

HAMILTON REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting

February 7, 2019

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Thursday, February 7, 2019, at Woodend Auditorium, 838 Mineral Springs Road, Ancaster, Ontario at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Susan Fielding, in the Chair
Chad Collins
Brad Gautreau
Santina Moccio
Maria Topalovic

Lloyd Ferguson
Tom Jackson
Esther Pauls

Fred Fuchs, Foundation Vice Chair

REGRETS: Dan Bowman, Brad Clark

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa Burnside, Grace Correia, Gord Costie, Bruce Harschnitz, Judy Love, Neil McDougall, James O'Neill, Scott Peck, Sandy Root, Jaime Tellier - HCA Staff

OTHERS: Richard Leitner - Media

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Chair asked members to declare any conflicts under the Board's Governance Policy. There was none.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair requested any additions or deletions to the agenda. The Chair indicated that there are two amendments reports for 10.3.1 and 10.4.1.

BD12,2605 MOVED BY: Santina Moccio
SECONDED BY: Esther Pauls

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS

There was none.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

The following consent items were adopted:

- 5.1 Applications – Development, Interference with Wetlands, Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses
- 5.2 Approval of Board of Directors Minutes from December 6, 2018
- 5.3 Letter from Conservation Ontario regarding Comment on Bill 66

6. MEMBER BRIEFING

6.1 Cheque Presentation – Burlington Runners Club

Grace Correia introduced Tim Nelson and Stephan de Wit from the Burlington Runners Club. Tim Nelson indicated that the Sulphur Springs race is one of the best days of running you will experience. The race starts at the Ancaster Community Centre and weaves its way through the beautiful trails of the Dundas Valley. There are many options of racing from a 10 km race to a 100 mile race.

The Burlington Runners Club come together to make sure that the weekend event is memorable for all.

Tim Nelson and Stephan de Wit presented a cheque in the amount of \$9,000 to be used for the Dundas Valley trail maintenance.

Susan Fielding thanked the Burlington Runners Club for their generous donation.

6.2 Outdoor Environmental Education Program – Overview

Grace Correia indicated that the Outdoor Environmental Education program is designed to provide students from elementary to secondary school with hands-on outdoor environmental education experiences that meet overall student learning expectations.

The program, run by education professionals, is based out of Dundas Valley Conservation Area.

Program costs are shared between the participating schools, school boards, and the Hamilton Conservation Foundation. In 2018, the Foundation increased its support of the program from \$55,000 to \$125,000 annually. The Foundation also raises additional funds to provide transportation subsidies to At-Risk schools that may not have the funds to send students to Dundas Valley.

Donations to the Foundation are instrumental in ensuring the Outdoor Environmental Education Program is available to all students across the City of Hamilton and continue to thrive.

6.3 Presentation for the Conservation Areas Innovation Award

Grace Correia indicated that the work of the education staff was recently recognized with a Conservation Areas Innovation Award. HCA's Outdoor Environmental Education program was selected to receive the 2018 award in recognition of the introduction of iPads into the education programming in 2017.

This introduction enhanced the students' experiences while out in the field and activities were successfully implemented for most grades. These activities help the students identify aquatic invertebrates, birds, animal tracks, wildflowers, trees, and even cloud formations.

Recognizing that technology is part of the students' lives, program educators, Beth Stormont, Sandy Root, and James O'Neill, found a way of using the technology to connect the students to nature and enhance their learning experiences.

It's the staff that bring the education program to life and inspire an appreciation for nature and the environment in the students. Sandy Root and James O'Neill were in attendance and accepted the award.

Susan Fielding thanked Sandy and James and indicated that it is very important work that you do.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

7.1 Date of Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Lisa Burnside presented the memorandum and indicated that at the December 6, 2018 Board of Directors meeting, the board approved the meetings dates for 2019.

The HCA Administrative By-Law states that the Board shall designate one of the meetings each year as the Annual General Meeting where the election of officers takes place.

Staff were directed to contact the City of Hamilton clerk in regards to the timing of citizen appointments to help determine the appropriate date to schedule the AGM. Staff reached out to the staff at the City and they cannot give us an exact date when the citizen appointments will be approved by Council.

BD12,2606

**MOVED BY: Lloyd Ferguson
SECONDED BY: Esther Pauls**

THAT the Board of Directors approve the following recommendations:

THAT the AGM for the Board of Directors be scheduled for Thursday, April 4, 2019, pending designation of the citizen appointments.

CARRIED

8. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

9. REPORTS

9.1 Foundation Chairman's Report

Fred Fuchs reported on the following:

- We received a total of \$54,367 donations in December and January. They break down as follows:
 - \$23,725 for the Outdoor Environmental Education Program
 - \$14,748 for the Area of Greatest Need Fund
 - \$5,300 for the Tribute Tree Fund

- \$2,506 for plantings as part of the Christie Lake CA stream restoration project
 - \$2,130 for the Dundas Valley Trail System
 - \$1,425 for the Westfield Heritage Village Building Fund
 - \$1,125 for the Dundas Valley CA Fund
 - The remaining \$2,208 came in donations for Land Securement, the Stewardship Program, and Trail Development
- The Foundation will be undergoing a Strategic Planning process this spring to set its course for the next few years and to align with HCA's new strategic plan. In addition, a recent focus on the recruitment of new Board members will provide opportunities for new prospect development and new ideas for fundraising activities.
 - The Foundation has raised over \$500,000 and exceeded our goal for 2018.

10. OTHER STAFF REPORTS/MEMORANDUMS

10.1 Fifty Point Conservation Area – Watercourse No. 11 Environmental Assessment

Scott Peck presented the report and answered member's questions. Watercourse No. 11 is located along the western boundary of the Fifty Point Conservation Area. The watercourse drains from the south end of the conservation area adjacent to Baseline Road and flow northerly along the length of the conservation onto private property at Windermere Road and then drains into Lake Ontario.

Two land owners on Windermere Road are experiencing flood issues and they are quite concerned.

HCA staff meet with the residents and the local City of Hamilton Ward Councillor to explain the issues and consider options. It was agreed to undertake an environmental assessment study report to investigate the causes of the flooding and develop alternatives to resolve the flooding issues.

The Class EA Flood Remediation Project – Watercourse 11, Fifty Point Conservation Area report has been completed. The report identifies five alternatives to the identified issue.

Alternative 2 is the preferred option. This alternative ensures removal of 67% of the total flood water from the Fifty Point Conservation Area while maintaining a positive impact on the environment.

HCA staff have been involved throughout this program and have worked with the consultants and taken part in the Public Information Centres as the project has moved forward.

HCA staff are supportive of the findings and recommendations of the environmental study report and will continue to meet with adjacent landowners to address concerns and work toward implementation of Alternative 2.

BD12,2607 **MOVED BY:** **Santina Moccio**
SECONDED BY: **Maria Topalovic**

THAT the Board of Directors approve the following recommendations:

That the Class EA Flood Remediation Project – Watercourse 11, Fifty Point Conservation Area Report, dated December 17, 2018 be filed for public review and for the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

CARRIED

10.2 Ratification of Email Poll for Replacement Mobile Marina Lift at Fifty Point Conservation Area

Neil McDougall presented the report. An email poll was sent out to the Board of Directors on January 15, 2019 for their approval. In accordance with the HCA's governance policies, the Board of Directors ratified unanimously the email poll approving the purchase of the mobile marina lift for Fifty Point Conservation Area.

BD12,2608 **MOVED BY:** **Maria Topalovic**
SECONDED BY: **Brad Gautreau**

THAT the Board of Directors approve the following recommendations:

That the quotation for the replacement of the Fifty Point Mobile Marina Boat Lift be awarded to Kropf Industrial Inc. at a cost of \$319,060.00 plus HST. The HST is recoverable.

CARRIED

10.3 Addendum Report for Request for Proposal – Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek Flood Plain Mapping Study

Scott Peck presented the report and answered member's questions. A Request for Proposal for the Stoney Creek & Battlefield Creek Flood Plain Mapping Study was developed and a call for proposals issued. Nine proposals were submitted prior to the deadline of February 1, 2019.

Based on the review of the proposals provided, it is recommended that this project work be awarded to Water's Edge Environmental Solutions Team.

BD12,2609

**MOVED BY: Chad Collins
SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio**

THAT the Board of Directors approve the following recommendations:

THAT the proposal for the Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek Flood Plain Mapping Study submitted by Water's Edge Environmental Solutions Team be accepted at a cost of \$59,990.00 plus HST.

CARRIED

10.4 Addendum Report for Request for Proposal – Wetland Design – Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project

Scott Peck presented the report and answered member's questions. A Request for Proposal for the Wetland Design – Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project was developed and a call for proposals issued. Seven proposals were submitted prior to the deadline of February 1, 2019.

Based on the review of the proposals provided, it is recommended that this project work be awarded to Water's Edge Environmental Solutions Team.

Water's Edge is also the recommended consultant for the Stoney Creek & Battlefield Creek Flood Plain Mapping Study Request. Having the same firm work on both projects will streamline project development and remove any concerns related to duplicate work or communications between two different consulting firms.

Lloyd Ferguson has concerns that the low bidder will complain. Scott indicated the Water's Edge submission is detailed with tasks noted with associated specifics and costs. The lowest quote does not provide this level of review.

Additionally, the HCA RFP process does not require that the lowest proposal will be accepted.

Tom Jackson indicated that this is possibly something at the City they could learn in regards to the tender process.

BD12,2610 **MOVED BY:** **Maria Topalovic**
SECONDED BY: **Santina Moccio**

THAT the Board of Directors approve the following recommendations:

THAT the proposal for the Wetland Design – Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project submitted by Water’s Edge Environmental Solutions Team be accepted at a cost not to exceed \$129,985.00 plus HST.

CARRIED

10.5 Current Watershed Conditions as of January 25, 2019

Scott Peck indicated that the conditions have changed since this report was written. With the snow melt and freezing rain, the water levels are high but no alarms have gone off. Staff continue to monitor the situation and staff do have a flood watch out.

10.5 Upcoming HCA and Partner Events

Gord Costie provided an update of the upcoming events that are included in the agenda package.

Gord indicated that the deer harvest with the Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority took place on weekdays excluding Fridays between November 12 and December 6, 2018. It was a successful harvest. Staff did a daily inspection and there were no issues. Staff have not received the total count but have indicated that it was a light harvest.

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Budget Presentation

Tom Jackson congratulated staff on the excellent budget presentation provided to City Councillors. Lloyd Ferguson applauded the staff and indicated that our presentation went very smoothly.

12.3 Confidential Verbal Update BD/Feb 03-2019

Lisa Burnside provided a verbal update.

BD12,2614**MOVED BY: Lloyd Ferguson****SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic****THAT the Board of Directors moves out of *in camera*.****CARRIED****13. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, March 7 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Woodend Auditorium, 838 Mineral Springs Road, Ancaster, Ontario.

14. ADJOURNMENT

On motion, the meeting adjourned.



Neil McDougall
Secretary-Treasurer