisions in the *Conservation Authorities Act* during the transition process.

A member noted that there appears to be a lot of synergy between the Mississippi, Rideau and South Nation Conservation Authorities and asked about the addition of the Raisin. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson acknowledged that

there is a history of collaboration between the three Ottawa conservation authorities but that this integration already extends to the Raisin. In particular, she noted that there is staff sharing and joint program delivery between the Raisin and South Nation, similar to what exists between the Mississippi and Rideau. She added that the four conservation authorities have a history of working well together.

A member asked how French language concerns raised by South Nation would be addressed. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson stated that it will need to be a key focus of the transition plan. She also noted that while this concern is of the utmost importance in the South Nation watershed, the Raisin and Rideau also have Francophone clients in parts of their watersheds and strive to provide bilingual service as much as possible.

A member asked Ms. Casgrain-Robertson what the transition would mean for her and her role. She responded that there will not be 36 General Managers following consolidation, but there will be leadership opportunities within the new regional conservation authorities that some General Managers may be able to fill. She said that right now all General Managers are focused on supporting their staff and their conservation authority through the transition process.

Another member sought clarification about who is considered management versus frontline when the Minister speaks of no job losses. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson advised that while it hasn't been clearly defined by the province, most RVCA staff are directly involved in the deliver of frontline services. She noted that even Directors are still heavily involved in service delivery and are not full-time managers.

Chair Waterfield thanked Ms. Casgrain-Robertson for her comprehensive overview and noted that the organization is entering a period of significant change. He affirmed the Board's commitment to transparency and the importance of working collaboratively with staff in the months ahead.

Anne Barr left 6:00 p.m.

Resolution 3-260326

Moved by:

Adam Turcotte

Seconded by:

Joe Aragona

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority receives the report for information.

Resolution Carried

9.0 Contract for Floodplain & Erosion Mapping Study: Greens and Brassils Creeks

Ms. Maltais, Director of Watershed Science and Engineering, summarized the staff report recommending Aquafor Beech Limited to complete Phases 2C and 2D of the flood and erosion hazard delineation for Greens Creek and Brassils Creek within the City of Ottawa.

A member asked if a map of the study area could be provided. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson advised that a map could be circulated to members and would be included in future staff reports.

Resolution 4-260326

Moved by:

Steve Fournier

Seconded by:

Jeff Banks

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approves Aquafor Beech Limited to complete:

- A Floodplain and Erosion Mapping Study on Greens Creek in the City of Ottawa, at a cost not to exceed \$143,660 plus applicable taxes, with up to 25% being funded from RVCA's operation; and
- A Floodplain and Erosion Mapping Study on Brassils Creek in the City of Ottawa, at a cost not to exceed \$124,506 plus applicable taxes, with up to 25% being funded from RVCA's operation.

Resolution Carried

10.0 Unaudited Financial Reports for the period ending December 31, 2025

Ms. Dallaire, Manager of Finance, presented the unaudited financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2025.

A member asked if more money should be put into short-term investments given the health of the reserves. Ms. Dallaire responded that the balance currently showing in short-term investments is only the portion that comes due within the year.

Another question was asked about what happens to reserves following consolidation. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson explained that decisions about reserves would be up to the new Board of the regional conservation authority, but that many reserves have specific purposes or are mandatory, so many will need to be maintained for their current purpose.

Resolution 5-260326

Moved by:

Theresa Kavanagh

Seconded by:

Wilson Lo

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority receives the Unaudited Statement of Operations and Statement of Financial Position for the period ending December 31, 2025.

Resolution Carried

11.0 Proposed Year End Reserve Transfers

Ms. Dallaire, Manager of Finance, advised that staff are seeking approval of the proposed 2025 year-end reserve transfers in advance of the completion of the audit. She noted that the reserve schedule aligns with the interim reserve strategy approved by the Board in the fall which supports RVCA's asset management plan.

A member remarked that it was good to see the reserves were not increasing and that it looked like senior management were focused on managing them.

A member asked what DRAPE stood for and Ms. Casgrain-Robertson responded that it is an initiative that captures high resolution aerial photos across Eastern Ontario every six years.

