

CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING AGENDA

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2017

Hamilton Conservation Authority

Vision

HCA works to ensure healthy streams and healthy communities in which human needs are met in balance with the needs of the natural environment, now and in the future.

Mission

To lead in the conservation and sustainable management of our watershed's natural environment.



**Hamilton
Conservation Authority**

Healthy Streams...Healthy Communities!

Christie Lake Conservation Area
HCA Photo Contest Entry

**NOTICE OF MEETING
CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Thursday, June 8, 2017

7:00 p.m.

at Woodend

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS** ~ Topalovic
- 2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 4. DELEGATIONS**
 - 4.1 Hamilton Burlington Trails Council ~ Alex Brodka and Wayne Terryberry
- 5. MEMBER BRIEFING**
- 6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTIONS** ~ Topalovic

There was none.
- 7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
 - 7.1 Minutes – Conservation Advisory Board (May 11, 2017) ~ Topalovic
- 8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
- 9. STAFF REPORTS/MEMORANDUMS**
 - 9.1 East Escarpment EA – Final Report – verbal update ~ Peck
 - 9.2 Climate Change Program – verbal update ~ Bastien
 - 9.3 HCA Managed Forest Plan and Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program ~ McDonell
 - 9.4 Upcoming HCA Events ~ Peck
- 10. NEW BUSINESS**
- 11. NEXT MEETING – Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**
- 12. ADJOURNMENT**

HAMILTON CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Conservation Advisory Board

MINUTES

May 11, 2017

Minutes of the Conservation Advisory Board meeting held on Thursday, May 11, 2017 at HCA's Woodend Administration Building commencing at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

**Maria Topalovic, Chair
Kristen Brittain
Frank Cucullo
Brad Gautreau
Cheryl Larocque
Santina Moccio
Morgan Pirie
Wayne Terryberry**

**Lydia Cartlidge
Joanne Di Maio
Donna Kydd
Chris Michels
Duke O'Sullivan
Marie Robbins**

REGRETS:

**John Barkovic, Rob Booth, Kris Brown, Susan Fielding,
Robert Pasuta, and John Shaw**

STAFF PRESENT:

**Carissa Bishop, Lisa Burnside, Sarah Gauden, Matt Hall,
Travis Haws, Judy Love, and Scott Peck – HCA Staff**

OTHERS:

Richard Leitner - Media

1. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Maria Topalovic welcomed everyone and indicated the regrets received for the meeting. Maria welcomed Marie Robbins back from her leave of absence and also congratulated Marie on receiving the Stoney Creek Citizen of the Year award by the Stoney Creek Chamber of Commerce. Staff and members congratulated Marie for this outstanding award.

5.2 Overview of Dundas Flood Event

Scott Peck provided a presentation on the flood event in Dundas and answered member's questions.

Based on Environment Canada precipitation data for Hamilton Airport, from April 1 – 24 received 118 mm total precipitation. The HCA rain gauges recorded 102 to 149 mm of rain for April. The average total precipitation for April is 79 mm.

Based on maximum water levels recorded at HCA's stream gauges, there were instances of significant localized watercourse flooding:

- Sydenham Creek at York Road and Cootes Drive, as well as resultant flooding of King Street and area (between East Street and West Street), creek overtopping onto roads and surrounding areas due to flows and debris obstructions at culverts
- Sydenham Creek at upstream road crossings (Alma Street and Park Street East), creek overtopping onto surrounding roads due to flows and debris obstructions at culverts
- Sydenham Creek and/or Borers Creek at Olympic Drive between Cootes Drive and Highway 6, expected creek overtopping and/or urban drainage flooding onto roads due to flows, debris obstructions and/or urban drainage issues
- Borers Creek tributary near Watsons Lane and Ravine Drive, expected creek overtopping and/or urban drainage flooding onto roads due to flows, debris obstructions and/or drainage issues off the Niagara Escarpment.

5.3 Fifty Point – High Water Levels

Lisa Burnside provided a presentation and answered member's questions. The high water level in Lake Ontario is affecting our marina. It has an impact on wall docks and string docks. Also this has affected the beaches and shoreline.

At the docks, all wall spots will become unusable if waters rise. Some are unusable now. Staff are looking to reassign docking until waters recede.

The main challenge is the string docks which are secured by a fixed pin at the wall. The fixed pin is holding dock bracket down on string docks. Solutions are being examined. Floating string docks secured to bottom by chain system. Great deal of adjustment. Only wall connection has restriction.

The gas dock is below level and is being examined by adjusting the bracket.

There are boardwalk concerns. If water levels increase by 5 to 10 centimeters all of the boardwalk around the marina will be underwater.

9. STAFF REPORTS/MEMORANDUMS

9.1 HCA 21017 Annual Membership Pass

Sarah Gauden provided an update and indicated that a relaunch of the pass program took place in November 2016. Marketing conducted internal and external surveys, collaborated with neighbouring Conservation Authorities, completed SWOT analysis and market research to fully understand the scope of our customers.

The revised program took into account all research and information that has been collected and analyzed over the past year and was positioned to accomplish the following three goals:

- provide a high quality relevant annual membership pass, including a low cost walk in option
- simplify redemption and administration of rewards
- maintain pass as a stable and weather proof revenue source for HCA operation budget

With more HCA Conservation Areas having HSR bus access and walk in access available, staff have added the Trail Access Pass, for those who wish to walk into the areas on a regular basis. This pass allows one individual to walk-in or bike-in access to any HCA Conservation Areas (excludes Westfield Heritage Village and Wild Waterworks).

An effective pass program provides a strong connection to 6,000 plus individuals in our community who support us by being members.

10.2 Upcoming HCA Events

Sarah Gauden provided an update of the upcoming events that are included in the agenda package.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Media Releases

Lisa handed out two media releases. Conservation Ontario sent out a media release in regards to Conservation Authorities Flood Programs.

A joint media release was sent out by the City of Hamilton and HCA in regards to the new shuttle service for the Spencer Gorge/Webster Falls area.

Wayne Terryberry asked if there was any concerns regarding capacity. Lisa indicated that the shuttle service will be launched this weekend. Staff will monitor to see if there is an impact on the congestion in the area. City has committed to by law enforcement on weekends.

Wayne asked if there is a trail count. Lisa indicated that we are looking into a trail counter process. Matt indicated that he has ordered 12 counters. We have met with the City and we will be able to collect baseline data for the end of the year.

Lisa indicated that the Ambassador program will start this weekend as well and staff will collect data from our visitors.

Kristen asked how we are going to advertise that our visitors are to drive to Mizener's. Lisa indicated that staff have contacted the media, it is on the City and HCA website, signage at Mizener's and in the precinct.

10.2 Insurance Bureau of Canada

Morgan Pirie asked about an article in regards to the Insurance Bureau of Canada will be processing a flood mapping.

Scott indicated that staff are working with the Insurance Bureau and Conservation Ontario to update the flood mapping.

Scott indicated that Conservation Ontario has been working with the Insurance Bureau of Canada to try and get funding to update our flood mapping.

11. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the CAB is scheduled for Thursday, June 8, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion, the meeting was adjourned.



Memorandum

TO: Conservation Advisory Board

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

RECOMMENDED BY: T. Scott Peck, MCIP, RPP, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Director of Watershed Planning & Engineering

PREPARED BY: Mike Stone, MCIP, RPP, Manager, Watershed Planning Services
Lesley McDonell, Terrestrial Ecologist

DATE: June 8, 2017

RE: HCA Managed Forest Plan and Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program

BACKGROUND

In 2007 and 2010 (Westfield only) Managed Forest Plans (MFP) were developed for forested sections of some HCA owned lands (900 Ha in total). The following HCA properties and Conservation Areas participate in the MFP, Fletcher Creek, Valens, Beverly Swamp, Christie Lake, Dundas Valley, Mount Albion, Vinemount, Fifty Point and Westfield Heritage Village.

With these MFPs in place, HCA registered under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) administered by the government of Ontario. Properties covered by MFTIP are taxed at a reduced rate of 25% of the municipal tax rate for residential properties. The MFPs are detailed plans that indicate the types of forest cover in each discrete forest unit, including both coniferous and deciduous forests, and identify corresponding management objectives. Based on the MFPs, and through staff observations, a number of plantation forest units were identified that appeared suitable for harvest.

HCA is currently in the process of updating the MFP with our forestry consultant Silv-Econ for registration under MFTIP. The field work for this project is complete along with

the background review of MFTIP eligible properties. In this process, HCA has identified properties that could be placed within the Community Conservation Land portion of the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP).

CLTIP is a program offered by the provincial government that allows for tax relief to property owners who own significant natural features in the province. The majority of private landowners are only eligible for this tax relief if they have one of four provincial designations covering their lands:

- Provincially Significant Wetlands,
- Areas of Natural And Scientific Interest,
- Habitats of endangered species, and;
- Lands designated as escarpment natural area in the Niagara Escarpment Plan

Conservation authorities and non-profit organizations that own land are eligible under eleven more categories called Community Conservation Lands. These include lands designated in official plans as Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Significant Woodlands and many more. This program offers 100% tax relief and is a yearly application. As indicated above, in HCA's review of the MFP a number of properties were analysed for inclusion into the CLTIP. These properties include areas that were classified as Managed Forest under the 2008 MFP, are currently being reviewed for inclusion in the updated 2017 MFP or are new lands and not under any program.

