



**SEVERN SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION  
JOINT MUNICIPAL SERVICE BOARD (JMSB)  
2022 Third Quarter (Q3) Meeting**

**October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**9:30am – 12:00pm**

**67 Juneau Road, Victoria Harbour (The Queen's Quay)**

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**1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ADOPT AGENDA**

**3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

**4. APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES**

**4.1** Minutes of the SSEA 2022 Special Board Meeting held September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**4.2** Business arising from the minutes - Draft Letter for ECCC

**5. SEVERN SOUND SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY MEETING**

None.

**6. SSEA THIRD QUARTER 2022 REPORT**

**7. PRESENTATIONS**

**7.1** Severn Sound Invasive Species Strategy (SSISS) – Julie Cayley, Executive Director, and Tamara Brincat, IS Coordinator

**8. SSEA FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**8.1** Staff Report 33-22-SSEA – 2021 Draft Audited Financial Statement (TBD)

**8.2** Staff Report 34-22-SSEA - 2022 Third Quarter Draft Financials (TBD)

**9. SSEA CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION UPDATES**

**9.1** Staff Report 35-22-SSEA - Severn Sound SWP/RMO Update

**9.2** Staff Report 36-22-SSEA - Invasive Species Program Update

**9.3** Staff Report 37-22-SSEA - Sustainable Severn Sound (SSS) Update

**9.4** Staff Report 38-22-SSEA - Grant Application Update

**9.5** Staff Report 39-22-SSEA - Tree Program Update

**9.6** Staff Report 40-22-SSEA - Events Update

**9.7** Staff Report 41-22-SSEA - Watershed Monitoring Update

**9.8** Staff Report 42-22-SSEA – Employee Group Benefit Plan Renewal

**9.9** Staff Report 43-22-SSEA - Ground Water Study - Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Grant Application

**9.10** Staff Report 44-22-SSEA – SSEA Revenue Streams

**9.11** Staff Report 45-22-SSEA – Severn Sound Invasive Species Strategy

**10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE**

**10.1** Staff Report 46-22-SSEA – Executive Director Q3 Report (On Table)

**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**12. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**13. CLOSED SESSION**

**13.1** Staff Report 47-22-SSEA – Personnel Matter

**14. OTHER BUSINESS**

**15. ADJOURN**



**SEVERN SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION  
JOINT MUNICIPAL SERVICE BOARD (JMSB)  
CALL OF THE CHAIR (via video conference)  
September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 10:00 a.m.**

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**Present via zoom video:**

SSEA Chair, Deputy Mayor Steffen Walma  
Deputy Mayor Anita Dubeau  
SSEA Past Chair, Councillor Ron Stevens  
Councillor Carole McGinn  
Councillor Paul Raymond  
Councillor Perry Ritchie  
Councillor Ian Veitch  
Councillor Paul Wiancko

Township of Tiny  
Town of Penetanguishene  
Township of Severn  
Town of Midland  
Township of Tay  
Township of Springwater  
Township of Oro-Medonte  
Township of Georgian Bay

**Regrets:** None

**Staff present via zoom video:**

Julie Cayley  
Judy Limoges  
Cliff Evanitski

Executive Director  
Treasurer  
Office Manager

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**1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Walma called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

**2. ADOPT AGENDA**

MOTION: 2022-059

Moved by: A. Dubeau

Seconded by: I. Veitch

RESOLVED THAT: The SSEA Joint Municipal Service Board approves the Special Meeting Agenda dated September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Carried;

**3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None declared.

**4. APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES**

**4.1** Minutes of the Special Meeting of the SSEA Joint Municipal Service Board held September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

MOTION: 2022-060

Moved by: P. Raymond

Seconded by: P. Wiancko

RESOLVED THAT: The SSEA Joint Municipal Service Board approves the minutes of the Special Meeting of the SSEA Joint Municipal Service Board held September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Carried;

**5. SEVERN SOUND SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY MEETING**

No SSSPA Mtg.

**6. PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**7. SSEA BUSINESS**

See closed session.

**8. SSEA CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION UPDATES**

None.

**9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE**

None.

**10. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**11. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**12. CLOSED SESSION**

**12.1 Staff Report 32-22-SSEA – Pay Equity/Compensation Review Options**

MOTION: 2022-061

Moved by: P. Ritchie

Seconded by: R. Stevens

RESOLVED THAT: The SSEA Joint Municipal Service Board does now enter into a Closed Session to discuss a matter about identifiable individuals.

Carried;

MOTION: 2022-062

Moved by: R. Stevens

Seconded by: A. Dubeau

RESOLVED THAT: The SSEA Joint Municipal Service Board does now rise from the Closed Session.

Carried;

MOTION: 2022-063A

Moved by: C. McGinn

Seconded by: A. Dubeau

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 32-22-SSEA regarding SSEA's 2022 Pay Equity/Compensation Review Options, be received for information; and

FURTHER THAT: Pay Equity be funded with the use of reserves; and

FURTHER THAT: the SSEA Board approves establishment of the Pay Grid at the 50% percentile as presented at its Special Meeting of September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022; and

FURTHER THAT: the SSEA Board implements the Pay Grid effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

Carried;

MOTION 2022-063B

Moved by: P. Raymond

Seconded by: I. Veitch

RESOLVED THAT: Option 4 be supported for funding the proposed pay grid; and  
FURTHER THAT: the SSEA suspend filling the one position (Watershed Monitoring  
Coordinator) for 2023; and  
FURTHER THAT: the difference (\$12,305) be paid from reserves.

Carried;

MOTION 2022-063C

Moved by: I. Veitch

Seconded by: P. Wiancko

RESOLVED THAT: The SSEA is committed to being a living wage employer; and  
FURTHER THAT: SSEA staff will investigate further options towards attaining said  
status.

Carried.

**13. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**14. ADJOURN**

MOTION: 2022-064

Moved by: P. Ritchie

Seconded by: I. Veitch

RESOLVED THAT: This meeting of the SSEA Board of Directors held on  
September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 adjourn at 11:14 am, to meet again on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 or at  
the call of the Chair.

Carried.

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Chair, Steffen Walma

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Executive Director, Julie Cayley

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022



## Severn Sound Environmental Association

489 Finlayson Street, PO Box 460, Port McNicoll, ON L0K 1R0

Phone 705-534-7283 Website: [www.severnsound.ca](http://www.severnsound.ca)

Email: [achiandet@severnsound.ca](mailto:achiandet@severnsound.ca)

October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Ms. Jeanette Fooks, District Manager  
Hydrometric Operations Ontario  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Via email: [Jeanette.Fooks@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Jeanette.Fooks@ec.gc.ca)

Dear Ms. Fooks,

### **RE: Maintenance and expansion of HYDAT network in Severn Sound watershed**

On behalf of the Severn Sound Environmental Association, thank you to the Water Survey of Canada (WSC) for the important service you provide by maintaining a network of river discharge gauging stations across the country (HYDAT network). This data is essential and allows various agencies to track changes in river flow regimes, particularly as they relate to climate change, assign probabilities to extreme events (floods, low water levels) and raise awareness of risks associated with these events. The data also allows organizations like ours to more accurately interpret changes in water quality and riverine ecology, which are inherently influenced by river flow.

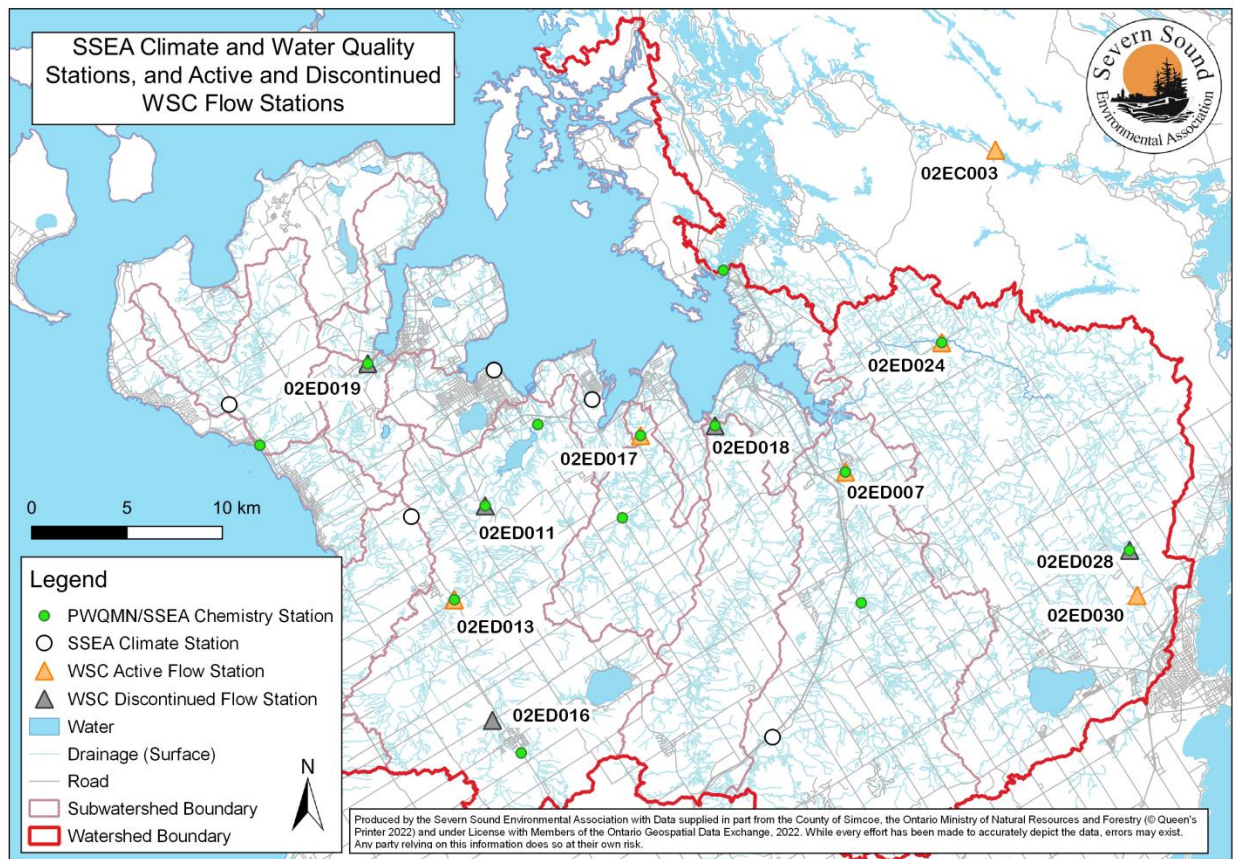
Severn Sound was one of the Great Lakes Areas of Concern successfully delisted in 2003. The Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) is a Joint Service Board under the Municipal Act (Section 202), a unique partnership between 8 municipalities. There is not a Conservation Authority (CA) in our watershed. The SSEA provides support to the local municipalities as well as Federal and Provincial government partners, to sustain environmental quality and to ensure continued protection through wise stewardship of Severn Sound and its tributaries. The SSEA has over 30 years of experience in monitoring, research, partnership and successful environmental program delivery. Focused in South-eastern Georgian Bay, SSEA implements and is part of a variety of environmental monitoring programs, including the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN), many of which began while Severn Sound was listed as a Great Lakes Area of Concern (AOC).

