

Hamilton Region Conservation Authority

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

September 2, 2021

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Thursday, September 2, 2021, at 7.p.m., by videoconference and livestreamed via YouTube.

PRESENT: **Lloyd Ferguson – in the Chair**
 Dan Bowman **Jim Cimba**
 Brad Clark **Susan Fielding**
 Cynthia Janzen **Santina Moccio**

Jennifer Stebbing – Foundation Chair

REGRETS: **Chad Collins, Tom Jackson, Esther Pauls, Maria Topalovic**

STAFF PRESENT: **Gord Costie, Matt Hall, Neil McDougall, Scott Peck, Jaime Tellier, and Nancy Watts**

OTHERS: **None**

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 were none.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Chair requested any additions or deletions to the agenda. Scott Peck advised there is an addendum to item 10.1 on the agenda to provide the results of the Wild

Waterworks West Slide Refurbishment Tender, to be added as item 10.1.1. The Chair also noted item 10.4 was added to an amended agenda.

BD12, 2930

**MOVED BY: Santina Moccio
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding**

THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

4. Delegations

There were none.

5. Consent Items for Applications, Minutes and Correspondence

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 – July 8, 2021
- 5.3. Correspondence from Marc Broe-Vayda regarding the closure of the Bruce Side Trail at Sydenham Road, dated July 21, 2021, and staff response, dated July 30, 2021

6. Foundation Briefing

Donations

The Foundation received a total of **\$83,328** in donations from July 1 to Aug 31, 2021. They break down as follows:

- A sailboat valued at \$50,000 which has been auctioned off with the proceeds allocated to the Fifty Point CA Fund (Thank you to staff at Fifty Point CA for facilitating the donation and sale!)
- \$28,197 for the Step Into Nature Fund supporting Outdoor Environmental Education
- \$2,500 for Tribute Benches
- \$1,875 for the Area of Greatest Need Fund
- \$1,003 for the Land Securement Fund
- \$550 for the Dundas Valley CA Fund

- The remaining \$1,202 was donated to the Species at Risk Fund, Christie Lake CA Fund, Saltfleet CA Fund, Westfield Heritage Village and the Stewardship Fund.

This brings the fiscal year-to-date (Dec 2020 to Aug 2021) fundraising total to **\$209,514**.

BD12, 2931

**MOVED BY: Santina Moccio
SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman**

THAT the Foundation Briefing be received.

CARRIED

7. Member Briefing

7.1. Saltfleet Conservation Area Update

Scott Peck provided a verbal update on the Saltfleet Conservation Area and answered the members' questions.

Scott reviewed the objectives of the Conservation Area, including flooding and erosion mitigation and low flow augmentation in Stoney and Battlefield Creeks, restoration of natural features and functions of watercourses in the area, and to provide recreational linkages within and between conservation area lands, using the Dofasco Trail. Scott also showed the wetland design plans for BC-1, the first wetland prioritized for construction between First and Second Roads East, and discussed archaeological assessments and approvals completed in preparation for construction. The design work is being finalized. Construction on BC-1 is anticipated to begin in December. Staff will also continue with design work for SC-8, the second wetland identified in the series for construction, and will continue with land acquisition for the overall project. Scott also showed a video produced by Marketing and Communications staff, promoting the Saltfleet Conservation Area project. A media release was also presented to the members, anticipating a soft opening of the Conservation Area for the middle of September, with access to temporary trails, for the Fall season. The area will be closed during construction over the Winter with a formal opening anticipated in Spring, 2022.

The members congratulated Scott and staff on the progress of the project.

Potential impacts to agricultural operations on-site were discussed. Scott advised that a large portion of the area planned for BC-1 is forested. There were six agricultural fields, both in the north and south portions of the property. HCA has been leasing two fields at the south end of the property to a tenant. Ultimately HCA would like to plant all of the fields. The northern fields will become part of the wetland and

the southern fields will remain in agriculture for the short-term, with a transition to natural lands to be addressed through the master planning process next year.

ATV use in the area was also discussed. Scott commented that ATV's have been an issue. However, staff have a stronger presence in the area with new staff allocated to the Hamilton Mountain Conservation Areas. In addition, physical barriers have been put in place. Staff will look at fencing the Conservation Area in the long-term.

Brad Clark commented on the chronology of the project from concept through to this stage. He noted that early financial contributions from the City of Hamilton, through royalties from the Terrapure landfill facility, from Heritage Green Community Trust, and the Hamilton Conservation Foundation, made the land acquisition for the project possible. He also commented on the unique legacy of the project for subsequent generations and thanked the trustees of the Heritage Green Community Trust, City Council, Board members, and staff for their support for the project from the beginning.

Scott noted the project has received provincial recognition, including through the Greenbelt economic return assessment, and that HCA is being recognized as an example for this type of project.

BD12, 2932

**MOVED BY: Brad Clark
SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba**

THAT the verbal update on the Saltfleet Conservation Area be received.

CARRIED

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none.

9. Reports from Budget & Administration Committee and Conservation Advisory Board.

There were none.

10. Other Staff Reports/Memorandums

10.1. Wild Waterworks West Slide Refurbishment

Matt Hall presented a summary of the project background report and tender results summary and answered the members' questions. Access to additional contingency funds to cover the additional costs was discussed. Neil advised that as Wild Waterworks is owned by the City of Hamilton, the request for additional funds would need to be raised with the City of Hamilton Public Works department. The reasons for the additional costs were also discussed. Matt reported that specific materials are difficult to acquire at this time and the work requires additional labour.

The members discussed reissuing the tender for the work to be completed in the Spring.

BD12, 2933

**MOVED BY: Santina Moccio
SECONDED BY: Brad Clark**

THAT the West Slide Refurbishment at Wild Waterworks contract not be awarded at this time;

THAT staff be directed to contact City of Hamilton staff to determine if additional funds are available; or

THAT staff prepare a new tender to be put out in the Spring.

CARRIED

10.2. Watershed Conditions Report

Scott Peck presented a summary of the memorandum, noting that while there has been quite a bit of rain, HCA's watershed remains in a Level 1 low water condition; the criteria for the levels are based on three-month averages. Scott also noted that the Christie reservoir levels are slightly lower than normal operating levels as staff are managing the outflows to maintain flows downstream. The Valens reservoir remains at summer operating levels. Lake Ontario is at its long-term average level, Lake Erie continues to have higher levels than normal.

Brad Clark inquired about the dry conditions possibly contributing to overland flooding and flooding up through the sewer that some have observed in Ward 9. Scott indicated that dry conditions might contribute to flooding but would verify with staff.

BD12, 2934

**MOVED BY: Jim Cimba
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding**

THAT the memorandum entitled Watershed Conditions Report be received.

CARRIED**10.3. Conservation Areas Experiences Update**

Gord Costie provided a verbal update, highlighting the Conservation Areas have been busy with daily operations. He noted that high visitation to the parkette conservation areas is contributing to the strong numbers. Staff anticipate a busy Fall colour season.

BD12, 2935**MOVED BY: Santina Moccio
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding****THAT the verbal update on Conservation Areas Experiences be received.****CARRIED****10.4. HCA Mandatory Covid-19 Vaccination Verification and Testing Policy**

Neil McDougall introduced the report. Nancy Watts provided a further detailed summary of the report and answered the members' questions.

Brad Clark clarified for staff and volunteers that HCA is not mandating vaccinations; the policy is following the Occupational Health and Safety Act, as well as complying with the Health Care Consent Act, for informed consent, and the Personal Health Information Act, not obligating anyone to disclose their vaccination status, and providing alternative options. He commented on this as a balanced approach.

BD12, 2936**MOVED BY: Santina Moccio
SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman****THAT the HCA Board of Directors endorse that the HCA draft and implement a Mandatory COVID 19 Vaccination Verification and Testing Policy requiring employees (and others as defined below) to either provide proof of vaccination, or undergo regular testing and education for those unvaccinated staff as noted in the policy outline in this report; and further****THAT the Policy applies to all HCA employees, including full time, contract, casual, volunteers, students, membership of the Board of Directors, and citizen members appointed to the Conservation Advisory Board.****CARRIED**

11. New Business

There was none.

12. In-Camera Items**BD12, 2937****MOVED BY: Santina Moccio
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding****THAT the Board of Directors moves *in camera* for matters of law, personnel and property.****CARRIED****During the *in camera* session, one two property matters were discussed.****12.1. Confidential Report - BD/Sep 01-2021**

Scott Peck provided a summary of the report regarding a property matter and answered the members' questions.

BD12, 2938**MOVED BY: Jim Cimba
SECONDED BY: Brad Clark****THAT the confidential report entitled BD/Sep 01-2021 be approved and remain in camera.****CARRIED****12.2. Confidential Report - BD/Sep 02-2021**

Scott Peck provided a summary of the report regarding a property matter and answered the members' questions.

BD12, 2939**MOVED BY: Santina Moccio
SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman****THAT the Board of Directors approve the demolition of the existing vacant building located at 60 Arbour Road, and;****THAT the Board of Directors authorize HCA staff to proceed to obtain the appropriate building demolition**

permit and engage a contractor to undertake the demolition and disposal of the subject building.

CARRIED

BD12, 2940

MOVED BY: Jim Cimba

SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding

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, October 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

14. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned.



Neil McDougall
Secretary-Treasurer