



**SEVERN SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION  
JOINT MUNICIPAL SERVICES BOARD  
EXECUTIVE MEETING**

**January 22, 2021 9:15 a.m.**

**Draft Minutes**

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**Present:**

SSEA Chair, Deputy Mayor Steffen Walma	Township of Tiny
SSEA Vice Chair, Councillor Paul Wiancko	Township of Georgian Bay
SSEA Past Chair, Councillor Ron Stevens	Township of Severn (via telephone)

**Staff:**

Julie Cayley	SSEA Executive Director
Judy Limoges	SSEA Treasurer
Lex McPhail	IT Manager/ GIS Applications Specialist

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This meeting was called by the Chair to discuss recent negative press and the idea of a SSEA Mayors “fire side” chat. Councillor Stevens was able to join by phone but as listen only. He provided comments to the Executive Director by phone following the meeting.

**Mayors “fire side” chat**

*Background*

SSEA staff have spend significant time and resources responding to individual municipal requests for information asking for information on basic organizational information including core services and agreement structure. It has been many years since the SSEA has held a watershed tour or other means of broad municipal information sharing and will likely be some time before we are able to have in person tours and meetings. Now more than ever in both the wake of and hope for recovery of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the value and role of the environment, of sustainable clean water to drink and use for recreation, of clean sustainable accessible greenspace, is critical and apparent both to public health and economic recovery. Severn Sound watershed municipalities are blessed with an abundance of both as long as they are monitored and protected over the long term.

It was also noted that 2022 is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment/creation of the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) (and 12 for the JMSB). This event would be a great opportunity to discuss how the Mayors would like to celebrate the success and the vision their municipalities had 25 years ago in sharing services (service delivery).

*Concept*

The Executive committee discussed the concept of hosting an online SSEA session for the heads of council (Mayors) of the member municipalities to share common service information and look to the Mayors for input as well as a symbolic “re-affirmation of vows”. To address the variety of questions arising, a general information session about SSEA was discussed as a more efficient alternative than providing the same information to each municipality.

Councillor Stevens indicated that “...need to celebrate that we are coming up to 25 years of sharing services by a structure we created unique to our area and our municipalities. We are in this together, what happens in each of our municipalities impacts the others especially in water quality.”

The intent would be for an open and honest discussion. Member of the Executive agree to the concept and discussed the inclusion of CAOs and Board members. It was felt that the meeting would be big enough with 8 mayors present and that they be provided the option to include their CAOs and Board members if they wished. A final decision on invitation in this regard was not made. It was also suggested the meeting be kept to 1hr including orientation, discussion and Mayors roundtable.

The ED indicated that a CAO roundtable, long term, is included in the SSEA strategic plan, and possibly, this session may lead to that outcome.

The Executive supported the following recommendation to be presented to the Board of Directors on January 29, 2021:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Directors support the SSEA hosting a Mayors “fire side” chat under the leadership of the SSEA Chair to be coordinated by the ED and SSEA staff.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.