



**SEVERN SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION
JOINT MUNICIPAL SERVICE BOARD (JMSB)
2024 First Quarter (Q1) Meeting**

April 25th, 2024

9:30am - 12pm

In-person and Zoom

Harbour Shore Community Room (Victoria Harbour Branch Library – 145 Albert Street)

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

2. ADOPT AGENDA

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

4. APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of 2023 Fourth Quarter (Q4) meeting of the SSEA Joint Municipal Service Board held February 1, 2024

4.2 Business arising from the minutes

5. SEVERN SOUND SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY MEETING

5.1 Suspend the SSEA meeting to allow the SSSPA to meet

5.2 Severn Sound Source Protection Authority Meeting

5.3 Re-convene the SSEA Joint Service Board Meeting

6. PRESENTATIONS

None.

7. SSEA BUSINESS

a. SSEA 1st Quarter 2024 Report

b. SSEA FINANCIAL REPORTS

7.1 Staff Report 01-24-SSEA – 2023 Updated Draft Financials

7.2 Staff Report 02-24-SSEA – 2024 1st Quarter Draft Financials

7.3 Staff Report 03-24-SSEA – Status of 2023 Audit – verbal

7.4 Staff Report 04-24-SSEA – 2024 Insurance Update

7.5 Staff Report 05-24-SSEA – 2024 SSEA Charge Out Rate Review

7.6 Staff Report 06-24-SSEA – 2024 SSEA Budget – Invoice Update - verbal

7.7 Staff Report 07-24-SSEA – Living Wage Employer

- 7.8 Staff Report 08-24-SSEA – Draft 2025 SSEA Budget
- 7.9 Staff Report 09-24-SSEA – Investment Opportunities – Reserve Funds

8. SSEA CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION UPDATES



- 8.1 Staff Report 10-24-SSEA – SSEA Treasurer Municipality
- 8.2 Staff Report 11-24-SSEA – Risk Management Services 2024 Q1 Update
- 8.3 Staff Report 12-23-SSEA – SSEA Q1 Grant Application Update
- 8.4 Staff Report 13-24-SSEA – SSEA Invasive Species Program Update
- 8.5 Staff Report 14-24-SSEA – SSEA Tree Program(s) Update
- 8.6 Staff Report 15-24-SSEA – New SSEA Naturalization Projects for 2024
- 8.7 Staff Report 16-24-SSEA – SSEA Monitoring Program Update
- 8.8 Staff Report 17-24-SSEA – SSEA Past and Upcoming Events
- 8.9 Staff Report 18-24-SSEA – COA Project Updates: Stormwater Monitoring & State of Severn Sound Reporting



- 8.10 Staff Report 19-24-SSEA – Request to join GB4 (turn into GB5)

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

- 9.1 Staff Report 20-24-SSEA – Executive Director Q4 Report (On Table)

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. CORRESPONDENCE

- 11.1 Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit re: Letter of Support
- 11.2 Patricia Arney re: Letter of Support
- 11.3 Township of Georgian Bay re: Budget Resolution
- 11.4 Township of Tiny re: TC Energy Pumped Storage Proposal Review
- 11.5 Township of Tiny re: Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Resolution

12. CLOSED SESSION

13. OTHER BUSINESS

14. ADJOURN



**SEVERN SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION
JOINT MUNICIPAL SERVICE BOARD (JMSB)**

2023 Fourth Quarter (Q4) Meeting

February 1st, 2024

9:00am – 11:30am

In-person and Zoom

North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre - Boardroom (527 Len Self Blvd, Midland)

Present:

Chair, Councillor Steffen Walma

Vice-chair, Councillor Danielle Alexander

Councillor Suzanne Marchand

Councillor Brian Bocek (via Zoom)

Councillor Lori Hutcheson

Councillor Mark Taylor

Councillor Paul Raymond (Alternate)

Township of Tiny

Township of Springwater

Town of Penetanguishene

Township of Georgian Bay

Township of Oro-Medonte

Township of Severn

Township of Tay

Staff present:

Julie Cayley

Melissa Carruthers

Nicole Stott

Judy Limoges

Lex McPhail

Jon Main

Executive Director

Manager Source Water Protection,
RMO/RMI

Corporate Administration Coordinator

Financial Services Coordinator/Treasurer

IT Manager/GIS Applications Specialist

Sustainability and Climate Action
Coordinator

Regrets:

Councillor Roberta Bald

Deputy Mayor Barry Norris

Town of Midland

Township of Tay

Guests:

Dr. Mike Powell (via Zoom)

Rebecca MacDonald (via Zoom)

Elmvale Groundwater Project

Pahapill and Associates

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Walma called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

2. ADOPT AGENDA

MOTION: 2023-073

Moved by: P. Raymond

Seconded by: S. Marchand

RESOLVED THAT: the SSEA Joint Municipal Service Board approves the Meeting Agenda as amended, dated February 1st, 2024; and

FURTHER THAT: A question from Paul Raymond regarding 2024 budget be added under Other Business as 15.1; and

FURTHER THAT: Procedural Bylaw discussion be added under Other Business as 15.2.

Carried;

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None declared.

4. APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the 2023 Third Quarter (Q3) meeting of the SSEA Joint Municipal Service Board held October 26, 2023

MOTION: 2023-074

Moved by: D. Alexander

Seconded by: L. Hutcheson

RESOLVED THAT: the SSEA Joint Municipal Service Board approves the minutes of the Third Quarter (Q3) meeting of the SSEA Joint Municipal Service Board held October 26th, 2023.

Carried;

4.2 Business arising from the minutes

MOTION: 2023-075A

Moved by: M. Taylor

Seconded by: S. Marchand

RESOLVED THAT: the SSEA Joint Municipal Service Board receives the verbal update re: action items arising from the minutes of the 2023 Q3 Meeting of October 26th, 2023, as information.

Carried;

4.3 Minutes of Executive Committee meeting held January 18, 2024

MOTION: 2023-075B

Moved by: B. Bocek

Seconded by: S. Marchand

RESOLVED THAT: the SSEA Joint Municipal Service Board approves the minutes of the SSEA Executive Meeting held January 18, 2024.

Carried;

5. ELECTION OF SSEA CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

SSEA 2023 Chair Walma stepped down. Pro Tem Chair Julie Cayley, SSEA Executive Director, conducted the election portion of the meeting.

Election Procedures

Julie Cayley, Pro Tem Chair reviewed election procedures.

Appointment of Scrutineers

MOTION: 2023-076

Moved by: S. Marchand

Seconded by: P. Raymond

RESOLVED THAT: Nicole Stott and Jon Main be appointed as scrutineers for the 2024 Election of SSEA Officers; and
FURTHER THAT: the ballots be destroyed after the election process.

Carried;

Nominations for the Position of Chair

Danielle Alexander nominated Steffen Walma for the position of Chair for 2024.

Suzanne Marchand nominated Danielle Alexander for the position of Chair for 2024.

Affirmation of nomination

Steffen Walma affirmed he would be willing to run for the position of Chair for 2024. Danielle Alexander did not affirm.

Pro Tem Chair Julie Cayley called for further nominations three times. No further nominations were put forward.

MOTION: 2023-077

Moved by: P. Raymond

Seconded by: M. Taylor

RESOLVED THAT: nominations for the position of SSEA Board Chair be closed.

Carried;

Election of SSEA Chair Result

Steffen Walma was acclaimed as Chair for 2024.

Nomination for the Position of Vice Chair

Steffen Walma nominated Danielle Alexander for the position of Vice-chair for 2024.

Affirmation of nomination

Danielle Alexander affirmed she would be willing to run for the position of Vice-chair for 2024.

Pro Tem Chair Julie Cayley called for further nominations three times. No further nominations were put forward.

MOTION: 2023-078

Moved by: S. Marchand

Seconded by: P. Raymond

RESOLVED THAT: nominations for the position of SSEA Board Vice-chair be closed.

Carried;

Election of SSEA Vice-chair Result

Danielle Alexander was acclaimed as Vice-chair for 2023.

MOTION: 2023-079A

Moved by: S. Marchand

Seconded by: L. Hutcheson

RESOLVED THAT: The Severn Sound Environmental Joint Municipal Service Board has elected and/or appointed for the year of 2024 Officers as follows:

Chair: Steffen Walma

Vice-chair: Danielle Alexander

Carried;

MOTION: 2023-079B

Moved by: M. Taylor

Seconded by: L. Hutcheson

RESOLVED THAT: Suzanne Marchand remains Executive Officer on the SSEA Executive Committee.

Chair Walma resumed the Chair and thanked the Board for their vote of confidence.

6. SEVERN SOUND SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY MEETING

No SS SPA meeting this Quarter.

7. SSEA FOURTH QUARTER 2023 REPORT

MOTION: 2023-080

Moved by: B. Bocek

Seconded by: D. Alexander

RESOLVED THAT: the SSEA Joint Municipal Service Board receives the 4th Quarter 2023 Report for information.

Carried;

8. PRESENTATIONS

8.1 Presentation Re: Dr. Powell – Update on status of Elmvale Groundwater Project NSERC, Alliance Grant platform funding

MOTION: 2023-081

Moved by: S. Marchand

Seconded by: L. Hutcheson

RESOLVED THAT: the presentation RE: Update on status of Elmvale Groundwater Project NSERC, Alliance Grant platform funding, be received for information.

Carried;

8.2 Presentation Re: Rebecca MacDonald, CPA, CA, Associate Partner, Pahapill – Auditor Report

MOTION: 2023-082

Moved by: D. Alexander

Seconded by: M. Taylor

RESOLVED THAT: the presentation RE: Auditor Report, be received for information.

Carried;

9. SSEA FINANCIAL REPORTS

9.1 Staff Report No. 49-23-SSEA – 2022 Draft Audited Financials

MOTION: 2023-083

Moved by: S. Marchand

Seconded by: L. Hutcheson

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 49-23-SSEA regarding the 2022 draft audited financial statements be approved by the board.

Carried;

9.2 Staff Report No. 50-23-SSEA – Transfer of 2022 Unrestricted Surplus to Reserve

MOTION: 2023-084A

Moved by: M. Taylor

Seconded by: S. Marchand

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 50-23-SSEA regarding SSEA 2022 unrestricted surplus be received as information; and

FURTHER THAT: the SSEA Joint Municipal Services Board approves the transfer of the 2022 unrestricted surplus in the amount of \$96,842 to the contingency reserve for future needs.

Carried;

MOTION: 2023-084B

Moved by: L. Hutcheson

Seconded by: B. Bocek

RESOLVED THAT: SSEA will look into opportunities to invest reserve funds, and report back to the Board.

Carried;

9.3 Staff Report No. 51-23-SSEA – Deferral of 2023 Unspent Reserve

MOTION: 2023-085

Moved by: D. Alexander

Seconded by: B. Bocek

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 51-23-SSEA, regarding the deferral of reserve funds designated in the 2023 budget to cover consulting services and IT, be received as information; and

FURTHER THAT: said funds, not spent, be deferred to 2024.

Carried;

9.4 Staff Report No. 52-23-SSEA - SSEA Reserve Schedule as of December 31, 2023 and Projected Reserve Schedule as of December 31, 2024

MOTION: 2023-086

Moved by: M. Taylor

Seconded by: D. Alexander

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 52-23-SSEA regarding the 2023 SSEA Reserve Schedule and the Projected 2024 Reserve Schedule, be received for information; and

FURTHER THAT: the 2023 reserve schedule and 2024 projected reserve schedule be approved by the Board.

Carried;

9.5 Staff Report 53-23-SSEA – Appointment of Auditors for 2023

MOTION: 2023-087A

Moved by: L. Hutcheson

Seconded by: P. Raymond

RESOLVED THAT: the SSEA appoints the audit firm for the SSEA Treasurer municipality, Township of Tay, currently Pahapill and Associates Professional Corporation, to perform the 2023 annual financial audit of the SSEA.

Carried;

S. Walma tuned Chair over to Vice-chair D. Alexander.

MOTION: 2023-087B

Moved by: S. Walma

Seconded by: S. Marchand

RESOLVED THAT: Board directs executives and staff to investigate interest from other partner municipalities to act as SSEA treasurer municipality through a formal request for interest to member CAO's.

Carried;

S. Walma resumed the Chair.

9.6 Staff Report 54-23-SSEA – 2023 Q4 Draft Financials

MOTION: 2023-088

Moved by: D. Alexander

Seconded by: P. Raymond

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 54-23-SSEA regarding the 2023 Fourth Quarter Draft Financials be received as information.

Carried;

9.7 Staff Report 55-23-SSEA – 2024 Staff COLA Salary Increase

MOTION: 2023-089

Moved by: M. Taylor

Seconded by: D. Alexander

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 55-23-SSEA regarding a 2024 annual COLA salary increase of 2.0%, based on the 2024 budget be approved by the board; and FURTHER THAT: The Executive Director be authorized to implement this cost of living increase for SSEA FTE staff effective January 1, 2024.

Carried;

10. SSEA CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

10.1 Staff report 56-23-SSEA – 2024 SSEA Board Meeting Schedule

MOTION: 2023-090

Moved by: P. Raymond

Seconded by: M. Taylor

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 56-23-SSEA regarding the 2024 SSEA Board Schedule, be received for information; and

FURTHER THAT: the Joint Municipal Board of Directors approves the following schedule of SSEA Board of Directors meetings for 2024. Meetings will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at a location to be determined, or at the call of the chair.

- First Quarterly Meeting: April 25, 2024
- Second Quarterly Meeting: July 25, 2024
- Third Quarterly: October 24, 2024
- Fourth Quarterly: January 30, 2025

Carried;

10.2 Staff Report 57-23-SSEA – Severn Sound Source Protection Authority (SS SPA) Drinking Water Source Protection Update and SSEA Risk Management Services 2022 Q4 Update

MOTION: 2023-091

Moved by: M. Taylor

Seconded by: P. Raymond

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 57-22-SSEA regarding an update on the activities undertaken by SS SPA and SSEA Risk Management staff during Q4 of 2023, be received for information.