As a relatively small organization with limited resources supporting small rural municipalities, SSEA and our partners rely on larger federal and provincial government monitoring programs to complement or otherwise support our monitoring programs. SSEA uses the discharge data provided through the HYDAT network along with data

we collect such as rainfall, benthic invertebrate communities, and water chemistry to assess the health of tributaries across the watershed. Assessing tributary health is particularly critical in light of current impacts such as land development and climate change.

When many of our monitoring programs began, there were up to 13 WSC gauges across the watershed. Many of these gauges have been discontinued, and in recent years, the infrastructure has been removed at inactive stations. Currently there are only 6 active stations. The removal of two of the gauges in particular means that there is no flow data whatsoever on two of the major tributary systems in the Severn Sound watershed, namely Copeland Creek (gauge 02ED019) and the Sturgeon River (gauge 02ED018). These gauges were discontinued in 1999 and 1998, respectively.

This gap in discharge data makes it difficult for agencies like the SSEA as well as municipalities and consultants working in the area to calculate contaminant loading, flood risk, and determine the impact of climate change on these river systems. As a delisted AOC, we are obligated to continue monitoring water quality conditions in Severn Sound and its watershed, which includes assessing watershed sources of nutrients and other contaminants. Ideally, each river system monitored for water quality should have a flow gauge associated with it. The map below shows the location of SSEA water quality monitoring stations, 12 of which are included in the PWQMN, our climate monitoring stations, and both active and inactive WSC gauges.



We urge the WSC to maintain the current network of gauges in the Severn Sound watershed, and to consider re-establishing gauges on Copeland Creek and the Sturgeon River. SSEA is open to finding creative ways to partner with federal and provincial government agencies to re-establish these gauging stations. We look forward to discussing further at your earliest convenience.

Best regards,

Steffan Walma, Board Chair  
Severn Sound Environmental Association

Aisha Chiandet, Water Scientist  
SSEA

CC: Julie Cayley, Executive Director, Severn Sound Environmental Association  
Susan Humphrey, Regional Director General, Ontario Region, ECCC





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## **Severn Sound Environmental Association 2022 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (Jul. 1 - Sep. 30) Report/Update**

### **Staffing/HR**

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*Administration, Staffing, Training and Volunteers*

#### Administration

Three SSEA Board meetings (2022 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter and 2 special meetings) and one SSEA Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting were held. Under the Board's direction, an outside consultant has completed a pay equity and compensation review.

#### Staffing

Remote work and successful grant applications enabled SSEA to provide several contract staff opportunities. THANK YOU to Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) for supporting contract staff members Manjot Takhar (Pollinator Program Assistant), Walker Hunter (Invasive Species Technician) and Jonathon Stones (Environmental Field Technician & Program Assistant).

SSEA welcomed Cameron Epp as Watershed Resilience Coordinator and advertised for 1 contract Tree Plant Program Specialist (position dependent on funding).

SSEA continued to experience challenges attracting staff in 2022. To ensure SSS project obligations are met, Christie Lee Hazzard, consultant with CLH & Co. Inc., was contracted.

THANK YOU to outgoing staff: Manjot Takhar, Walker Hunter, and Jonathon Stones.

#### Training/Professional Development

Staff attended 6 no-cost training webinars and 3 paid professional development courses on a range of SSEA program related topics.

#### Volunteers - THANK YOU

THANK YOU to all 24 Citizen Science volunteers who are participating in our Shore Watch, Stream Watch, Invasive Species Spotters and Water Level Watchers programs this year!  
THANK YOU to all volunteers and municipal staff that assisted with invasive species removals.



*Demonstrating monitoring equipment for Canadian Water Museum talk*

## Education, Engagement, Outreach

*Presentations, Articles, Social Media, Events, Inquiries*

Most presentations, meetings, videos etc. have been recorded and posted to the [SSEA YouTube channel](#).



Staff provided images and text, and participated in video shoot for Port of Honey Harbour interactive signage project in Township of Georgian Bay, focused on promoting agencies that work in the area.

### Presentations

Presentations to the SSEA Board on various program updates. Delivered presentations at 3 additional events and 5 council meetings during Q3.

### Articles/Publications/News

SSEA was featured in articles on the [health of Lake Huron](#), citizen science [results](#) and [project funding](#), the [blue green algae bloom](#) on Farlain Lake, and invasive species [project funding](#) and [events](#). Staff was also interviewed by Le Gout De Vivre for an [article](#) on initiatives for protecting pollinators in Tiny Township.

### Social Media

A total of 136 posts were made on SSEA Instagram, Facebook and Twitter accounts on a variety of topics and SSEA programs this quarter to approximately 1,230 followers. A total of 3 new videos were posted on the SSEA YouTube channel, with a total of 90 views and 42 subscribers. SSEA participated in Drinking Water Source Protection educational campaigns by posting across all social media. Please help SSEA promote our social media channels ([YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Face Book](#))

### Events/Meetings/Conferences

Meet and Greet held with MP Chambers and SSEA staff members who were funded by federal programs. These staff shared the value of the funding and their experience relative to their careers with MP Chambers.



Team SSEA participated in 10 additional municipal and partner meetings/events including:

- Dufferin Simcoe Land Stewardship (AGM)
- Tay Kid's Fishing Derby
- County of Simcoe Forestry Event
- All Things Canadian Festival
- Bressette House Market
- Georgian Bay Geopark Meeting

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SSEA display at Tay Bike Day event

Inquiry Responses (excluding SSS and Source Water)  
 SSEA responded to approximately 41 inquiries from municipal partners, members of the public, and contractors.

## Tree Planting

*Planting and Distribution*

- Community Tree Planting & Tree Seedling Distribution: in planning stages for spring 2023

## Fish and Wildlife Habitat/Natural Heritage

*Invasive Species, Species at Risk, Wetlands, Wildlife and Habitat Stewardship*

SSEA provided technical support to Farlain Lake Community Association (FLCA) for their aquatic plant survey.

### Invasive Species (IS)

Prepared invasive Phragmites signage and purchased native potted shrubs to plant at Champlain Wendat Rotary Park in Penetanguishene (supported through Invasive Species Center Microgrant). Completed annual monitoring of Phragmites at Wahnekewaning Beach (Tiny) in partnership with the bi-national Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework. Monitored and inventoried 14 sites for IS; data and results are being processed and will be available in Q1 of 2023. Participated in, supported and/or facilitated 9 volunteer IS management events. Provided training to municipal roads staff (Town of Penetanguishene) on invasive Phragmites. Continue to deliver technical and field monitoring support on the Wye Marsh Invasive Species Management and technical support on the Farlain Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil Management projects. Participated in a cheque presentation from RBC for the Wye Marsh IS project.



Penetanguishene municipal roads staff receiving IS training



Cawaja Beach Phragmites removal volunteers

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## Species At Risk

Field team conducted summer and early fall visual encounter surveys for turtles in the Matchedash Bay area, as part of a multi-year partnership with Georgian Bay Forever.



*Turtle monitoring, Matchedash Bay*

## **Land Use Planning**

### *Input and Review*

#### Plan and Policy Input

SSEA contributed comments on 23 applications, reports, and Environmental Impact Studies, an increase of 77% compared to the number of projects reviewed in Q3 of 2021.

Staff is participating in Official Plan reviews for Springwater and Severn, and attended a North Simcoe municipal planners meeting with staff from Penetanguishene and Tiny.

## **Drinking Water Source Protection**

### *Source Protection Authority and Risk Management Services*

#### Source Protection Authority Services

Staff continues to work with provincial, regional, and local representatives, and participated in two Source Protection Committee meetings to fulfill the requirements of SSEA's 2022-2024 funding agreement work plan. Some of this includes policy work, municipal drinking water system changes, and general education and outreach initiatives.

#### Risk Management Services

This quarter, staff commented on 9 development applications, answered 11 inquiries, completed 3 site visits, conducted 24 windshield surveys/inspections, attended 2 pre-consultation meetings, and held 1 webinar specific to the commercial fertilizer prohibition within the Lafontaine Wellhead Protection Area.



*Speakers from the SSEA, Township of Tiny, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Guelph Turfgrass Institute, and area farmer - Lafontaine Commercial Fertilizer Prohibition Webinar.*

## **Monitoring Programs**

*Field/data collection: Open Water, Inland Lakes, Intakes, PWQMN/Tributaries, Stream Invertebrates, Stream Temperature, PGMN, Climate, and Citizen Science*

#### Lake Sampling (Open Water, Inland Lakes, Intakes)

In Q3, a total of 7 sampling events took place for both Tay intakes and Severn Sound open waters, and 6 sampling events each on Farlain and Little Lakes. Sampling included collecting water for chemistry and algae analysis, and field data such as pH, turbidity, conductivity, and temperature. Results are used to assess lake conditions and guide management decisions.

Staff detected blue algae blooms in Farlain Lake and Midland Bay, conducted initial algae identification, and provided support to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to collect samples for identification and toxin testing. Additional sampling was done on Kettle's Lake in Awenda Provincial Park to compare conditions to Farlain Lake - Thanks to park staff for allowing access. Note that the Water Quality Advisory for Farlain Lake has been lifted but a bloom detected on Penetang Harbour is still considered [active](#).



*Algae sampling, Farlain Lake*

Watershed Monitoring (Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network [PWQMN], Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network [PGMN], Stream Invertebrates, Fish Community Survey, Stream Temperature)

#### PWQMN

Conducted 2 sampling runs at 14 sites throughout the watershed this quarter, collecting water quality samples and corresponding field data such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, conductivity and turbidity.

Through the PWQMN Sensor Program, installed a conductivity sensor at a downstream site on the Coldwater River. Data will be used to establish a baseline range which can be used to detect external impacts on water quality, like storm events and de-icing salts.



