



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: April 18, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.

SCRCA Administration Office
205 Millpond Cres., Strathroy

Directors Present: John Brennan, Al Broad, Pat Brown, Chair; Terry Burrell, Sue Cates, Anne Marie Gillis, Greg Grimes, Emery Huszka, Frank Kennes, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Don McCabe, Don McCallum, Mary Lynne McCallum, Steve Miller, Ross O'Hara, Kristen Rodrigues, Lorie Scott, Vice Chair; Jerry Westgate

Directors Remote: Aaron Hall, Rhonda Jubenville

Directors Regrets: Adam Kilner

Guests: Stu Seabrook, Riggs Engineering

Staff Present: Donna Blue, Manager of Communications; Melissa Deisley, Director of Planning and Regulations; Chris Durand, Manager of IT and GIS; Emily Febrey, Communication and Education Technician; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant and Board Coordinator; Nicholas Haggerty, Water Resources Technician; Chunning Li, Director of Corporate Services; Rashida Naznin, Engineering Technician; Tim Payne, Manager of Forestry; Ken Phillips, General Manager; Girish Sankar, Director of Water Resources; Alison Seidler, GIS Technician; Steve Shaw, Manager of Conservation Services; Greg Wilcox, Manager of Lands

1. Land Acknowledgement

A land acknowledgment was read by General Manager, Ken Phillips which recognized the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority watershed as part of the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Chonnonton Nations, who have a sacred responsibility to preserve the land and water of southwestern Ontario. Also acknowledged are the Treaties that allow the SCRCA to work alongside the First Nation Communities of Kettle and Stony Point, Aamjiwnaang and Bkejwanong to ensure we share the responsibility of preserving the land and water.

2. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Pat Brown, who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Adoption of Agenda

BD-24-26

Grimes – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors adopts the agenda for the meeting, as presented.”

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

Director Emery Huszka declared a pecuniary interest pertaining to budgetary items, as per the terms of his appointment as agricultural representative through the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry.

5. Minutes

BD-24-27

Cates – Burrell

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held February 22, 2024, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

6. Presentation

BD-24-28

Gillis – Cates

“That the Board of Directors acknowledge the presentation from Stu Seabrook of Riggs Engineering on floodplain mapping.”

CARRIED

7. Reports

7.1 General Manager’s Report

BD-24-29

Miller – Grimes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated April 11, 2024.”

CARRIED

7.2 Conservation Ontario Report

A verbal report on the April 15, 2024 Conservation Ontario Annual General Meeting was provided by General Manager, Ken Phillips.

Election

An election was held for the following positions:

Chair – Chris White, Grand River Conservation Authority (acclaimed)
Vice Chair – Johnathan Scott, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Treasurer – Pat Warren, Kawartha Conservation
Executive Directors – Rob Baldwin, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority; Brad McNevin, Quinte Conservation Authority and Chandra Sharma, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

Audit

2023 Audited statements were presented and financial statements revealed a small surplus.

Annual report

An annual report is now available for review.

Conservation Authorities Act

Notable changes for Conservation Authorities is the ability to issue stop work orders.

Other Items of Business

The Province will be phasing out funding for free well water testing for private land owners through local Health Units. Land owners may still test for a fee. Municipalities are strongly urged to forward their concerns to the Provincial Government. A sample letter will be distributed to municipalities and accredited farming organizations by the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Committee.

BD-24-30

Huszka – Westgate

“That the Board of Directors receive for information the verbal report concerning the April 15, 2024 Conservation Ontario Annual General Meeting.”

CARRIED

7.3 SCRCA Risk Management Program

BD-24-31

McCallum, Mary Lynne – Cates

“That the Board of Directors acknowledge the report dated March 21, 2024 on the Authority’s Risk Management Program and approve the recommended updates to the SCRCA Risk Management and Land Classification Guideline as outlined in this report.”

CARRIED

7.4 Campground Wastewater Management

BD-24-32

Miller – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledge and receive for information the report dated March 21, 2024 on Campground Wastewater Management.”

CARRIED

7.5 Dam Decommissioning Studies

Discussion:

Director and Agricultural Representative, Emery Huszka suggested that staff consult with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in the event of any sediment management and further suggested the possibility of marketing said sediment to the local agricultural community, provided it is tested and safe for application.

Director John Brennan suggests that item 8.1.5 (Option 5 – Do nothing) within the Head Street Dam engineering report be removed or expanded upon to include future costs associated with dam maintenance, replacement, and increased sediment remediation costs before going to Municipal Council.

BD-24-33

Burrell – Cates

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated March 21, 2024 on the completed dam decommissioning studies for the Head St. dam and Coldstream dam, and further, direct staff to distribute the appropriate reports to the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation and Municipalities of Strathroy-Caradoc and Middlesex-Centre.”

CARRIED

7.6 Highland Glen Reserve

Discussion:

Director Al Broad requested an amendment to the motion restricting the use of the Highland Glen reserve to upgrades/repairs at regionally designated Conservation Areas. A discussion was held and a show of hands was requested in favour of carrying the motion, as presented.