Carried;

10.3 Staff Report 58-23-SSEA – SSEA Q4 Grant Application Update

MOTION: 2023-092

Moved by: B. Bocek

Seconded by: L. Hutcheson

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 58-23-SSEA regarding SSEA 2023 Q4 Grant Application Update, be received for information.

Carried;

10.4 Staff Report 59-23-SSEA – Improving Habitat in the Severn Sound Watershed Project (GLLAF) Update

MOTION: 2023-093

Moved by: S. Marchand

Seconded by: D. Alexander

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 59-23-SSEA regarding Improving Habitat in the Severn Sound Watershed Project (GLLAF) Update, be received for information.

Carried;

10.5 Staff Report 60-23-SSEA – SSEA Invasive Species Program Update
MOTION: 2023-094
Moved by: P. Raymond Seconded by: M. Taylor
RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 60-23-SSEA, regarding SSEA Invasive Species Program Update, be received for information.
Carried;

10.6 Staff Report 61-23-SSEA – Weather Station Update
MOTION: 2023-095
Moved by: B. Bochek Seconded by: S. Marchand
RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 61-23-SSEA regarding Weather Station Update, be received for information.
Carried;

10.7 Staff Report 62-23-SSEA – Building Tree Planting Capacity in the Severn Sound Watershed Project
MOTION: 2023-096
Moved by: D. Alexander Seconded by: M. Taylor
RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 62-23-SSEA regarding Building Tree Planting Capacity in the Severn Sound Watershed Project Update, be received for information.
Carried;

10.8 Staff Report 63-23-SSEA – SSEA Past and Upcoming Events
MOTION: 2023-097
Moved by: P. Raymond Seconded by: S. Marchand
RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 63-23-SSEA regarding SSEA Past and Upcoming Events, be received for information.
Carried;

10.9 Staff Report 64-23-SSEA – COA Project Updates: Stormwater Monitoring & State of Severn Sound Reporting
MOTION: 2023-098
Moved by: L. Hutcheson Seconded by: P. Raymond
RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 64-23-SSEA regarding COA Project updates (Stormwater Monitoring and State of Severn Sound Reporting), be received for information.
Carried;

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE
Staff Report 65-23-SSEA – Executive Director Q4 Report (verbal – on table)
MOTION: 2023-099
Moved by: B. Bochek Seconded by: M. Taylor
RESOLVED THAT: The Executive Director Staff report 65-23-SSEA be received for information.
Carried;

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS
B. Bochek (Township of Georgian Bay), L. Hutcheson (Township of Oro-Medonte), S. Marchand (Town of Penetanguishene), D. Alexander (Township of Springwater), and S.

Walma (Township of Tiny) provided updates on at what stage their respective municipalities were in regarding 2023 municipal budgets.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

- 13.1** Card from the Port McNicol Lions Club RE: Thanking the staff of SSEA for helping with the food and toy drive in December 2023

MOTION: 2023-100

Moved by: D. Alexander

Seconded by: M. Taylor

RESOLVED THAT: Correspondence from Port McNicol Lions Club RE: Thanking the staff of SSEA for helping with the food and toy drive in December 2023, be received for information.

Carried;

- 13.2** Township of Tay – Resolution – November 8/22, 2023 – RE: Verbal Update, Mayor Walker, Re: Draft Severn Sound Environmental Association Notice of Motion

MOTION: 2023-101

Moved by: S. Marchand

Seconded by: P. Raymond

RESOLVED THAT: Resolution from Township of Tay RE: Verbal Update, Mayor Walker, Re: Draft Severn Sound Environmental Association Notice of Motion, be received for information.

Carried;

- 13.3** Town of Midland – Resolution No.2023-269 – November 8th, 2023 – RE: Budget and Workplan Request

MOTION: 2023-102

Moved by: D. Alexander

Seconded by: L. Hutcheson

RESOLVED THAT: Resolution No.2023-269 from Town of Midland dated November 8th, 2023, RE: Budget and Workplan Request, be received for information.

Carried;

- 13.4** Township of Georgian Bay – Resolution C-2023-456 – November 14th, 2023 – RE: Honey Harbour Water Sampling

MOTION: 2023-103

Moved by: B. Bocek

Seconded by: M. Taylor

RESOLVED THAT: Resolution C-2023-456 from Township of Georgian Bay dated November 14th, 2023, RE: Honey Harbour Water Sampling, be received for information.

Carried;

- 13.5** Township of Georgian Bay – Resolution C-2023-517 – December 19th, 2023 – RE: Invitation for discussion

MOTION: 2023-104

Moved by: B. Bocek

Seconded by: M. Taylor

RESOLVED THAT: Resolution C-2023-517 from Township of Georgian Bay dated December 19th, 2023, RE: Invitation for Discussion, be received for information.

Carried;

14. CLOSED SESSION

None.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 Discussion regarding the 2024 budget. No decision or direction from the board resulted from the discussion. No motion made.

15.2 Discussion regarding the SSEA procedural by-law

MOTION: 2023-105

Moved by: P. Raymond

Seconded by: D. Alexander

MOTION: The SSEA Board of Directors recommends the addition of a confirmatory motion to the SSEA procedural by-law.

Carried;

16. ADJOURN

MOTION: 2023-106

Moved by: P. Raymond

Seconded by: S. Marchand

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting of the SSEA Board of Directors held February 1st, 2024, adjourn at 11:40am to meet again April 25th, 2024, or at the call of the Chair.

Carried.

Chair, Steffen Walma

Executive Director, Julie Cayley

Approved this _____.



Severn Sound Environmental Association 2024 1st Quarter (Jan. 1 - Mar. 31) Report/Update

Staffing/HR

Administration, Staffing, Training and Volunteers

Administration

One SSEA Board meeting (2023 4th Quarter), one SSEA Executive Committee meeting and one SSEA Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting. Delivered three budget (2024) deputations (Townships of Tay, Oro-Medonte, and Town of Midland), and one special budget meeting with Township of Georgian Bay and one with Township of Tay.

An SSEA orientation was held for all member municipalities Mayor, Council, and CAO.

Staffing

Welcomed Kirsten MacLeod as the Source Water Protection Intern. Nicole Stott moved into the Corporate Administration Coordinator role. Posted job advertisements for Biodiversity Enhancement Intern and summer contracts (positions dependent on funding approval).

Training/Professional Development

Staff attended 16 no-cost training webinars on a range of SSEA program and corporate related topics.

Volunteers - THANK YOU

Thank you to the 4 citizen science volunteers who have submitted ice observations so far for the 2023/24 season.

Education, Engagement, Outreach

Presentations, Articles, Social Media, Events, Inquiries

Where appropriate, presentations, meetings, videos etc. have been recorded and posted to the SSEA YouTube channel.

Presentations

Presented to the SSEA Board on various program updates including an update on the Elmvale Groundwater Project. Presentation highlighting results from the State of Severn Sound project was delivered at the SSEA Agricultural Advisory Committee. Results from the Stormwater Monitoring Pilot Project were presented to Springwater council and at the Ontario Source to Stream conference.

Articles/Publications/News

SSEA has been highlighted in Coverage of SSEA collaboration with Midland/Tiny highlighted in Bee City Handbook in Midland Today (<https://www.midlandtoday.ca/local-news/midland-tiny-featured-in-new-bee-city-canada-handbook-8182849?%20mode=Article>), Midland Today highlighting the open nominations for the Severn Sound Environmental Champion Awards (<https://www.midlandtoday.ca/local-news/nominations-open-for-ssea-champion-awards-8163867>), Midland Today helping to promote the SSEA Open House

(https://www.midlandtoday.ca/local-news/environment-will-be-hot-topic-at-upcoming-open-house-in-elmvale-8431237?utm_source=MidlandToday.ca&utm_campaign=2934ef92ab-DailyMID&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5aff076564-2934ef92ab-320366241), Midland Today helping celebrate the Severn Sound Environmental Champions (<https://www.midlandtoday.ca/local-news/severn-sound-environmental-association-avoids-pointing-fingers-8572556>), and Nature Conservancy Canada highlighting SSEA in their Collaborating For Conservation article (<https://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/blog/collaborating-for.html>). Free advertising was once again provided by the Gloucester Pool Cottage Association in their annual magazine, THANK YOU! Submitted two stories for Lake Huron Annual Report, led by Environment and Climate Change Canada and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Social Media

A total of 59 posts were made across the SSEA [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts on a variety of topics and SSEA programs this quarter, to audiences of 729, 408, and 440 followers respectively. Two new videos ([Water Level Presentation to SSEA Board 20230130](#) and [SSEA Board 2023 Quarter 4 Meeting - February 1, 2024](#)) with 82 views total, were posted on the [SSEA YouTube channel](#) with 56 subscribers. Updates made to Water Levels (<https://www.severnsound.ca/programs-projects/monitoring/severn-sound-inland-lakes/water-levels/>) page on SSEA website.



Penetanguishene Winterama

Events/Meetings/Conferences

Team SSEA participated in 11 municipal and external partner events, meetings and conferences throughout the quarter. Abstract submitted for the 2024 International Association for Great Lakes Research Conference (May) accepted. Two staff attended SGB Chamber of Commerce - International Women's Day Event.



Attendees at Source to Stream conference

Inquiry Responses (excluding SSS and Source Water)

SSEA responded to 7 inquiries from municipal partners, members of the public and contractors.

Tree Planting

Planting and Distribution

The SSEA is in the planning stages for our spring 2024 Community Tree Planting & Tree Seedling Distribution programs. SSEA staff is working with member municipalities staff to select suitable locations for participants to pick up their tree seedling orders. There are currently 220 participants and over 9,700 pre-ordered seedlings through the Tree Seedling Distribution Program. Site visits will be conducted to assess potential community tree planting sites, with planting planned at 5 sites in spring.

The SSEA was successful in extending the funding timeline of our 2 Billion Trees Project one more year to March 31st, 2025. The extension of the project will allow the SSEA to implement its tree planting programs in spring and potentially fall 2024 tree plantings. Thank you NRCan!

Fish and Wildlife Habitat/Natural Heritage

Invasive Species, Habitat Restoration/Enhancement, Species at Risk, and Natural Heritage

Invasive Species (IS)

Continued to provide technical support on IS to municipalities, residents, and external agencies. IS staff submitted final reports for the Invasive Phragmites Control Fund and Invasive Species Microgrant, which enabled mapping of over 770 invasive phragmites sites and expanded capacity for invasive shrub management. As always, outreach & education were important components of the IS program this quarter, with IS staff attending Township of Tiny's Winter Carnaval d'Hiver, Penetanguishene's Winterama, and Georgian College Environmental Meet & Greet, responding to five new invasive/non-native species inquiries, and participating in learning opportunities such as the Invasive Species Forum and Ontario Crayfish Workshop which informed staff on novel invasive species and management techniques.



Ontario Crayfish Workshop

The IS team continued to collaborate with partner agencies and assist with the Wye Marsh Invasive Species Management Project. SSEA is currently working with Friends of Wye Marsh to establish a 2024 task list and project budget.

Habitat Restoration/ Enhancement

SSEA is in the planning stages for projects to support municipalities and schools in planning and implementing naturalization of parks and schoolyards.

Land Use Planning

Input and Review

Plan and Policy Input

SSEA participated in pre-consultation meetings and/or commented on applications, reports, and Environmental Impact Studies for 23 sites.

Drinking Water Source Protection

Source Protection Authority and Risk Management Services

Source Protection Authority Services

Submitted a 3-year draft workplan and budget to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks for Source Protection Authority work; negotiations are ongoing.

Assisted seven member municipalities with completing their February 1 annual reporting deadline under the Clean Water Act.

Continued to work on current and predicted water system changes within the Towns of Midland and Penetanguishene, and Townships of Tiny, Springwater, and Severn.

Gave a virtual “Drinking Water Source Protection 101 and What it Means to Realtors” presentation to The Lakelands Association of REALTORS®.

Risk Management Services

This quarter staff commented on 17 development applications, answered 18 inquiries, issued 12 Clean Water Act Section 58(7) Notices of Intent to Establish a Risk Management Plan, attended 4 pre-consultation meetings, had 1 Risk management plan negotiation meeting, and conducted 1 inspection.



Melissa Carruthers Presentation to The Lakelands Association of Realtors on Source Water Protection

Monitoring Programs

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

Lake Sampling (Open Water, Inland Lakes, Intakes)

Completed sampling events for Tay intakes (3 runs at 2 sites). Sampling included collecting water chemistry samples and field data such as pH, conductivity and temperature. Water quality results are used to assess lake conditions including algae blooms, guide management decisions, and protect drinking water quality. Due to unpredictable ice conditions, winter sampling was not conducted on Orr and Bass Lake.

Submitted lab load request to MECP for the 2024 season based on discussions indicating that a reduced request was required. Changes to the 2024 sampling program include fewer Severn

Sound open water sites sampled less frequently, inland lake sites sampled less frequently, and no drinking water intake or supplemental tributary sites (PWQMN program unchanged).

Concluded: Piloting the Inclusion of Wastewater and Stormwater Effluents into Existing Long-Term Watershed Monitoring Program (COA Project)

All data and information has been compiled and analyzed, with presentations made to the Springwater council, at a prominent stormwater related conference, and a poster presented at SSEA Municipal Orientation. Outcomes from this pilot project have been drafted in a final report and submitted to the Province of Ontario.



Water Sample collected at Wye River Site

PWQMN (Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network)

Conducted two winter sampling runs at 9 sites throughout the watershed, collecting chemistry samples and corresponding field data such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, pH and turbidity.

Staff continue to monitor and maintain the PWQMN program conductivity sensor. The sensor was installed at a downstream site on the Coldwater River. Data will be used to establish a baseline range which can help detect external impacts on water quality, such as storm events and de-icing salts.



Mayfly from benthic sample

Stream Temperature

Stream temperature data recorded throughout the summer months has been downloaded and compiled. The data will be used to model thermal stability. Thermal stability is a classification that allows us to better understand if cold, cool, or warm stream habitat exists for important temperature dependent species.