STAFF COMMENT

The full extent of properties for inclusion under CLTIP has not been applied for previously by HCA. It is estimated there could be as much as a \$20,000 tax savings as these properties are added into CLTIP. There are restrictions under the CLTIP in relation to infrastructure development. This is why the properties recommended for inclusion have been carefully reviewed by the Executive Team and include those properties where the likelihood of trail development is currently low. Staff will be applying for these properties to be included under CLTIP for the July 31, 2017 deadline.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

The Managed Forest Plan initiative contributes to the achievement of HCA's Strategic Plan 2014-2018, including the following:

- **Strategic Goal #2 – Natural Heritage Conservation**
 - Strategic Objective – Maintain and enhance the natural heritage features of HCA lands and manage these lands on an environmentally sustainable basis.

AGENCY COMMENTS

Not applicable.

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

CONCLUSIONS

The MFP is nearing 50% complete according to the Silv-Econ, our forestry consultant, this includes all of the field work and the corresponding with the background review of the eligible properties. In this review some properties were identified as eligible for both MFTIP and CLTIP. HCA has completed a detailed review of these programs and will be moving forward with applying for a number of properties under the CLTIP. This should produce approximately a \$20,000 tax benefit for HCA. The final Managed Forest Plan and appropriate CLTIP applications will be submitted to the Province of Ontario before the July 31, 2017 deadline.



UPCOMING HCA EVENTS

Gear Buy and Trade

June 10 9am-2pm

Valens Lake Conservation Area

1691 Regional Road 97 (R.R.#6), Flamborough, Ontario N1R 5S7

Do you have old or new camping or trailer equipment, or are you looking to add some equipment to your supplies? For more information call 905-525-2183 or email valens@conservationhamilton.ca

Opening Weekend

June 10 & 11, 11am-8pm

Wild Waterworks

Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8

What better way than to start your summer than a day at Wild Waterworks?! Splash around and enjoy a day filled with fun in the sun! Enter to win one of 2 Family of Four Season Passes for 2017 season. For more information, visit www.wild-waterworks.com, phone 905-547-6141 or email wildww@conservationhamilton.ca

4 Day Evening Walk

June 12-15

Dundas Valley Conservation Area

650 Governor's Road, Dundas, Ontario L9H 5E3

4DEW is celebrating its 27th anniversary. Sign up for four nights of non-competitive leisurely walks. Choose between a challenging (8km) or relaxing (5km) marked route. Visit www.4dew.com

Bring a Picnic for Father's Day

June 18 12:30 – 4:00 pm

Westfield Heritage Village

1049 Kirkwall Road, Rockton, ON L0R 1X0

Treat Dad to a day in the country. Bring your own picnic to enjoy in the beautiful, picturesque setting of Westfield. Purchase sweet treats and cool drinks from the General Store. For more information visit www.westfieldheritage.ca

Father's Day

June 18

Wild Waterworks

Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8

Cool off and celebrate a day with dad and the whole family at Wild Waterworks! Lots of contests and giveaways! Dad gets in free with 2 children day admission purchases, not applicable for sundown rates. For more information, visit www.wild-waterworks.com , phone 905-547-6141 or email wildww@conservationhamilton.ca

Family Swims

June 19-23, 4:00-8:00pm

Wild Waterworks

Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8

Cool off after your hard day of work with the whole family at Wild Waterworks! Sunset admission rates apply. For more information, visit www.wild-waterworks.com , phone 905-547-6141 or email wildww@conservationhamilton.ca.

Ghost Walks

June 24: 7:00 PM / 7:30 PM / 8:30 PM

Dundas Valley Conservation Area

Hermitage Parking Lot, Sulphur Springs Road, Dundas

Walk into the haunted woods at night with the only tour of its kind anywhere! Experience the conflict between calm and fear. A quiet stroll in the forest mixed with dark energy from one of the oldest communities in Ontario. Soon you arrive at a place filled with ghost stories told over generations at this hidden historic gem. It's just your group, alone in the dark with ghosts. Stories of tragic love, cults and the coachman who still walks among the trees. Visit www.ghostwalks.com for more information.

Canada Day Camping

June 30 –July 3

Valens Lake Conservation Area

1691 Regional Road 97 (R.R.#6), Flamborough, Ontario N1R 5S7

Reserve your campsite to avoid missing out on this busy weekend. For more information, please call Valens Lake at 905-525-2183 or email valens@conservationhamilton.ca

Canada Day – Celebrating 150 Years!

July 1 - 10:00 – 4:00 pm

Westfield Heritage Village

1049 Kirkwall Road, Rockton, ON L0R 1X0

Tour the village and discover what life was like in early Canada. Visit the historic buildings, gardens and forests, stroll on the boardwalk or take a hike on the trails. This is a great opportunity for new Canadians to experience the history of Canada. For more information visit www.westfieldheritage.ca

Canada Day Celebration

July 1

Wild Waterworks

Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8

Celebrate Canada Day at Wild Waterworks with flags, pins, stickers. Service persons receive free entry and those wearing red and white will receive \$3.00 off admission at the gate not applicable with sundown rates. Join in the fun with Canada themed games and contests! For more information, visit www.wild-waterworks.com , phone 905-547-6141 or email wildww@conservationhamilton.ca.