*Invertebrate sampling,  
Sturgeon River*

#### Groundwater (Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network)

Second data download of the season for level/baro loggers (hourly data collection) and collected manual water levels at 8 well locations. Data is used to monitor long-term trends and assess impacts of climate change on groundwater.

#### Stream Invertebrates

Monitored 15 long-term benthic locations, concentrating on the Coldwater River, Sturgeon River, North River, Silver Creek and Bass Lake watersheds. One new location was added to the Coldwater River on Line 6N, Oro-Medonte to correspond with a fish community survey location. Identified 1,662 stream invertebrates in the Hogg Creek watershed. Data is used to assess river health.



*Fish community sampling, Coldwater River*

*Fish Community Survey*

SSEA partnered with NVCA to conduct fish community surveys at 3 sites in the headwaters of the Coldwater River. The results will help to better understand stream health and available habitat for different fish species, and track change through time.

*Stream Temperature*

Field staff installed and completed a check and download on all 40 temperature loggers at stream sites throughout the watershed to monitor in-stream temperature during the summer

months. Logger removal is scheduled to begin in October.

Stream temperature data and other information was collected from portions of the Coldwater River, for the Intensive Stream Temperature Study. This study helps to update drainage mapping, provides background data, determines thermal classification through modeling of all stream reaches, and to better understand where to focus future monitoring efforts.



*Collecting small stream temperature data*

*Climate Monitoring*

*Rain and Air Temperature*

4 rain gauges and one air temperature logger maintained, the data has been downloaded in Oro-Medonte, Penetanguishene, Tay and Tiny.

*Weather Stations*

The Midland and Lafontaine weather stations have undergone regular checks/maintenance and all data downloaded quarterly. In September, SSEA staff accompanied the WIN technician to complete the scheduled maintenance on both stations to ready them for the winter months. Learn more about our weather stations and view near real-time data [online](#).

*Citizen Science* (Shore Watch, Stream Watch, Invasive Species Spotters, Water Level Watch)

Program [webpage](#) was updated and launched, including information on how to get involved and results.

Data will be collected through the Stream Watch, Shore Watch and Invasive Species Spotters programs until the end of October. We have 22 volunteers monitoring 20 sites. Volunteers have submitted observations on blue green algae that have helped to identify and track blooms. Following the confirmation of the blue green algae bloom, we piloted a fee-for-service program with the FLCA to have a volunteer sample for algae toxins and augment provincial testing.



*Training volunteer on algae toxin sampling methods*

Observations for the Water Level Watch program on Farlain Lake are being submitted and water level datasets have been updated. So far in 2022, we have received 20 observations from 2 volunteers.

Hurononia Community Foundation (HCF) presented a cheque to SSEA for the citizen science program. Through a portion of the granted Tom and Lucille Gay Memorial Fund, additional aquatic plant rakes were purchased for volunteers. The remainder of the grant will be used to purchase tokens of appreciation from local businesses for the volunteers. Thank you HCF!



*HCF supports Invasive Species Spotters program*

## Sustainable Severn Sound Special Project

*Climate Change Action Plans, Partners for Climate Change Protection (PCP) Program*

### Partners for Climate Protection

SSEA continues to support its municipal members of the PCP program, facilitating work under municipal climate action plans where possible. Currently, SSEA is gathering data to create a GHG baseline Inventory for Springwater. For all other member municipalities, staff has started collecting and updating GHG emission data for 2021/2022 and investigating/identifying potential modifications and updates for member Climate Action plans. Staff is also preparing reports for all seven PCP program municipalities

### Bee City Initiative & Projects for Pollinators

Gave presentations on joining Bee City Canada to councils of Oro-Medonte, Tay, Springwater and Penetanguishene. Springwater council voted to become a Bee City. Staff continues to support current Bee City members (Midland, Tiny, Severn, Georgian Bay) and members applying to become a Bee City (Springwater). In Midland, staff conducted invasive species removal work at several no-mow sites in Little Lake Park. Further invasive species work and native wildflower planting work is planned for one of these sites.

Staff is working on producing items in the pollinator garden kits for SSEA's Projects for Pollinators initiative, funded by TD Friends of Environment Foundation. Kits will include native plant seed packets, "Pollinators at Play" lawn flags, a pollinator garden handbook and a native pollinator-friendly plant species guide. The final draft of the species guide has been submitted to a graphic designer. 100 new seed packets were made with seed remaining for 150 more, and "Pollinators at Play" lawn signs were ordered. 133 native seed packets were handed out at 6 community events. A new [Pollinator Habitat](#) webpage was launched.



*Native seeds handed out to volunteers and community members*

### Depave Paradise

Educational signage was finalized and ordered, to be installed at the pollinator garden site in Honey Harbour Park by Georgian Bay Township staff. A project video was [posted](#) online, and

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the final funding report was submitted. Final tasks include submitting a maintenance plan and plant list to the Township.

## Data Analysis and Reporting

*Statistics, Data Management & Analysis, Reporting, and GIS/Mapping*

### Statistics/Data Management & Analysis

Routine, year-round data management consisting of PWQMN, Georgian Bay water levels and regional climate data, and open water/inland lake water chemistry, zooplankton and algae data processing continues. Additional analyses were completed for PWQMN and Farlain Lake water quality datasets and results were incorporated into presentations for the SSEA Board, Farlain Lake Community Association and Tiny Township council.

### Reporting and Educational Content

SSEA completed 6 conditions updates for both Farlain and Little Lakes, which can be viewed [online](#) and on SSEA social media feeds. Social media posts were made to educate residents on how to respond to a suspected blue green algae bloom.



## Partnerships

*New/Updated NGO partners and MOU's, Academia*

SSEA is always working with municipal and NGO/external partners to deliver effective environmental stewardship, including membership with Georgian Bay Biosphere's Integrated Community Energy and Climate Action Plan (ICECAP) and the Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit's (SMDHU) Climate Change Exchange Committee and Climate Change Charter Working Group. SSEA was invited to join the Lake Huron Working Group, a bi-national collaborative of federal, provincial/state agencies, conservation authorities and First Nations working to advance the Lake Huron Lakewide Action and Management Plan that includes actions for Severn Sound, and the Great Lakes Ecoregion Network. Through the latter, general feedback on progress under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement was provided, along with specific feedback from the perspective of a delisted Area of Concern.

Provided support to the Township of Tiny for a deputation at AMO on leveraging watershed-based partnerships to address Great Lakes issues.

Provided a letter of support for Beausoleil First Nation for their invasive species project funding proposal to the federal First Nations Guardians Initiative.

The ED is supporting the HCF Board work on the community Vital Signs report including facilitating the environmental focus group and staff participation in the HCF Vital Signs Survey and Environmental Survey. The ED continues to work as a member of Healthy Great Lakes Advisory Committee & Water Team (CELA lead).

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Provided input to Simcoe County Destination Development and Action Plan, and a case study to MECP for draft guidance on monitoring impacts from stormwater on receiving waters.

### Academia

Staff met with Dr. Bill Shoytk and Dr. Mike Powell to discuss potential participation in the Elmvalle Groundwater Project; Coordinated with M.Sc. student from University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) on nearshore algae sample timing and locations; and Initiated data analysis projects focused on tributary flow and water quality with University of Waterloo researcher and undergraduate students.

## **Financial**

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### *Grants, Budget, Invoicing*

#### Grants

Multiple grants applied to by SSEA to enhance services are pending approval, including:

- MECP Great Lakes Local Action Fund: \$50,000, Improving Habitat in the Severn Sound Watershed (pending approval)
- COA: \$75,000, Delisting anniversary reporting (pending approval)
- NRCan 2 Billion Trees: 276,507, Building Tree Planting Capacity in the Severn Sound Watershed (pending approval)
- Submitted report for 2021/22 Green Communities Canada Depave Paradise project
- \$2,270 received in community and *in memoriam* donations

#### Budget

The 2023 draft budget was approved by the Board at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter meeting with an increase of \$36,300 in municipal core share over 2022. The pay equity and compensation review was completed. The Board subsequently approved the use of 2022 payroll surplus to cover pay equity costs for 2022.

#### Invoicing

In Q3, SSEA issued 2 invoices to FLCA for EWM Q1+Q2 work and for an aquatic plant survey, and 1 invoice to Wye Marsh for IS management.

#### ***Thank you from Team SSEA***

- Julie Cayley - Executive Director
- Lex McPhail - IT Manager/GIS Applications Specialist
- Paula Madill - Ecosystem Technologist
- Michelle Hudolin - Wetlands & Habitat Biologist
- Aisha Chiandet - Water Scientist
- Melissa Carruthers - Risk Mgmt. Official/Risk Management Inspector
- Judy Limoges - Treasurer (p/t)
- Nikki Priestman - Watershed Health Coordinator
- Tamara Brincat - Invasive Species Program Coordinator
- Cliff Evanitski – Office Manager
- Cameron Epp - Watershed Resilience Coordinator
- Emily Edgely - Citizen Science & Water Quality Coordinator



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- Nicole Stott - Drinking Water Source Protection Assistant
- Walker Hunter - Invasive Species Technician
- Manjot Takhar - Pollinator Program Assistant
- Jonathon Stones - Environmental Field Technician & Program Assistant
- Bob Bowles - Turtle Monitoring Project Assistant (p/t)

# Severn Sound Invasive Species Strategy (SSISS)

Tamara Brincat, Invasive Species Program Coordinator

SSEA Board Meeting – October 27, 2022



# Background

- Invasive Species (IS) threaten ecosystems, the economy, and communities
- 2017: SSEA developed the Invasive Species Program (ISP) as a special project
- 2020: ISP became one of SSEA's core projects and expanded to all eight SSEA municipalities
- With municipal support, SSEA developed SSISS



# Purpose of the SSISS

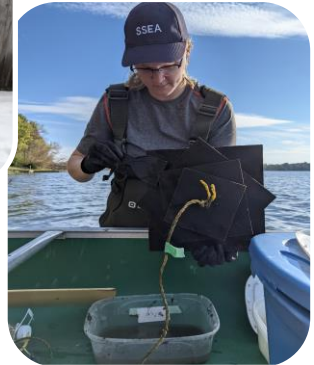
- Address the ecological, economic and social impacts of invasive species now and into the future
- Provide a coordinated approach to minimize the potential for duplication while increasing the opportunity for synergies and success across jurisdictions
- Community engagement, partnership creation and collaboration between groups



# Implementation

Implemented through four strategic actions:

1. **Prevent** – increase emphasis on IS prevention and take measures to stop introduction
2. **Monitor** – continue and intensify IS detection and monitoring to map distributions, identify susceptible areas and guide management decisions
3. **Act** – respond to IS threats by actively leading control efforts, supporting community initiatives and utilizing policy to enhance IS management
4. **Adapt** – promote an adaptive approach to IS management through integration of scientific procedures, local knowledge and stakeholder feedback



# Conclusion/ Recommendation

- SSEA ISP has been providing value expertise, advice and support to SSEA partners since 2017
- SSISS provides a long-term framework with strategic actions to maximize the benefits of a shared ISP in Severn Sound
- Implementation relies on existing budget and staff resources in addition to external funding (e.g., grants)
- **Staff recommends the Board approves the SSISS for implementation**



# Thank YOU!







**Severn Sound Environmental Association  
Joint Municipal Service Board  
2022 Third Quarterly Meeting (Q3) – October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**STAFF REPORT**

**No:** 35-22-SSEA  
**Date:** September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
**To:** Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors  
**From:** Melissa Carruthers, Risk Management Official / Risk Management Inspector  
**SUBJECT:** **Severn Sound Source Protection Authority (SS SPA) Drinking Water Source Protection Update and SSEA Risk Management Services 2022 Q3 Update**

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**APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:**

**Goal 1: Sound Science**

- Continue to offer exceptional services as the Source Protection Authority for Severn Sound

**Goal 2: Supportive Partnerships**

- Strengthen & build relationships for the implementation of Part IV of the Clean Water Act
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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**RESOLVED THAT:** Staff Report No. 35-22-SSEA regarding an update on the activities undertaken by SS SPA and SSEA Risk Management staff during Q3 of 2022, be received for information.