SSEA staff continue to compile data from the 2023 intensive thermal stability study conducted on portions of the Coldwater River subwatershed. This involves visiting all drainage areas and receiving waters to update drainage mapping. This multi-year project will provide background data and determine temperature classifications through modeling of all stream reaches, and helps to better understand where to focus future monitoring and stewardship efforts.

Stream Benthic Invertebrates

Staff have been sorting through bulk preserved samples to collect all benthic invertebrate specimens. Identified eleven benthic invertebrate samples from Coldwater River and Silver Creek, within the Township of Oro-Medonte and Township of Severn. Over 4,400 bugs identified.

Climate Monitoring - Rain and Air Gauges

All data for the SSEA rain gauges and air temperature loggers have been compiled and added to the SSEA database. This data provides additional background information for monitoring projects in the Severn Sound and Township of Tiny Coastal Area, putting monitoring results into context (e.g., water quality and quantity, inland lake levels, trends in algae growth, thermal stability classification for streams).

Weather Stations

The Town of Midland and Lafontaine, Township of Tiny weather stations have been checked regularly using the online portal. The 2023 updated crop heat unit & rainfall summary reports are available on the SSEA website. To learn more about our weather stations, access updated reports and to view the available near real-time data go to the [SSEA website](#).

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

Data has been received so far from 4 Ice Spotters volunteers reporting ice on and off for the 2023/24 season. Shore and Stream Watch participants will be contacted with reminders about the upcoming monitoring season.

Sustainable Severn Sound Special Project

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

Partners for Climate Protection - Local Climate Change Action Plan

The Municipal Climate Leadership Committee met on March 21st to discuss the various municipal efforts and to highlight the Township of Georgian Bay preliminary results of their energy audit project - looking at the recommendations and analysis of the townhall. This funding was from FCM - Green Municipal Fund. Sustainable Severn Sound staff are working towards making deputations to all municipal councils to provide an update on the PCP process and provide background on the Sustainability project. Deputations were made to Severn in fall 2023, and in February and March deputations were made to Midland, Tiny, Penetanguishene and Tay. Will work towards making a deputation for Oro-Medonte and Georgian Bay in 2024. Work is underway on Springwater's Local Climate Change Action Plan, on the implementation report for Midland, Penetanguishene, Tiny, Tay, Severn, and Georgian Bay, and on energy management with Oro-Medonte.

Data Analysis and Reporting

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

Statistics/Data Management & Analysis

Ongoing data management consisting of PWQMN, Georgian Bay water levels and regional climate data, open water/inland lake water chemistry, zooplankton and algae data processing continues as additional data becomes available, along with updating of long-term trends.

Reporting and Educational Content

Final report for the Farlain Lake Algae Causation Study is complete and will be posted on the SSEA website. Report highlights results of the study, causation factors, and recommendations for Farlain Lake and beyond. Report submitted to Penetanguishene on results from 2023 soil sampling to monitor impacts of snow disposal.

The State of Severn Sound 20 Years Post-Delisting as an Area of Concern (COA Project)

With support from a grant from the Province (COA), this Project focuses on communicating findings from the last 20 years of environmental monitoring of Severn Sound, its watershed following its delisting as an Area of Concern, and on identifying and filling knowledge gaps to facilitate reporting on conditions in the Severn Sound watershed, specifically related to fish communities and river habitat feeding into Severn Sound. A Science Advisory Committee meeting was held. Updates were made to several outstanding data sets to support the Project, including wildlife populations, and comments from reviewers were incorporated. A draft *State of*

Severn Sound report was completed and submitted to the Province, with progress continuing on the final report and a public friendly summary.

Partnerships

New/Updated NGO Partners and MOU's, Academia

SSEA continues to work with municipal and NGO/external partners to deliver effective environmental stewardship, including membership with GBB's ICECAP and the SMDHU's Climate Change Exchange Committee (CCEC), Climate Change Charter Working Group and Georgian College's Program Advisory Committee. SSEA is also a member of the Lake Huron Partnership, and Great Lakes Ecoregion Network. Continued discussions with Watersheds Canada on shoreline stewardship project opportunities. Connected with Greenland on project partnership opportunities.

Visit from MPP Jill Dunlop and Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks Andrea Khanjin.



Jon Main SSEA, Daniel Alexander Springwater SSEA Board member, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks Andrea Khanjin, and MPP Jill Dunlop

Academia

Continue to work with a PhD student from the of *Ontario Tech University* on nearshore and long-term algae and water quality in Severn Sound, providing recent data for analysis and researchers from Trent University on the 20th anniversary data analysis.

Financial

Grants, Budget, Invoicing

Grants

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

- Community Donations: \$710.80
- TD Friends of Environment Foundation: \$10,000 for Restore the Shore shoreline naturalization project (not approved)
- Environment and Climate Change Canada Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative: partner with Georgian Bay Forever, SSEA funding request \$764,495 over four years for nearshore benthic invertebrate monitoring, coastal margins data compilation

Approved for 2024

- Huronia Community Foundation Heart of Georgian Bay Community Forward Fund: \$5,250, Restore-the-Shore
- ORCCA - Ontario Regional Centre for Climate Adaptation - Workshop and Outreach project
- Commonwell Insurance - LEAF - SSEA project SSEED - Severn Sound Engagement and Education - \$25,000

Budget

Delivered three budget deputations (Township of Tay, Oro-Medonte, Town of Midland), and special follow up budget meetings with Townships of Georgian Bay and Tay.

Invoicing

In Q1, SSEA issued 40 invoices: 36 cost recovery invoices for 2023 (14 Midland, 4 Tiny, 5 Severn, 6 Tay, 7 Penetanguishene), 1 to LSRCA for DWSP for 2023, 1 to Penetanguishene for Snow Disposal Site Monitoring 2023, 1 to Tay for 2023 Victoria Harbour Water Intakes Monitoring and 1 to Wye Marsh for 2023 project holdback. The 2024 annual invoices to 8 municipal partners have also been processed (to be issued).

Thank you from Team SSEA

- Aisha Chiandet - Water Scientist/ Limnologist
- Jon Main - Sustainability & Climate Action Coordinator
- Judy Limoges - Financial Services Coordinator (Treasurer)
- Julie Cayley - Executive Director
- Kirsten MacLeod - Source Water Protection Intern
- Lex McPhail - IT Manager/GIS Applications Specialist
- Melissa Carruthers - Manager Source Water Protection, RMO/RMI
- Michelle Hudolin - Manager Watershed Resilience, Wetlands & Habitat Biologist
- Nicole Stott - Corporate Administration Coordinator
- Nikki Priestman - Watershed Health Specialist
- Patrick Jackson - Invasive Species Program Coordinator
- Paula Madill - Ecosystem Technologist
- Sarah Song – Inland Lakes Water Quality Stewardship Intern
- Travis van Engelen - Tree Plant Program Specialist





**Severn Sound Environmental Association
Joint Municipal Service Board
2024 First Quarterly Meeting (Q1) – April 25th, 2024**

STAFF REPORT

No: 01-24-SSEA
Date: April 25th, 2024
To: Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors
From: Judy Limoges, Financial Services Coordinator (Treasurer)
SUBJECT: 2023 Updated Draft Financials

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

Goal 4: An Exceptional Organization

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 01-24-SSEA regarding the 2023 Updated Draft Financials be received as information.

Purpose of Staff Report

To provide the SSEA Board with the 2023 Updated Draft Financials.

Background

This Report reflects that finances are trending favourably for 2023. SSEA is currently in a net-revenue position mainly due to increased revenues secured in excess of budget. Please see attached 2023 Draft Financials and Variance report for details.

The attached financial report is not complete as we continue to work through the year end process towards the annual audit. Items not yet recorded include: the capitalization and amortization of assets, prepaid expenses, employee future benefits adjustment, audit adjustments, etc.

Conclusion

The SSEA team has worked diligently throughout the year securing external revenue sources and monitoring spending.

Prepared by:

Approved for Submission by:

Original signed by
Judy Limoges, Financial Services Coordinator

Original signed by
Julie Cayley, Executive Director

Attachments: SSEA Updated Draft Financial Report ending December 31, 2023
SSEA 2023 Updated Draft Variance Report

DRAFT

**SEVERN SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION
2023 UPDATED DRAFT FINANCIALS
VARIANCE REPORT
ACTUAL VS BUDGET
December 31, 2023
as at April 9, 2024**

	FAVOURABLE/ (UNFAVOURABLE)
REVENUES:	\$
CORE	
Core revenue - use of reserves per Board (pay equity and grid adjmts,flowmeter, strat plan renewal)	49,066
Interest Income	31,457
Grant from ABCA-20 Anniversary Delisting communications and completed algae and zooplankton sample analysis	8,000
Canada Summer Jobs grant	2,069
Community/Private funding-IS \$8,300, HCF \$1,278,ECO \$5,890	11,772
Donations	3,235
Cost Recovery/Projects revenue	1,262
PROJECTS	
Project revenue - 2BT \$117,000, GLLAF \$50,000, COA stormwater \$65,000, Farlain Lake Algae Study \$20,000, deferred from 2022 \$95,000, less deferred to 2024 (\$184,711)	143,983
EXPENSES:	
Administration expenses - vehicle \$6700, training \$3600, strategic plan \$7900	18,666
IS supplies, travel	1,634
DWSP contracted services, mileage	1,456
Monitoring Support-contract services/supplies (flowmeter partially funded from reserve)	(4,784)
Transfer 2022 Unrestricted Surplus to Reserve per BOD	(96,842)
Projects non-payroll expenses	(39,673)
Various other expenses	(9,006)
ACTUAL VS BUDGET	122,296

NOTE: These variances are subject to change as revenues, expenses and adjustments continue to be processed as part of the year-end procedure.

SEVERN SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION (SSEA)
UPDATED DRAFT FINANCIAL REPORT
For the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2023
@ April 9, 2024

DRAFT

	2023			
	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	Variance \$	Actual/Budget %
SSEA CORE OPERATIONS				
GENERAL REVENUE	(1,122,845)	(1,015,984)	106,861	111%
UNDISTRIBUTED PAYROLL EXPENSE	314,011	415,775	101,764	76%
ADMINISTRATION/OVERHEAD	274,278	196,102	(78,176)	141%
GIS BASE COVERAGES	107,496	106,806	(690)	101%
REQUESTS & REVIEWS	15,951	21,000	5,049	76%
MONITORING & SURVEILLANCE	90,674	106,614	15,940	85%
MONITORING SUPPORT	36,809	32,025	(4,784)	115%
WATER SCIENCE	78,961	65,049	(13,912)	121%
INVASIVE SPECIES	68,635	72,613	3,978	95%
SOURCE WATER IMPLEMENTATION	(56)	-	56	0%
TOTAL SSEA CORE OPERATIONS	(136,088)	-	136,088	0%
<u>SSEA IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS</u>				
FARLAIN LAKE PROJECT				
Revenues	-		-	0%
Expenses	655		(655)	0%
HONEY HARBOUR SURVEY				
Revenues	(11,290)	(17,768)	(6,478)	64%
Expenses	6,930	17,768	10,838	39%
WYE MARSH PROJECT				
Revenues	(16,884)	(18,817)	(1,933)	90%
Expenses	4,811	18,817	14,006	26%
INLAND LAKES				
Revenues	(18,283)	(22,043)	(3,760)	83%
Expenses	23,699	22,043	(1,656)	108%
TREE DISTRIBUTION PROJECT				
Revenues	(164,378)	(27,000)	137,378	609%
Expenses	164,378	27,000	(137,378)	609%
RMO PROJECT				
Revenues	(27,772)	(48,284)	(20,512)	58%
Expenses	27,772	48,284	20,512	58%
VICTORIA HARBOUR WTP SURVEY				
Revenues	(7,981)	(10,563)	(2,582)	76%
Expenses	13,615	10,563	(3,052)	129%
CITIZEN SCIENTIST				
Revenues	(1,012)	(13,507)	(12,495)	7%
Expenses	5,119	13,507	8,388	38%
HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT				
Revenues	(50,000)		50,000	0%
Expenses	59,335		(59,335)	0%
SUSTAINABLE SEVERN SOUND				
Revenues	(51,496)	(72,320)	(20,824)	71%
Expenses	51,496	72,320	20,824	71%
POLLINATOR PROJECT				
Revenues	(250)		250	0%
Expenses	1,314		(1,314)	0%
DELISTING PROJECT				
Revenues	(40,175)	(100,000)	(59,825)	40%
Expenses	40,175	100,000	59,825	40%
SPECIES AT RISK				
Revenues	(5,591)		5,591	0%
Expenses	5,591		(5,591)	0%
STORMWATER MONITORING				
Revenues	(59,174)		59,174	0%
Expenses	59,174		(59,174)	0%
FARLAIN LAKE CAUSATION STUDY				
Revenues	(20,000)		20,000	0%
Expenses	24,016		(24,016)	0%
TOTAL SSEA IMPLMENTATION PROJECTS	13,792	-	(13,792)	0%
TOTAL SSEA OPERATING (SURPLUS)/DEFICIT	(122,296)	-	122,296	0%

NOTE: The financial report received from the Township of Tay has been adjusted for several items to reflect a more accurate DRAFT report. Judy Limoges, SSEA Financial Services Coordinator (Treasurer).



**Severn Sound Environmental Association
Joint Municipal Service Board
2024 First Quarterly Meeting (Q1) - April 25th, 2024**

STAFF REPORT

No: 02-24-SSEA
Date: April 25th, 2024
To: Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors
From: Judy Limoges, Financial Services Coordinator (Treasurer)
SUBJECT: 2024 1st Quarter Draft Financials

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

Goal 4: An Exceptional Organization

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 02-24-SSEA regarding the 2024 first quarter draft financials be received as information.

Purpose of Staff Report

To provide the board with the first quarter 2024 draft financials.

Background/Analysis

Please be advised that the 2024 draft financial report reflects that finances are trending favourably for the first quarter. This is mainly due to processing municipal partner invoices for 2024 services in March. Spending is in line as expected; with March representing 25% of the year completed, core expenses are tracking on target.

There are several adjustments not included specifically related to 2023 i.e. deferred revenues and accruals/reverse accruals not yet processed.