BD-24-34

Burrell – Scott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated March 19, 2024 on the Highland Glen Conservation Area Reserve and further, directs staff to use the remaining Highland Glen Reserve funding to complete identified risk mitigation measures by prioritizing projects that provide the greatest risk reduction with the available funds.”

CARRIED

7.7 Auditor’s Request for Quote

BD-24-35

MacKinnon – Kennes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated March 25, 2024 regarding the requests for proposals for audit services for the Authority and the Foundation, and appoints MNP Chartered Professional Accountants LLP as their auditors, effective June 1, 2024, and further notes the requests for proposals sent to 4 audit service providers returned a singular response.”

CARRIED

7.8 Purchasing Policy

BD-24-36

Grimes – Broad

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated March 26, 2024 regarding the proposed amendment of purchasing limits and authorizations in the SCRCA Purchasing Policy, and further, approves the recommended changes within the report.”

CARRIED

7.9 Re-Designation of Officers

BD-24-37

Brennan – Gillis

“That in accordance with Section 30.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act, the following staff be reappointed as Enforcement Officers under the Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits regulation, Ontario Regulation 41/24 and the Provincial Offences Act: M. Deisley, J. Vlasman, M. Weber; and That in accordance with Section 30.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act, the following staff be reappointed as Enforcement Officers under the Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas O. Reg. 688/21 and the Provincial Offences Act: G. Wilcox, L. Derks, K. Smith.”

CARRIED

7.10 Legislative Changes

BD-24-38

Miller – Burrell

“That this staff report providing details of recent legislative and regulatory changes (Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 41/24) be received for information. And further that the Board support the timelines for implementation of policy, guidelines and procedural documents and the transition procedures and guidelines.”

CARRIED

7.11 Stewardship Permitting Fees

BD-24-39

Miller – Westgate

“That the Board of Directors acknowledge the report, dated March 28, 2024 regarding stewardship permitting fees, and further, direct staff to reduce the required permit fee to \$200 for all stewardship projects, to cover staff time reviewing and permitting under Ontario Regulation 41/24.”

CARRIED

8. Consent Items

- 8.1 (a) Business Arising**
- (b) Current Watershed Conditions**
- (c) Shoreline Projects Update**
- (d) Floodplain Mapping Project Update**
- (e) Community Emergency Preparedness Grant**
- (f) Regulations Activity Summary**
- (g) Planning Activity Summary**
- (h) Revenue and Expenditures**
- (i) Disbursements**
- (j) General Levy Update**
- (k) St. Clair River Area of Concern**
- (l) Communications Update**
- (m) Education Update**

BD-24-40

Brennan – Huszka

“That the Board of Directors approves the consent agenda and receives the accompanying items 8.1 (a) through 8.1 (m) as information.”

CARRIED

9. Correspondence

9.1 Correspondence from Don Crowe Regarding the Darcy McKeough Dam

Discussion:

Director and Agricultural Representative Emery Huszka requests that the correspondence from Mr. Crowe be retained and considered in ongoing discussions and advances related to the operation of the dam and the criteria for doing so.

Director of Water Resources, Girish Sankar provided an update that through the successful application to the Community Emergency Fund, the SCRCA will be deploying new instrumentation to monitor water levels and enhance the Flood Forecasting and Warning Program.

BD-24-41

Miller – Rodrigues

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the correspondence, received February 24, 2024 from Mr. Don Crowe regarding the operation of the Darcy McKeough Dam and concerns for Otter Creek.”

CARRIED

9.2 Correspondence from Deborah Boyse Regarding the Proposed Landfill in Dresden

Discussion:

General Manager, Ken Phillips explained that the SCRCA is only permitted to comment on the flood hazard associated with the lands in question and is unable, under the Conservation Authorities Act, to provide comment on natural heritage. Director Al Broad encouraged fellow directors to bring forth their concerns regarding the proposed landfill to each of their respective municipalities.

BD-24-42

Grimes – Gillis

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the correspondence, received on March 11, 2024 and March 21, 2024 from Ms. Deborah Boyse regarding the proposed landfill in Dresden, ON.”

CARRIED

10. In-Camera

BD-24-43

Huszka – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors move in-camera at 12:03 p.m. to discuss personnel matters with only the Board Coordinator, General Manager and Manager of Conservation Areas to remain present.”

CARRIED

BD-24-44

Gillis – Cates

“That the Board of Directors rise and report at 12:18 p.m. and return to regular business.”

CARRIED

11. New Business

Chair Pat Brown reminded all directors of the upcoming Sydenham River Canoe & Kayak Race, scheduled on April 28, 2024, of which he and fellow director Emery Huszka will be competing and raising funds for the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation in support of outdoor education.

12. Adjournment

BD-24-45

Burrell – Rodrigues

“That the Board of Directors Meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED



Pat Brown
Chair



Ken Phillips
General Manager