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**Purpose of Staff Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the activities that Severn Sound Source Protection Authority and SSEA Risk Management staff have undertaken during the third quarter of 2022.

**Background**

Under the *Clean Water Act, 2006* the SSEA is one of the Source Protection Authorities within the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region (SGBLS SPR) and work with our member municipalities as well as the District Municipality of Muskoka to implement the Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) Program.

Historically staff of the SSEA has been delegated by 8 municipalities (District Municipality of Muskoka, Townships of Georgian Bay, Severn, Oro-Medonte, Tay, Tiny, and Towns of Midland and Penetanguishene) to preform risk management services on behalf of their municipality under Part IV of the *Clean Water Act*. To date that work has included verifying significant drinking water threats (SDWTs) via phone calls, surveys, and site visits and if a SDWT was found, the negotiation of risk management plans is underway. Answering inquiries from the general public

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or municipal staff and commenting on development proposals is also a large part of what the risk management staff does.

**Analysis/Discussion**

Source Protection Authority Services – During the third quarter of 2022 Source Protection Authority staff continued to work with provincial, regional, and local representatives, and attend meetings, to fulfill the requirements of our 2022-2024 funding agreement work plan. This includes policy work, municipal drinking water system changes, and general education and outreach initiatives.

Risk Management Services - During the third quarter of 2022 risk management staff has commented on 9 development applications, answered 11 inquiries, completed 3 site visits, conducted 24 windshield surveys/inspections, attended 2 pre-consultation meetings, and held 1 webinar specific to the commercial fertilizer prohibition within the Lafontaine Wellhead Protection Area.

Prepared by:  
Original signed by

Approved for Submission by:  
Original Signed by

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Melissa Carruthers, Risk Management  
Official / Risk Management Inspector

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Julie Cayley, Executive Director



**Severn Sound Environmental Association  
Joint Municipal Service Board  
2022 Third Quarter Meeting (Q3) – October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**STAFF REPORT**

No: 36-22-SSEA  
Date: October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
To: Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors  
From: Tamara Brincat, Invasive Species Program Coordinator  
Michelle Hudolin, Wetlands & Habitat Biologist

**SUBJECT: SSEA Invasive Species Program Update**

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**APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:**

**Goal 1: Sound Science**  
**Goal 2: Supportive Partnerships**  
**Goal 3: An Engaged & Informed Community**  
**Goal 4: An Exceptional Organization**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 36-22-SSEA, regarding SSEA Invasive Species Program Update, be received for information.**

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**Purpose of Staff Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the key activities and accomplishments of the SSEA Invasive Species Program during Q3 of 2022.

**Background**

The Invasive Species Program is a core program of the SSEA. The SSEA is working to address public and municipal concerns regarding non-native, invasive species establishment within the Severn Sound watershed, and to reduce the ecological, economic and social impacts of invasive species, while fostering regional partnerships and community relations.

**Updates**

**Monitoring, Management & Technical Support**

- Monitored and inventoried **14** sites for IS; data and results are being processed and will be available in Q1 of 2023.
- Completed annual monitoring of Phragmites at Wahnekewaning Beach (Tiny) in partnership with the bi-national Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework.
- SSEA participated in, supported and/or facilitated **9** volunteer management events:
  - Lafontaine Beach, Tiny – Spotted Knapweed;
  - Rotary Champlain Wendat Park, Penetanguishene – Phragmites (2);
  - Fox Street, Penetanguishene – Phragmites;
  - Cawaja Beach, Tiny – Phragmites;
  - Patterson Park, Tay – Phragmites;

- Little Lake Park, Midland – European Lily-of-the-Valley;
- Wye Marsh, Tay – Phragmites (2).
- SSEA staff held a training session for Penetanguishene municipal roads staff on invasive Phragmites.

Education & Outreach

- Responded to **15** new invasive species inquiries, across all eight partner municipalities, providing technical support to municipal staff and the public. Inquiries were related to identification, requests for information and community science related to invasive/non-native species.
- Attended and sponsored Tay Kids Fishing Derby; collected and disposed of invasive Round Gobies caught by participants.

Funding

- One Invasive Species Technician and one Environmental Technician (8-week contract staff) began in July 2022 to support the delivery of the Invasive Species Program, supported by a wage subsidy from the federal *Canada Summer Jobs* program.

Special Projects

- Continued to deliver work on the 2021-2022 Farlain Lake Eurasian Water-milfoil (EWM) Management project, including providing technical expertise.
- Continued to deliver work on the 2020-2024 Wye Marsh Invasive Species Management Project, including technical support, and field work assistance.
  - **15** new sites identified (in 2022);
  - **7** sites prioritized for management (in 2022).
- Constructed **5** new aquatic plant rakes for the Invasive Species Spotters (Citizen Science) program thanks to a Huronia Community Foundation *Smart & Caring Grant*.
- Provided a letter of support for Beausoleil First Nation to support their invasive species project funding proposal.
- Purchased 44 potted native shrubs for fall planting at Champlain Wendat Rotary Park in Penetanguishene thanks to the Invasive Species Centre *Community Action Microgrant*.

**Conclusion**

The SSEA Invasive Species Program has successfully fostered relationships with municipalities, partner organizations and associations. Staff continues to research and identify external funding opportunities and support municipal and community-led invasive species projects. Accomplishments are shared through presentations, social media and other communications. Significant activities and tasks, including public and municipal outreach and education, were accomplished in the Q3 of 2022 benefitting the SSEA partner municipalities and community.

Prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

*Original signed by*

*Original signed by*

Tamara Brincat, Invasive Species Program Coordinator  
Michelle Hudolin, Wetlands & Habitat Biologist

Julie Cayley, Executive Director



**Severn Sound Environmental Association  
Joint Municipal Service Board  
2022 Third Quarter Meeting (Q3) – October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**STAFF REPORT**

**No:** 37-22-SSEA  
**Date:** October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
**To:** Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors  
**From:** Christie-Lee Hazzard, Sustainability and Climate Change Coordinator  
**SUBJECT:** Sustainable Severn Sound (SSS) Special Project Q3 Update

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**APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:**

**Goal 1: Sound Science**  
**Goal 2: Supportive Partnerships**  
**Goal 3: An Engaged & Informed Community**  
**Goal 4: An Exceptional Organization**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**RESOLVED THAT:** Staff Report No. 37-22-SSEA, regarding the SSEA's SSS Special Project update for the 3rd quarter of 2022, be received for information.

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**Purpose of Staff Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the Q3 2022 SSS Project work plan progress and achievements to the SSEA Board of Directors.

**Background**

The objective of the SSS Special Project is to advance practices/policies within municipal operations to support implementation of their Municipal Climate Plans to result in greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation and sustainable communities. In 2018, six of SSEA's partner municipalities joined the Federation of Canadian Municipalities-ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability [Partners for Climate Protection \(PCP\) Program](#)<sup>1</sup>. Since 2018, SSS project staff has led each of our six PCP program member municipalities to Milestone 3 of the 5-Milestone PCP Program Framework: (1) Measure municipal and community GHG emissions, (2) Select GHG reduction targets, (3) Prepare a Climate Action Plan, (4) Implement the Climate Action Plan and GHG reduction actions, and (5) Report on climate action progress and GHG reductions. SSEA's seventh PCP program member municipality (Springwater) is currently being led through the milestones.

To support our SSS project partners, in 2022 SSEA secured external funding for Depave Paradise and Pollinator projects.

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<sup>1</sup>Federation of Canadian Municipalities. 2021. Partners for Climate Protection program. Available from: <https://fcm.ca/en/programs/partners-climateprotection>

## **Analysis/Discussion**

### **Sustainable Severn Sound Special Project Results, Q3 2022**

#### **Staffing Changes**

Q2 saw some staffing changes in the SSS department. SSEA hired a consultant to assist with the SSS responsibilities while looking for a replacement to fill the Sustainability and Climate Change Coordinator position.

#### **Depave Paradise and Projects 4 Pollinators**

The SSEA has undertaken the following activities in Q3 related to the Depave Paradise and Projects 4 Pollinators initiatives.

##### *Depave Paradise*

Honey Harbour Park in Georgian Bay Township was the site of SSEA's first Depave Paradise project. Following wrap up of the "shovels in the ground" portion of the project in June, additional work was required to document the project's success, and provide public education in the form of signage and a video.

- Finalized and posted project video: <https://youtu.be/AnyG8p4YD9k>
- Finalized design and ordered educational signage; this will be installed at the pollinator garden site at Honey Harbour Park by Georgian Bay Township
- Submitted final funding report to Green Communities Canada

##### *Projects 4 Pollinators*

With support from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the SSEA is continuing to implement the Projects 4 Pollinators (P4P) initiative, which involves supporting SSEA Bee City municipalities creating and enhancing pollinator gardens, creating pollinator kits, working to recruit new Bee City members, and engaging in education and outreach through social media and events.