The SSEA team continues to monitor revenues and expenses in line with the 2024 budget.

Prepared by:

Approved for Submission by:

Original signed by

Judy Limoges, Financial Services Coordinator
(Treasurer)

Original signed by

Julie Cayley, Executive Director

Attachment: SSEA Draft Financial Report ending March 31, 2024

SEVERN SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION (SSEA)
DRAFT FINANCIAL REPORT
Q1 2024 (Jan 1-March 31)

DRAFT

	2024	2024	Variance \$	Actual/Budget %
	Jan 1-Mar 31 YTD Actual	Annual Budget		
SSEA CORE OPERATIONS				
GENERAL REVENUE	(1,009,889)	(1,137,790)	(127,901)	89%
UNDISTRIBUTED PAYROLL EXPENSE	133,804	424,778	290,974	31%
ADMINISTRATION/OVERHEAD	21,095	205,511	184,416	10%
GIS BASE COVERAGES	25,831	108,407	82,576	24%
REQUESTS & REVIEWS	6,745	22,400	15,655	30%
MONITORING & SURVEILLANCE	20,318	149,146	128,828	14%
MONITORING SUPPORT	(3,615)	42,027	45,642	-9%
WATER SCIENCE	20,148	70,384	50,236	29%
INVASIVE SPECIES	17,907	91,452	73,545	20%
SOURCE WATER IMPLEMENTATION	-	23,685	23,685	0%
TOTAL SSEA CORE OPERATIONS	(767,655)	-	767,655	0%
<u>SSEA IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS</u>				
HONEY HARBOUR SURVEY				
Revenues		(14,938)	(14,938)	0%
Expenses	(3,644)	14,938	18,582	-24%
WYE MARSH PROJECT				
Revenues	(2,214)	(12,000)	(9,786)	18%
Expenses	15	12,000	11,985	0%
INLAND LAKES				
Revenues	(17,800)	(17,800)	0	100%
Expenses	(2,152)	17,800	19,952	-12%
TREE DISTRIBUTION PROJECT				
Revenues	32,409	(78,000)	(110,409)	-42%
Expenses	23,380	78,000	54,620	30%
RMO PROJECT				
Revenues	(59,151)	(66,233)	(7,082)	89%
Expenses	3,084	66,233	63,149	5%
VICTORIA HARBOUR WTP SURVEY				
Revenues	-	(11,060)	(11,060)	0%
Expenses	(4,117)	11,060	15,177	-37%
CITIZEN SCIENTIST				
Revenues		(14,041)	(14,041)	0%
Expenses	14	14,041	14,027	0%
SUSTAINABLE SEVERN SOUND				
Revenues	(81,434)	(81,435)	(1)	100%
Expenses	18,306	81,435	63,129	22%
POLLINATOR PROJECT				
Revenues		(3,280)	(3,280)	0%
Expenses		3,280	3,280	0%
DELISTING PROJECT				
Revenues		(5,000)	(5,000)	0%
Expenses	7,995	5,000	(2,995)	160%
SPECIES AT RISK				
Revenues			(333)	0%
Expenses	333			
STORMWATER MONITORING				
Revenues		(5,000)	(5,000)	0%
Expenses	19,026	5,000	(14,026)	381%
TOTAL SSEA IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS	(65,948)	-	65,948	0%
TOTAL SSEA OPERATING (SURPLUS)/DEFICIT	(833,604)	-	833,604	0%

NOTE: The financial report received from the Township of Tay has been adjusted for several items to reflect a more accurate DRAFT report. Judy Limoges, SSEA Financial Services Coordinator (Treasurer).



**Severn Sound Environmental Association
Joint Municipal Service Board
2024 First Quarterly Meeting (Q1) April 25th, 2024**

STAFF REPORT

No: 04-24-SSEA
Date: April 25th, 2024
To: Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors
From: Judy Limoges, Financial Services Coordinator (Treasurer)
SUBJECT: 2024 Insurance Update

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

Goal 4: An Exceptional Organization

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 04-24-SSEA regarding SSEA's 2024 Insurance Update be received as information.

Purpose of Staff Report

To inform the Board that SSEA is again experiencing an increase in the cost of commercial general liability and property insurance.

Background

Based on the 2024 insurance renewal recently received from Intact Public Entities Inc. through Mink Insurance Services Limited, the cost of insurance for SSEA has increased 7.5% over 2023 invoiced costs.

Based on information from the insurer, SSEA budgeted \$16,535 for insurance this year, representing a 18% increase over 2023 costs. However, the actual general insurance cost for 2024 has come in at \$15,447, reflecting a favourable variance of \$1,088.

Conclusion

The Executive Director has advised the insurer to proceed with binding coverage for the renewal effective April 15, 2024. Staff will also consult the insurer regarding anticipated cost increases as the 2025 budget is finalized.

Prepared by:

Approved for Submission by:

Original signed by
Judy Limoges, Financial Services Coordinator

Original signed by
Julie Cayley, Executive Director



**Severn Sound Environmental Association
Joint Municipal Service Board
2024 First Quarterly Meeting (Q1) - April 25th, 2024**

STAFF REPORT

No: 05-24-SSEA
Date: April 25th, 2024
To: Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors
From: Judy Limoges, Financial Services Coordinator (Treasurer)
SUBJECT: 2024 SSEA Charge Out Rate Review

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

Goal 2: Supportive Partnerships
Goal 4: An Exceptional Organization

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 05-24-SSEA regarding SSEA's 2024 Charge Out Rate Review be received as information AND

FURTHER THAT: The Board approve the increase in the 2024 external charge out rate for students to \$65.00 per hour.

Purpose of Staff Report

To advise the Board of the status of the current SSEA charge out rates implemented April 26, 2023.

Background

The current SSEA charge out rates for services to our internal/municipal partners and services to our external customers are adequate for 2024 with the exception of the external student rate which should be double the internal rate.

SSEA internal rates are applicable to its municipal partners only. The external rates are double the internal rates and are applicable to all other SSEA customers. The current internal charge out rates cover staff wage and benefit costs for 2024. The pay equity and compensation review completed in 2022 resulted in increased labour costs for SSEA going forward. These rates are reviewed annually to ensure that we do not create an unnecessary deficit situation and to ensure that they are appropriate in relation to costs going forward.

The following schedule provides information on the current rates:

	APR 27-DEC 31	APR 27-DEC 31
STAFF	INTERNAL	EXTERNAL
Executive Director	\$90.00	\$180.00
Science and Technical Staff	\$65.00	\$130.00
Students	\$32.50	\$32.50

Materials like large plot printing and hard copy documents will be charged on a cost-recovery basis.

Conclusion

Staff recommend that the Board amend the external student rate only for 2024 to reflect double the internal rate as consistent with other staff charge out rates. These rates will be reviewed annually.

Prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

Original signed by _____

Original signed by _____

Judy Limoges, Financial Services Coordinator
(Treasurer)

Julie Cayley, Executive Director



**Severn Sound Environmental Association
Joint Municipal Service Board
2024 First Quarterly Meeting (Q1) April 25th, 2024**

STAFF REPORT

No: 07-24-SSEA
Date: April 25th, 2024
To: Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors
From: Judy Limoges, Financial Services Coordinator (Treasurer)
SUBJECT: Living Wage Employer

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Goal 4: An Exceptional Organization

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 07-24-SSEA regarding SSEA as a 'living wage employer' be received as information; and

FURTHER THAT: The SSEA Board provide direction to staff in this regard.

Purpose of Staff Report

To provide the Board with information on what it means to be a living wage employer and seek direction from the Board on next steps for SSEA.

Background

The SSEA Board of directors passed the following motion on September 26, 2022:

*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.*

Analysis/Discussion

A Living Wage is the hourly wage a worker needs to earn to cover their basic expenses and participate in their community. The living wage in Simcoe County is currently \$22.75 per hour. The current minimum wage in Ontario is \$16.55 and it will be increasing to \$17.20 October 1, 2024.

It draws on community-specific data to determine the expenses for a family with two working adults and two children. It also supports a family throughout the life cycle so that young adults are not discouraged from having children and older workers have some extra income as they age. It is calculated as a weighted average based on how many of each household type there are in Ontario. It considers the hourly rate of pay needed for a household to maintain a modest

standard of living once government transfers have been added to the family's income and taxes have been subtracted.

A Living Wage Employer is an employer that recognizes that paying a living wage is a critical investment in the long-term prosperity of the economy by fostering a dedicated, skilled and healthy workforce. It is a voluntary commitment and employers can choose to become an accredited Living Wage Employer with the Ontario Living Wage Network by paying all of their directly employed staff a Living Wage, and have a plan in place to extend that to regular sub-contracted staff as well, and maintain their certification as new rates are calculated for their area. The annual fee through the Network would be \$100 for SSEA.

The SSEA current staff compensation grid includes ten job grades. The rate of pay for all of the job grades are above the current living wage with the exception of the lowest two job grades as follows:

2024 SSEA SALARY GRID							
Grade	Job Title	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6 (Job Rate)
2	Environmental Assist	\$18.39	\$19.12	\$19.89	\$20.68	\$21.51	\$22.37
1	Students	\$15.69	\$16.32	\$16.97	\$17.65	\$18.36	\$19.09

Conclusion

Staff are requesting direction from the SSEA Board on this matter.

Prepared by:

Approved for Submission by:

Original signed by

 Judy Limoges, Financial Services Coordinator
 (Treasurer)

Original signed by

 Julie Cayley, Executive Director



**Severn Sound Environmental Association
Joint Municipal Service Board
2024 First Quarterly Meeting (Q1) April 25th, 2024**

STAFF REPORT

No: 08-24-SSEA
Date: April 25th, 2024
To: Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors
From: Judy Limoges, Financial Services Coordinator (Treasurer)
SUBJECT: Draft 2025 SSEA Budget

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Goal 4: An Exceptional Organization

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 08-24-SSEA regarding the 2025 Draft Budget be received; and

FURTHER THAT: The SSEA Board direct its Executive Committee to work with staff to finalize a 2025 draft Budget for the Boards' review and approval

Purpose of Staff Report

To assist the Board in formulating the 2025 Budget so that it reflects the policy and service direction set out in SSEA's Strategic Plan, while meeting the support requirements of its municipal partners and other agencies.

Background and Analysis

On July 18, 2019, the SSEA Board of Directors approved both the 2020 Budget, and in principle the proposed five-year plan for 2020 to 2024 inclusive.

This high level 2025 draft budget calculation reflects: payroll complement consistent with the 2024 budget, grid movement, a minimal staff COLA increase, new charge out rates, project activities known to date, and assumes that there will be no provincial funding for DWSP in 2025 (current agreement expires March 31, 2024). For the first Draft 2025 budget, staff have calculated this increase to be \$118,844 (11.4%) in core municipal share over 2024. Staff feel this calculation is the worst-case scenario for 2025.

Staff have spent considerable time in 2024 listening and responding to concerns regarding SSEA budget and increases and have heard and acknowledge the financial challenges municipal members are facing. Recognizing the budget constraints that all are facing, SSEA staff anticipate Board direction to reduce the 2025 budget increase and would like to garner input from the Board Executive on how to best move forward. Various solutions can be explored, such as, using Capital Asset Reserve funds to cover IT capital asset purchases, re-

engaging the Province to request an update on provincial funding for DWSP in 2025 or using municipal DWSP funds currently in the SSEA contingency reserve to cover the DWSP funding shortfall. Note that Staff have been working closely with the Regional Source Protection lead and the Provincial Government to negotiate 2020/25 DWSP funding and staff and Board Vice Chair Alexander have met with Minister Khanjin to express how critical this funding is for municipalities and the need for commitment to multiyear DWSP funding.

It is worth noting that the SSEA Team is currently working at capacity for program delivery (eg Tree program, land use planning reviews). Therefore, this draft budget, with no change in staff complement, does not allow SSEA to provide additional land use planning and natural heritage reviews that our municipal partners may require as they are looking to dramatically increase new housing builds. Such cost could be considered by the Board. The cost would be approximately \$75,000 on an annual basis for a contract position. In 2025, a six-month extension of a current contract employee could be considered with costs somewhat offset by cost recovery revenues.

Once direction is received from the Board Executive, the SSEA Team will work together to develop a comprehensive budget for the Boards' review and approval.

Conclusion

The approach to formulating the 2025 Budget is designed to ensure SSEA continues to provide the key services required by its municipal partners and watershed constituents in a fiscally responsible manner while meeting its own organizational requirements and respecting the fiscal challenges being faced by all parties.

