

SENT ELECTRONICALLY ONLY: [emilne@southgate.ca](mailto:emilne@southgate.ca)

April 15, 2025

Township of Southgate  
185667 Grey Road 9  
RR 1  
Dundalk, Ontario  
N0C 1B0

ATTENTION: Elisha Milne, Legislative and Planning Coordinator

Dear Elisha Milne,

RE: A4-25 (Martin's Farm Service)  
311303 Highway 6  
Roll No.: 420706000501000  
Part Division 3 of Lot 28 Concession EGR  
Geographic Township of Egremont  
Township of Southgate

The above-noted application has been received by the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) in accordance with the Mandatory Programs and Services Regulation (Ontario Regulation 686/21) made under the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CA Act). SVCA staff have reviewed the proposal for consistency with SVCA's environmental planning and regulation policies ([https://www.saugeenconservation.ca/en/permits-and-planning/resources/Environmental-Regulations/January-2019-Consolidated-Manual\\_Interim.pdf](https://www.saugeenconservation.ca/en/permits-and-planning/resources/Environmental-Regulations/January-2019-Consolidated-Manual_Interim.pdf)) made in conformance with the Provincial Planning Statement, CA Act, O. Regulation 41/24, and associated provincial guidelines. Where a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) exists between a planning partner and the SVCA, staff have reviewed the application for conformity with the natural hazard policies of the applicable Municipality or County.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the application is to allow conversion and expansion of existing buildings on the subject lands to allow retail sales of agricultural building supplies including manufacturing of roofing product for agricultural use. Committee of Adjustment is asked to interpret definitions of Farm Supply Outlet, Agricultural Bulk Sales, Farm Equipment Supply under Section 45(1)(b) of the Planning Act to

include the proposed use of land as uses in the current Rural Commercial 4 (C4) Zone are defined in general terms.

## **Background**

An agent for the owner of the subject property contacted the SVCA on March 11, 2024, regarding importing fill and grading on the property. SVCA staff conducted a site inspection of the property on May 21, 2024 and determined the fill and grading had occurred in SVCA's regulated area without a SVCA permit. SVCA staff are currently working with the landowner to bring the outstanding work into compliance with SVCA's policies made under the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Based on the site plan submitted with the A4-25 application, it appears that all development will be beyond/outside of the SVCA Approximate Screening Area.

## **Recommendation**

The proposed application is generally acceptable to SVCA staff.

## **Documents Reviewed by Staff**

Staff have received and reviewed the following documents submitted with the application:

- 1) Notice of Meeting;
- 2) Application form dated March 27, 2025; and
- 3) Site/Grading & Drainage/Servicing Plan, revision 4, dated April 7, 2025.

## **Site Characteristics**

Current SVCA mapping shows large areas of the property are within the SVCA's Screening Area. The natural hazard features affecting the property include wetland/swamps and any floodplain of the wetland/swamps, as well as Fairbanks Creek, and any tributaries of Fairbanks Creek, and their related floodplain.

Areas of the property are mapped as Hazard Lands in the Grey County OP and Township of Southgate OP, and zoned EP in the Township of Southgate Zoning By-law. The County and Township hazard mapping appears to represent the natural hazard features on the property.

Based on the plan submitted with the application, development is not proposed in any Hazard Land designation or EP zone and, as noted above, development appears to not be proposed in any SVCA Approximate Screening Area.

## **Provincial Planning Statement (PPS, 2024)**

In accordance with s. 7 of O. Regulation 686/21, SVCA shall act on behalf of the Province or as a public body under the *Planning Act* (PA) to ensure municipal decisions made under the PA are consistent with the natural hazards policies of the PPS, Chapter 5.

Sections 5.1 and 5.2 of the PPS, 2024 states in part that development shall be directed away from areas of natural or human-made hazards where there is an unacceptable risk to ...and not create new or aggravate existing hazards.

Based on the plan submitted with the proposal, it is the opinion of SVCA staff that the proposal would be consistent with Chapter 5 of the PPS, 2024.

## **Township of Southgate and County of Grey Official Plan Policies**

The following comments are made in accordance with MOU with the Township of Southgate. As mentioned above, a large area of the property is mapped as Hazard Lands in the Grey County OP and Township of Southgate OP, and zoned EP in the Township of Southgate Zoning By-law.

Section 5.5.2 of the Southgate OP and Section 7.2.3 of the Grey County OP state in part that buildings and structures are generally not permitted in the Hazard Lands land use type. Based on the plan submitted with the proposal, it is the opinion of SVCA staff that the proposal is consistent with the natural hazard policies of the Southgate OP and Grey County OP.

## **Conservation Authorities Act and O. Regulation 41/24**

Within SVCA's regulated areas and in accordance with the CA Act and O. Regulation 41/24, a permit from the SVCA is required to change or interfere with watercourses or wetlands and for development activities in or adjacent to hazardous lands, wetlands, river or stream valleys, Great Lakes and inland lake shorelines. When reviewing an application, SVCA staff must assess the proposal for impacts to the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, or unstable soil or bedrock, and ensure the activity will not create conditions or circumstances that, in the event of a natural hazard, might jeopardize the health or safety of persons or result in the damage or destruction of property. Provided staff are satisfied the proposal is consistent with SVCA's policies, designed to mitigate these risks, a permit can be issued.

To determine the SVCA Approximate Regulated Area on the property, please refer to the SVCA's online mapping, available via SVCA's website

<https://camaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f0ec744c8d6d4e499895aaaab3d83761>.) Should you require assistance, please contact our office directly.

### **SVCA Permit**

As noted above, based on the site plan submitted with the A4-25 application, it appears that all work will be beyond/outside of the SVCA Approximate Screening Area. Therefore, a permit from the SVCA is not required as part of the A4-25 application.

Furthermore, as noted above, SVCA staff (Darren Kenny) is currently working with the landowner to bring the outstanding fill and grading work into compliance with SVCA's policies.

## **Drinking Water Source Protection**

The subject property appears to SVCA staff to not be located within an area that is subject to the local Drinking Water Source Protection Plan.

## **Summary**

SVCA staff have reviewed the proposal for consistency with SVCA's policies made in conformance with the Provincial Planning Statement, CA Act, O. Regulation 41/24, and associated provincial guidelines. Where a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) exists between a planning partner and the SVCA, staff have reviewed the application for conformity with the natural hazard policies of the applicable Municipality or County.

Given the above comments, it is the opinion of the SVCA staff that:

- 1) Consistency with the Natural Hazard policies of the PPS, Chapter 5 has been demonstrated.
- 2) Consistency with local planning policies for natural hazards has been demonstrated.

Please inform this office of any decision made by the planning approval authority regarding the application. We respectfully request to receive a copy of the decision and notice of any appeals filed.

Should you have any questions, or require this information in an accessible format, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Michael Oberle  
Environmental Planning Technician  
Sageen Conservation  
MO/

cc: Wilson-Ford Surveying & Engineering, agent (via email)  
Barbara Dobreen, Authority Member, SVCA (via email)