- Presentations on "Becoming a Bee City Canada" given to councils of Oro-Medonte, Tay, Springwater and Penetanguishene. Springwater council voted to become a Bee City.
- Created new native pollinator-friendly plants seed packets, ordered "Pollinators at Play" lawn signs
- Handed out 133 native seed packets at 6 community events
- Conducted invasive species removal work at no-mow sites in Little Lake Park in Midland
- Sent final draft of "Native Pollinator Plants in the Severn Sound Area" booklet to graphic designer

The P4P initiative wraps up at the end of March 2023; ongoing project activities include finalizing a "Pollinator Helper Handbook," mapping pollinator gardens and no-mow sites, and holding an educational webinar. Ongoing staff time will be required to support existing Bee City members and support new members who decide to join the program.

#### **Partners for Climate Change Protection Program**

As the Associate Member to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) – ICLEI Canada

Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Program, SSEA's staff assist our municipal PCP program members (7) in meeting their membership requirements - including annual greenhouse gas (GHG) reporting representing both municipal operations (buildings, streetlighting, fleet, water/wastewater and solid waste) and community emissions (residential, commercial and industrial energy use, transportation and solid waste). Staff is compiling data to create a GHG baseline Inventory for Springwater, the newest SSEA SSS and PCP member, and will be working with them to complete their 10-year GHG Emission projection. For all other member municipalities, staff has started collecting and updating GHG emission data for 2021/2022 and investigating/identifying potential modifications and updates for member Climate Action plans. Staff has also begun preparing reports for all seven PCP program municipalities.

In Q4, SSEA staff will work with SSEA and the seven SSS partners to look at GHG emissions from staff commuting to and from the office(s). SSEA will also reconvene with members of the Municipal Climate Leadership Committee (MCLC) to advance actions within their respective Municipal Climate Action Plans and the Local Climate Change Action Plan and to progress through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities-ICLEI Canada Partners for Climate Protection 5-Milestone program.

### **Financial Implications**

The majority of expenses for both the Depave Paradise and P4P initiatives have now been incurred, with only small items outstanding. Both projects are on track in terms of anticipated cash budgets; however in-kind staff time required to date was higher than anticipated for both projects.

### **Conclusion/Recommendations**

SSEA continues to implement the SSS special project work-plan to deliver on PCP Program commitments to our PCP Program member municipalities and is undertaking projects and activities to create, enhance and protect pollinator habitat. This work contributes directly to the strategic goals, priorities, and mission of the SSEA by engaging and educating the public on the importance of biodiversity and native habitats, and ties into municipal Climate Action Plans by reducing GHG emissions from mowing activities. With seven of eight SSEA members now part of the SSS project staffing, the SSS project coordinator position will be critical to meeting the obligations of the project.

Prepared by:  
Original signed by

Approved for submission by:  
Original Signed by

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Christie-Lee Hazzard,  
Sustainability and Climate Change  
Coordinator

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Julie Cayley, Executive Director



**Severn Sound Environmental Association  
Joint Municipal Service Board  
2022 Third Quarter Meeting (Q3) – October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**STAFF REPORT**

**No:** 38-22-SSEA  
**Date:** October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
**To:** Chair and Members, SSEA Board of Directors  
**From:** Aisha Chiandet, Water Scientist  
**SUBJECT: SSEA Grant Application Update**

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**APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:**

**Goal 1: Sound Science**  
**Goal 2: Supportive Partnerships**  
**Goal 3: An Engaged & Informed Community**  
**Goal 4: An Exceptional Organization**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 38-22-SSEA regarding SSEA Grant Application Update, be received for information.**

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**Purpose of Staff Report**

To update the Board on funding applications that are currently pending approval, have not been approved during the third quarter of 2022, or are pending submission and that will impact budget and workload in 2022 and beyond.

**Background**

The following lists funding applications submitted earlier in 2022 and are pending approval, or applications pending submission. Applications not approved and support letters provided for external partners are included, along with community donations received in this quarter.

**Funding Pending Approval:**

- 1) MECP Internal call for Canada Ontario Great Lakes Agreement grant submissions**  
**Project Title:** The State of Severn Sound 20 Years Post-Delisting as an Area of Concern  
**Programs Supported:** Delisting Anniversary reporting  
**Total Applied For:** \$75,000 (extra cash; would cover \$3,032 in admin, \$67,168 for new hire)  
**SSEA In-kind:** approx. \$75,000 (staff time/admin)  
**Description:** Analyze and communicate findings from the last 20 years of environmental monitoring of Severn Sound and its watershed following its delisting as an Area of Concern; fill information and knowledge gaps to facilitate reporting on conditions in the



Severn Sound watershed, specifically related to fish communities and river habitat feeding into Severn Sound.

**Impact:** Resources to analyze and report on monitoring data re: "State of Severn Sound" to stakeholders across the watershed and beyond, related to celebrating 20 years post delisting.

**2) Provincial Great Lakes Local Action Fund**

**Project Title:** Improving Habitat in the Severn Sound Watershed

**Programs Supported:** Invasive Species, Natural Heritage, Sustainable Severn Sound

**Total Applied For:** \$50,000 over 1 year (extra cash; would cover partial staff costs, plus materials and supplies)

**SSEA In-kind:** \$90,267 (staff time/admin, some goods/services)

**Description:** SSEA will support our municipal partners in naturalization and habitat restoration projects on municipally-owned land that will act as demonstration sites to educate and empower the community to take action on their own properties.

**Impact:** Increase staff resources, build organizational capacity, support partner municipalities in habitat initiatives.

**3) Federal 2 Billion Trees Program (NRCan)**

**Project Title:** Building Tree Planting Capacity in the Severn Sound Watershed

**Programs Supported:** Tree Planting, Tree Distribution

**Total Applied For:** \$276,507 over 2 years (extra cash; would cover staff costs for new hire and other capacity-building costs such as equipment, materials, supplies)

**SSEA In-kind:** \$64,830 (staff time/admin, van use)

**Description:** Expand the SSEA's existing small-scale tree planting initiatives into a larger-scale tree planting program through increasing staff resources and organizational capacity.

**Impact:** Build organizational capacity, develop plan to guide growth of tree program, significantly and strategically increase the number of trees that will be planted in rural, suburban and urban areas.

Funding Not Approved:

**4) Great Lakes St Lawrence Cities Initiative WEGE Award**

**Lead Agency:** Township of Tiny

**Project Title:** Engaging the Severn Sound Community in Citizen Science and Education

**Programs Supported:** Citizen Science

**Total Applied For:** \$7,500 (extra cash; would cover staff and equipment costs)

Support Letters Provided:

**5) Federal First Nations Guardians Initiative**

**Project Title:** TBD

**Project Lead:** Beausoleil First Nation

**Description:** Produce an invasive species management plan specific to Beausoleil First Nation

**Impact:** Aligns with SSEA's Strategic Plan, which includes supporting First Nations initiatives that are of mutual interest and benefit, and SSEA's Severn Sound Invasive Species Strategy, which includes promoting an adaptive approach to invasive species management through the integration of knowledge sharing with partners such as Beausoleil First Nation.

**SSEA commitment:** Approximately \$1,500 per year related to technical advice, material sharing, species identification, and education and outreach related to the project.

Pending Submission:

**6) MECP Internal call for Canada Ontario Great Lakes Agreement grant submissions**

**Project Title:** Partnered approach to monitoring municipal stormwater impacts on receiving water.

**Programs Supported:** Tributary, Inland Lake and Open Water Monitoring

**Total Applied For:** \$95,000 over 1 year (extra cash to cover staff and possibly equipment costs)

**SSEA In-kind:** TBD, would include staff time/admin

**Description:** Project application will likely focus on a pilot program to monitor the impacts of stormwater discharges on receiving waters, in partnership with municipal staff to support new Provincial stormwater ECA requirements.

**Impact:** Build organizational capacity to conduct environmental monitoring related to stormwater impacts on receiving waters. Strengthen stormwater management partnerships with municipalities.

Community Donations:

**7) Grand in Your Hand**

**Donor:** Baxter Ward Lion's Club

**Total Donation:** \$1,000

**Impact:** Donation was made to general SSEA operations, to be allocated as needed.

**8) In memoriam donations**

**Total Donations:** \$1,270

**Impact:** Donations were made to general SSEA operations, to be allocated as needed.

Many thanks to the families who made these generous donations.

Analysis/Discussion

SSEA works to secure external funding both independently and in partnership with numerous organizations, in order to support special projects and core operations that support the Strategic Plan. Note that some of the grants and partnerships pending submission are for more than one year. The current total approved funding amounts (excluding pending submissions and not including community donations) for the next three years (projected for all four quarters) are as follows:

2022 – approximately\* \$130,802

2023 – approximately\* \$30,739

2024 – approximately\* \$23,700

\*Note: project amounts for 2023 onward may change, and need to be confirmed annually.

**Expected Impact on SSEA budget/workload**

SSEA grant applications include budgeted amounts for staff resources, which may include funds to support existing positions and/or new hires depending on the project, and other costs such as equipment, mileage/vehicle expenses, materials and supplies, and goods and services that would support the projects, if approved. Where permitted by the fund, project budgets also include an amount to support SSEA overhead expenses. The expectation is that approved grant applications would offset existing staff and equipment resources, and expand deliverables and service capacity.

Prepared by:  
Original signed by

Approved for Submission by:  
Original Signed by

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Aisha Chiandet, Water Scientist

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Julie Cayley, Executive Director



**Severn Sound Environmental Association  
Joint Municipal Service Board  
2022 Third Quarter Meeting (Q3) – October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**STAFF REPORT**

**No:** 39-22-SSEA  
**Date:** October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
**To:** Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors  
**From:** Michelle Hudolin, Wetlands & Habitat Biologist  
**SUBJECT: SSEA Community Tree Planting & Tree Seedling Distribution Program Update**

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**APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:**

**Goal 1: Sound Science**  
**Goal 4: An Exceptional Organization**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 39-22-SSEA regarding SSEA Community Tree Planting & Tree Seedling Distribution Program Update, be received for information; AND**

**FURTHER THAT: Staff be directed to work with the County of Simcoe to renew the multi-partner Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with County of Simcoe Forestry.**

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**Purpose of Staff Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the SSEA Community Tree Planting and Tree Seedling Distribution programs.

**Background**

The Severn Sound Remedial Action Plan/SSEA has been involved in facilitating, coordinating and supporting tree plants since the early 1990s, to increase forest cover and biological diversity, and improve wildlife habitat and stream water quality. The SSEA helps with project planning, obtaining native tree and shrub seedlings, and coordinating a variety of groups and volunteers, including local schools and community organizations. More than 242,000 seedlings have been planted through this Program to date.

To supplement the Community Tree Planting Program, the SSEA started the Tree Seedling Distribution Program in 2007. This over-the-counter ‘plant your own’ tree sales program provides property owners with reasonably-priced, native seedlings for spring planting, increasing local tree cover. Nearly 135,600 seedlings have been purchased and planted to date by participants.

In addition to water quality and habitat benefits of planting trees, there is a value in carbon capture: Tree Canada Foundation reports that the ‘average’ Canadian tree’s annual carbon storage is 2.5 kg (urban environment), and 2.8 kg (rural environment), and the lifetime carbon sequestration per tree is 200 kg and 225 kg in urban and rural environments, respectively<sup>1</sup>.

**Analysis/Discussion**

The SSEA is working to expand its successful tree planting programs over the next several years, as part of its habitat rehabilitation and climate change objectives, and to support SSEA’s municipal partners and landowners in their efforts to protect and enhance forests and tree canopy. Accordingly, SSEA has been seeking external funding to support building additional staff resources and organizational capacity. A job advertisement for a contract *Tree Plant Program Specialist* was posted in September; recruitment will be finalized once funding is secured. Planning for the spring 2023 Community Tree Planting and Tree Seedling Distribution programs is underway, including investigating availability of tree seedling stock and consideration of sites for community planting events.

**Expected Impact on SSEA budget/workload**

The contract *Tree Plant Program Specialist* position would be fully funded by an external grant. The position would support planning and implementation of SSEA’s existing programs, with a focus on developing a comprehensive Plan to guide growth and expand SSEA’s ability to facilitate and undertake larger-scale tree planting on public and private lands.

The SSEA sets seedling prices so that the Tree Seedling Distribution Program is self-funded. In addition to funds from seedling sales, the SSEA was able to access a \$0.25 per tree subsidy from Forests Ontario in 2021 and 2022, and will be applying to this program again for 2023.

Since 2015, the SSEA has been able to access funds to support Community Tree Planting projects through a multi-partner Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with County of Simcoe Forestry. Through this grant, SSEA has been reimbursed for 100% of the cost of seedlings planted by volunteers, including an anticipated contribution of \$1,705 for 2022. The current four-year (2019-2022) County MOU with SSEA, Dufferin Simcoe Land Stewardship Network, NVCA and LSRCA expires in December 2022; the SSEA looks forward to a new MOU that would include the 2023 planting season.

**Conclusion/Recommendations**

The SSEA is in planning stages for our spring 2023 programs. Staff will continue to conduct site visits to prospective properties in fall/winter as weather permits, and seedlings for both programs will be ordered in the coming weeks. Staff recommends identifying the SSEA’s interest in renewing the tree planting MOU with the County of Simcoe.

Prepared by:  
*Original signed by*

Approved for Submission by:  
*Original Signed by*

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Michelle Hudolin, Wetlands & Habitat Biologist

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Julie Cayley, Executive Director

**References**

1. Tree Canada Foundation “What Trees Can Do to Reduce Atmospheric CO2” 1999.  
[https://treecanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/What\\_trees\\_can\\_do\\_to\\_reduce\\_CO2\\_1999.pdf](https://treecanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/What_trees_can_do_to_reduce_CO2_1999.pdf)



**Severn Sound Environmental Association  
Joint Municipal Service Board  
2022 Third Quarter Meeting (Q3) – October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**STAFF REPORT**

**No:** 40-22-SSEA  
**Date:** October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
**To:** Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors  
**From:** SSEA Staff

**SUBJECT: SSEA Past and Upcoming Events**

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**APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:**

*Strategic Plan Goal 2: Supportive Partnerships*  
*Strategic Plan Goal 3: An Engaged & Informed Community*

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 40-22-SSEA regarding SSEA Past and Upcoming Events, be received for information.**

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**Purpose of Staff Report**

To outline key events hosted and attended by SSEA in Q3, and upcoming events in Q4 of 2022.

**Background**

Engaging with community and partner organizations is one of SSEA's core services. Facilitating and participating in community events or virtual webinars allows SSEA to:

- Engage and educate community members, and promote SSEA programs and services;
- Encourage stakeholders and community to follow best management practices; and
- Increase capacity through volunteers to deliver services and special project work.

**Analysis/Discussion**

SSEA has facilitated and/or participated in 16 events in Q3, detailed in **Table 1**. Approximately 3,954+ people attended, participated or volunteered in these events. To date, SSEA anticipates facilitating and/or participating in 8 events in the Q4 of 2022, detailed in **Table 2**.

**Table 1. Events that SSEA facilitated and/or participated in during Q3 of 2022.**

<b>Event Name</b>	<b>Event Coordinator &amp; Type</b>	<b>Relevant Program(s)/ Project(s)</b>	<b>Target Audience/ Region</b>	<b>Number of Participant/ Volunteer</b>
Farlain Lake Community Association AGM	Farlain Lake Community Association	Inland Lake monitoring	Farlain Lake residents & ratepayers (Tiny)	84
Little Lake Park Bee City Volunteer Day	SSEA & Town of Midland; IS Removal	Invasive Species, SSS	Volunteers from across the watershed	15 (Midland & SSEA staff)
Bresette House Market	Township of Georgian Bay; Market	Citizen Science, Invasive Species, SSS	Residents of Georgian Bay & surrounding area	250
Tay Kids Fishing Derby	Port McNicoll Anglers and Hunters; Fishing Derby	Invasive Species, Citizen Science	Residents/Youth in Tay area	150
Rotary Park Penetanguishene Phragmites Removal	SSEA & Town of Penetanguishene; IS Removal	Invasive Species	Residents in Penetanguishene	8
Fox St. Penetanguishene Phragmites Removal	SSEA, Town of Penetanguishene; IS Removal	Invasive Species	Residents in Penetanguishene	12
Tay Bike Day	Township of Tay	All	Residents in Tay	50
All Things Canadian Festival	Town of Penetanguishene	All	Penetanguishene & area residents & visitors	300
Tiny Mayors BBQ	Township of Tiny	All	Residents & visitors, Tiny	~2,000
Lafontaine Beach Spotted Knapweed Removal	Township of Tiny, LASHA & SSEA; IS Removal	Invasive Species	Residents in Tiny	11
Cawaja Beach Phragmites Removal	Township of Tiny, CPOA & SSEA; IS Removal	Invasive Species	Residents in Tiny	11

Wye Marsh Phragmites Removal	Friends of Wye Marsh; IS Removal	Invasive Species	Local residents (Tay, Midland & area)	2
Patterson Park Phragmites Removal	Georgian Bay Forever; IS Removal	Invasive Species	Residents in Tay area	8 (GBF & SSEA Staff)
Georgian Bay Festival	Georgian Bay Park	All	Tiny & area	~3,000
Lafontaine Commercial Fertilizer Webinar	SSEA - webinar	Drinking Water Source Protection Program	Lafontaine ICA, Tiny	23
Hurononia Community Foundation AGM	Hurononia Community Foundation	All	Hurononia Community (North Simcoe)	30
“Celebrating Our Roots” - 100 Years of Simcoe County Forest	County of Simcoe community event	Tree Planting	County of Simcoe	100+
<b>TOTAL VOLUNTEERS/PARTICIPANTS</b>				<b>6,054+</b>

**Table 2. Events SSEA will be facilitating/participating in during Q4 of 2022.**

<b>Event Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Relevant Program(s)/Project(s)</b>	<b>Target Audience/Region</b>
Tiny Farm Crawl	October 1, 2022	All	Residents/visitors in Township of Tiny
Honey Bee Festival	October 1, 2022	All	Residents in Twp of Georgian Bay and surrounding area
Planting for Pollinators Severn Event	October 11, 2022	SSS	Residents in the Twp of Severn, Ardrea Nature Volunteers
Planting for Pollinators Little Lake Park Event	October 14, 2022	Invasive Species, SSS	Georgian Bay District Secondary School Students



Tay Shore Trail Invasive Species Removal	October 15, 2022	Invasive Species	Residents in Twp of Tay, Georgian Bay Hunters and Anglers
Penetanguishene Planting Event	October 25, 2022	Invasive Species, SSS	Canadian Martyrs School Students
Ganawenim Meshkiki (GMI) Conference	November 21 & 22, 2022	Invasive Species, Wye Marsh Project	GMI Funders
Forest Pest Management Forum	December 6-8, 2022	Tree Planting	across Canada

**Conclusion**

SSEA staff has continued to foster relationships with municipalities, partner organizations and associations by facilitating and participating in community engagement events. **In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2022 staff attended 17 events with over 6,000 attendees/impressions.**

Prepared by:  
*Original signed by*

Approved for Submission by:  
*Original Signed by*

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Nicole Stott, Drinking Water Source  
 Protection Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Julie Cayley, Executive Director



**Severn Sound Environmental Association  
Joint Municipal Service Board  
2022 Third Quarter Meeting (Q3) – October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**STAFF REPORT**

**No:** 41-22-SSEA  
**Date:** October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
**To:** Chair and Members, SSEA Board of Directors  
**From:** Aisha Chiandet, Water Scientist  
**SUBJECT: Watershed Monitoring Update**

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**APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:**

**Goal 1: Sound Science**  
**Goal 2: Supportive Partnerships**  
**Goal 3: An Engaged & Informed Community**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 41-22-SSEA regarding Watershed Monitoring Update, be received for information.**

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**Purpose of Staff Report**

To update the Board on watershed monitoring activities in 2022, as well as, important findings from SSEA and other agencies.

**Background**

Each year, SSEA conducts monitoring on Severn Sound open waters, inland lakes, tributaries, and at groundwater monitoring wells and climate monitoring sites. This monitoring provides critical information on current status and trends in environmental quality, and informs municipal decision making. Monitoring data are used for such things as assessing raw drinking water conditions, informing timing of public works projects, background information for land use planning reviews, support for Official Plans, and making recommendations on stewardship actions by municipal decision makers and residents.

For some programs, the same sites are monitored each year, and for others, sites rotate. Under the Inland Lakes Monitoring Program in 2022, Little Lake and Farlain Lake were sampled. For stream invertebrate monitoring, this year's focus was on the eastern half of the watershed with sites on the Sturgeon, Coldwater and North Rivers. Intensive stream temperature classification focused on subwatersheds of the Coldwater River.

**Analysis/Discussion**

The table below summarizes sampling efforts to date in 2022. Note that there is additional fieldwork to be done under some of these and other programs, such as groundwater well monitoring.

Monitoring Program	# of Field Events (Part-Full Day)	# of Staff Involved	Total # of Staff Hours
Severn Sound Open Water	10	2	228
Inland Lakes - Little Lake	12	2	168
Inland Lakes - Farlain Lake	12	2	168
Inland Lakes - Orr Lake	1	3	9
Tay Intakes	14	1-2	79
Nuisance Algae Sampling	8	3	72
Climate Monitoring	10	2	140
Stream Temperature Monitoring	15	2	210
Stream Water Quality (PWQMN)	8	2	128
Stream Benthic Invertebrates	6	4	168
Other field investigations	7	2-7	87
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>102</b>		<b>1,457</b>

Key Happenings from 2022 Field Season

1. Nuisance and blue green algae blooms in Severn Sound open waters and inland lakes
  - Blue green blooms confirmed on Farlain Lake and Penetang Harbour.
  - Suspected blooms in other parts of Severn Sound, including Midland Bay.
  - Critical concern for municipalities like Tay that get drinking water from Severn Sound.
  - SSEA staff and citizen science volunteers played key role in identifying blooms and collecting samples for identification and toxin analysis.
  - Trialed a fee-for-service program with the Farlain Lake Community Association to have a volunteer sample for algae toxins; augmented Provincial sampling by increasing testing frequency.
  
2. Berm failure at pond in Copeland Forest
  - On April 25, failure of a berm holding back water in a large pond caused a massive release of water and sediment down the Coldwater River.
  - SSEA staff conducted downstream monitoring to track the extent of sedimentation impact, including water and benthic invertebrate sampling. Preliminary field observations showed substantial impact approximately 2.6 km downstream.
  
3. Fish community survey on the Coldwater River
  - Electroshocking conducted in partnership with NVCA at 2 headwater sites.
  - Documented coldwater fish species such as Brook Trout, Mottled Sculpin, and White Sucker.
  - Results will be compared to historical fish community surveys to document change.
  
4. SSEA joined PWQMN Sensor Program
  - Through the PWQMN Program, new sensor that continuously logs conductivity readings was installed at Coldwater River site in Coldwater.
  - Data will be used to establish a baseline range of conductivity, an indicator of dissolved material.
  - Changes compared to the baseline can indicate the influence of storm events, de-icing salts or changes in upstream habitat leading to sedimentation.

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Key Findings from SSEA and Other Agencies

5. Changes in physical conditions in Severn Sound and relationship to algae growth
- SSEA analyzed indicators of water movement (based on water levels), water layering (i.e. temperature stratification), water temperature, and algae communities to determine whether stratification has changed across Severn Sound, what role water movement plays, and what the implications are for the risk of blue green algae (BGA) blooms.
  - Results show that BGA growth is related to surface and bottom water temperature and thickness of the upper warm layer, and that water temperature, length and frequency of stratified periods, and thickness of the upper warm layer have become more favourable for BGA at some sites. This will likely continue with climate change, and BGA blooms may become more common.
6. Future Great Lakes water levels under a changing climate
- Recent [study](#) by researchers at Environment and Climate Change Canada indicates that the extreme high and low water levels of the past may be exceeded under a changing climate. Modelling suggests that once a rise of 1.5°C has been reached (likely to occur within 5-30 years) the range between highs and lows will increase to be over a metre greater than it was from 1961-2000. This increase in range will have significant impacts on the Great Lakes Coast and needs to be taken into account in all aspects of coastal planning and management.

Further information on SSEA monitoring programs and results reporting can be found online:

- [Results](#) section on SSEA's website has archived Inland Lake updates for 2022. Info and results from Severn Sound monitoring can be found [here](#) and in various [reports](#).
- Provincial websites provide results from [PWQMN monitoring](#) and [PGMN monitoring](#).
- SSEA [website](#) and [Current Weather Conditions](#) page show data from SSEA climate stations.
- A report on 2021 Shore Watch and Stream Watch citizen science results is available [here](#).

While the sampling season has ended for some programs, field activities will continue until the end of 2022 for the Drinking Water Intakes, Open Water (North Bay), Inland Lakes (benthic invertebrates on Farlain Lake), PWQMN, PGMN, Climate Monitoring, and Stream Temperature Monitoring programs. In Q4, the focus for staff will also shift to data management and reporting.

**Conclusion/Recommendations**

Monitoring programs provide critical information across the Severn Sound watershed, and trends with increases in reported algae blooms and changing climate and weather are concerning and make it imperative that these monitoring programs continue.

Prepared by:  
Original signed by

Approved for submission by:  
Original Signed by

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Aisha Chiandet, Water Scientist

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Julie Cayley, Executive Director



**Severn Sound Environmental Association  
Joint Municipal Service Board  
2022 Third Quarter Meeting (Q3) – October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**STAFF REPORT**

**No:** 42-22-SSEA  
**Date:** October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
**To:** Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors  
**From:** Judy Limoges, Treasurer  
**SUBJECT:** SSEA Employee Group Benefit Plan Renewal – November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

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**APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:**

**Goal 4: An Exceptional Organization**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**RESOLVED THAT:** Staff Report No. 42-22-SSEA regarding the annual renewal report for the SSEA Employee Group Benefit Plan from Mosey & Mosey, be received as information.

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**Purpose of Staff Report**

The purpose of this staff report is to inform the Board of Directors about the SSEA Employee Group Benefit Plan renewal for the year commencing November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

**Background**

SSEA continues to be part of a multi-employer consortium plan consisting of municipalities and municipal organizations developed by Mosey & Mosey and LAS. The benefits are provided through Sun Life. The Plan allows SSEA to achieve reduced costs by obtaining volume discounts and reduced administrative costs.

The current annual cost is \$44,556. The renewal annual cost is \$43,176 representing a decrease of \$1,380 or 3.1%.

SSEA will continue working with Mosey & Mosey to achieve cost savings and reduce risk while continuing to take care of our staff.

Prepared and submitted by:

*Original signed by*  
Judy Limoges, Treasurer

Approved for submission by:

*Original signed by*  
Julie Cayley, Executive Director



**Severn Sound Environmental Association  
Joint Municipal Service Board  
2022 Third Quarter Meeting (Q3) – October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**STAFF REPORT**

**No:** 43-22-SSEA  
**Date:** October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
**To:** Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors  
**From:** Julie Cayley, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** **Groundwater Study - Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Grant Application – request for support**

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**APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:**

**Goal 1: Sound Science**  
**Goal 2: Supportive Partnerships**  
**Goal 3: An Engaged & Informed Community**  
**Goal 4: An Exceptional Organization**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**RESOLVED THAT:** Staff Report No. 43-22-SSEA regarding the proposed Elmvale Ground Water Study - Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Grant Application request for support be received; and

**FURTHER THAT:** the SSEA Joint Municipal Service Board supports Option #1 to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) from the Severn Sound Environmental Association for the NSERC grant application for the Groundwater Study.

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**Purpose of Staff Report**

To update the SSEA Board on staff's efforts to collaborate with the Groundwater Study's partners in an in-kind capacity.

**Background**

At the July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 SSEA Board of Directors meeting, the Board directed staff to continue to engage with the research team to determine the best path forward in order to support and collaborate with the Elmvale Ground Water Study. The \$6.8 million (\$4.4M NSERC, \$2.4M fundraised) 5-year project is designed to understand the quality of the groundwaters of Huronia through an integrated scientific approach. The benefit to SSEA would be enhanced, modern data and understanding of groundwater movement and chemistry in Severn Sound that would be available to SSEA's municipal partners to use for policy and decision making – coming at a critical time when provincial and regional growth plans are calling for significant development in this region over the next 30 years.

SSEA staff has met with Dr. Mike Powell and Dr. Bill Shotyk to discuss their Elmvale Groundwater Project NSERC, Alliance Research Grant - including their interest in having SSEA partner in the project and provide a letter of intent (LOI) for the grant application.

### **Analysis/Discussion**

Option #1

Approve the support for the NSERC grant application through the LOI. SSEA staff will work with the applicants based on the details in the LOI, if the grant application is successful.

Option #2

Change the LOI as per the SSEA Board's direction.

Option #3

Do not approve the LOI.

### **Financial Implications**

Option #1

There is no cash contribution. Any support from SSEA will be in-kind staff support.

Option #2

Staff would evaluate the SSEA Board's changes and advise of any associated costs from said changes, or resulting from SSEA signing onto the Study.

Option #3

No financial implications with this Option.

### **Conclusion/Recommendations**

It is recommended that the SSEA Joint Municipal Service Board supports Option #1 to submit the LOI for the NSERC grant application for the Elmvale Ground Water Study.

Prepared by:  
Original signed by

Approved for submission by:  
Original signed by

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Cliff Evanitski, Office Manager

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Julie Cayley, Executive Director

**Attachment: [Draft SSEA Letter of Intent]**



## Severn Sound Environmental Association

489 Finlayson St, PO Box 460, Port McNicoll ON L0K 1R0  
Phone (705) 534-7283 | Fax (705) 534-7459

October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Michael Powell, PhD., Project Director  
Elmvale Groundwater Project  
Dept. of Renewable Resources  
University of Alberta

Dear Dr. Powell,

**RE: Elmvale Groundwater Project - SSEA Letter of Intent**

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This letter will confirm agreement from SSEA to partner with the Elmvale Groundwater Project being conducted through the University of Alberta and being submitted to the NSERC, Alliance Grant platform for funding. Based on direction from the Board, the SSEA staff will collaborate with the project and project leaders in the design and delivery of the project through in-kind resources only, according to the table included below.

### **Relevancy of SSEA in the project**

The SSEA budgets (2022 and proposed 2023) include ongoing water quality monitoring work in the following program areas: Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network, Provincial (Stream) Water Quality Monitoring Network, open water quality and inland lake monitoring, benthic invertebrate monitoring (lakes and streams), and invasive species monitoring. The Elmvale Groundwater project could provide enhanced data to these SSEA data sets as well as a better understanding of groundwater in the area for the SSEA and its partners.

A short summary of our understanding of the project, potential benefits, SSEA contributions, and requirements are as follows:

- \$6.8 million (\$4.4M NSERC, \$2.4M fundraised) 5-year project “Understanding the quality of the groundwaters of Huronia; an integrated scientific approach with policy and societal impacts.” A multi-university project to determine the scope, hydrogeology, geochemistry (processes) that result in the pristine water quality in the study area.
- The Study Area has been defined as the Tiny and Springwater Township portions of Huronia.



### **Potential benefits to SSEA members**

- Science - enhanced, data and understanding of groundwater movement and chemistry in Severn Sound that would be available for SSEA partners to use for policy and decision making
- Possibility of access to expertise to assist with SSEA groundwater level data analysis (i.e., SSEA would benefit from support from a qualified hydrogeologist to do the data adjustment using data from the SSEA barologger).
- Expand SSEA's network of groundwater/hydrology experts
- SSEA could provide a central point of science expertise, information and contact to support member municipalities who may also be partnering in this research project.