Prepared by:

Approved for Submission by:

Original signed by _____

Original Signed by _____

Judy Limoges, Financial Services Coordinator
(Treasurer)

Julie Cayley, Executive Director

Attachment: 2025 Draft Budget Highlights
2025 Draft Budget Municipal Share

**SEVERN SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION
2025 1ST DRAFT BUDGET
HIGHLIGHTS - CHANGE IN MUNICIPAL SHARE CORE OPERATIONS
vs 2024 approved budget**

DRAFT

	2025 vs 2024	
	\$	%
Increase in Interest income	(20,000)	(1.9%)
Increase in projects/cost recovery/ community/private/donations core revenues	(17,318)	(1.7%)
Decrease in Monitoring Support contracted services/supplies	(10,770)	(1.0%)
Increase in Conservation Authority revenue	(6,000)	(0.6%)
Increase in Government of Canada revenue	(5,000)	(0.5%)
Decrease in labour/benefits distributed to projects	64,237	6.2%
Increase in total wages/benefits	45,213	4.3%
Decrease in DWSP revenue	42,978	4.1%
Decrease in contribution from capital assets reserve	13,395	1.3%
Increase in administration/overheads expenses	12,172	1.2%
Decrease in DWSP & IS non payroll expenses	(63)	(0.0%)
2025 INCREASE IN CORE MUNICIPAL SHARE	118,844	11.4%
2024 APPROVED TOTAL CORE MUNICIPAL SHARE	<u>1,042,962</u>	
2025 DRAFT TOTAL CORE MUNICIPAL SHARE	<u><u>\$ 1,161,806</u></u>	

NOTE: 1% increase in municipal share= \$ 10,430

Severn Sound Environmental Association

Municipal Sharing of SSEA Agreement for Core Operations

Municipal Revenue Shares Calculated for 2021-2025

DRAFT

Municipality	Properties in W'shed	Assessment in W'shed	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025
			APPROVED	APPROVED	APPROVED	APPROVED	DRAFT	INCREASE
Georgian Bay	2114	\$478,457,400	\$ 78,746	\$ 80,321	\$ 83,534	\$ 93,318	\$ 105,164	\$ 11,846
Midland	6181	\$1,366,966,807	125,651	128,164	133,408	150,131	166,592	\$ 16,461
Oro-Medonte	4256	\$1,112,902,900	108,006	110,166	114,646	128,759	143,484	\$ 14,725
Penetanguishene	3446	\$734,452,100	93,154	95,017	98,854	110,770	124,034	\$ 13,263
Severn	3358	\$687,466,543	91,381	93,209	96,969	108,622	121,711	\$ 13,089
Springwater	2343	\$486,289,200	80,209	81,813	85,089	95,090	107,080	\$ 11,990
Tay	6101	\$809,898,203	109,913	112,111	116,673	131,068	145,981	\$ 14,912
Tiny	12303	\$2,392,111,202	187,630	191,383	199,310	225,202	247,761	\$ 22,559
Totals:	40102	\$8,068,544,355	\$ 874,690	\$ 892,184	\$ 928,484	\$ 1,042,962	\$ 1,161,806	\$ 118,844
			\$874,690	\$ 892,184	\$928,484	\$1,042,962	1,161,806	
			\$48,843	\$17,494	\$36,300	\$114,478	\$ 118,844	
			5.9%	2.0%	4.1%	12.3%	11.4%	
	Total annual operating/core budget		\$958,556	\$977,726	\$1,015,739	\$1,124,395	\$ 1,291,557	
	Base amount for each municipality		\$53,919	\$54,997	\$57,135	\$63,247	\$72,650	

Note: Determination of Cost Apportionment as of December 2007 for agreement using revised SSEA watershed boundary.

- 1.the number of properties within the watershed area of each municipality was determined and from that, a percentage for cost sharing was calculated
- 2.the assessment within the watershed area for each municipality was determined and from that, a percentage for cost sharing was calculated
- 3.the average of 1. and 2.was used as the %cost share
- 4.for calcualtions with 8 municipalities, a base amount of 5.625% of the total annual operating budget was added to each share and followed by the percent of the remainder of the municipal amount
- 5.2020-2024 include Invasive Species Project in core operations, previously an implementation project
- 6.Source Water Implementation Project funded by core in 2020-2024 due to potential lack of provincial funding



**Severn Sound Environmental Association
Joint Municipal Service Board
2024 First Quarterly Meeting (Q1) April 25th, 2024**

STAFF REPORT

No: 09-24-SSEA
Date: April 25th, 2024
To: Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors
From: Judy Limoges, Financial Services Coordinator (Treasurer)
SUBJECT: Investment Opportunities – Reserve Funds Update

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

Goal 4: An Exceptional Organization

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 09-24-SSEA regarding investment opportunities for SSEA reserve funds be received as information.

Purpose of Staff Report

To inform the Board of investment opportunities for SSEA reserve funds further to motion 2023-0843 passed by the SSEA Board on February 1, 2024.

Background

Staff contacted SSEA's treasurer municipality's (Tay) Treasurer who has advised that in the past they invested their own funds in term deposits but are currently earning more interest on their bank account than term deposits yield. Term deposits currently earn between 5.03%-5.27% based on length of term. The average rate of return in the township bank account last year was 5%, and it is currently sitting at 5.35%.

Tay has advised that the interest income that SSEA earns is at the same rate as they earn in their bank account. It is calculated monthly based on the reserve balance, + or – net monthly revenue and outstanding receivables. They will continue to calculate interest on this basis until we transition to another partner municipality.

Please see below for information on interest income received 2019-2023 and corresponding reserve balances for those years.

SSEA				
2019-2024 INTEREST INCOME AND RESERVE BALANCES				
YEAR	INTEREST INCOME	RESERVE BALANCE BEGINNING OF YEAR	RESERVE BALANCE END OF YEAR	
2024	not yet earned	\$ 471,064	\$ 457,562	projected
2023	\$ 35,457	409,488	471,064	projected
2022	11,355	375,906	409,488	audited
2021	8,846	143,476	375,906	audited
2020	4,063	62,122	143,476	audited
2019	4,657	-	62,122	audited

Interest rates were low in 2019-2021, the average rate for 2022 was 2.1% and 2023 reflects a significant increase to an average of 5%.

Conclusion

SSEA’s treasurer municipality will continue to pay interest to SSEA on the money in SSEAs bank account at the rate that they earn, calculated monthly.

Prepared by:

Approved for Submission by:

Original signed by
 Judy Limoges, Financial Services Coordinator
 (Treasurer)

Original signed by
 Julie Cayley, Executive Director



**Severn Sound Environmental Association
Joint Municipal Service Board
2024 First Quarterly Meeting (Q1) – April 25th, 2024**

STAFF REPORT

No: 11-24-SSEA
Date: April 25th, 2024
To: Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors
From: Melissa Carruthers, Manager Source Water Protection, RMO/RMI
SUBJECT: Risk Management Services 2024 Q1 Update

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

Goal 1: Sound Science
Goal 2: Supportive Partnerships

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 11-24-SSEA regarding an update on the activities undertaken by SSEA Risk Management staff during Q1 of 2024 be received for information.

Purpose of Staff Report

To provide an update on the activities that SSEA Risk Management staff have undertaken during the first quarter of 2024.

Background

SSEA staff have 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 perform risk management services on behalf of their municipality under Part IV of the *Clean Water Act*.

Analysis/Discussion

- Commented on 17 development applications, answered 18 inquiries, sent out, attended 4 pre-consultation meetings, had 1 Risk management plan negotiation meeting, and conducted 1 inspection
- Issued 12 Clean Water Act section 58(7) Notices of Intent to Establish a Risk Management Plan to ensure July 1st, risk management plan deadline is met.

- Status of Risk Management Plans in the Severn Sound Area:

	Estimated remaining Jan 1 2023	Estimated to be removed w.s.34	2023 Q1 Signed	2023 Q2 Signed	2023 Q2 Removed	2023 Q2 Ordered	2023 Q3 Signed	2023 Q4 Signed	2024 Q1 Removed	Remaining
Midland	14	6			1		1	2		4
Penetanguishene	1						1			0
Tiny	12		5						1	6
Severn	6		1	1		1		1		2
Oro-Medonte	1		1							0
Tay	1									1
	35	6	7	1	1	1	2	3	1	13

Conclusions

SSEA risk management staff is currently on track to achieve the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan policy TIME-1 deadline, that MECP extended to July 1st, 2024, for risk management plan completion.

Prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

Original signed by _____

Melissa Carruthers, Manager Source Water Protection, RMO/RMI

Original signed by _____

Julie Cayley, Executive Director



**Severn Sound Environmental Association
Joint Municipal Service Board
2024 First Quarterly Meeting (Q1) – April 25th, 2024**

STAFF REPORT

No: 12-24-SSEA
Date: April 25th, 2024
To: Chair and Members, SSEA Board of Directors
From: Jon Main, Sustainability and Climate Action Coordinator
SUBJECT: SSEA Q1 Grant Application Update

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 12-24-SSEA regarding SSEA 2024 Q1 Grant Application Update, be received for information.

Purpose of Staff Report

To update the Board on funding applications that are currently pending approval, ongoing projects and newly awarded grant funds.

Background

The following lists approved funding applications, ongoing projects, and those submitted in Q1 of 2024 that are pending approval. Support letters provided for external partners are also included.

Approved Funding:

- 1) **BioTalent - Science Horizons Youth Internship Program**
Project Title: Source Water Protection Intern funding
Programs Supported: Drinking Water Source Protection
Approved For: \$30,000
Description & Impact: Wage offset funding. Funding will allow SSEA to increase resources (staff time) through an intern position to ensure drinking water source protection deadlines and deliverables are met, as well as providing valuable experience and skills to youth.

- 2) **Ontario Regional Centre for Climate Adaptation (ORCCA)**
Project Title: Community Outreach & Engagement Project Partnership
Programs Supported: Local Climate Change Action Plan
Approved For: ORCCA project support - 64 hours of staff time
SSEA In-kind: 80 hours of staff time
Description: Working to develop a workshop on climate adaptation. ORCCA provides 64 hours of staff support and meeting assistance.

Ongoing Funding:

- 3) **Eastern Georgian Bay Initiative - Ganawenim Meshkiki**
Project Title: Wye Marsh Invasive Species Management Project
Programs Supported: Invasive Species
Approved For: Ongoing 5 year - \$96,230, for 2024 approx. **\$15,000**
SSEA In-kind: limited - staff time, vehicle/transportation
Description: 2024 is the final year of the 5 year Wye Marsh invasive species project. SSEA has worked well with the Friends of the Wye Marsh to identify and remove large stands of phragmites in sensitive ecological locations.
- 4) **County of Simcoe Forestry**
Project Title: Simcoe-SSEA Memorandum of Understanding (2023-2026)
Programs Supported: Tree planting
Approved For: Reimbursement - determined after planting
SSEA In-kind: Tree planting staff
Description: County of Simcoe provides 100% reimbursement for tree seedling costs for eligible projects.
- 5) **NRCAN - 2 Billion Trees - Capacity Building Stream**
Project Title: Building tree planting capacity in the Severn Sound Watershed
Programs Supported: Tree planting
Approved For: \$276,507 (2023-2025)
SSEA In-kind: \$64,830
Description: Federal funding to enhance SSEA's tree planting capacity.
- 6) **Ministry of the Environmental, Climate, and Parks - Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA)**
Project Title: The State of Severn Sound - 20 years since delisting
Programs Supported: Water Monitoring
Approved For: \$75,000
SSEA In-kind: \$75,000
Description: Funding for the analysis and reporting on the state of Severn Sound watershed.
- 7) **Ministry of the Environmental, Climate, and Parks - Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA)**
Project Title: Piloting the inclusion of waste-water and stormwater effluents into existing long-term watershed monitoring program
Programs Supported: Water Monitoring
Approved For: \$70,000
SSEA In-kind: \$14,000
Description: Funding for the special project looking at Wye River near Elmvale.
- 8) **Commonwell Insurance - LEAF Fund**
Project Title: Project SSEED - Severn Sound Engagement and Education
Programs Supported: Habitat Restoration, Community Engagement
Approved For: \$25,000 (2024)

SSEA In-kind: Staff time – approx. \$18,000

Description: Funding an engagement and outreach project working with local schools and municipalities on wildflowers and habitat restoration.

9) ECO Canada

Project Title: Inland Lakes water quality stewardship Intern

Programs Supported: Water monitoring

Approved For: \$24,963

Description: Funding for staff internship to continue the work on water quality.

10) Huronia Community Foundation - Community Forward Fund

Project Title: Restore the Shore

Programs Supported: Water monitoring

Approved For: \$5,250

SSEA In-kind: Staffing support

Description: Funding for shoreline naturalization and habitat restoration.

Funding Pending Approval:

11) Federal Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) (Service Canada)

Programs Supported: all programs, plus SSEA operations/admin

Total Applied For: \$12,751.20

SSEA Cash/In-kind: \$20,081.60 (for four students), IT costs and vehicle insurance

Description: Wage subsidy to hire youth (aged 15 to 30 years) for seasonal positions; if approved, SSEA would be eligible for up to 50% of the provincial minimum hourly wage for a minimum of six weeks. SSEA also partnered with Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters on a CSJ application for their *Invasive Species Hit Squad* program; if approved, up to two students would be available to SSEA at minimal or no cost.

12) TD Friends of the Environment Foundation – NOT approved

Project Title: Restore the Shore

Programs Supported: Natural Heritage, Shoreline Naturalization

Total Applied For: \$10,000 over one year

SSEA Cash/In-kind: \$15,650 admin, mileage, additional staff time

Description: This is a shoreline naturalization project that promotes shoreline owners to follow guidelines on how to naturalize their shorelines. If approved, this fund would provide additional resources for kits (including plant seeds) to selected property owners to assist with shoreline naturalization. The project will increase ecological literacy through working directly with property owners – linking to natural landscaping, invasive species removal, and ecosystem restoration.

13) Watersheds Canada

Project Title: Using the Natural Edge to Restore the Shore

Programs Supported: Natural Heritage, Shoreline Naturalization

Total Applied For: up to \$3,000 for one year

Description: Service Delivery Agreement with Watersheds Canada to implement shoreline planting projects using Natural Edge resources to support the SSEA *Restore the Shore* project.

14) Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative (Env. Climate Change Canada ECCC)

Project Title: Filling the Gaps - turning data into action

Programs Supported: Shoreline/Wetland Stewardship, Water Quality, Severn Sound benthic invertebrate sampling

Total Applied For: SSEA portion = \$764,495 over 4 years

SSEA Cash/In-kind: \$140,724 over 4 years

Description/Impact: Increase staff, IT, and equipment resources to undertake nearshore monitoring of benthic invertebrates and compile SSEA coastal margins data in order to establish a baseline of conditions in coastal wetlands targeted for future restoration.

Support Letters Provided:

15) Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative (Env. Climate Change Canada ECCC)

Project Title: Ga Biinaagmin Nibi/We Will Clean the Water

Project Lead: Three Waters Foundation

Description: The proposed project will involve working closely with BFN on a combination of sampling water and sediment for microplastics, conducting beach cleanups, and implementing education and outreach campaigns related to reducing plastic pollution.

SSEA commitment: SSEA will partner on the monitoring program design component of the project and provide expertise and guidance related to reporting on results.

Pending Submission in Q2 of 2024:

16) Invasive Species Action Fund Microgrant

Project Title: TBD

Programs Supported: Invasive Species

Total Applying For: \$2000 for 2024

SSEA Cash/In-kind: TBD

Description: Aquatic invasive species project to increase education, outreach, and identification.