Resolution 6-260326

Moved by:

Brian Dowdall

Seconded by:

Adam Turcotte

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approve the attached 2025 Proposed Reserve Transfers.

Resolution Carried

12.0 Updated Purchasing Limit

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson presented a proposed update to the Purchasing Policy and responded to questions from members.

A member suggested that if a purchase between \$30,000 and \$49,000 is approved outside of the budget process, the Board should be informed after. Chair Waterfield suggested the Board could be informed at their next meeting.

A member asked if the policy should specify that legislated purchases can be approved. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson noted that while that language would pertain to the example she had given, it would not apply to most purchases and would be difficult policy language to administer.

Resolution 7-260326

Moved by:

Steve Fournier

Seconded by:

Adrian Wynands

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority amends RVCA's Purchasing Policy to authorize the General Manager to approve purchases up to \$39,999 effective March 27, 2026.

Resolution Carried

13.0 Activity Report: January / February 2026

Chair Waterfield invited members to ask questions of each Director regarding their Activity Report section.

A member asked what the current flood condition was and Ms. Maltais provided an update on the spring freshet, outlining current flood conditions and short-term forecasted conditions.

A member asked if there were any plans to replace the docking at Rideau Ferry Yacht Club. Mr. Cooper indicated that staff have been monitoring the condition and that the RVCA rents that area from Parks Canada, so staff are currently looking at options.

A member asked what the new phragmites working group is and who the members are. Mr. Cooper explained that Meaghan McDonald was heading up the group for RVCA, that the group is an opportunity to share strategies to manage the invasive species, and that there is initial funding to map phragmites. He indicated that the RVCA would be focused on trying to remove phragmites on its own lands. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson added that an invitation to join the group had been circulated to municipalities and that a current list of members could be shared with the Board.

A member noted that the RVCA does not hold many Section 28 Hearings anymore and asked why. Mr. McDonald, Director of Planning and Regulations, responded that staff work hard to address issues and negotiate solutions with clients so that hearings are not required.

A member stated that he attends a number of lake association meetings each year and they always want to know how many septic re-inspections have been done. He commented that the numbers are encouraging.

Another member asked if consideration had been given to establishing a fund to help property owners who are required to undertake septic system upgrades following re-inspections. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson responded that RVCA's Rural Clean Water Program provides grants for septic system repairs or replacement. She added that it was her understanding that municipalities may have additional tools to provide assistance in hardship cases.

14.0 Meetings

- a) Grenville Federation of Agriculture AGM – February 27, 2026
 - Adrian Wynands reported that 185 people attended the dinner, including Ms. Casgrain-Robertson and Carl Bickerdike from South Nation Conservation. The silent auction raised \$5,000 to support 4H and he thanked both CAs for donating baskets.
 - b) Anniversary Event: Snowshoe Hike at Perth Wildlife – Feb 28, 2026
 - Chair Waterfield reported that the event was well attended and well organized. He noted that the event seemed to bring together new visitors and participants who lingered long after the event to socialize with staff and one another over the refreshments that were provided. The next anniversary event is scheduled for May 23, 2026 at Foley.
 - c) RVCF Board of Directors Meeting – March 11, 2026
 - d) South Nation Conservation AGM – March 12, 2026
 - Chair Waterfield reported that he attended the AGM which was a great experience and a good opportunity to get to know our neighbouring CA. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson congratulated Adrian Wynands on being elected Chair of South Nation Conservation for 2026.
 - e) Friends of the Tay Watershed AGM – March 25, 2026
 - Chair Waterfield reported that Ms. Casgrain-Robertson gave a great presentation at the Friend's AGM that was well received.
 - f) RVCA Board of Directors Meeting – March 26, 2026
 - Special Meeting (Anniversary Event & Information Session)
- Upcoming
- g) MRSPC Meeting – April 2, 2026
 - h) RVCA Audit Committee Meeting – April 9, 2026
 - i) Conservation Ontario AGM – rescheduled to April 27, 2026

15.0 Member Inquiries

None.

16.0 New Business

None.

17.0 Adjournment

Chair Waterfield thanked staff for all their hard work in organizing today's wonderful anniversary celebration. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m. on a resolution by Adrian Wynands.

Gary Waterfield
Chair

Marissa Grondin
Recording Secretary

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

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