### **What SSEA could contribute**

- Input to project design to ensure locally valuable, unbiased, data-driven outcomes
- Input to policy recommendations based on project findings and local knowledge and expertise
- Strong connections in Severn Sound municipal community as well as Ontario science-based water quality and Source Water networks
- Existing local long-term science knowledge and data for groundwater (Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network), streams (Provincial [Stream] Water Quality Monitoring Network), and climate (weather stations)

### **SSEA requests and concerns for inclusion in the project application**

- Request inclusion of parameters relevant to drinking water e.g., bacteria, nitrate and sodium.
- Request inclusion of Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit as partner.
- Clarification of Study Area boundary (what geographic area is included in "Huron" as defined in this project)
- Demonstrate that there is a robust multi-agency peer review process.
- Assurance that potential groundwater impacts from all sources will be considered (i.e., existing known threats as well as all land uses including permit to take water, wells, aggregate operations, septic systems etc.) ensuring there is no bias or pre-determined conclusion to the research.
- Request at minimum an annual project update from the project leads. SSEA would be willing to help coordinate this for SSEA members.
- Concern that SSEA has limited staff resources (staff and time) and we may not have the capacity to be fully engaged.
  - Requests for data that require SSEA staff time to search and retrieve data from internal SSEA data sets would require cost recovery.
- Need to ensure any involvement from SSEA is true to core values and Strategic Plan.
  - Clarity around value to all SSEA partners beyond the immediate study area (Townships of Tiny and Springwater)
  - SSEA provides environmental services working on behalf of our 8 member Municipalities and as such does not participate in advocacy campaigns.

**Estimate of In-kind contribution to direct costs (this would be modified based on reality as project moves forward and should be considered an upper limit)**

IN KIND	Year 1 (2022)	Year 2 (2023)	Year 3 (2024)	year 4 (2025)	year 5 (2026)	Total
STAFF TIME (includes review and input to project design and delivery, meetings, site visits, does not include data search & retrieval)	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$11,500.00
TRAVEL (includes up to 2 in- person meetings, site visits, PGMN travel)	\$317	\$317	\$317	\$317	\$317	\$1,586.00
SSEA Monitoring (PGMN)	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$35,000.00
OFFICE/Admin (20%)	\$1,923	\$1,923	\$1,923	\$1,923	\$1,923	\$9,617
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,540</b>	<b>\$11,540</b>	<b>\$11,540</b>	<b>\$11,540</b>	<b>\$11,540</b>	<b>\$57,703</b>

If you have any questions or need clarification please contact SSEA Executive Director Julie Cayley [jcayley@severnsound.ca](mailto:jcayley@severnsound.ca)

Sincerely,  
SEVERN SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION

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Steffen Walma, Chair of SSEA Board

CC: Julie Cayley, Executive Director, SSEA  
Aisha Chiandet, Water Scientist, SSEA  
Melissa Carruthers, RMO/RMI, SSEA



Severn Sound Environmental Association  
Joint Municipal Service Board  
2022 Third Quarter Meeting (Q3) – October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**STAFF REPORT**

**No:** 44-22-SSEA  
**Date:** October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
**To:** Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors  
**From:** Julie Cayley, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Diversifying SSEA Revenue Sources

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**APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:**

**Goal 4: An Exceptional Organization**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 44-22-SSEA Diversifying SSEA Revenue Sources be received for information; AND**

**FURTHER THAT: SSEA staff be directed to explore the possibility of forming a SSEA Conservation Foundation.**

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**Purpose of Staff Report**

The purpose of this report is to seek direction from the Board regarding the possibility of SSEA forming its own conservation foundation.

**Background**

SSEA's 2018-2023 Strategic Plan includes the priority action to "*identify and implement opportunities to ensure funding for SSEA is secure and sustainable over the long-term.*" The SSEA's core budget funding is provided by the member municipalities. The SSEA operations budget is made up of core, special project and external funding. Funding comes from a number of external sources including foundations, Federal and Provincial governments, as well as, private donation. These external funding sources are often short-term and unreliable. SSEA has done a very good job the last couple of years of eliminating its annual shortfall and establishing a modest reserve. However, while acceptable financial governance suggests an organization should have an unrestricted reserve of 33% of its annual operating budget, SSEA's reserves are currently around 24% of the 2022 operating budget with approximately a third of those reserves restricted (\$102,580 of \$312,452). A healthy unrestricted reserve enables an organization to better qualify for funding programs which more often these days

are requiring both in-kind contributions and cash from the proponent. As well, the turnarounds for the applications are often less than a week, making it imperative that the proponent have readily available funds in order to participate.

The SSEA currently can issue tax receipts for donations through the Township of Tay. As interest in donating to the SSEA including in memorial donations has increased, and SSEA does not have access to electronic or online tools for easy donation (i.e. e-transfer, online donation) through the Township, the option of a charitable “arm” of the SSEA could increase the ease and therefore volume of donations. In 2019 the SSEA Board directed the Executive Director to explore the establishment of a fund and other options to expand revenue streams with the Huronia Community Foundation. Subsequent discussions with the Huronia Community Foundation did not lead to any viable options.

### **Analysis/Discussion**

Currently approximately 2/3 of Ontario’s Conservation Authorities (CA’s) have Foundations. As of 2017, the average Foundation raises around \$0.68 per resident (which would lead potentially to approximately \$58,480 a year in the SSEA watershed based on the 2021 census of 86,000 population). The keys to successful Foundations are:

- dedicated staff support;
- financial support for Foundation staff, at least in part from SSEA; and
- a Board of Directors adhering to charity laws and good governance practices.

### **Financial and Staff Workload Impacts**

Staff believes that it would be appropriate at this time to explore in-depth what is involved in establishing and securing a charitable number for a Foundation including the key areas of success noted above for other conservation foundations. The following list outlines some of the other challenges to consider:

- Increased competition, particularly from the health and education sectors;
- Donors are more demanding in terms of charitable information, disclosure and transparency;
- Governance and accountability standards have increased;
- Foundation Boards are exposed to greater liability and potential lawsuits;
- The Board’s role in risk oversight has increased significantly;
- Requirements for Strategic/Business plans, as well as, policies/procedures have increased; and
- Workload involved in establishing and running a fundraising “arm” to SSEA.

Staff would pull together a comprehensive report outlining value, potential costs and challenges to SSEA establishing a charitable foundation.

Prepared and submitted by:

Approved:

*Original signed by*  
Cliff Evanitski, Office Manager

*Original signed by*  
Julie Cayley, Executive Director



**Severn Sound Environmental Association  
Joint Municipal Service Board  
2022 Third Quarter Meeting (Q3) – October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**STAFF REPORT**

No: 45-22-SSEA  
Date: October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
To: Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors  
From: Tamara Brincat, Invasive Species Program Coordinator

**SUBJECT: Severn Sound Invasive Species Strategy (SSISS)**

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**APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:**

**Goal 1: Sound Science**  
**Goal 2: Supportive Partnerships**  
**Goal 3: An Engaged & Informed Community**

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**RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 45-22-SSEA, regarding Severn Sound Invasive Species Strategy (SSISS), be approved; and**

**FURTHER THAT: The SSEA Joint Municipal Service Board directs staff to implement the Severn Sound Invasive Species Strategy (SSISS) as presented at its meeting of October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

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**Purpose of Staff Report**

To update the SSEA Board on the status of the Severn Sound Invasive Species Strategy (SSISS) and seek direction to implement said strategy.

**Background**

The introduction and spread of invasive species threaten ecosystems, the economy, and communities. The Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) developed the Invasive Species Program (ISP) as a special project in 2017 to work collaboratively with Severn Sound municipal, regional, provincial, and federal governments, as well as, local organizations to prevent, monitor, manage and communicate on invasive species. Now part of the SSEA Core Services, the ISP provides a centralized approach in which members/partners and their ratepayers can access information, expertise, updates and resources on invasive species. With the support of SSEA's eight partner municipalities, SSEA has developed the **Severn Sound Invasive Species Strategy (SSISS)** to coordinate a collaborative approach SSEA members.

**Discussion**

The purpose of the SSISS is to provide strategic direction to address the ecological, economic and social impacts of invasive species. A coordinated approach will minimize the potential for duplication while increasing the opportunity for synergies and success across jurisdictions. Community engagement, partnership creation and collaboration between groups are imperative to increasing the scope and success of the ISP.

The SSISS will be implemented through four strategic actions, and further outlines goals and recommendations for each strategic action that will be primarily led by SSEA with support from Severn Sound municipalities, summarized below:

1) **Prevent**

Recommendations:

- Identify specific invasive species introduction sources;
- Characterize the risk of introduction pathways based upon potential invader types and intensity of human use;
- Educate the public regarding the role of humans in the spread and dispersal of invasive species;
- Install targeted and standardized signage throughout the watershed area;
- Implement best practices related to invasive species containment;
- Explore incentive programs to encourage best practices.

2) **Monitor**

Recommendations:

- Designate priority sites for invasive species monitoring and management;
- Provide invasive species monitoring and identification training to municipal staff and the community;
- Provide training and resources to participants in SSEA citizen science invasive species detection and monitoring programs (Invasive Species Spotters);
- Support volunteer and community-based invasive species mapping;
- Provide intuitive platforms to electronically submit invasive species reports;
- Summarize and share invasive species data through annual reports.

3) **Act**

Recommendations:

- Support municipally-led invasive species management actions;
- Train and support volunteers, community groups and municipal staff on invasive species best management practices;
- Create site-specific invasive species management plans for priority areas;
- Explore invasive species related funding opportunities to supplement the cost of management projects;
- Empower and encourage residents to organize local removal projects;
- Designate priority invasive species as local noxious weeds to improve enforcement of their management on private property.

4) **Adapt**

Recommendations:

- Continue sharing information and experiences through the SSEA invasive species working group;
- Update and implement monitoring and best management practices to match local conditions and priorities;
- Research and experiment with new advancements in treatment techniques;
- Strive to further promote knowledge sharing between partners, including Indigenous communities.

**Conclusion/Recommendation**

The Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) Invasive Species Program (ISP) has been providing valuable expertise, advice and support to SSEA partners and the public since 2017. The SSEA ISP Strategy provides a framework with strategic focal points and actions to maximize the benefits of a shared ISP moving forward in Severn Sound. Implementing this strategy will rely on existing staff resources as well as external funding. As such, SSEA staff recommends the Board approves the **SSISS** for implementation.

Prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

*Original signed by*

*Original signed by*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tamara Brincat, Invasive Species Program Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Cayley, Executive Director