Impact: TBD - likely Staff time, signage, training

17) Lake Huron Georgian Bay Community Action Initiative

Project Title: TBD

Programs Supported: naturalization

Total Applying For: up to \$8,000 for 2024

SSEA Cash/In-kind: TBD

Description: Support naturalization projects such as Restore the Shore, BEE Parks and Project SSEED.

Impact: TBD - likely Staff time, planting material

Community Donations: – \$710.80 (up to April 2024)

Analysis/Discussion

SSEA works to secure external funding both independently and in partnership with numerous organizations 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) for the next two years (projected for all four quarters) are as follows:

- 2024 – approximately* **\$167,123**
- 2025 – approximately* **\$12,650**

*Note: project amounts for 2024 onward may change and need to be confirmed annually. 2024 amounts are unaudited values. Provincial/Federal government funded projects have a different fiscal year, and funding amounts used in each SSEA fiscal year are subject to change.

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.

Prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

Original signed by
Jon Main, Sustainability
& Climate Change Coordinator

Original signed by
Julie Cayley, Executive Director



**Severn Sound Environmental Association
Joint Municipal Service Board
2024 First Quarterly Meeting (Q1) – April 25th, 2024**

STAFF REPORT

No: 13-24-SSEA
Date: April 25th, 2024
To: Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors
From: Patrick Jackson, Invasive Species Program Coordinator
SUBJECT: SSEA Invasive Species Program Update

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 13-24-SSEA, regarding SSEA Invasive Species Program Update, be received for information.

Purpose of Staff Report

To provide an update on the key activities and accomplishments of the SSEA Invasive Species Program during Q1 of 2024.

Background

The Invasive Species Program is a core program of the SSEA with a goal of having a coordinated approach to invasive species (IS) management as well as being a central contact for local IS information. The SSEA is working to address public and municipal concerns regarding non-native IS establishment within the Severn Sound watershed, and to reduce the ecological, economic and social impacts of IS, while fostering regional partnerships and community relations.

Updates

The following is a summary of the Invasive Species Program activities in Q1 of 2024.

Monitoring, Management & Technical Support

- Continued work on Invasive Species 2023 Annual Reports, expected early Q2.
- Invasive Phragmites Roadside Survey was completed. Municipalities within the study area will receive a report and mapping data, to aid in phragmites management decisions and efforts in 2024.
- Participated in SE Georgian Bay Phragmites Working Group, led by the Invasive Species Centre. The group is in discussions with researchers at University of Toronto regarding a potential phragmites biocontrol release in Matchedash Bay.

Education & Outreach

- Responded to 5 new invasive/non-native species inquiries, providing technical support to municipal staff and the public. Inquiries were related to species identification and requests for community science-related information. The primary species of interest were Japanese Knotweed, Invasive Phragmites, Chinese Mystery Snails, Zebra Mussels, and Eurasian Watermilfoil.
- Attended the ISC Invasive Species Forum, which had significant content on novel IS impacting Ontario. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Oak Wilt Disease, Marbled Crayfish, and Spotted Lanternfly were some of the high priority new invaders in the province.
- Included in the Ontario Crayfish Workshop, hosted by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. The workshop reviewed crayfish ID, with special focus on Marbled and White River Crayfish – two new IS in Ontario. SSEA is continuing to explore additional opportunities for collaborative work to survey and manage these invasive crayfish species and understand their potential impact on native species and ecosystem health.

Funding

- Delivered final project report re: Green Shovels Collaborative – Invasive Phragmites Control Fund for the Roadside Phragmites Mapping Project (received \$9,000.00). Individual roadside phragmites reports are being drafted for each municipality in the study area.
- continuing our partnership with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) with Summer Invasive Species Technicians. Pending successful funding, SSEA will receive 2 technicians for up to 16 weeks.
- working on applications for the Invasive Species Centre Microgrant Program. Grants are up to \$2,000.00 and can cover education and management of all IS besides phragmites.

Partnerships

- North Simcoe Lions Club - potential IS management events in Q2/3 2024.
- Nature Conservancy of Canada – mapping agreement to consolidate phragmites data for SE Georgian Bay.
- Georgian Bay Forever - planning collaborative invasive phragmites management efforts.

Special Projects

- Friends of Wye Marsh – working to establish 2024 project budget and task list for partners.
- Staff have been asked to provide training re: IS identification and management to public works staff in several partner municipalities (likely to start in Q2)
- Work is underway to host a webinar in Q2 with an MNRF speaker on Ontario IS legislation

Conclusion

The SSEA Invasive Species Program has successfully fostered relationships with municipalities, partner organizations and associations. Staff continue to research and identify external funding opportunities and support municipal and community led IS projects. Staff continue to stay on top of the potential new invasive species and potential ecological and economic impacts.

Accomplishments are shared through presentations, social media and other communications. Significant activities and tasks, including planning, monitoring and public/municipal outreach and education, were accomplished in Q1 of 2024, benefitting the SSEA partner municipalities and community.

Prepared by:

Original signed by
Patrick Jackson, Invasive Species Program Coordinator

Approved for submission by:

Original signed by
Julie Cayley, Executive Director



**Severn Sound Environmental Association
Joint Municipal Service Board
2024 First Quarterly Meeting (Q1) – April 25th, 2024**

STAFF REPORT

No: 14-24-SSEA
Date: April 25th, 2024
To: Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors
From: Travis van Engelen, Tree Plant Program Specialist
SUBJECT: SSEA Tree Program(s) Update

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 14-24-SSEA regarding Building Tree Planting Capacity in the Severn Sound Watershed Project, be received for information.

Purpose of Staff Report

To provide an update on the Building Tree Planting Capacity in the Severn Sound Watershed Project, funded through the federal 2 Billion Trees (2BT) Program.

Background

The Severn Sound Remedial Action Plan/SSEA has facilitated tree plants since the early 1990s, to increase forest cover and biological diversity, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality. The SSEA helps with project planning, obtaining native tree and shrub seedlings, and coordinating groups and volunteers, including local schools and community organizations. Over 246,000 seedlings have been planted through this Program. To supplement the Community Tree Planting Program, SSEA started the Tree Seedling Distribution Program in 2007 to provide property owners with reasonably-priced, native seedlings for spring planting. Over 150,000 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 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 respectively¹. As part of its habitat rehabilitation and climate change objectives, and to support its municipal partners and landowners in their efforts to protect and enhance forests and tree canopy, SSEA sought external funding to build additional capacity in its tree planting programs.

Analysis/Discussion

Planning for the spring 2024 Community Tree Planting and Tree Seedling Distribution programs is underway. SSEA staff is working with member municipalities staff to select suitable locations for participants to pick up their tree seedling orders. Spring weather conditions influence when the seedling nursery can harvest the seedlings, but the SSEA is planning for Tree Seedling Distribution in late April or early May 2024. There are currently 220 participants and over 9,700 pre-ordered through the Tree Seedling Distribution Program. Seedlings include 6 native tree species: white pine, white spruce, eastern hemlock, white cedar, tamarack, white birch, and one native shrub species: nannyberry.

Site visits were scheduled to assess potential community tree planting sites. The SSEA is planning community tree planting events for late April and throughout early- to mid-May, depending on spring weather conditions. Tree planting volunteers are expected to include Scouts Canada, local schools, corporate groups, as well as community members.

Staff area also working on calculating the carbon storage value of the SSEA tree programs.

Financial Implications

Staff placed a preliminary order of native tree and shrub seedlings for both the Community Tree Planting Program and the Tree Seedling Distribution Program in fall 2023. A deposit of \$3,410 was paid to secure the tree seedling order, with the existing balance due upon invoice following delivery.

The SSEA was successful in extending the funding timeline of the 2 Billion Trees Project one more year, to March 31st, 2025. The extension of the project will allow the SSEA to implement its tree planting programs in the spring and potentially implement fall tree plantings.

Conclusion

The spring 2024 Community Tree Planting sites are being finalized, and the Tree Seedling Distribution is underway with **220 participants** and over **9,700 seedlings** ordered. The 1-year funding timeline extension allow the SSEA to extend the contract of the Tree Plant Program Specialist to continue coordinating tree planting programs and developing a strategy to increase capacity for tree planting.

Prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

Original signed by _____
Travis van Engelen, Tree Plant Pgm Specialist

Original signed by _____
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



**Severn Sound Environmental Association
Joint Municipal Service Board
2024 First Quarterly Meeting (Q1) – April 25th, 2024**

STAFF REPORT

No: 15-24-SSEA
Date: April 25th, 2024
To: Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors
From: Sarah Song, Inland Lakes Water Quality Stewardship Intern
SUBJECT: **New SSEA Naturalization Projects for 2024**

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

Goal 1: Sound Science

Goal 2: Supportive Partnerships

Goal 3: An Engaged & Informed Community

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 15-24-SSEA regarding new SSEA naturalization projects for 2024, be received for information.

Purpose of Staff Report

To provide a summary of new SSEA naturalization projects for 2024, including Restore the Shore, Biodiversity Enhancement and Education Parks (BEE Parks) and Severn Sound Engagement and Education (SSEED).

Background

With the increasing pressure on our shorelines and natural areas and the increasing incidence of nuisance and potentially toxic algae blooms, naturalized healthy shorelines and landscapes are critical to protecting water quality and ecological health. Results from the 20th anniversary data analysis and discussions with member municipalities inquiring about how to help landowners implement actions that could potential reduce water quality impacts have led staff to explore external funding opportunities for habitat creation/enhancement initiatives. Staff have secured funding from various sources for 2024 for Restore the Shore, Biodiversity Enhancement and Education Parks (BEE Parks), and Severn Sound Engagement and Education (SSEED).

Analysis/Discussion

Natural shorelines are vital ecosystems that support diverse wildlife, protect against erosion, and contribute to the overall health of lakes. Unfortunately, these areas are often altered or hardened, which can degrade water quality, disrupt ecosystems, and diminish habitat resilience.

The **Restore the Shore Project** will demonstrate the benefits of shoreline restoration to property owners, with a focus on naturalizing at least 5 sites on the shorelines of inland lakes in the Severn Sound watershed, specifically on Orr Lake and Farlain Lake, on Severn Sound itself, and

its major tributaries. An intern has been hired with external funding to work with landowners to provide the resources needed to help them be shoreline stewards - preserving and caring for their shorelines. External funding has also been secured to cost share 75% up to a maximum of \$300 for the cost of native plants and materials to plant a vegetated shoreline buffer. Site visits will be paired with identification of invasive species and guidance on management using SSEA's in-house expertise. A planting/naturalization plan will be developed with the landowner, plant material will be sourced and a kit assembled, including plants, mulch, guides, signage and additional seeds. Landowners will undertake the planting with guidance as needed from SSEA. Through a partnership with and small grant from Watersheds Canada, education and engagement materials developed by both Watersheds Canada and SSEA will be distributed to community members to promote the program (brochures and social media content), and to participants to support their stewardship efforts (restoration guides).

The BEE Parks Project, following on the success of the 2023 Improving Habitat in the Severn Sound Watershed Project (one-year provincial GLLAF funding) pollinator planting project, is focused on municipal parks and **Project SSEED** is focused on schools. Both of these initiatives will be led by the Biodiversity Enhancement Intern using external funding (to be hired/on-boarded in Q2), who will work with SSEA municipalities and local schools, providing technical support and site-specific guidance to support planning and implementation of naturalization and habitat enhancement projects in municipal parks and schoolyards/gardens; and conduct communications, education and outreach to improve ecological literacy and empower broader community action in naturalization and stewardship. These projects will also support municipal efforts such as Bee City and no-mow/reduced-mow programs.

Financial Implications

The Restore the Shore Project is funded by the HCF Heart of Georgian Bay Forward Fund (\$5,250), with additional funding to support the Inland Lakes Water Quality Stewardship Intern from an ECO Canada Internship (\$8,751) and in-kind support from SSEA estimated to be \$8,000 (admin, vehicle use, additional staff support). SSEA applied for additional funding from TD Friends of Environment Foundation (\$10,000) and will continue to seek additional funding.

A \$25,000 Commonwell Mutual Insurance Group Learning & Education Acceleration Fund grant was received to support Project SSEED, and naturalization work in parks is being funded in part by an external source to be identified at a future date once it is formally announced.

Conclusion/Recommendations

SSEA is undertaking projects and activities to create, enhance and protect natural shorelines, municipal parks and schools. This work contributes directly to the strategic goals, priorities, and mission of the SSEA by enhancing habitats in the Severn Sound watershed while engaging and educating the public on the importance of naturalization as well as protecting water quality.

Prepared by:

Original signed by
Sarah Song, Inland Lakes Water Quality
Stewardship Intern

Approved for Submission by:

Original signed by
Julie Cayley, Executive Director

Attachment – Flyer: Project Restore the Shore



Project Restore the Shore

Join our shoreline naturalization program aimed to empower residents to naturalize the shorelines of Severn Sound and local inland lakes!



SPRING 2024

- SSEA will assist landowners in developing a planting plan specific to the site and preferences
- Landowners will receive a planting kit containing up to 50 native trees, shrubs and wildflowers (75% of the costs up to \$300 covered by SSEA)
- Watch your lake and shoreline transform!



Sign up for a site visit to learn how to:

- Stop erosion and prevent flooding
- Help pollinators
- Provide a home for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife
- Make your shoreline more resistant to climate change impacts
- Protect water quality

The program will be offered on a first come, first serve basis. For more information, please contact SSEA at 705-534-7283 or Student1@severnsound.ca



**Severn Sound Environmental Association
Joint Municipal Service Board
2024 First Quarterly Meeting (Q1) – April 25th, 2024**

STAFF REPORT

No: 16-24-SSEA
Date: April 25th, 2024
To: Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors
From: Aisha Chiandet, Water Scientist
SUBJECT: SSEA Monitoring Program Update

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 16-24-SSEA regarding Monitoring Program Update, be received for information.

FURTHER THAT: Staff write a letter to MPPs in the watershed and the Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks indicating SSEA's appreciation for the lab support provided and the intention to continue to support monitoring partnerships.

Purpose of Staff Report

To update the Board on SSEA's planned water quality monitoring activities for 2024 and the changes to our lab load allocation from the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP).

Background

Each year, SSEA conducts environmental monitoring on Severn Sound open water, inland lakes, tributaries, groundwater monitoring wells and at climate monitoring sites. This monitoring provides critical information on current status and trends in environmental quality, and is available to municipalities to inform 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.

The SSEA's water quality programs have traditionally relied on a unique long-term partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) for lab analysis, resulting in a significant reduction in monitoring cost. As the MECP provides lab analysis for

existing core and special project water quality monitoring programs, they provide annual updates on available capacity for lab analysis. The annual allocation given to SSEA for analysis is referred to as lab load. In 2024, this has been significantly reduced.

For some programs, the same sites are monitored each year, and for others, sites rotate. Under the Inland Lakes Monitoring program, all lakes are sampled on a 5-year rotation save for Little Lake (Midland) which is sampled annually. In 2024, Bass Lake (Oro-Medonte) is being sampled on a its 5-year rotation, with the last survey being done in 2018. With changes in lab support from MECP, SSEA will be reviewing the sampling schedule for all inland lakes and considering options for sampling frequency, along with various budget implications. Little Lake and Bass Lake will remain on the list for 2024.

Analysis/Discussion

Lab Support

SSEA sends samples for the Severn Sound Open Water, Tay Drinking Water Intakes, Inland Lakes, and Tributary Monitoring Programs to the MECP labs in Rexdale and Dorset. This lab support is crucial to the success and significant low cost of our monitoring programs. For 2024, the MECP indicated that the lab no longer had the capacity to support our usual request, and several cuts had to be made. The following table summarizes our typical lab request and our reductions for 2024.

Program	# SITES		# SAMPLE RUNS		VARIABLES MEASURED	
	Typical	2024	Typical	2024	Typical	2024
Open Water	18, incl. bottom water and quality control duplicates	7 (P1, P4, M2, M5, PM2, BS, PS)	12 plus early and late season in Honey Harbour	5	nutrients, chlorophyll a, ions, general chemistry, metals at select sites	same
Inland Lakes	2 lakes, up to 5 sites total incl. bottom water samples and tributaries	2 lake sites (Little L, Bass L) plus bottom water in Bass L	12	4	nutrients, chlorophyll a, ions, general chemistry, metals in certain lakes (e.g. Bass L)	same
Drinking Water Intakes (raw water)	2 (Victoria Harbour & Rope Subdivision)	0	18	0	nutrients, chlorophyll a, ions, general chemistry, metals	none
Streams (supplemental to PWQMN)	2 (Wye R at Hwy 93, Lafontaine Ck)	0	8	0	nutrients, ions, general chemistry, metals	none

In the open waters, support has been reduced from 18 sites to 7, with 4 of the 5 main long-term stations will be included in the list of sample locations (P1, P4, BS, PM2), along with representative sites in the open waters (M5), Midland Bay (M2) and Port Severn (PS). The number of runs will be reduced from 12 to 5.

To minimize disruption to the Inland Lake program this year, staff will continue to conduct field visits on a biweekly basis, collecting field data (temperature, oxygen, water clarity, water levels) and biological samples (algae and zooplankton), and only collect water chemistry samples on 4 occasions spread over the season (no longer bi-weekly). This is a reduction from 12 to 4 runs in the 2024 season.

With lab analysis of drinking water intakes no longer supported, these sites will no longer be sampled unless the associated Township (Tay) would like this to continue with the use of a private lab at cost. The SSEA will sample the open waters of Severn Sound in Hogg Bay (station PM2) and Port Severn area (station PS and PS2), albeit at a reduced sampling frequency. Data from these open water sites can be used to support analysis of raw water conditions when it comes time to renew the Township of Tay’s drinking water license for both water treatment plants.

Although the lab load support changes are significant, other SSEA sampling programs are not affected by lab cuts. SSEA continues to be a valued partner in the Provincial (Stream) Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) and Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN), and will receive support from the province to cover equipment costs and analyses (no lab load request needed). The table below provides details on 2024 monitoring activities:

Program	Purpose	Focus	Timing (subject to change)	Budget Implications (aside from staff time)
Severn Sound open water	Long term water quality	Severn Sound, excluding Honey Harbour	approx. monthly May 2 to Oct 3 (5 runs)	Personal mileage (sample delivery) possible reduced boat/captain costs
Inland lakes	Long term water quality & levels	Little L Bass L + 3 trib sites (field data only) + 3 lake invertebrate sites	Field sampling biweekly, May-Oct; Chemistry 4 times over the season (May, Jul, Aug, Oct); Invertebrate OBBN mid-August	Personal mileage (sample delivery)
Drinking water intakes	Cancelled due to lab load cuts			
Nuisance algae complaints	Respond to inquiries, identify harmful algae	Dependent on observations from residents/municipal staff		
PWQMN	Long term tributary water quality	Watershed wide	Monthly - during first week of month	Vehicle rental
PGMN	Long term groundwater quality & quantity	Watershed wide	Level checks - Apr, Jun, Sept, Nov Sampling – Oct, Nov	Vehicle rental

SSEA Groundwater	Long term groundwater quantity	Tiny, Tay, Springwater, Oro-Medonte	Level checks - Apr, Jun, Sept, Nov	Vehicle rental
Stream invertebrates (benthos)	Long term stream health	Coldwater R., North R., Sturgeon R., Silver Cr.	Aug, Sept.	Vehicle rental
Climate	Long term rain & air temperature	Watershed wide	Spring gauge/logger installation, summer download, fall removal	Vehicle rental
Weather station	Long term & real-time climate	Lafontaine, Midland	Stations checks when necessary, spring/fall calibration	Vehicle rental
Long term stream temperature	Long term stream temperature & thermal classification	Watershed wide	Spring logger installation, summer download, fall removal	Vehicle rental
Intensive stream temperature	Thermal classification & flow status of all reaches in one subwatershed	Coldwater R (2-3 subwatersheds within Coldwater R)	Phase 1 – logger installation & site recon, May to Sept. Phase 2 – evening field measurements on hot days - Jul/Aug/Sept	Vehicle rental
Citizen science programs	Supplemental environmental monitoring, water levels for Farlain L	Farlain L/ watershed wide	Installation of gauge on Farlain L - Apr monitoring kit preparation - late Apr/May	

Results Reporting

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

- The results (<https://www.severnsound.ca/programs-projects/monitoring/severn-sound-inland-lakes/inland-lakes/>) section on SSEA's website will house Inland Lake updates for the current field year. Info & results from Severn Sound monitoring can be found here (<https://www.severnsound.ca/programs-projects/monitoring/severn-sound-inland-lakes/severn-sound-open-water/>) & in various reports (<https://www.severnsound.ca/resources/reports-publications/>).
- Provincial websites provide results from PWQMN monitoring (<https://data.ontario.ca/dataset/provincial-stream-water-quality-monitoring-network>) & PGMN monitoring (<https://data.ontario.ca/dataset/provincial-groundwater-monitoring-network>).
- SSEA website (<https://severnsound.ca>) & Weather Stations (<https://www.severnsound.ca/programs-projects/monitoring/climate-weather/weather-stations/>) page show current data from SSEA climate/weather stations.
- All Citizen Science program results for various programs can be accessed here (<https://www.severnsound.ca/programs-projects/monitoring/citizen-science-monitoring-programs/>).

Expected Impact on SSEA budget/workload

Monitoring will be conducted by existing SSEA staff, with the addition of a 4-month Field Technician and with support from other summer students as required. The Field Technician was

part of a Canada Summer Jobs application, which is pending approval. A summer Field Technician will allow additional time for senior staff to focus on reporting.

There is a need for an additional vehicle to support monitoring activities and other SSEA program needs. Some personal vehicle mileage costs will be incurred to deliver water samples.

Conclusion/Recommendations

Monitoring programs will continue to provide critical information across the Severn Sound watershed, despite a reduced lab load allocation from MECP. SSEA staff will continue to work with MECP staff to optimize and secure lab load. Board members are invited to join in for lake sampling on Severn Sound or inland lakes. Staff continue to work on reporting on new and existing data using engaging formats to inform municipal partners and residents. All three SSEA MPPs and the Minister of the Environment should be made aware of the ongoing appreciation for the lab support and the SSEA intention to continue to support the partnership monitoring programs including PWQMN, PGMN, open water and inland lakes.

Prepared by:

Approved for Submission by:

Original signed by
Aisha Chiandet, Water Scientist

Original Signed by
Julie Cayley, Executive Director



**Severn Sound Environmental Association
Joint Municipal Service Board
2024 First Quarterly Meeting (Q1) – April 25th, 2024**

STAFF REPORT

No: 17-24-SSEA

Date: April 25th, 2024

To: Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors

From: Nicole Stott, Corporate Administration Coordinator

SUBJECT: SSEA Past and Upcoming Events

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

Goal 2: Supportive Partnerships
Goal 3: An Engaged & Informed Community

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 17-24-SSEA regarding SSEA Past and Upcoming Events, be received for information.

Purpose of Staff Report

To outline key events hosted and attended by SSEA in Q1 2024, and upcoming events in Q2 2024.

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, 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 8 events in Q1, detailed in **Table 1**. Approximately 1,720 people attended, participated or volunteered in these events. To date, SSEA anticipates facilitating and/or participating in 15 events in the Q2 of 2024, detailed in **Table 2**.

Table 1. Events SSEA facilitated and/or participated in during Q1 of 2024.

Event Name	Event Coordinator & Date	Relevant Program(s)/ Project(s)	Target Audience/ Region	Number of Participant/ Volunteer
Winter Carnaval d’Hiver	Tiny, Feb 10	All	Township of Tiny community	~200
Winterama	Penetanguishene , Feb 16	All	Town of Penetanguishene community	~1000
SSEA Partners Mayors & Council Orientation	SSEA, March 7	All	Member municipality Mayors, Councils, and Senior Management Teams	~30
Georgian College Environmental Meet & Greet	Georgian College, March 20	All	College students	~100
Source to Stream Conference	March 26	Stormwater Monitoring pilot project	Southern Ontario	~200
IS Crayfish Workshop	OFAH, March 26	Invasive Species & Benthic	Conservation Professionals	~30
*SSEA Open House	SSEA, April 5 (Q2)	All	Public, municipal Councils & staff	~100
*SSEA Environmental Champion Awards and Partners Reception	SSEA, April 5 (Q2)	All	SSEA Partners, alumni, and Severn Sound Environmental Champions	~60
TOTAL VOLUNTEERS/PARTICIPANTS				~1,720

*Indicates events that occurred in Q2 but will be highlighted in this Q1 report.

April 5th, 2024, SSEA celebrated a successful SSEA Open House, Partner’s Reception, and Environmental Champion Award night. Special guests included John Hartman and Scott Parent as our guest speakers, MP Chambers, Medical Officer of Health Dr.

Gardiner, greetings from Mayor Coughlin (Springwater), SSEA alumni and past and present Board members and award winners. THANK YOU to our event sponsors, SGS, Elmvale Foodland, Windlee Farms, HGR Graham Partners LLP, Ego's Garden Centre, Huronia Nurseries, Springwater Garden Center, and Hidden Habitat.

Congratulations to all the winners of the SSEA Environmental Champion Awards!



Environmental Legacy Award
David Hawke



Environmental Student Champion
J.J. McTague



Environmental Sustainability and Stewardship Champion
Roy Patenaude



Environmental Sustainability and Stewardship Champion
Meg Whitton



Environmental Volunteer Champion – Farlain Lake Community Association
Scott Dales, Emily Thorne, Barb Columbus, Brian Columbus, Mike Johnson, Mark Simpson

Table 2. Events SSEA will be facilitating and/or participating in during Q2 of 2024.

Event Name	Date	Relevant Program(s)/Project(s)	Target Audience/Region
Presentation to Midland Rotary Club	April 17	All	Midland community
Wye Marsh Earth Day	April 20	All	Township of Tay & surrounding communities
Township of Georgian Bay Earth Day	April 22	All	Township of Georgian Bay Community
Community Tree Planting events	Late April/early May (TBC)	Tree planting	Municipalities of Oro-Medonte, Tay, and Tiny
Tree Seedling Distribution pick up	Early May (TBC)	Tree planting	Participants from all municipalities
Municipal training - Tay	April 30	noxious plants & invasive species	Municipal staff
SSEA Municipal Information Sessions 2024 #1 - Invasive Species Act	May 2	Invasive Species	Municipal Staff and Council
Municipal training - Midland	May 7	noxious plants & invasive species	Municipal staff
Municipal training - Oro-Medonte	May 14 (TBC)	noxious plants & invasive species	Municipal staff
Municipal training - Penetanguishene	May 15	pollinator habitat/no-mow areas	Municipal staff (Recreation & Community Services)
Tay Bike Day	June	noxious plants & invasive species	Township of Tay residents
Tay Blooms	June 1	All	Township of Tay & surrounding communities

International Association for Great Lakes Research	May 24	State of Severn Sound report	Researchers focused on the world's large lakes
Bass Lake Ratepayers Association	Jun 8	Bass Lake Monitoring	Bass Lake residents, Oro-Medonte municipal council

Conclusion

SSEA staff continue to foster relationships with municipalities, partner organizations and associations by facilitating and participating in community engagement events. **In the 1st Quarter of 2024 staff attended 8 events with over 1,720 attendees/impressions.** Municipal partners are encouraged to contact SSEA staff if there are events SSEA should attend.

Prepared by:

Approved for Submission by:

Original signed by _____
 Nicole Stott, Corporate Administration
 Coordinator

Original signed by _____
 Julie Cayley, Executive Director



**Severn Sound Environmental Association
Joint Municipal Service Board
2024 First Quarterly Meeting (Q1) – April 25th, 2024**

STAFF REPORT

No: 18-24-SSEA
Date: April 25th, 2024
To: Chair and Members of the SSEA Board of Directors
From: Aisha Chiandet, Water Scientist/Limnologist
Nikki Priestman, Watershed Health Specialist
SUBJECT: COA Project Updates: Stormwater Monitoring & State of Severn Sound

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

Goal 1: Sound Science
Goal 2: Supportive Partnerships
Goal 4: An Exceptional Organization

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 18-24-SSEA regarding COA Project Updates: Stormwater Monitoring & State of Severn Sound, be received for information.

Purpose of Staff Report

To update the Board on the status of two COA-funded projects and outline upcoming activities.

Background

SSEA received funds from the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA) to carry out the two projects detailed below:

Stormwater Monitoring - Piloting the Inclusion of Wastewater and Stormwater Effluents into Existing Long-Term Watershed Monitoring Program

The project objective was to characterize potential impacts and risks from both wastewater and stormwater effluent to a selected portion of the receiving Severn Sound watershed (Wye River through Elmvale) and to demonstrate to municipalities the value of using a shared service delivery approach for monitoring of the waters receiving the effluent. The pilot is in anticipation of upcoming monitoring requirements under the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Consolidated Linear Infrastructure (CLI) Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) process and was used to develop and test protocols to observe the long-term trends of a municipality's stormwater management (SWM) system on receiving waters.

State of Severn Sound Reporting - The State of Severn Sound 20 Years Post-Delisting as an Area of Concern

The Project objective is to communicate findings to the local and broader Great Lakes community from the last 20 years of environmental monitoring of Severn Sound and its

watershed following the delisting of Severn Sound as an AOC, including gaps in information and knowledge related to the state of fish communities and fish habitat in Severn Sound and its major tributaries. A Science Advisory Committee was formed to help guide the selection of indicators and provide data and/or guidance on the report and its findings.

Analysis/Discussion

Stormwater Monitoring

A total of 60 samples were collected and various variables were examined pertaining to water quality, including chemical characteristics such as chloride, nitrate, ammonia, and total phosphorus, alongside physical characteristics like total suspended solids, temperature, and baseflow. These parameters serve as indicators of stormwater or wastewater effluent impacts on the Wye River and can influence all life forms within the ecosystem. Our analysis involved two main perspectives: firstly, observing how these conditions changed across different seasons, and secondly, evaluating variations from upstream to downstream. We found that water quality in the Wye River tended to deteriorate and become more variable during wet and snowmelt events. We observed distinct patterns in the upstream to downstream water quality gradient depending on the specific variable under consideration. Overall, results showed water quality in the Wye River through Elmvalle was impacted by stormwater and wastewater effluent during rain and snowmelt events. Monitoring receiving water for effluent impacts is critical for protecting water quality since it can inform action.

Information on stormwater (SW) and wastewater (WW) facilities was gathered from 6 out of the 8 municipal partners. Using this information, SSEA created a map that shows all wet/dry stormwater pond facilities and municipal wastewater outfalls within the Severn Sound watershed in relation to existing SSEA monitoring locations. This will be useful for planning future monitoring of SW/WW effluent in receiving waters to take advantage of monitoring that is already taking place through other SSEA programs.

In addition to the results, a cost analysis was completed that reflects a breakdown of expected expenditures to complete a similar one-year monitoring project. This provides municipal partners with a better understanding of the costs that may be required and where savings can be found by using the SSEA as a shared service delivery partner for upcoming monitoring requirements under new CLI ECAs.

A summary of the pilot project outcomes was shared during a Springwater Council meeting. SSEA staff also presented results to approx. 200 stormwater professionals from across Ontario at the Source to Stream Conference. Results were displayed at SSEA's Municipal Orientation, Open House and Partner's Reception. A draft report has been submitted to the Province of Ontario for review and a final version will be shared with municipal staff, councils, and the SSEA Board in Q2.

State of Severn Sound Reporting

Trent University researchers Sarah Playfoot and Nolan Pearce worked diligently with SSEA staff to finish compiling and analyzing approximately 45 datasets for a total of 18 different indicators which formed the bulk of the State of Severn Sound report. A final Science Advisory Committee meeting was held, and report sections were sent to reviewers for feedback. Input was received from 32 reviewers representing 18 different agencies. Results were displayed at SSEA's

Municipal Orientation, Open House and Partner's Reception and were also shared with SSEA's Agricultural Advisory Committee. A draft report was submitted to the Province for review and a final version will be shared with municipal staff, councils, the SSEA Board and the public in Q2. A social media campaign was drafted and will be finalized when the report is finalized. We are working to incorporate the remaining reviewer comments, which may impact the final results for some indicators. A public friendly summary magazine will also be created with plain language writing assistance from a private consultant.



Logo created to celebrate 20+ years post-delisting. This will be used in State of Severn Sound communications and SSEA staff email signatures.

Financial Implications

The final invoice and grant report have been submitted to the Province. Moving forward, any staff time spent finalizing reports and coordinating communications will need to be covered under SSEA's core budget unless additional funding is secured.

Conclusion/Recommendations

Using SSEA as shared service delivery partner is a cost-effective option for conducting stormwater/wastewater receiving water monitoring, which will be mandatory in the coming years. This pilot project was successful in providing information to support future efforts to monitor ambient water quality from tributary systems that receive effluent from stormwater and wastewater facilities.

The State of Severn Sound report identified many encouraging trends but also identified areas where ongoing remedial efforts are needed, or where data gaps prevent the assessment of conditions. Communications celebrating the 20th anniversary of delisting will continue at events and through social media. The project will bring awareness to the history of the Severn Sound area and the hard work that was undertaken to have it delisted as an Area of Concern, and the need for environmental stewardship so that conditions don't revert to what they were in the past.

SSEA gratefully acknowledges funding for both projects from the Province of Ontario. We also thank the municipal partners, especially the Township of Springwater, who provided us with information and additional support for the stormwater monitoring pilot project. We appreciate and were honoured by the support from the Science Advisory Committee, including Indigenous members, and extend our thanks to all those who provided data and review of the report.

Prepared by:

Original signed by

Aisha Chiandet, Water Scientist/Limnologist
Nikki Priestman, Watershed Health Specialist

Approved for Submission by:

Original Signed by

Julie Cayley, Executive Director



January 3, 2024

RE: Severn Sound Environmental Association, a valued partner

I am pleased to express my continued support for and appreciation of the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) and their work to improve and sustain healthy environments in the watershed. As Medical Officer of Health of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU), I can attest to the excellent work and accomplishments of the SSEA.

The SMDHU has a vision of “Healthy people. Healthy Places.” We recognize that environmental and human health are inextricably linked. A healthy environment and watershed provide many benefits that promote health and prevent disease. High quality source water is key to reducing drinking water treatment complexity and cost, as well as providing safe areas for recreational water use. The SSEA, working under the remedial action plan, was successful in achieving environmental improvements that lead to the de-listing of the watershed as an area of concern. To sustain this, the SSEA has been a valued partner on efforts to monitor water quality. Over the years, SMDHU has worked collaboratively with the SSEA to monitor recreational water quality and undertake source protection planning.

A healthy environment and watershed are crucial resources to build local capacity for climate change adaptation and mitigation. Green spaces help with climate mitigation by absorbing carbon dioxide. They also help our communities be more resilient to the impacts of climate change because green spaces provide protection from heat and skin cancer, retain and filter runoff from rainfall events, reduce flooding, and improve air quality. There is growing evidence that access to local green space also improves physical and mental health.

Protection and promotion of a healthy environment and watershed in Simcoe Muskoka provides direct and indirect health benefits. This work cannot be done by one organization working in isolation. As such, SMH DU views SSEA as a valued partner in providing scientific support for environmental and watershed protection. We appreciate this collaboration, now more than ever, as we face the unprecedented impacts of a changing climate.

Sincerely,

Charles Gardner, MD, CCFP, MHSc, FRCPC
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
Medical Officer of Health

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15 Sperling Drive
Barrie, ON
L4M 6K9
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FAX: 705-721-1495

Collingwood:
280 Pretty River Pkwy.
Collingwood, ON
L9Y 4J5
705-445-0804
FAX: 705-445-6498

Cookstown:
2-25 King Street S.
Cookstown, ON
L0L 1L0
705-458-1103
FAX: 705-458-0105

Gravenhurst:
2-5 Pineridge Gate
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705-684-9090
FAX: 705-684-9887

Huntsville:
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705-789-8813
FAX: 705-789-7245

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FAX: 705-325-2091

*Patricia Arney
1329 Moon River Road
Bala ON P0C1A0*

February 27, 2024

Georgian Bay Township Council
99 Lone Pine Road
Port Severn ON
info@gbtownship.ca

I have reviewed the agenda package for March 4 2024 and I am forwarding my appreciation for posting the impressive SSEA presentation. As some of you may recall, I have presented to council on behalf of Muskoka Watershed Council in the past and was a member of the Muskoka Watershed Initiative (MWAG) with Ms Julie Cayley. Both MWC and MWAG have significant interest in the SSEA municipal services board model as Muskoka works toward the development of Integrated Watershed Management.

This letter, however, is a personal response not on behalf of either.

Georgian Bay Township is a significant part of the Muskoka watershed receiving the waters from the highlands through many different municipal jurisdictions. SSEA is a value added for the Muskoka watershed through its ongoing monitoring of these waters. There are many municipal (DMM) and NFP monitoring programs now in the Muskoka watershed but there is no comprehensive overview of the watershed such as is provided by SSEA. There are increasing concerns in this watershed, as in the Severn Sound, regarding algae blooms, road salt controls, septic inspection and shoreline re-naturalization.

I was particularly impressed by the tables attached to the presentation outlining the services and aligning them with Provincial regulations and municipal requirements fulfilled by this one organization. The MWC Community Round Table has reviewed the report by Dr. Sandra Cooke 'A Review of Successful IWM Approaches Around North America' in which SSEA is one of the case studies. This presentation adds considerable information regarding the ongoing work of SSEA.

Muskoka is in the very early stages of planning IWM and definitely no future governance model has been determined but it is informative to have a 'sample' Joint Municipal Service Board model like SSEA working in such proximity.

Again thank you for the posting and thank you for your attention to my submission.

Patricia Arney



The Township of Georgian Bay Resolutions Council - 04 Mar 2024

Item 5.(a)

Date: March 4, 2024

C-2024-062

Moved by Councillor Brian Bochek
Seconded by Councillor Steven Predko

WHEREAS the Township of Georgian Bay is one of eight municipalities in the Joint Municipal Service Board Agreement for the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA);

WHEREAS the Township of Georgian Bay 2024 contribution to the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) is \$106,042;

WHEREAS Township of Georgian Bay Resolution C-2023-517 directed staff to provide notice to the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) to review, amend, negotiate, or terminate participation in the Joint Municipal Service Board Agreement; and

WHEREAS to withdraw from the Joint Municipal Service Board Agreement, written notice is to be provided on or before October 1 to take effect no earlier than December 31 of the following calendar year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to research impacts to amend or terminate the Joint Municipal Service Board Agreement and report back on options.

Carried Defeated Recorded Vote Referred Deferred

Recorded Vote:

	For	Against	Absent
Councillor Brian Bochek			
Councillor Peter Cooper			
Councillor Kristian Graziano			
Councillor Allan Hazelton			
Councillor Stephen Jarvis			
Councillor Steven Predko			
Mayor Peter Koetsier			

Peter Koetsier, Mayor



The Corporation of the Township of Tiny

Meeting Date: March 13, 2024

Moved by: MISIKOMANS Carried: 5-0

Seconded by: EVANS Defeated: _____

Signed: [Signature]

THAT the correspondence dated February 27, 2024, from Tom Buck, Save Georgian Bay, and the correspondence dated February 12, 2024 from the Township of Georgian Bay regarding the proposed TC Energy pumped storage plant in Meaford and the related negative impacts on Georgian Bay, be received;

AND THAT Council refers the matter to the Severn Sound Environmental Association for review and comment back to Council.



WHEREAS the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin is invaluable as the source of drinking water for more than 40 million people in Canada and the United States; and

WHEREAS the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin is home to over 3,500 plant and animal species, some of which are unique to the region and not found anywhere else on Earth; and

WHEREAS the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin supports world-renowned recreational opportunities, including hunting and fishing, which generate more than \$52 billion for the region; and

WHEREAS a watershed is an area of land that catches rain and snow and drains or seeps into a stream, river, wetland, lake or groundwater; and

WHEREAS the *Agreement Between Canada and the United States of America on Great Lakes Water Quality, 2012* recognizes that restoration and enhancement of the Waters of the Great Lakes cannot be achieved by addressing individual threats in isolation, but rather depend upon the application of an ecosystem approach to the management of water quality that addresses individually and cumulatively all sources of stress to the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem; and that nearshore areas must be restored and protected because they are the major source of drinking water for communities within the basin, are where most human commerce and recreation occurs, and are the critical ecological link between watersheds and the open waters of the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS municipalities work with watershed-based conservation organizations in Ontario to restore and protect Great Lakes and Great Lakes watersheds; and

WHEREAS greater investments in implementing watershed-based actions and activities to prevent negative impacts on downstream water quality; and

WHEREAS Great Lakes watersheds are experiencing increasing pressure from population growth and development activities and climate change that are impacting water quality and ecological integrity; and

WHEREAS Lakewide Action and Management Plans (LAMP), like the Lake Huron LAMP, a binational ecosystem-based management strategy for protecting and restoring Lake Huron water quality, involve municipal and other government partners identifying issues and opportunities; and

WHEREAS small Great Lakes watershed municipalities are facing exponentially increasing costs making them unable to bear the full cost of upstream watershed-based activities/actions; and

WHEREAS previous resolutions by members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative have called for federal, provincial and States funding support for watershed-based action and activities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative call upon the federal and provincial governments to support small Great Lakes communities for watershed-based activities to restore and protect Great Lakes water quality, increase investment in Great Lakes water quality and further support climate action;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT funding announced by the Government of Canada in Budget 2023 for freshwater protection be directed towards watershed focused actions to support improved water quality and local climate action, including in non and delisted AOCs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative call upon the federal and provincial governments to take a leadership role in funding critical investments in water quality in Lakewide Action and Management Plans (LAMPs), like the Lake Huron LAMP;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution be sent to the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change; the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, responsible for freshwater; the Director General responsible for the Canada Water Agency Transition Office; the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry; and the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks