



Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Thursday, July 8, 2021



Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

This meeting will be held by WebEx videoconference.

**The meeting can be viewed live on HCA's You Tube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/HamiltonConservation>**

- 1. Welcome** – Rzaccki
- 2. Election of Officers** – Rzaccki
 - 2.1. Appoint Scrutineers
 - 2.2. Election of 2021 Chair
 - 2.3. Election of 2021 Vice-Chair
 - 2.4. Election of Chair to Conservation Advisory Board
 - 2.5. Board Representatives to Budget & Administration Committee
 - Sign up sheet will be distributed at meeting
 - 2.6. Board Representatives to Conservation Advisory Board
 - Sign up sheet will be distributed at meeting
- 3. Call to Order for Normal Course of Business** – Newly Appointed Chair
- 4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**
- 5. Approval of Agenda**
- 6. Delegations**
- 7. Consent Items for Applications, Minutes and Correspondence**
 - 7.1. Applications – Development, Interference with Wetlands, Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses
 - 7.2. Approved April 8, 2021 Conservation Advisory Board Minutes – for receipt only

- 7.3. Approved May 20, 2021 Budget & Administration Committee Minutes – for receipt only
- 7.4. Approval of Board of Directors Minutes – June 3, 2021
- 7.5. Letter from Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to City of Hamilton, dated May 17, 2021 re Exception Requests for Municipal Appointments
- 7.6. Letter from Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Jeff Yurek, dated June 3, 2021 re Minister Approval of Exception Requests
- 7.7. 33 Items of correspondence respecting 140 Garner Road East, Ancaster, labelled a) to ag)
- 7.8. 8 Items of correspondence respecting 140 Garner Road East, Ancaster, labelled a) to h)
- 7.9. Provincial news release dated June 18, 2021 re. cabinet changes with new Ministers for MECP and MNRF
- 7.10. Conservation Ontario's Comments on "Regulatory proposals (Phase 1) under the Conservation Authorities Act" (ERO# 019-2986), dated June 22, 2021
- 7.11. Conservation Ontario letter to David Piccini, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, re. Conservation Authorities Act regulatory proposals review, dated June 22, 2021

8. Foundation Briefing

- 8.1. Foundation Chair Remarks - Jennifer Stebbing

9. Member Briefing

10. Business Arising from the Minutes

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

- 11.1. Budget & Administration Committee – June 17, 2021 – Moccio
(Recommendations)
 - 11.1.1. BA 2122 Minimum Wage Increase to Casual Wage Rates
- 11.2. Conservation Advisory Board – June 10, 2021 – Topalovic

(Recommendations)

- 11.2.1. CA 2122 HCA Conservation Area Pay & Display Parking Lots
– Parking Enforcement Support

12. Other Staff Reports/Memorandums

- 12.1. Gypsy Moth Monitoring and Management – Verbal Presentation – Stone/McDonell
- 12.2. Watershed Conditions Report – Peck
- 12.3. Conservation Areas Experiences Update – Costie

13. New Business

14. In-Camera Items

15. Next Meeting – Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

16. Adjournment

Memorandum

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer

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

DATE: July 8, 2021

RE: Summary Enforcement Report – Development, Interference with
Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses
Regulation 161/06 Applications for July 8, 2021

HCA Regulation applications approved by staff between the dates of May 22, 2021 and June 28, 2021 are summarized in the following Summary Enforcement Report (SER-6/21).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board of Directors receive this Summary Enforcement Report SER-6/21 as information.

HAMILTON REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO SHORELINES AND WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS**

June 28, 2021

Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Applications Report to the Board of Directors of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority, July 08, 2021

The proposed works are subject to Ontario Regulation 161/06, and in particular Section 2, Subsection (1).

SUMMARY ENFORCEMENT REPORT SER 6/21

File Number	Date Received	Date Permit Issued	Review Days	Applicant Name	Location	Application Description	Recommendation / Conditions
SC/C/20/102	23-Nov-20	25-May-21	151		24 Lakeshore Rd Lot 11, Concession BF Stoney Creek	Development of a second-storey addition to an existing single residence in a regulated area of Lake Ontario.	Approved by Board of Directors at May 6, 2021 Hearing subject to conditions.
SC/F,C,A/21/40	21-May-21	31-May-21	32		18 Lakeside Dr Lot 13, Concession BF Stoney Creek	Retrofit of an existing shoreline retaining wall in a regulated area of the Lake Ontario shoreline.	Approved subject to standard condition
SC/F,C,A/21/38	10-May-21	11-Jun-21	33		841 Arvin Ave Lot 11, Concession 1 Stoney Creek	Sediment removal, maintenance works, and culvert replacement in a regulated area of Watercourse 6.1.	Approved subject to standard condition
H/F,A/21/45	08-Jun-21	22-Jun-21	19		386 Wilcox St Lot 7, Concession BF Hamilton	Completion of maintenance dredging for a water intake pipe in a regulated area of the Hamilton Harbour.	Approved subject to standard condition
F/F,C/21/44	10-Jun-21	24-Jun-21	19		662 Harvest Rd Lot 10, Concession 2 Flamborough	Demolition of an existing dwelling and garage, and construction of a new dwelling, garage, and septic system in a regulated area on Spencer Creek.	Approved subject to standard condition

HAMILTON CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Conservation Advisory Board

MINUTES

April 8, 2021

Minutes of the Conservation Advisory Board meeting held on Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., by videoconference and livestreamed via YouTube.

PRESENT:	Maria Topalovic - in the Chair Dan Bowman Joanne Di Maio Cynthia Janzen Duke O'Sullivan	Lydia Cartlidge Lloyd Ferguson Santina Moccio Wayne Terryberry
REGRETS:	None	
STAFF PRESENT:	Jonathan Bastien, Gord Costie, Matt Hall, Neil McDougall, Colin Oaks, Scott Peck, Chris Polap, Mike Stone, Jaime Tellier, Stacey Van Opstal, and Nancy Watts	
OTHERS:	None	

1. Chairman's Remarks

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

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

The Chair asked members to declare any conflicts under the HCA Administrative By-law. There were none.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Chair requested any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none.

CA 2107 MOVED BY: Joanne Di Maio

SECONDED BY: Lydia Cartlidge

THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

4. Delegations

There were none.

5. Member Briefing

5.1. 2020 Annual Report

Scott Peck presented an overview of the annual report, including highlights from each section of the document. The report marks the second year of progress for the 2019-2023 strategic plan. Scott added it represents a great team effort amongst staff to share our accomplishments and bring the information to light, particularly through amazing photos from across our watershed.

Maria thanked Scott for the presentation and congratulated staff on the document.

6. Chairman's Report on Board of Directors Actions

CA 2104	2021 Reservation Service – Spencer Gorge Conservation Area
CA 2105	Westfield Heritage Village Accession and Deaccession Lists

The Chair advised the members that both reports were approved by the Board of Directors at the March meeting, as recommended.

7. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

7.1. Minutes – Conservation Advisory Board (February 11, 2021)

**CA 2108 MOVED BY: Duke O'Sullivan
 SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman**

**THAT the minutes of the February 11, 2021 Conservation
Advisory Board meeting be approved.**

CARRIED**8. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was none.

9. Staff Reports/Memorandums**9.1. Christie Lake Dam & Valens Lake Dam Public Safety
Risk Assessments and Valens Lake Dam Safety Review**

Jonathan Bastien presented a summary of the report and answered the members' questions.

Criteria for the prioritization of the recommended actions was discussed. Jonathan confirmed the prioritization is based on tasks that are considered most important to reducing risks to then those that are still important but can be done at a later date.

The levels of risk and risk tolerance were also discussed. The recommendations in the report aim to reduce HCA's current risk levels and achieve moderate levels of risk. Achieving low risk levels would require restricting public access to the dams and surrounding areas.

The recommendation related to Darnley Mill and outside websites that advertise this area was noted. Jonathan advised that the Darnley Mill is in the downstream area of the dam, rather than part of the dam. However, the area is included in the assessment and therefore the recommendation was made to reduce public risk by attempting to reduce the non-HCA advertising. There are also recommendations for improved signage and fencing repair. Jonathan commented that there are other corporate considerations for the site that will need to be addressed as part of the overall management of the area.

Staff have applied for Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) funding for a number of projects in the report, including additional signage and fencing at both dams, and the safety boom at Christie Lake.

CA 2109

**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry
SECONDED BY: Joanne Di Maio**

**THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to
the Board of Directors:**

THAT the Public Safety Risk Assessments for Christie Lake Dam and Valens Lake Dam and the Dam Safety Review for Valens Lake Dam be received;

THAT the recommended public safety risk reduction measures contained within these reports be approved by the Board of Directors for implementation within appropriate time frames determined by HCA staff;

THAT the Board of Directors approve the risk tolerance level (Moderate) that was adopted in the Public Safety Risk Assessments;

THAT the Board of Directors approve the implementation of recommended public safety risk reduction measures to reduce all identified High-risk hazards to at least Medium risk; and,

THAT the recommended dam safety remedial measures contained within the Valens Lake Dam Safety Assessment be approved by the Board of Directors for implementation within the suggested time frames.

CARRIED

9.2. Saltfleet Wetland Design – Verbal Update

Scott Peck provided the members with a verbal update on the Saltfleet wetland design project.

The environmental assessment work for the Saltfleet wetland was completed in 2018. Partial funding was received through the Natural Disaster Mitigation Fund and the Greenbelt Fund. Water's Edge Environmental Solutions Team Ltd. was engaged for the more detailed design work for the wetland that will be on Battlefield Creek (BC-1). They completed a more detailed assessment based on 2019 monitoring data. Through that assessment, a Significant Woodland was identified. Water's Edge then proposed a two-cell system that can withhold the same amount of water as previously identified, while also retaining the Significant Woodland for natural heritage function and to provide a feature of interest for future visitors to the Conservation Area. Scott shared drawings of the wetland design, showing water inundation levels and ponding areas that will remain during lower water levels.

Staff have applied to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for permission to install the culverts at the outlets of the wetlands to address fisheries requirements.

Staff are currently awaiting a clearance from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) under the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act (LRIA) for BC-1. The consultants are working on this on our behalf. We will also be applying for a site alteration permit from the City of Hamilton for the movement of fill on the site.

Scott also shared a drawing of the proposed wetland on Stoney Creek (SC-8). SC-8 has a larger upstream catchment area than BC-1 and therefore will require a full permit from MNRF under the LRIA.

To advance the project as quickly as possible, BC-1 has been identified as a higher priority because of the lesser regulatory requirements. Staff are hopeful approvals will be received in the Fall of 2021, with construction ideally beginning in early 2022.

CA 2110

**MOVED BY: Joanne Di Maio
SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen**

THAT the verbal update on the Saltfleet Wetland Design be received as information.

CARRIED

9.3. Fifty Point Pond Fishery and Wetland Project Design

Colin Oaks presented a summary of the memorandum and answered the members' questions.

CA 2111

**MOVED BY: Cynthia Janzen
SECONDED BY: Duke O'Sullivan**

THAT memorandum entitled Fifty Point Conservation Area Wetland and Fisheries Enhancement Project Update be received as information.

CARRIED

9.4. Water Quality Monitoring Results

Chris Polap and Stacey Van Opstal presented a summary of the memorandum and answered the members' questions.

Lloyd Ferguson inquired about reporting procedures for water quality monitoring in light of the combined sewer overflow infrastructure malfunctions and

subsequent effluent releases that were discovered on Chedoke Creek in 2019. Jonathan Bastien advised that prior to 2019, this monitoring program was a long-term trend monitoring program, looking at annual averages, rather than a spills response program. When staff began the monitoring in 2014, there was an increased concentration of E.coli in Chedoke Creek compared with Cootes Paradise and was reported to the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan (HHRAP) partners in annual reporting. The expectation at that time was that the different results were caused by differences in sampling locations and protocols, particularly because of the variability in water quality in Chedoke Creek. While the focus of the program continues to be long-term watershed health monitoring, staff are working with the City of Hamilton to identify event-based monitoring and are now reviewing the monitoring data results as they are received. There is a protocol in place to notify the City and MECP of changes as noted based on the protocol.

Water quality improvements downstream in Ancaster Creek were discussed. Jonathan indicated the reason is likely dilution due to increased inputs and flows downstream. Staff are working to confirm the reason for the changes.

The water quality targets for E.coli in Spencer Creek were clarified. The 200 cfu target is for passive recreation uses, such as canoeing, whereas 100 cfu is for swimming. Given the passive uses on Spencer Creek, the 200 cfu target is used. The HHRAP sets the water quality targets for the remedial action plan and staff ensure HCA is in line with those targets for reporting exceedances.

CA 2112

**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry
SECONDED BY: Joanne Di Maio**

THAT the memorandum entitled HCA Water Quality Sampling Programs Overview be received as information.

CARRIED

9.5. Natural Heritage Offsetting Policy Discussion Paper

Scott Peck presented a summary of memorandum and discussion paper, advising both were presented to the Board of Directors at the April 1 meeting and were approved for staff to move forward with public consultation on the discussion paper. Scott highlighted the presentation is to ensure the members are aware of the public consultation process.

The importance of public consultation on the discussion paper was discussed. It was noted that the variety of engagement methods and longer duration

commenting period are prudent given the impact of the pandemic on traditional methods of public consultation.

The concept of net gain ratios and the staff rationale for not including them in the discussion paper were discussed, as well as how they may be put forward for consultation should they be proposed at a later date. Scott advised that other CA's have included net gain ratios in implementation guidelines rather than in policies. The Board has directed staff to develop a policy. The implementation guidelines would come after a decision is made on the policy. Subsequently, staff would then bring forward a report on the guidelines.

Lloyd Ferguson commented on recent changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and how the offsetting policy may address the perception that Conservation Authority development regulations are too restrictive and allow HCA to pre-emptively develop the policy rather than have policies imposed by the Province.

CA 2113

**MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
SECONDED BY: Duke O'Sullivan**

**THAT the memorandum entitled Natural Heritage
Offsetting Policy Discussion Paper be received as
information.**

CARRIED

Wayne Terryberry left the meeting.

9.6. Conservation Areas Experiences Update

Gord Costie provided a verbal update, advising that visitation rates remain high across all Conservation Areas as we move into the busy season. He commended the efforts of staff to maintain service levels and operations with the continued high visitation. Gord highlighted that Conservation Areas with smaller parking lots are experiencing challenges with high visitation. A Special Enforcement Area has been added to the Tiffany Falls and Artaban Road parking lot areas to assist with visitor safety by managing parking and traffic issues. Gord also noted that May 1st is the start date for the Spencer Gorge Reservation System. It was also noted that HCA is following closely and seeking legal advice on any changes to our operations resulting from the recent Provincial stay at home order.

CA 2114

**MOVED BY: Joanne Di Maio
SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen**

THAT the verbal update on the Conservation Areas Experiences Update be received as information.

CARRIED

10. New Business

Scott Peck advised that the provincial lockdown does not affect our operations as they have been for the past few weeks. Office staff are working remotely, with the only exceptions to come in for essential purposes. The Conservation Areas remain open. The only change is that overnight camping is not permitted until the lockdown is lifted. The marina can continue to operate subject to some conditions.

Cynthia Janzen inquired about an update on the operation of Wild Waterworks for the 2021 season. Gord Costie advised that staff are awaiting a decision from the City on the operation of the facility.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CAB is scheduled for Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting was adjourned.

Hamilton Conservation Authority

Minutes

Budget & Administration Committee

May 20, 2021

Minutes of the Budget & Administration Committee meeting held on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., by videoconference and livestreamed on YouTube.

Present: Santina Moccio, in the Chair
Jim Cimba
Lloyd Ferguson
Maria Topalovic

Regrets: Dan Bowman

Staff Present: Lisa Burnside, Gord Costie, Matt Hall, Neil McDougall, Scott Peck, Jaime Tellier, and Nancy Watts

Others Present: None

1. Chairman's Remarks

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. It was noted that Dan Bowman sent regrets for the evening.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

The Chair asked members to declare any conflicts under the HCA Administrative By-law. There were none.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Chair requested any additions or deletions to the agenda. Lisa Burnside advised of an additional in camera item to discuss a legal matter, to be added as item 10.2.

BA 2111

MOVED BY: Jim Cimba

SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic

THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

4. Delegations

There were none.

5. Consent Items

The following consent item was adopted, as amended.

5.1. Approval of Budget & Administration Committee Minutes – April 15, 2021

It was noted there were two corrections required in the minutes, item 10, the resolutions to move in and out of camera indicate the Board of Directors where they should state the Budget and Administration Committee. The minutes were approved as amended.

6. Chairman's Report on Board of Directors Actions

The Chair advised that the following reports were approved at the Board of Directors meeting on May 6, 2021.

BA 2105 Report by the Auditors and Twelve-month Financial Results Audited Financial Statements

BA 2106 Reserve Funds and Balances as of December 31, 2020

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

7.1. HCA Planning and Permitting User Fee Review – Next Steps

Scott present a summary of the memorandum and answered the members questions. It was confirmed that Conservation Authorities are not allowed to profit from planning and regulations applications and can only apply fees to recover the costs of implementing the processes. Scot noted that a previous fee review did not completely capture the amount of staff hours involved in application review and that the recommended changes are bringing the fees to the levels needed to meet the

cost recovery targets. Staff costs required to process applications were discussed. Costs not currently recovered through fees are subsidized through other funds, for example municipal levy and surplus revenues from the Conservation Areas. The safeguard against recovering more than the recovery targets is the detailed analysis completed by the experienced consultants HCA is has retained.

HCA's move toward coming in line with the 80% and 100% targets is in line with other CA's and municipalities and with previous Board direction for cost recovery. The relative fee increase has been compared with the overall costs of development and neighbouring CA fees. Staff will need to consult with stakeholders to understand their reception to the fee changes and phased in approach.

The members considered waiting to consult until potential changes to the planning and permit review processes resulting from the upcoming changes to the CA Act are understood. Staff recommending consulting early to solicit feedback. The process and range of stakeholders for consultation was discussed.

Any potential fee changes will be brought to the Budget & Administration committee and the Board of Directors for approval in the 2022 fee schedule.

BA 2112

**MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic
SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba**

THAT the memorandum entitled HCA Planning and Permitting User Fee Review – Next Steps be received for information.

CARRIED

8. Staff Reports/Memoranda

8.1. Cootes to Escarpment Memorandum of Understanding

Lisa Burnside presented a summary of the report and answered the members' questions.

Jim Cimba inquired about First Nations participation in the Cootes to Escarpment project. Staff were directed to ask the Cootes to Escarpment secretariat for information in this regard and report back to the Committee.

BA 2113

**MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic
SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba**

THAT the Budget & Administration Committee recommends to the Board of Directors:

THAT the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Cootes to Escarpment Eco Park System for 2022 to 2026 be approved.

CARRIED

8.2. Request for Quote – Job Evaluation and Market Survey Services

Lisa Burnside provided a summary of the report.

BA 2114

**MOVED BY: Jim Cimba
SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic**

THAT the Budget and Administration Committee recommends to the Board of Directors:

THAT staff be directed to undertake a request for quotes to carry out a job evaluation and market salary survey; and further

THAT the results of the review be presented back to the Budget & Administration Committee for consideration and implications for future budgets.

CARRIED

8.3. 1st Quarter Financial Results – Operating

Neil McDougal presented a summary of the memorandum. With current operations and the program openings we are expecting to see in the middle of June, staff expect a solid performance and to meet budget projections.

Recent provincial announcements were discussed. Camping and major events are currently still not permitted. Staff are hopeful camping will be able to open mid June. Major events not likely until much later this year or 2022.

8.4. 1st Quarter Financial Results – Capital & Major Maintenance

Neil McDougal presented a summary of the memorandum highlighting significant projects and regular major maintenance undertaken, adding that HCA will continue to invest funds in HCA's Conservation Areas and facilities in the months to come.

8.5. 1st Quarter Vendor Report

Neil McDougal presented a summary of the memorandum and answered the members' questions.

Property taxes paid for HCA properties were discussed. HCA pays taxes on all properties, with significant reductions for natural lands that qualify for the Conservation Land Tax and Managed Forest Tax Incentive Programs.

BA 2115

**MOVED BY: Jim Cimba
SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic**

THAT the memorandums entitled 1st Quarter Financial Results – Operating, 1st Quarter Financial Results – Capital & Major Maintenance, 1st Quarter Vendor Report, be received for information.

CARRIED

9. New Business

There was none.

10. In-Camera Items for Matters of Law, Personnel and Property

BA 2116

**MOVED BY: Lloyd Ferguson
SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic**

THAT the Budget and Administration Committee moves *in camera* for matters of law, personnel and property.

CARRIED

During the *in camera* session, two legal matters were discussed.

10.1. Confidential Memorandum – BA/May 01-2021

Neil McDougall provided a summary of the memorandum regarding a legal matter and answered the members' questions.

BA 2117

MOVED BY: Jim Cimba

SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic

THAT the confidential memorandum entitled BA/May 01-2021 be received and remain in camera.

CARRIED

10.2. Confidential Memorandum – BA/May 02-2021

Lisa Burnside provided a summary of the memorandum regarding a legal matter and answered the members' questions.

BA 2118

MOVED BY: Jim Cimba

SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic

THAT the confidential memorandum entitled BA/May 02-2021 be received and remain in camera.

CARRIED

BA 2119

MOVED BY: Lloyd Ferguson

SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic

THAT the Budget and Administration Committee moves out of *in camera*.

CARRIED

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Budget and Administration Committee will be held on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

12. Next Meeting Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

Hamilton Region Conservation Authority

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

June 3, 2021

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Thursday, June 3, 2021, at 7.p.m., by videoconference and livestreamed via YouTube.

PRESENT: **Lloyd Ferguson – in the Chair**
 Dan Bowman **Brad Clark**
 Jim Cimba **Chad Collins**
 Susan Fielding **Tom Jackson**
 Cynthia Janzen **Santina Moccio**
 Esther Pauls **Maria Topalovic**

Margaret Reid – Foundation Chair

REGRETS: **None**

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

OTHERS: **Zoe Green, Carrie Hewitson, Nancy Hurst, Judy Major-Girardin, Don McLean, Gord McNulty, Summer Thomas – Delegations**

Ken Glasbergen, John Krpan, Spencer Mckay, Sergio Manchia, Stephan Savelli, Lee' Ann Seeley – Hearing Participants

NOTE: *For clarity, the minutes are reported in the original agenda order.*

1. Call to Order

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

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

The Chair asked the members to declare any conflicts under the Board's Governance Policy. Brad Clark declared an interest to items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4., 4.5, and any

additional delegations respecting 140 Garner Road East approved by the Board this evening, as well as item 5.1 respecting 140 Garner Road East, due to his son's retail business interest with Sergio Manchia, the principal of the applicant's planning consultant. He declared a pecuniary interest and recused himself from participation in the matter.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Chair requested any additions or deletions to the agenda. Lisa Burnside advised of 133 items of correspondence to be added as items 6.4 y) through ey) and two requests to delegate, Carrie Hewitson and Judy Major Girardin, requiring endorsement from the Board of Directors to be added to the agenda.

BD12, 2111

MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic

SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio

THAT the requests to delegate by Carrie Hewitson and Judy Major-Girardin be approved.

CARRIED

BD12, 2112

MOVED BY: Chad Collins

SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman

THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

4. Delegations

4.1. Don McLean – 140 Garner Road East, Ancaster

Mr. McLean spoke regarding the proposed development at 140 Garner Road East, commenting on the mandate of the Conservation Authority to preserve wetlands and the potential for approval of the proposal to set a precedent for future development. Mr. McLean also commented on the application as premature in light of the natural heritage offsetting policy discussion paper that is currently open for public consultation and in advance of submission of municipal planning applications.

4.2. Nancy Hurst – 140 Garner Road East, Ancaster

Ms. Hurst also presented on the mandate of the Conservation Authority and expressed doubt regarding the viability of relocating a wetland and potential

environmental impacts. Ms. Hurst also commented on the status of the wetland and questioned comments that relocation of the watercourse within the wetland is supported by the Airport Employment Growth District (AEGD) Secondary Plan. Ms. Hurst also spoke to a variety of wildlife that have been found in the area. It was also noted that the City of Hamilton has identified a surplus of employment lands within an existing industrial area that would be more suitable for the proposed development.

4.3. Summer Thomas – 140 Garner Road East, Ancaster

Ms. Thomas spoke to potential impacts to the natural environment that would result from the proposed development. She also commented on environmental concerns on the global scale and the effects on future generations.

4.4. Gord McNulty – 140 Garner Road East, Ancaster

Mr. McNulty spoke as the President of the Hamilton Naturalists Club and on behalf its members. He urged the Board to show leadership in conservation and strongly supported the staff recommendation to refuse the application, citing concerns raised by the community. He spoke to the importance of protecting the headwaters of Ancaster Creek, particularly as part of the continued effort to rehabilitate Cootes Paradise. He expressed concerns with offsetting in terms of loss of biodiversity, timing for a new wetland to function, as well as monitoring, enforcement, and maintenance in the long-term.

4.5. Zoe Green – 140 Garner Road East, Ancaster

Ms. Green commented on the benefits of maintaining natural assets for hydrologic function and stormwater management; further adding many municipalities are creating and maintaining natural assets for this purpose. She advocated for wetlands as being essential for climate resiliency as they store carbon, retain water to prevent floods, and buffer against drought and extreme conditions. She also commented on scientific support for mature, naturally occurring wetlands performing better than young anthropogenic wetlands. Ms. Green also highlighted studies that have identified groundwater vulnerability and recharge areas in the area of the proposed development. The property is in the headwaters of the three separate creek systems in the Grand River, Niagara Peninsula and Hamilton Conservation Authority jurisdictions. Ms. Green also highlighted municipal planning restrictions through the City of Hamilton Official Plan, in terms of Core Areas, as well as open water stormwater management being discouraged in the AEGD Secondary Plan. She also noted the subject development is premature as the subject property is in the AEGD Phase 2 schedule for servicing.

4.6. Judy Major-Girardin – 140 Garner Road East, Ancaster

Ms. Major-Girardin, a Professor in the School of Arts at McMaster University, offered comments on the proposed development from experience gained through a project on the University campus where they are working to remove a parking lot and restore a complex of wetlands. She commented on the time and costs that have been invested in the project and the efforts made to change perspectives on appropriate land use for the area. She expressed disappointment that the proposed development will undercut the project as it is on the same creek system. She advocated for land use planning beyond at the property level and to consider impacts on the larger scale. The McMaster project is trying to build upon the coldwater habitat at the outlet of Ancaster Creek to Cootes Paradise. There is concern this development will affect the quality of the habitat in this downstream area of the creek system. She advocated for a moral obligation to reprioritize how we plan for land uses, specifically noting the historic loss of wetlands, adding that we have to focus on rebuilding and repairing mistakes that have been made in the past.

4.7. Carrie Hewitson – 140 Garner Road East, Ancaster

Ms. Hewitson lives on and works the agricultural land adjacent to the subject property. She commented on the family and agricultural history of the area, highlighting the importance of traditions and local food production. She expressed concern with the general loss of agricultural land and potential impacts to food security. She also provided a narrative of first person accounts of wildlife observations on the subject property and voiced concern that the variety of wildlife that utilize the property would be displaced by the proposed development.

BD12, 2113

MOVED BY: Cynthia Janzen

SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding

THAT the information provided in the delegations be received.

CARRIED

5. Section 28 Hearing

5.1. 140 Garner Road East, Ancaster

BD12, 2114

MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic

SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding

THAT the Board of Directors sit as the Hearing Board.

CARRIED

Scott Peck provided a presentation on the staff report. This presentation covered the site description, proposal history and current permit application, the staff application assessment, and the staff recommendation and conclusion to refuse the permit as the proposal to remove the existing wetland and create a new wetland elsewhere on site does not conform to HCA *Planning and Regulation Policies and Guidelines*.

Sergio Manchia introduced Stephan Savelli, Spencer McKay, Ken Glasbergen, Le'Ann Seeley, and John Krpan, who jointly presented on the proposed development. This presentation reviewed the subject lands, AEGD natural heritage and storm water management plan, existing zoning, chronology of the application and proposed development. They concluded with their summary that the larger new proposed wetland represents a net ecological gain and request that a permit be issued approving the design and plan.

A lengthy discussion occurred, with the members asking a number of questions of staff, the applicant, and their consultants.

The timing of the application, in advance of the results of the natural heritage offsetting policy discussion paper was discussed. The applicant indicated they felt the project could meet draft principles out for comment. The draft status of the discussion paper document was noted and that the current policy remains in place.

The status of the wetland was also clarified. The wetland was identified and delineated in 2018 through a Plan of Subdivision application. The classification of the wetland was also discussed. Scott advised that wetlands are identified based on the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System (OWES), a series of criteria that will identify them as Provincial Significant Wetland (PSW) or non-PSW. Scott added that classification as non-PSW does not negate the importance of the feature. In response to questions about Phragmites degrading the quality of the wetland, Scott noted that HCA has had success controlling Phragmites on HCA lands, using means other than excavation.

Approval of a wetland relocation project in 2013 was also raised and how that was supported at the time due to the multiple issues it addressed.

The applicant was asked about any consultation undertaken with First Nations or the local community. The applicants responded that initial consultation was done with the City of Hamilton. It was added that public engagement will begin with municipal planning act applications.

The members inquired about alternative scenarios for the development. Mr. Glasbergen and Ms. Seeley outlined the four scenarios that were considered. The preferred option of relocation was selected to allow for removal of invasive phragmites and for wildlife benefits.

The potential to revise the development to accommodate the wetland and allay public concerns was also raised. The applicant offered to develop a public consultation plan with deliverables for the project as a condition of the permit. Following a question regarding construction phasing, the applicant also offered to add a condition that the new wetland would be constructed and functional prior to removal of the existing wetland.

BD12, 2115

MOVED BY: Jim Cimba

SECONDED BY: Esther Pauls

THAT the Board of Directors meeting continue past 10:00 p.m.

CARRIED

BD12, 2116

MOVED BY: Santina Moccio

SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba

THAT Hearing Board moves *in camera*.

CARRIED

Brad Clark left the meeting.

During the *in-camera* session, the hearing board deliberated on the application. A motion, BD 2117, was carried culminating in a decision.

BD12, 2118

MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic

SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding

THAT the Board of Directors moves out of *in camera*.

CARRIED

The Chair announced the decision to refuse the application as the proposed development does not conform to HCA policy.

BD12, 2117

THAT the Board of Directors refuse the application made by One Properties Real Estate Inc., for the relocation of a

watercourse and the removal of a locally significant wetland and the creation of a new wetland feature in a regulated area associated with Ancaster Creek as the proposed development does not conform to the requirements of Section 3.1.7 of the Hamilton Conservation Authority's *Planning and Regulation Policies and Guidelines (October, 2011)*) as they relate to the implementation of *Ontario Regulation 161/06 (HCA's Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses)* made under the *Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990*.

CARRIED

6. Consent Items for Applications, Minutes and Correspondence

The following consent items were adopted:

- 6.1. Applications – Development, Interference with Wetlands, Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses
- 6.2. Approved April 15, 2021 Budget & Administration Committee Minutes – for receipt only
- 6.3. Approval of Board of Directors Minutes – May 6, 2021
- 6.4. 24 Items of correspondence respecting 140 Garner Road East, Ancaster, labelled a) to x).
- 6.5. 133 Items of correspondence respecting 140 Garner Road East, Ancaster, labelled y) to ey).

7. Member Briefing

There was none.

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

8.1. 2021 Annual General Meeting

Lisa Burnside presented the motion.

BD12, 2119**MOVED BY: Chad Collins
SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen****THAT the Board of Directors approve the following:****WHEREAS HCA is still awaiting response on exception requests from the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks in regard to governance provisions related to the terms and rotation of the Chair and Vice Chair positions that were proclaimed in February 2021 and further;****WHEREAS It is not possible for HCA to be in compliance with the municipal rotation requirement for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair with only one member from a second participating municipality;****THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

- 1. THAT the HCA Annual General Meeting (AGM) be rescheduled to the next upcoming meeting provided an exception response is received two weeks before a scheduled meeting; should it be received with less notice, the AGM will be scheduled for the next meeting immediately following; and further**
- 2. THAT elections for the position of Board Chair and Vice Chair of the Board normally conducted at the AGM be deferred until the AGM is rescheduled with the current Board Chair and Vice Chair remaining in place until that time; and further**
- 3. THAT the current term of Board Members appointed to the Budget and Administration Committee as well as the Conservation Advisory Board, along with the term of each respective HCA Committee Chair and Vice Chair be extended and formally reconfirmed when the AGM is rescheduled; and further**
- 4. THAT the appointments to Conservation Ontario Council be extended and formally reconfirmed when the AGM is rescheduled.**

CARRIED

8.2. Regulatory Proposal Consultation Guide released by
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Lisa Burnside presented a summary of the report and answered the members' questions.

BD12, 2120

**MOVED BY: Chad Collins
SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba**

THAT the memorandum entitled Regulatory Proposal Consultation Guide released by Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks be received.

CARRIED

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

9.1. Budget and Administration Committee – May 20, 2021
(Recommendations)

9.1.1. BA 2113 Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding Cootes to
Escarpment Ecopark System (2022 – 2026)

Santina Moccio introduced the report.

BD12, 2121

**MOVED BY: Santina Moccio
SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic**

**THAT the Budget & Administration Committee
recommends to the Board of Directors:**

**THAT the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding
regarding the Cootes to Escarpment Ecopark System for
2022 to 2026 be approved.**

CARRIED

9.1.2. BA 2114 Request for Quote – Job Evaluation and Competitive Market
Salary Survey

Santina Moccio offered a summary of the report.

BD12, 2122**MOVED BY: Santina Moccio****SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen**

THAT the Budget and Administration Committee recommends to the Board of Directors:

THAT staff be directed to undertake a request for quotes to carry out a job evaluation and market salary survey; and further

THAT the results of the review be presented back to the Budget & Administration Committee for consideration and implications for future budgets.

CARRIED

9.2. Foundation Chairman's Remarks

Margaret Reid presented on the following:

Donations

The Foundation received a total of **\$11,938** in donations from May 1 to 31, 2021. They break down as follows:

- \$5,000 for Environmental Education
- \$2,500 for Tribute Benches
- \$1,822 for the Area of Greatest Need Fund
- \$860 for the Land Securement Fund
- \$525 for the Dundas Valley CA Fund
- The remaining \$631 was donated to the Dundas Valley Trails Fund, Westfield Heritage Village, the Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program and the Plantings Fund.

This brings their fiscal year-to-date (Dec 2020 to May 2021) fundraising total to **\$105,300**.

The Foundation held its Annual General Meeting of Members on Monday, May 10th via Zoom Videoconference. Mark Cachia, Kathy Lacasse and Sofia Stanidis were elected to the Board. They also reviewed our Financial Statements, appointed the auditors and reviewed Board actions for the past year.

Throughout June, the Foundation will be promoting donations to our *Step Into Nature Fund*, in support of Environmental Education, as an alternative to the typical teacher gifts. The members were requested to help promote the campaign

by sharing the most-recent newsletter and social posts with any of their contacts that have school-age children.

BD12, 2123

MOVED BY: Tom Jackson
SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic

THAT the Foundation Chairman's Report be received as information.

CARRIED

10. Other Staff Reports/Memoranda

10.1. Watershed Conditions Report

Scott Peck presented a summary of the memorandum, highlighting HCA will likely be declaring a Level 1 low water condition, based on 3-month indicators, unless there is significant rain in the near future. Scott also advised the Christie Lake reservoir is currently 2.25 ft. below summer operating levels and will likely remain below typical levels due to low water conditions and balancing flows in Spencer Creek downstream. Scott also noted a flood watch for the Lake Ontario shoreline was issued on May 27th and lifted on May 31st, with no reports of any flooding or erosion related damage.

It was clarified that a Level 1 low water condition results in a voluntary reduction in water taking practices for Permit to Take Water holders.

BD12, 2124

MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding

THAT the memorandum entitled Watershed Conditions Report be received as information.

CARRIED

10.2. Conservation Areas Experiences Update

Gord Costie provided a verbal update, advising the all Conservation Areas are fully ready for summer operations.

BD12, 2124

MOVED BY: Santina Moccio
SECONDED BY: Chad Collins

THAT the verbal update on the Conservation Areas Experiences be received as information.

CARRIED**11. New Business**

There was none.

12. In-Camera Items

There was none.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

14. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

Neil McDougall
Secretary-Treasurer

**Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks**

Conservation and Source Protection
Branch

14th Floor
40 St. Clair Ave. West
Toronto ON M4V 1M2

**Ministère de l'Environnement, de la
Protection de la nature et des Parcs**

Direction de la protection de la nature et
des sources

14^e étage
40, avenue St. Clair Ouest
Toronto (Ontario) M4V 1M2

357-2021-1364

May 17, 2021

Fred Eisenberger
Mayor
City of Hamilton
Email: mayor@hamilton.ca

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for your emailed letter to Minister Yurek on behalf of the City of Hamilton seeking a Minister's exception under the *Conservation Authorities Act* related to recently proclaimed legislative amendments requiring 70 per cent of municipal appointments of authority members to be members of council. I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Minister.

Based on the subsequent information that City of Hamilton staff provided to me on April 27, we understand that the non-elected members representing the City of Hamilton have current terms of appointment that run through June 2023. As a result, there is no need for an exception at this time, as these members can continue to serve out their existing terms. Should the City of Hamilton want to seek an exception closer to the end of the current terms, we would encourage this request be made approximately 3-4 months ahead of the City's preferred appointment date.

Thank you again for writing.

Best regards,

Deb Scanlon

Debbie Scanlon
Manager, Conservation Authority Office
Conservation and Source Protection Branch

Cc: Jaime Tellier, Executive Assistant / Records Management Coordinator
Hamilton Conservation Authority

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et
des Parcs

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416-314-6790

777, rue Bay, 5^e étage
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3
Tél.: 416.314.6790



June 3, 2021

357-2021-902

Lloyd Ferguson, Chair
Hamilton Region Conservation Authority
Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca

Lisa Burnside, CAO
Hamilton Region Conservation Authority
Lisa.Burnside@conservationhamilton.ca

Dear Ms. Burnside and Mr. Ferguson,

Thank you for your application submitted on March 9, 2021 on behalf of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority (HRCA), seeking a Minister's exception under the *Conservation Authorities Act* related to recently proclaimed legislative amendments affecting chair and vice-chair appointments.

After carefully considering your application regarding the appointment of a chair and vice-chair, I am granting the HRCA an exception to subsections 17 (1.1) and (1.2) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* pursuant to my authority under clauses 17(1.3) (a) and (b). This exception allows the current chair and vice-chair to be re-appointed for a total of two more years, subject to re-election in both 2021 and 2022, and to therefore hold office for more than two consecutive terms. I am also granting an exception to allow the HRCA to re-appoint as chair and vice-chair members who have been appointed by the same participating municipality. This would mean there would be no rotation of the chair and vice-chair amongst participating municipalities for the next two years for the duration of the re-appointment, subject to re-elections in 2021 and 2022.

I note that the intent of the changes made through Bill 229, the *Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures)*, 2020, to section 17 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* were to encourage fuller representation and perspectives from participating municipalities in a conservation authority. I encourage the HRCA membership to take this into account when considering future appointments to the positions of chair and vice-chair. I would ask that you share this correspondence with all members of the HRCA, and please invite the Town of Puslinch to contact me in writing regarding the rotational requirements, should this be of concern.

...2

Ms. Burnside and Mr. Ferguson

Page 2

I appreciate the dedication of the HRCA for your continued work and contributions to protecting people and property from natural hazards, the conservation and management of conservation authority-owned lands, and your role in drinking water source protection. I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,



Jeff Yurek
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

C: clerk@hamilton.ca
gschwendinger@puslinch.ca
ted.arnottco@pc.ola.org
donna.skelly@pc.ola.org
Debbie Scanlon, Manager, Conservation Authority Office, MECP
Chloe Stuart, Assistant Deputy Minister, Land and Water Division, MECP

From: [Cris Wilson](#)
To: [Paula Taylor](#)
Subject: [Final Response: Last chance to Take Action to Save Ancaster Creek Wetland](#)
Date: June 3, 2021 12:00:45 PM

Please include me on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Sincerely,
Kristina Wilson

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Action 13 <13foraction@gmail.com>
Date: June 3, 2021 at 9:56:20 AM EDT
To: Action 13 <13foraction@gmail.com>
Subject: **Resend: Last chance to Take Action to Save Ancaster Creek Wetland**

Apologies for the duplicate email, we're asking folks please delete the last email they receive with this subject line.

Dear Neighbour,

Thank you for adding your voice to the now over 450 citizens calling on the Hamilton Conservation Authority to not allow the Ancaster Creek Wetland to be paved over.

Together we have hosted two rallies on this issue, have sent nearly 200 letters to the HCA board, and written to the Province's environmental commissioner asking for a province wide review of offsetting. You can still take action today!

Submit your letter (template below) to the HCA board **before 5pm today** and ask to be added to the agenda for tonight's meeting.

The Hamilton Conservation Authority meeting on the fate of the Ancaster wetland and headwaters can be viewed live at 7 pm on Thursday, June 3 on HCA's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/HamiltonConservation> We'll be live tweeting on the Hamilton 350 twitter account (@Hamilton350).

Thank you again for taking action to protect our local water!

Sincerely,
Action 13, Hamilton 350, and StopSprawl HamOnt

Draft Letter to HCA board:

To: jaimie.tellier@conservationhamilton.ca

CC: chad.collins@hamilton.ca; tom.jackson@hamilton.ca; cather.paulk@hamilton.ca; brad.clark@hamilton.ca; maria.pearson@hamilton.ca; lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

I am writing today in opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E. Ontario has already lost 75% of it's wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

We are in a climate crisis and wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed and recreated elsewhere.

From: [Bruce Allen](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Concern
Date: June 3, 2021 12:04:41 PM

Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

I am writing today in opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E. Ontario has already lost 75% of it's wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

We are in a climate crisis and wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed and recreated elsewhere.

Bruce R. Allen

Paralegal

St. Catharines, ON

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jaime Tellier](mailto:Jaime.Tellier@hamilton.ca)
Cc: chad.collins@hamilton.ca; tom.jackson@hamilton.ca; esther.pauls@hamilton.ca; brad.clark@hamilton.ca; maria.pearson@hamilton.ca; lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca; [REDACTED]
Subject: Save Ancaster Creek Wetland
Date: June 3, 2021 12:09:44 PM

Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

Earlier this week I wrote to my Ward Counsellor on this subject. The purpose of this email is to inform the entire HCA Board of my concerns on this matter. Please note that while this email contains elements of the petition put forward by “Action 13, Hamilton 350, and StopSprawl HamOnt” this email includes thoughts that are entirely my own.

I am in agreement with the above identified groups (i.e., Action 13, Hamilton 350, and StopSprawl HamOnt) in their opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E. In their petition the above named identify that “Ontario has already lost 75% of it's wetland cover” and that “we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are.” In addition to the argument put forward by the above noted groups, my fundamental reasons for taking this position are as follows.

1) Wetlands are critical for the health of the local ecology / environment and that the benefit to maintaining wetlands includes but is not limited to the provision of habitat space for local wildlife and migratory birds, protection of biodiversity within the environment, maintaining the water table (thus benefitting farmland as well as urban areas). With this in mind, it seems incongruous that we would even consider allowing the development of a wetland when other local bodies are seeking to encourage both biodiversity within our region as well as habitat corridors to support native wildlife species (e.g., Green Venture, Hamilton Naturalists, the Hamilton Pollinator Paradise Project). I therefore remind the HCA Board that the province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort. I question whether this situation is a true “last resort” as the developer would have known of the wetland when they purchased the property.

2) Over the course of my life I have observed a nearly universal pattern in most municipalities of building on farmland, tearing down woodlands and forests, and paving over wetlands. This has already inflicted significant damage to the ecosystem and has severely disrupted the habitats of our native species of flora and fauna. For example, there is ample research to indicate that habit depletion combined with noise pollution has resulted in a decrease in wildlife populations – except perhaps for opportunistic species such as coyotes. This depletion in wildlife is noticeable in the general depletion in songbird populations, both in our region and across Ontario (cf. Doug Tallamy *Bringing Nature Home*). One implication of decreased songbird populations is there is now a lack of predators to control infestations such as Spruce

Bud Worm or the Gypsy Moth. Thus raising the question, “Do we have a Gypsy Moth problem or is it a problem of a lack of songbirds to eat the larvae (caterpillars) and control the population?”

3) As noted above, the ecological disruption that comes from this kind of development is much greater than disrupting the water source. On the one hand this type of development reduces the habitat available available for beneficial wildlife and contributes to population imbalances in the Region’s ecosystem. This is not only true in terms of wild life but also of plant life—especially when developers and land owners replace native species with invasive species that are either purposefully planted (e.g., Periwinkle, Black Locust, “Tree of Heaven”) or which take advantage of the opportunities provided by developed land (e.g., Mustard Garlic).

May I point out to the HCA Board that we are not only in a climate crisis but also an ecological systems crisis in which our wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation to and the mitigation of these forces (i.e., supporting biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk)?

Based on the forgoing points, it is my conviction that redevelopment of existing “brown lands” is a far better solution than further encroachment on our precious natural ecosystems and environment. Indeed, once an ecosystem is sacrificed for development it takes decades for it to even partially recover.

As a citizen I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed and recreated elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Kelvin Mutter
Hamilton, ON

PS - I would also like to go on record to say that I do not agree with replacing rural ecosystems with urban sprawl when it a drive through the region demonstrates there is ample space to develop.

From: [egoddess11](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Cc: [chad.collins@hamilton.ca](#); [tom.jackson@hamilton.ca](#); [esther.pauls@hamilton.ca](#); [brad.clark@hamilton.ca](#); [maria.pearson@hamilton.ca](#); [lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: PLEASE Save Ancaster Creek
Date: June 3, 2021 12:13:05 PM

Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

I am writing today in opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E.

Ontario has already lost 75% of it's wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are situated. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

We are in a climate crisis and wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed and recreated elsewhere.

Sincerely,
Elisabeth Streun

From: [Glenn Rivers](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Cc: [chad.collins@hamilton.ca](#); [tom.jackson@hamilton.ca](#); [esther.pauls@hamilton.ca](#); [brad.clark@hamilton.ca](#); [maria.pearson@hamilton.ca](#); [lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Ancaster Creek Wetland
Date: June 3, 2021 12:21:08 PM

Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

I am writing today to appose the proposal to pave over and "replace" elsewhere the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E. Ontario has already lost too much of it's wetlands. It is important to protect the remaining wetlands in place, without removal. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy and the the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

In a time of climate crisis and urban sprawl, wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen I'm pleading with you to protect this wetland. Please do not allow this wetland to be destroyed and "recreated" elsewhere.

-Thank you, Glenn Rivers.

From: [Marlene Castura](#)
To: esther.pauls@hamilton.ca; [Jaime Tellier](#); lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca
Subject: Fwd: Opposition to relocation of Ancaster wetlands on Garner Road.
Date: June 3, 2021 12:21:41 PM

Dear Mr. Tellier and members of HCA Board,

As a proud but concerned Hamilton citizen, I'm writing in opposition to the relocation of natural wetlands at 140 Garner Road East.

With the looming crisis in climate change, business as usual has to be greatly reimagined. If we don't change our thinking and ways of living drastically, is there a future we pass onto our children? Not an exaggeration, we see the effects of climate change all around us, yet we continue, in the name of progress, to make decisions that alter our ecosystems. This is one of those decisions.

All of nature plays a vital role in our future survival. It's one decision after another that accumulates to either create vital change or to hasten the demise of the earth as we know it.

As you vote on this issue today, please remember that in your role you have pledged to all citizens that you will do no harm and will always act on behalf of their safe world. It's your voice that makes the difference.

Please reconsider business as usual by rejecting this proposal to transfer the wetlands to another place.

If you have read my letter, please respond to it.

I thank you for your concern and your actions to be responsible.

Sincerely,
Marlene Castura

From: [Maryanne Lemieux](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#); chad.collins@hamilton.ca; tom.jackson@hamilton.ca; esther.pauls@hamilton.ca; brad.clark@hamilton.ca; maria.pearson@hamilton.ca; [Ferguson, Lloyd](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland at 140 Garner Rd E
Date: June 3, 2021 12:30:17 PM

Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

I am writing today in opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E. Ontario has already lost 75% of it's wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

We are in a climate crisis and wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed and recreated elsewhere.

This is of paramount importance. Protecting watershed health ensures our health and well being for generations to come.

Yours sincerely,

Maryanne Lemieux

L8N 2J7

[REDACTED]

From: [Warren Goldblatt \[Staff\]](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Action 13, Hamilton 350, and StopSprawl HamOnt
Date: June 3, 2021 12:32:01 PM

Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

I am writing today in opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at [140 Garner Rd E](#). Ontario has already lost 75% of it's wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

We are in a climate crisis and wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen, I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed and recreated elsewhere.

Warren

This e-mail and any attachments are the property of the Halton District School Board and are intended only for the use of the addressee(s) and may contain information that is privileged and/or confidential and/or protected under the Education Act, the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and/or the Personal Health Information Protection Act. Unauthorized review, distribution, copying or disclosure is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient please notify the sender, delete this message and do not print, copy, distribute or disclose it further.

From: [Tina Di Clemente](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Cc: [chad.collins@hamilton.ca](#); [tom.jackson@hamilton.ca](#); [esther.pauls@hamilton.ca](#); [brad.clark@hamilton.ca](#); [maria.pearson@hamilton.ca](#); [lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Save Ancaster Wetlands!!!
Date: June 3, 2021 12:42:30 PM

Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

I am writing today in opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E. Ontario has already lost 75% of it's wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

We are in a climate crisis and wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed and recreated elsewhere.

The Hamilton Conservation Authority was established to PROTECT our precious conservation lands. Please follow the true mission of our HCA.

Sincerely,

Tina Di Clemente, Ward 1 resident

From: [Cheryl Colton](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Cc: [chad.collins@hamilton.ca](#); [tom.jackson@hamilton.ca](#); [esther.pauls@hamilton.ca](#); [brad.clark@hamilton.ca](#); [maria.pearson@hamilton.ca](#); [lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Wetlands - 140 Garner Road
Date: June 3, 2021 12:45:10 PM

Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

I am writing today in opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E. Ontario has already lost 75% of it's wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

We are in a climate crisis and wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed and recreated elsewhere.

Thank you
Cheryl Colton

This is the second email I have sent to you as I had not included the whole board on my last email. I am in receipt of your response to my first email - thank you.

From: [Zarin Hossain](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Cc: [chad.collins@hamilton.ca](#); [tom.jackson@hamilton.ca](#); [esther.pauls@hamilton.ca](#); [brad.clark@hamilton.ca](#); [maria.pearson@hamilton.ca](#); [lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Save Ancaster Creek Wetland
Date: June 3, 2021 12:48:08 PM

Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

I am writing today in opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E. Ontario has already lost 75% of it's wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

We are in a climate crisis and wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed and recreated elsewhere.

Thank you kindly,

Zarin Hossain

Zarin Hossain

Honours BHSc Candidate 2022

Biology and Pharmacology Co-op IV

phone: [REDACTED]

email: [REDACTED]

From: [Anne Mette Pedersen](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Cc: [chad.collins@hamilton.ca](#); [tom.jackson@hamilton.ca](#); [esther.pauls@hamilton.ca](#); [brad.clark@hamilton.ca](#); [maria.pearson@hamilton.ca](#); [lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Ancaster wetland can NOT be relocated!
Date: June 3, 2021 12:56:48 PM

Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

I am writing today in opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E. Ontario has already lost 75% of it's wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort. As far as I see, there is rarely a situation where something is important enough to having to relocate wetlands.

How can wetlands even be considered under private ownership, when knowing their importance to our entire watershed. The water in our creeks and harbour is in such poor state due to constant sewage overflow and surface run off. Relocating a watershed will only increase this crisis!

We are in a climate crisis -an emergency that the city itself declared well over a year ago!! We have seen very little action taken from the city on this matter and the fact that relocating of wetlands is even on the table, is SHAMEFULL when considering this context!

Wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed and recreated elsewhere.

I request that this email be considered included in the agenda of the board meeting tonight.

I hope we see sensible decision making from tonight's meeting, based on what is best for our citizens and biodiversity and not just to accommodate a developer and their pockets.

Br Anne Pedersen, [REDACTED], Dundas

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [E. Robert Ross](#)
 To: [Jaime Tellier](#); chad.collins@hamilton.ca; tom.jackson@hamilton.ca; esther.pauls@hamilton.ca; brad.clark@hamilton.ca; maria.pearson@hamilton.ca; lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
 Subject: Ancaster Creek
 Date: June 3, 2021 1:06:19 PM



Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

I am writing today in opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E. Ontario has already lost 75% of it's wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

We are in a climate crisis and wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk. Some may need to be reminded of the very reason the Conservation Authorities were created in Ontario after the devastation wrought by Hurricane Hazel. There is also the role of wetlands in the cleaning of our water supply, needed now more than ever.

As a citizen who also has an academic background in the biological sciences, I am asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed and with the misguided idea that it can be recreated elsewhere.

The idea that you can just 'recreate' a destroyed wetland is a concept without foundation in fact.

Anyone who promotes this concept is deficient in their understanding of the immense period of time over which these ecosystems develop and their complexity.

It is akin to the often proposed idea that yes, we will cut down these mature trees but we will plant new ones. This never works as the new trees seldom survive and of course the biodiverse community that lived in the mature trees were massacred with the felling of those trees which is what will happen if this wetland is bulldozed.

Sincerely,

Mrs, Wendy Leigh-Bell
 Mr E. Robert Ross



From: [Stephanie Kelly](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Cc: [chad.collins@hamilton.ca](#); [tom.jackson@hamilton.ca](#); [esther.pauls@hamilton.ca](#); [brad.clark@hamilton.ca](#); [maria.pearson@hamilton.ca](#); [lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Proposed development at 140 Garner R E
Date: June 3, 2021 1:10:30 PM

Hello Jaime.

I hope you are keeping well.

Below you will find a letter regarding the proposed development at 140 Garner Road E. Please have this letter attached to the Board agenda package of the Hamilton Conservation Authority's June 3rd, 2021 Board of Directors meeting

Thank-you for your time and assistance,

Stephanie Kelly

Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

I am writing today in opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E. Ontario has already lost 75% of its wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

We are in a climate crisis and wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed and recreated elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Kelly

From: [Rick Roberts](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#); [chad.collins@hamilton.ca](#); [tom.jackson@hamilton.ca](#); [esther.pauls@hamilton.ca](#); [brad.clark@hamilton.ca](#); [maria.pearson@hamilton.ca](#); [lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Save Ancaster Creek Wetland
Date: June 3, 2021 1:10:42 PM

Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

I am writing today in opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E. Ontario has already lost 75% of it's wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

We are in a climate crisis and wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed.

Sincerely,

From: [Susan Sharma](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Cc: [chad.collins@hamilton.ca](#); [tom.jackson@hamilton.ca](#); [esther.pauls@hamilton.ca](#); [brad.clark@hamilton.ca](#); [maria.pearson@hamilton.ca](#); [lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Ancaster Creek Wetland
Date: June 3, 2021 1:18:59 PM

Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

I am writing today in opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E. Ontario has already lost 75% of it's wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

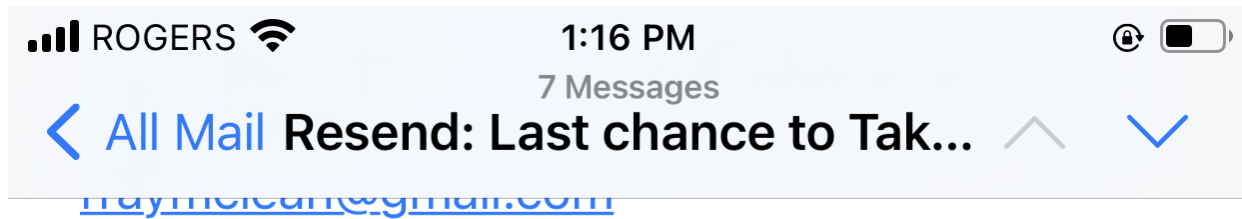
We are in a climate crisis and wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed and recreated elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Susan Sharma

From: [Jamie Cousins](#)
 To: [Jamie Tellier](#)
 Subject: Do not make the same mistake that McMaster University made with their wetlands and are in the process of reversing them. The proposed site here on Garner Road Ancaster would be devastating to Tiffany Falls and all streams that feed Dundas and Cootes Pa...
 Date: June 3, 2021 1:25:18 PM
 Attachments: [image0.png](#)



Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

I am writing today in opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E. Ontario has already lost 75% of it's wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

We are in a climate crisis and wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit

... duty to protect watershed health and not permit
this wetland to be destroyed and recreated
elsewhere.

See More



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Grace Correia](#)
To: [Lisa Burnside](#)
Cc: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: FW: Student questions spark remote learning success!
Date: June 3, 2021 1:25:51 PM

FYI, another wetland email that was sent to the Foundation in reply to our latest newsletter. I have just responded to say that the message was forwarded to HCA staff.

grace

From: Michael Jefferson [REDACTED]
Sent: June 1, 2021 2:14 PM
To: foundation <foundation@conservationhamilton.ca>
Subject: Re: Student questions spark remote learning success!

I would like to see us honour Nature by not allowing wetlands to be butchered for warehouses and 6-lane highways. I thought these wetlands were in perpetuity. How can builders get in the back door? - Mike Jefferson

On Mon, May 31, 2021 at 12:41 PM Hamilton Conservation Foundation
<foundation@conservationhamilton.ca> wrote:

[View this email in your browser](#)

From: [Jenni Le Forestier](#)
To: [brad.clark@hamilton.ca](#); [chad.collins@hamilton.ca](#); [REDACTED]; [esther.pauls@hamilton.ca](#); [Jaime.Tellier](#); [lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca](#); [maria.pearson@hamilton.ca](#); [REDACTED]; [tom.jackson@hamilton.ca](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Ancaster Wetland
Date: June 3, 2021 4:22:00 PM

Good afternoon;

The idea that a natural wetland should be replaced for development, or that a wetland that is paved or had concrete poured on top of it, could be “offset” by a man made alternate, seems like an assault on nature and a dismissal of the sensitivity of these areas. We need to mitigate the affects of climate change and capture carbon in order to reach our climate goals by 2030 as set out by the IPCC

“ Limiting warming to 1.5 °C (2.7 °F) would require halving emissions by 2030 and achieving near-zero emissions by 2050.”

This kind of heavy handed disregard for wetlands feels like something that would have been proposed in the early 20th century before we learned how devastating the Industrial Revolution was to the planet.

Have studies been done on impacts to neighbourhoods that have buildings constructed on or near wetlands? What happens if there is a flood event? What could be the potential risk or adverse health impacts locally? Is there a history of any occurrences in Hamilton where a building has been constructed on a wetland and it has caused health problems for locals? What was the air quality in those buildings after a weather event?

The policy of “offsetting” could be potentially disastrous given climate change, the increase of significant weather events, and the unknown or known potential for adverse effects.

Please oppose this motion.

Regards,
Jenni LeForestier

From: [Kelly G](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Cc: [chad.collins@hamilton.ca](#); [tom.jackson@hamilton.ca](#); [esther.pauls@hamilton.ca](#); [brad.clark@hamilton.ca](#); [maria.pearson@hamilton.ca](#); [lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: SAVE Ancaster Creek Wetland
Date: June 3, 2021 2:26:57 PM

Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

Why MOVE a wetland so you can build around it and then REBUILD the wetland you paved over. Please, lets not.

I am writing today in opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E. Ontario has already lost 75% of it's wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

We are in a climate crisis and wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to PROTECT watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed and recreated elsewhere.

Sincerely

Kelly Goddard

From: [Warren Caldwell](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#); lloydferguson@hamilton.ca
Subject: Ancaster Creek wetland
Date: June 3, 2021 2:40:20 PM

Dear Sirs,

Please note my opposition to the proposed destruction of the Ancaster Creek wetlands at 140 Garner Road East. Any related proposal to "offset" this destruction by trying to create artificial wetland elsewhere should be rejected out of hand.

May I remind you that Conservation Authorities were set up to protect watersheds, including the habitat required by many valuable wildlife species that depend on wetland. Ontario has already lost over half its original wetland - we have none left to spare. And further, Ontario's environmental commissioner has said that "offsets" should be used only as a last resort.

While serving as property manager for an Ancaster high rise condominium I saw another huge problem with destroying wetlands. The building stands, sort of, above the now buried course of Tiffany Creek across from the Meadowlands Centre. The creek still runs, unseen, underground. One day we noticed considerable leakage into the elevator shaft well. It took weeks, and the installation of an extra pumping system at the cost of tens of thousands, to handle the constant inrush of water. It is an open question whether the new pumping system can save the building, or merely delay its loss. Our investigation revealed that leakage from the buried wetland was common throughout that neighbourhood so dozens of nearby homes needed sump pumps running all the time. The lesson is that burying a wetland and developing the surface does not change the watercourses. They continue flowing. And they undermine whatever structures are temporarily floating above them. It is a mistake to build on any active watercourse. Please do not let the same mistake happen in Ancaster again.

Thanking you for your consideration,

Warren Caldwell



Hamilton, Ont.

From: [Rachel Cook](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Ancaster wetlands
Date: June 3, 2021 3:37:15 PM

Dear Mr Tellier and HCA Board,

I urge you to protect the wetlands in the Ancaster wetlands due to the loss of biodiversity and loss of habitat, as well as the detrimental issues that will ensue as the water needs other places to go.

Rachel Cook, concerned citizen

From: [Sarah Hopen](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#); chad.collins@hamilton.ca; tom.jackson@hamilton.ca; esther.pauls@hamilton.ca; brad.clark@hamilton.ca; maria.pearson@hamilton.ca; lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
Subject: Ancaster Wetlands
Date: June 3, 2021 3:52:53 PM

Dear Conservation Hamilton members,

As you consider the current application to "move" a section of the Ancaster Creek wetlands, I urge you to consider the implications of this decision for current and future generations.

You have the opportunity to help ensure a green and sustainable Hamilton. The Hamilton Mountain is the headwaters to all the creeks, streams and waterfalls of the city that we hold so dear. We need strong, resilient green spaces as we face the impacts of climate change. "Relocating" the wetlands would be devastating for both the natural and build communities of Hamilton.

I urge you to be strong, visionary leaders and protect the future of Hamilton.

S

From: [Bonnie McInnes](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Cc: [chad.collins@hamilton.ca](#); [tom.jackson@hamilton.ca](#); [esther.pauls@hamilton.ca](#); [brad.clark@hamilton.ca](#); [maria.pearson@hamilton.ca](#); [lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Ancaster wetland and headwaters
Date: June 3, 2021 3:53:33 PM

Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

I respectfully request ask to be added to the agenda for tonight's meeting:

I am writing today in opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E. Ontario has already lost 75% of it's wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

We are in a climate crisis and wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed and recreated elsewhere.

Bonnie McInnes
Hamilton, ON

From: [Audrey Beaulne](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Cc: [chad.collins@hamilton.ca](#); [tom.jackson@hamilton.ca](#); [esther.pauls@hamilton.ca](#); [brad.clark@hamilton.ca](#); [maria.pearson@hamilton.ca](#); [lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Save Ancaster Creek Wetland
Date: June 3, 2021 4:39:37 PM

Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

I am writing today in strong opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E. Ontario has already lost 75% of it's wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, and the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

We are in an URGENT climate crisis and wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed and recreated elsewhere. Please take action to protect our precious wetland and put the environment first, not profits and developments which put our land and water at risk!

Sincerely,

Audrey Beaulne

From: [Eric Robertson](#)
To: [Jamie Tellier](#)
Cc: [chad.collins@hamilton.ca](#); [tom.jackson@hamilton.ca](#); [esther.pauls@hamilton.ca](#); [brad.clark@hamilton.ca](#); [maria.pearson@hamilton.ca](#); [lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Ancaster Creek Wetland
Date: June 3, 2021 4:41:50 PM

Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

I am writing today in opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E. Ontario has already lost 75% of its wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

We are in a climate crisis and wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed and recreated elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Dr. J. Eric Robertson

Ancaster Resident

Hamilton Golf & Country Club Member

From: [RoseAnne Prevec](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Cc: [chad.collins@hamilton.ca](#); [tom.jackson@hamilton.ca](#); [esther.pauls@hamilton.ca](#); [brad.clark@hamilton.ca](#); [maria.pearson@hamilton.ca](#); [lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Protect Ancaster Creek wetland
Date: June 3, 2021 4:51:37 PM

Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

I am writing today in opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E. Ontario has already lost 75% of it's wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

We are in a climate crisis and wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed and recreated elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Rose Anne Prevec

Dundas, Ontario

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sharon Grace Hurlburt](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Cc: [chad.collins@hamilton.ca](#); [tom.jackson@hamilton.ca](#); [esther.pauls@hamilton.ca](#); [brad.clark@hamilton.ca](#); [maria.pearson@hamilton.ca](#); [lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Proposal
Date: June 3, 2021 5:15:50 PM

Dear Jamie Tellier and HCA Board,

I am writing today in opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at 140 Garner Rd E. Ontario has already lost 75% of it's wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

We are in a climate crisis and wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed and recreated elsewhere.

Respectfully,

Sharon G. Hurlburt

From: [Brooke Beney](#)
 To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
 Subject: Fwd: Ancaster wetlands
 Date: June 3, 2021 7:00:24 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brooke Beney** [REDACTED]
 Date: Wed, Jun 2, 2021 at 5:23 PM
 Subject: Ancaster wetlands
 To: Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>, jamie.tellier@conservationhamilton.ca <jamie.tellier@conservationhamilton.ca>, terry.whitehead@hamilton.ca <terry.whitehead@hamilton.ca>

Councillor/HCA Board Member,

I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen residing in Hamilton. On Thursday June 3rd yourself and fellow members on the Hamilton Conservation Authority Board will be hearing a permit application to pave over the locally significant Ancaster Creek Wetland located at [140 Garner Rd. E.](#)

The proponent is seeking to offset the wetland despite this being the last originally located wetland in the Ancaster Creek Watershed - Southern Ontario has lost 75% of its wetlands. The only rationale to relocate this wetland is to increase the value of the land as it is currently zoned as employment lands within the City of Hamilton. I have concerns that offsetting is being seen by developers as a tool they can use across the province, especially after the provinces issuance of an MZO to offset the provincially significant Duffins Creek earlier this year.

What happens in the headwaters of a watershed has a direct impact on everything downstream, including flood prevention, water quality, carbon sequestration, biodiversity and aquatic habitat. If permitted, the development will impact the Village of Ancaster, important ecological areas in Dundas, Sherman Falls, Tiffany Falls and the already fragile Cootes Paradise among many others.

HCA staff have been very clear about their recommendations against offsetting the locally significant wetland as it does not conform to HCA's own policies. "Sliding over" a wetland without a feasibility study or any vetting of proposals is extremely short-sighted and potentially irreversibly damaging to our communities and ecological areas. The proposed retaining pond is by no means a replacement for a well-established ecologically diverse wetland.

You have the power to take action to better protect Ontario's last remaining wetlands here in Hamilton and set a precedent for our community and Ontario as a whole. Going into Thursday's meeting I urge you to please remember your role on the board and it's responsibility to the vision, policies and mission of the HCA, to lead in the conservation of our watershed and connect people to nature, and to vote against paving over the Ancaster Creek Wetland. Economic development should never be a part of the offsetting evaluation process. Offsetting should be the absolute LAST resort.

Thomas A Beckett, First Chair of the Hamilton Conservation Authority, said it perfectly by saying, “The obligation of a board member of any organization, whether private or public, is to always vote in the best interest of the organization. If a member of the HCA board finds they are unable to support the authority and intends to support the developers interest instead, then their obligation is to resign their seat.”

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brooke Beney

[REDACTED]

Hamilton, ON.

[REDACTED]

--

www.brookeshomecare.com

866.982.0505

--

www.brookeshomecare.com

866.982.0505

From: [Akira Ourique](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Save the wetland
Date: June 3, 2021 5:28:12 PM

Hello,

I am a student in Hamilton. I love the forest, and I love the wetlands.

I am a youth in Hamilton. I love breathing clean air, I love seeing a future for me which is healthy and green.

We are running out of time. My dreams and my future rest in the hands of older people and politicians like you. Every day I watch the land and water disappear, become polluted, become paved and destroyed. Every day I see my future slipping from my very grasp.

I wonder what I can do. I can hardly describe the anxiety I feel knowing countless small decisions which gradually make or break my world happen at light speed, while the public can only focus and grieve with tragedy after tragedy. I can barely take time to grieve with my Asian community, I cant do school work without thoughts of environmental destruction plaguing my mind.

Vote to save the wetland tonight. I am begging you; as a youth, as a student, as a person who wants a future where I can breathe and see natural land remain untouched.

Vote to save the wetland.

From: [Judy Taylor](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Ancaster wetlands
Date: June 3, 2021 5:58:39 PM

I am writing today in opposition to the proposal to offset the Ancaster Creek Wetland located at [140 Garner Rd E](#). Ontario has already lost 75% of it's wetland cover and we have a responsibility to protect our last remaining wetlands where they are. The province's environmental commissioner, HCA policy, the HCA's draft offsetting policy all state that relocating or "offsetting" a wetland should only ever be used as a last resort.

We are in a climate crisis and wetlands play a vital role in both adaptation and mitigation to a changing climate. They also support biodiversity in Ontario, including providing habitat for many species at risk.

As a citizen I'm asking that you reflect on your duty to protect watershed health and not permit this wetland to be destroyed and recreated elsewhere.

--

Have a great day, Judy

From: [Nonni Iler](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Wetland protection
Date: June 3, 2021 6:20:31 PM

Dear Jaime,

This is a last minute plea to stop the sprawl.

With the City declaring a 'climate change emergency', paving over green space is not a wise decision.

We do not want warehouses and storage to take over this habitat and set a precedent for other habitats, especially now, when the environment should be protected.

Please do not vote to have the Ancaster Wetlands destroyed.

Sincerely,

Nonni Iler

Please - Reduce, Re-use & Recycle

From: [Zane Klavins](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Garner Wetland Offset Proposal
Date: June 3, 2021 7:54:28 PM

Dear Board Members of the Hamilton Conservation Authority,

I am writing to you to express my horror that the HCA would consider permitting the destruction of any part of nature under the organization's protection and management, specifically the Garner Wetlands. No argument about job creation or economic development can convince me that destroying natural areas is a good idea.

Hamilton has much industrial land that can be repurposed for development- the city does not need to further ravage natural areas in order to put profit in somebody's pocket.

As an elementary school teacher, I educate my students about how important it is to protect nature, and how human well-being is interconnected with that of the ecosystem. I have always lauded regional conservation authorities as leaders in environmental protection. Please do not fail in your mission to protect nature.

Thank you,

Zane Klavins
Hamilton, ON

From: [Quinn, James S](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Thank you for protecting our wetlands
Date: June 4, 2021 9:14:35 AM

Dear Jaime:

Please pass along this message to the Board of Directors and Staff of the HCA.

I would like to thank the Board for making the correct decision on the Garner Road Warehouse Development permit request. That was an important decision and one that I hope bodes well for future attacks on our few remaining wetlands. It is important to recognize, as Scott Peck pointed out, that wetlands are unique in their place and type. A storm water pond is not a marsh. While a storm water pond may attract pond species it will not attract all marsh species nor fen, bog, or swamp species. Also, pointed out by Mr. Peck, an open pond will not shade the headwaters of a cold water creek. There are many reasons that this permit was flawed and I am grateful that you made the correct decision.

I would like to thank the staff of the HCA. You folks did your jobs and you did it well. You stood strong on the basis that you are a CONSERVATION authority. Thanks you so much for your great work on this wetland issue!

Sincerely,

Jim

James S. Quinn, PhD
Professor
Biology Department
McMaster University
LSB 435



Lab Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/mcmasterquinnlab/home>

From: [Don](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Thanks
Date: June 4, 2021 10:27:08 AM

Hi Jaime,

Can you please extend my thanks to the HCA Board for their decision late last night to deny a permit for the destruction of the Ancaster Creek wetland and headwaters stream. I believe they did the right thing. I hope they will find a way to offer full participation to our Indigenous treaty partners in CA decisions.

Also thanks again for accommodating my delegation to the meeting. And special thanks to HCA staff including yourself who professionally and respectfully ensured that the dozens of pieces of correspondence were added to the agenda package, even as they arrived at the last minute. It is a pleasure working with you. Watching the hearing, I appreciated the professionalism of Scott Peck, his clear and balanced answers, and his obvious commitment to conservation, conservation education and a fair outcome.

Don McLean

From: [Anka Cassar](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Thank you to the HCA Board of Directors for Saving the Ancaster Wetland
Date: June 4, 2021 12:21:06 PM

Dear Jamie,

Could you please share this email with the HCA Board of Directors.

Dear Board Members of the Hamilton Conservation Authority,

I just wanted to thank you all in saving the Ancaster Wetland on 140 Garner Rd E. It was long night of presentations and deliberation and I just wanted to express my appreciation for the work that you do and for denying the permit to pave over and move the wetland.

Sincerely,

Anka Cassar

From: [Sue Carson](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: thanks to the board
Date: June 4, 2021 12:21:12 PM

Dear Jaime,

Please can you let the HCA board members know that the public appreciates the time and effort that was taken at the meeting last night. The outcome was much appreciated by the people who were concerned about losing wetlands and building warehouses. But the whole process was done with great decorum and both sides were polite and very respectful.

Sue Carson – Ancaster resident.

From: [Nancy Hurst](#)
To: [Lisa Burnside](#); [Jaime Tellier](#); chad.collins@hamilton.ca; tom.jackson@hamilton.ca; esther.pauls@hamilton.ca; [Clark, Brad](#); maria.pearson@hamilton.ca; [Ferguson, Lloyd](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [T.S. Peck](#)
Subject: Thank you
Date: June 4, 2021 1:55:33 PM

Hello Board members and staff of the HCA,

Re: Garner Rd Ancaster

Thank you for standing up for nature over dollars last night. I'm sure turning down an application such as this comes with its own set of problems so I commend you all the more for the decision you've made. A wetland is a sponge. Sometimes there is standing water and often not. It's what is happening underground that matters because that's where the magic happens, unseen. Filtration and sequestration of water and carbon dioxide happen out of sight but do us a huge service in preventing flooding, cleaning the water and removing greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere.

None of that can be accomplished with the man-made pond that they proposed.

Thank you to Mr. Peck for your calm and thorough explanations. We should not argue with science and the experts who understand what we do not.

Thank you to Jaime for your diligent work to have the correspondence added and for running the show so smoothly.

Thank you Maria for your question on the involvement of the indigenous community.

Thank you Cllr Fielding for reading all the letters and asking questions on behalf of those who wrote in.

Thank you Cllr Jackson for recognizing that the community's voice mattered.

Kindly,

Nancy Hurst

Ancaster

From: [Rose Janson](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Thank you, for the decision on Thursday night
Date: June 5, 2021 1:24:55 PM

Dear Hamilton Conservation Authority

Re: Permit Application to bull-doze Ancaster wetland

We want to thank the staff for handling all the correspondence so well, also Scott Peck for his thorough presentation of the staff position.

We also thank the Board, who despite opposition, voted to uphold the mandate of the Conservation Authority to protect our wetlands and biodiversity.

Sincerely,
Rose Janson and Family

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This email has been checked for viruses by AVG.
<https://www.avg.com>

From: [nature](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: FW: Congratulations!
Date: June 7, 2021 10:25:41 AM

See below.

Randall Kovacs
Reception
Hamilton Conservation Authority
Phone: 905-525-2181 ext 100

The contents of this e-mail and any attachments are intended for the named recipient(s). This e-mail may contain information that is privileged and confidential. If you have received this message in error or are not the named recipient(s), please notify the sender and permanently delete this message without reviewing, copying, forwarding, disclosing or otherwise using it or any part of it in any form whatsoever. Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Don Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 6, 2021 11:28 AM
To: nature <nature@conservationhamilton.ca>
Subject: Congratulations!

The Chair and Board Members of HCA,

It was gratifying to learn of the decision of the Board of Directors to reject the application of the developers to invade and destroy the precious wetlands the Hamilton Conservation Authority has so faithfully protected all these years. Your vigilance and regard for respecting the sacredness of these natural sources of our well being is to be congratulated: a remarkable occasion when power and money have not displaced morality and ethics.

Respectfully,

Don Brown,
[REDACTED]
Hamilton, ON L8R 3P9

From: [Anne Washington](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Thank you to HCA Board of Directors
Date: June 11, 2021 11:51:34 AM

Dear Councillor Ferguson and Members of the Hamilton Conservation Authority Board of Directors:

The Association of Dundas Churches and Eco Churches of West Hamilton, would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your decision **not** to issue the permit for the proposed development on 140 Garner Road, Hamilton.

The fact that you debated this important issue for approximately two hours in camera, shows the depth of your concerns about relocating this wetland in the Ancaster Creek watershed to accommodate buildings, even when faced with the supposed “advantages” expressed by the developer at last week’s HCA meeting.

Mr. Scott Peck presented the reasons for opposing this proposal extremely well and responded to questions in a correct, calm and concise manner based on science and experience. Well done to him and all the staff of HCA.

Thank you for listening to the urgent call to conserve this wetland which upholds the eco system around and beyond it. It would be easy to destroy the life that is dependent upon this natural feature, but once gone, is impossible to bring back.

May this day and all that follow, bring you peace and joy.

Respectfully with thanks,

Anne Washington, Interim Chair
Association of Dundas Churches

Wayne Poole, Chair
Eco Churches of West Hamilton

Premier Ford Announces Changes to Cabinet

Renewed team well positioned to focus on priorities of Ontarians

June 18, 2021

[Office of the Premier](#)

TORONTO — Today, Premier Doug Ford announced changes to Ontario's cabinet.

"With 21 per cent of adults now fully vaccinated as Team Ontario sets new records in daily shots, we can be confident that the worst of the pandemic is behind us," said Premier Ford. "As we continue our work to rebuild and support Ontario's health system, our renewed team is well positioned to deliver on the priorities that matter to Ontarians, including getting more people back to work, making life more affordable, supporting businesses and job creators and building transit infrastructure."

Changes to the Executive Council include the following:

- Jill Dunlop, MPP for Simcoe North, becomes Minister of Colleges and Universities.
- Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, MPP for Kanata-Carleton, becomes Minister of Children, Community and Social Services.
- Parm Gill, MPP for Milton, becomes Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism.
- Rod Phillips, MPP for Ajax, becomes Minister of Long-Term Care.
- Dave Piccini, MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South, becomes Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.
- Greg Rickford, MPP for Kenora-Rainy River, assumes a merged role as Minister of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry, as well as remains Minister of Indigenous Affairs. This new northern and economic focused ministry will enhance development potential and sustainability in the North. Energy will transfer to a new separate ministry.
- Todd Smith, MPP for Bay of Quinte, becomes Minister of Energy.
- Rosario Romano, MPP for Sault Ste. Marie, becomes Minister of Government and Consumer Services.
- Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, MPP for Brampton South, becomes President of the Treasury Board.
- Kinga Surma, MPP for Etobicoke Centre, becomes Minister of Infrastructure.
- Lisa Thompson, MPP for Huron Bruce, becomes Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.
- Stan Cho, MPP for Willowdale, becomes Associate Minister of Transportation, reporting to Minister Mulroney.
- Jane McKenna, MPP for Burlington, becomes Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues, reporting to Minister Fullerton.
- Nina Tangri, MPP for Mississauga Streetsville, becomes Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction, reporting to Minister Fedeli.
- Kaleed Rasheed, MPP for Mississauga East-Cooksville, becomes Associate Minister of Digital Government, reporting to Minister Bethlenfalvy.

Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP for Pickering-Uxbridge and Minister of Finance, will assume responsibility for Ontario's digital government strategy within the Ministry of Finance.

Additional Resources

- [See a full list of Ontario's Cabinet](#)
-

Media Contacts

Ivana Yelich

Premier's Office

ivana.yelich@ontario.ca



June 22, 2021

Liz Mikel
Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks
Conservation and Source Protection Branch
40 St. Clair Avenue West, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON
M4V 1M2

Re: Conservation Ontario's Comments on "Regulatory proposals (Phase 1) under the Conservation Authorities Act" (ERO# 019-2986)

Dear Ms. Mikel,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the "Regulatory proposals (Phase 1) under the Conservation Authorities Act". Conservation Ontario (CO) is the network of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities (CAs). These comments are not intended to limit in any way comments submitted by conservation authorities on this proposal.

Conservation Ontario staff have appreciated the opportunity to participate in the Conservation Authorities Working Group formed by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to provide input and feedback on the development of regulations under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The public consultation process initiated by the ERO posting enabled Conservation Ontario as a network to provide additional perspective and these comments were endorsed at our June 21, 2021 CO Council meeting.

Conservation Ontario offers the following general comments on the sections of the consultation guide for the Ministry's consideration. Additional detailed comments have been provided in the attachments to this letter.

Part One: Programs and Services Delivered by Conservation Authorities

Mandatory Conservation Authority Programs and Services Regulation

Using the Mandatory programs and services regulation framework, conservation authorities can review the current scope of their programs and services and make adjustments to align with regulated standards and requirements. In general, these standards and requirements will need a degree of flexibility to accommodate for the fact that many conservation authorities will require time and new money to put them in place.

The inclusion of core watershed-based resource management strategies as a mandatory program and service is supported because it provides a framework for conservation authorities and their member

municipalities to identify and prioritize the programs and services needed in each watershed to protect people and property from natural hazards and conserve natural resources. As well it can provide an organizing framework for categorizing the mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services for consultation with municipalities and for the establishment of an agreement with multiple schedules. Conservation Ontario will work with the conservation authorities on development of a template in this regard that would also serve for standardizing the language used with municipalities in the inventory of CA mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services required for their local Transition Plans. It is noted that flexibility is appropriate with regard to the details of how/when these are to be prepared and their scope to allow for regional variations and to assist in limiting implementation costs. Conservation Ontario strongly supports inclusion of a mandatory Core Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy as it will enable and encourage the integration of all other mandatory programs and identify non-mandatory programs.

In general, the Natural Hazard Mandatory program is consistent with the long-standing funding partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) for delivery. The recent 50% cut to MNRF funding for the natural hazards program makes ongoing effective implementation challenging and it is our understanding from *Ontario's Flooding Strategy* that MNRF will continue to provide funding in support of these mandatory programs. Ongoing flexibility in delivery, based upon local capacity and geography, will be required to avoid significant cost increases for numerous conservation authorities. Additionally it has been noted that one major omission from the list of mandatory programs and services is the development and implementation of nature-based solutions to reduce the risks of flooding, erosion, and drought. Many CAs' early mandates were focused on developing and implementing these nature-based solutions. It is requested that these private land stewardship activities be recognized and included in the list of mandatory programs and services.

With regard to the mandatory program and services related to the management of conservation authority land, there are new mandatory requirements proposed (e.g., strategy, management plans). Flexibility is appropriate with regard to the details of how/when these are to be prepared and their scope to allow for regional variations and to assist in limiting implementation costs. Additionally, "passive recreational opportunities" like walking trails that are provided to the public should be included as part of the mandatory program related to the management of CA land. Conservation Areas provide safe and enjoyable recreational experiences in areas where Ontarians need them most. In many cases there is no revenue generated by the use of passive recreational lands. Being required to close these properties due to a lack of funding will have a negative impact. Conservation Ontario recommends that recreational opportunities (e.g., walking trails, boat launches) be considered mandatory programs and services. Additionally, it is noted that municipalities and others have helped conservation authorities build comfort stations, interpretive centres and other infrastructure such as visitor parking lots within many conservation areas. It is recommended that the infrastructure associated with CA recreation and education programs be included in the mandatory conservation lands programs and services so that these valuable assets are maintained and continue to be used by Ontario residents.

It is appropriate that the Mandatory programs and services for conservation authorities related to Source Protection Authority Responsibilities under the *Clean Water Act* remain intact. It is essential that the province continue to fully fund the Drinking Water Source Protection program as long as conservation authorities are required to exercise and perform the powers and duties of a drinking water source protection authority; and implement programs and services related to those responsibilities. Municipalities do not have the capacity to absorb these program costs.

Both the provincial water quality [i.e., Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN), Ontario Benthic Biomonitoring Network (OBBN)] & water quantity (i.e., Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (i.e., PGMN) monitoring programs are examples of successful cost sharing programs between MECP and conservation authorities. These long standing programs provide important trend data in support of effective water management.

Attachment 1 provides specific detailed comments on some of the Mandatory programs and services (A to F) that would further improve clarity of the regulatory proposal and upcoming regulations.

Conservation Authority Costs Not Related to Delivery of Programs and Services

It is critical that this proposal be finalized as soon as possible. As conservation authorities consult with participating municipalities on the inventory of programs and services and pursue MOUs/agreements with their member municipalities, all concerned will want to understand the full budget implications of comprehensive (i.e., mandatory and non-mandatory) CA program and service delivery including these ongoing operating expenses. Placement of this section in the Mandatory program and services section seems to imply that application would be limited to overhead of mandatory program delivery which would be inconsistent with the legislative framework [Section 27 (1), (1.1) and (1.2)] that provides for delivery of programs and services that are mandatory, municipal and, for “other” (i.e., those that the CA considers advisable) only where there is a municipal agreement in place. The inclusion of on-going organizational costs under mandatory programs and services is strongly supported in that these costs are necessary to deliver all other programs and services and should therefore be apportioned to municipalities as part of the conservation authority’s municipal levy. Similarly, the core administrative staff (full FTE) are necessary to support the organization as a whole and the costs associated with the development and management of Community Advisory Boards as well. Finally, it is most appropriate that organizational costs be apportioned to member municipalities following the modified CVA formula as part of the conservation authority’s municipal levy.

Non-Mandatory Conservation Authority Programs and Services

Conservation authorities will work hard to meet the challenging timelines however their success will depend on the Government enacting Phase one and two regulations in a timely manner; a substantial delay in their finalization may make these timelines unachievable.

Allowing flexible agreement arrangements (agreements with multiple municipalities, agreements covering multiple programs and services) is strongly supported as this practical approach will ensure the most efficient use of taxpayer money and will be the least administratively burdensome for member municipalities. Further clarity is required with regard to municipal agreements and confirmation that they are required with the municipalities that negotiate the CA’s budget and appoint representatives (i.e., Regions and Counties in some cases). This clarity is also necessary to ensure that the appropriate municipalities are consulted on the Transition Plan.

As previously stated, Conservation Ontario will work with the conservation authorities on development of a Transition Plan template to facilitate timely completion. The submission of the Transition Plan by December 2021 to the government, our municipal partners and sharing it with the public demonstrates our commitment to transparency and accountability. The quarterly reporting to the government and the public on the progress of obtaining these agreements is positive for transparency and accountability and, given the pressures to meet these timelines, it needs to be kept simple. Conservation Ontario can work with the CAs on development of a standard reporting template. It is noted that the timing of CA/municipal budget processes for the 2023 budget year will necessitate that the agreements be

drafted well before December 31, 2022 but this date provides maximum flexibility for their finalization. CAs support that the agreements be available to the public online. For those exceptional circumstances that delay implementation, it is appreciated that a safety net is provided in the form of the ability for the Minister to grant an extension to the Transition Period where an authority, with the support of one or more municipalities, submits a written request. It is noted that CAs do not fully control timing in respect of implementation as they are subject to municipal participation, timelines and agreement. The fiscal fall-out and recovery from COVID and the upcoming municipal election could make it difficult for some municipalities to execute agreements with their conservation authorities in 2022.

Part Two: Governance and Oversight of Conservation Authorities

Regulation to Require ‘Community’ Advisory Boards

CAs rely upon and support engagement of the public and stakeholders and Indigenous communities in their watershed management work. CAs have long embraced the concept of advisory boards/committees and numerous CAs utilize such vehicles. Currently, conservation authorities have the ability to establish Advisory Boards and committees in their Administrative By-laws as enabled through *Section 19.1 (1) An authority may make by-laws,*

...

(e) providing for the composition of its executive committee and for the establishment of other committees that it considers advisable and respecting any other matters relating to its governance;... .

Conservation Authorities were legally required to approve Administrative By-laws (which govern the procedure of the Authority) in compliance with Section 19.1 by December 2018. For the Ministry's reference, Attachment 2A provides relevant excerpts from "Conservation Authority Best Management Practices (BMP) and Administrative By-Law Model" (CO, April 2018) and it is respectfully submitted that an additional regulation to address Community Advisory Boards in Conservation Authority (CA) By-Laws is unnecessary in this regard. Enabling the use of the CA Administrative By-laws for defining the details of meeting procedures avoids confusion of differing requirements/ procedures and consolidates it all into one resource for the public and CA. The relatively new rules governing CA General Membership (see Attachment 2A) should be considered sufficient for the Advisory Boards with no need to prescribe separate procedures and processes for community advisory boards in regulation. Bylaws can be updated as needed to adequately address procedures such as formation, meetings, code of conduct, conflict of interest, attendance, reporting and removal.

It is requested that the regulation not restrict or complicate the ability to convert existing Advisory Boards or Committees to meet the minimum requirements of Community Advisory Boards and/or to demonstrate that a CA has an equivalent and effective means of seeking public input (i.e., the advice of their watershed community). Some conservation authorities have requested the ability to call their community advisory board by a different name (e.g., advisory committee) and propose that their Administrative By-law and/or Terms of Reference could stipulate that this committee fulfills the regulatory requirements of the community advisory board.

If CAs are required to establish a Community Advisory Board, it is important that it augment not duplicate the work of the CA General Membership. Conservation authorities therefore support the requirement that Boards of Directors develop and approve a Terms of Reference that outlines the composition, activities, functions, duties, and procedures of the community advisory board for their authority. Structuring community advisory boards with minimal prescribed requirements that may be

scoped within the terms of reference will enable local flexibility and effectiveness. As indicated in our comments above on “Conservation Authority Costs Not Related To Delivery Of Programs And Services”, and in the absence of provincial funding, it is our expectation that the costs associated with the development and ongoing management of Community Advisory Boards would be eligible for municipal levy. This further emphasizes the need to enable scoping of the Terms of Reference of the Community Advisory Board to enable affordability although it is noted that administrative support alone for these types of committees/advisory boards can be extensive and stretch the already limited capacity of smaller CAs.

The proposed timing for establishment of Community Advisory Boards is unclear. Community Advisory Board creation and implementation should coincide with the implementation of new municipal agreements in January 2023 and reflect the input of new councils taking office in November 2022 and appointing their representatives to the Conservation Authority (CA) General Membership. This would enable the current CA General Membership and staff to focus their attention on the Transition Period requirements. Making creation of the Community Advisory Boards the responsibility of the 2023 CA General Membership, would enable them to clearly finalize a relevant terms of reference consistent with, for example, the strategic priorities resulting from decisions made/agreements reached during the Transition Period. This has the additional benefit of putting the Community Advisory Board on a similar cycle as the CA General Membership which it is intended to advise. Sufficient time will be required to prepare a Terms of Reference, advertise and appoint a community advisory board. As a final note in support of deferral, setting up and managing Community Advisory Boards will require staff and CA General Membership resources which will be significantly challenged, in many conservation authorities, by the Transition Period requirements and timelines.

Attachments 2A and 2B provide specific details on the CA Administrative By-Law Model (2A) and specific detailed comments on what is proposed to be prescribed (2B).

Part Three: Other Regulatory Matters

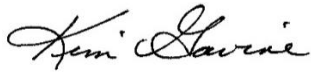
Section 29 Minister’s Regulation

Conservation Ontario is pleased to see the province’s commitment to maintaining this regulatory program. The consolidation of the individual Conservation Areas regulations into one Minister’s regulation will assist the public in understanding the CAs’ regulatory authority under Section 29. The regulation, however, requires updates. All public green space (conservation areas, municipal parks, provincial parks) experienced a significant increase in use during the pandemic. This increase, which is expected to continue post-pandemic, challenged conservation authority staff, municipal bylaw officers and provincial park wardens. It is recommended that a working group be formed of enforcement staff from conservation authorities, municipalities and the province to ensure all parties and levels of government have the tools they need to ensure the orderly use of their properties and to ensure public and staff safety and security. This may require a redesign of the Section 29 regulation and CA regulatory powers to better align with bylaws made under the *Municipal Act* as well as the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act*. The basis for additional updates to the regulation is provided in Attachment 3.

Conservation Ontario looks forward to working closely with the Province on regulatory and policy priorities as the Province proceeds with implementation of the Phase 1 Regulatory proposals, as well as

other regulatory proposals to be included in Phase 2 to implement the amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Should you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at extension 231.

Sincerely,



Kim Gavine
General Manager

3 Attachments

c.c. All CA CAOs/GMs

Conservation Ontario
120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket ON L3Y 3W3
Tel: 905.895.0716 Email: info@conservationontario.ca
www.conservationontario.ca



June 22, 2021

Honourable David Piccini
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Piccini:

Let me begin by congratulating you on your new appointment as Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks. I trust you will find your new cabinet position fulfilling as you address important issues that impact Ontario both today and tomorrow.

I am writing regarding the review of the regulatory proposals for the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Leading out of the debate on Bill 229, we recognize it is time to create a regulatory framework that works for conservation authorities, our member municipalities, and the thousands of clients we serve every year. It is important we find common ground, and together focus on protecting Ontario's watersheds. Conservation Ontario and its members are committed to partner with you and your officials, to implement the regulations.

Conservation Ontario has submitted a detailed response to the EBR posting, however, I wanted to also provide you and your office with an overview of our suggestions which include six broad themes:

First - Conservation Authorities need a speedy completion of both phase one and phase two of the consultation process in order to meet the tight timelines for delivering on Transition Plans to implement the Province's proposed changes.

Second - Many of the proposed changes require substantial work to implement with new reporting requirements that will entail both additional one-time and ongoing costs that will need to be addressed.

Third - The core watershed-based resource management strategy being recommended by the Province is a promising first step in what needs to be a process in recognizing the value of a watershed-based approach throughout the review of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Fourth - Passive recreation opportunities should be classified as mandatory programs and services in order to continue to allow public access to these lands and waters through things like hiking trails and boat launches.

Fifth - Nature-based solutions such as private land stewardship protects and restores the watershed's green infrastructure (e.g. forests, wetlands, riparian buffers) which helps to reduce and mitigate the risk of flooding and erosion and should be designated as mandatory programs and services under Natural Hazards.

Sixth - The mandatory Community Advisory Boards being proposed by the Province need to be flexible and not duplicate the work of the Conservation Authority Boards.

As we move forward, I urge you to keep in place the Minister's Conservation Authorities' Working Group which has assisted in the phase 1 regulations and is currently assisting in the development of the second phase of the regulations.

Conservation Ontario looks forward to working with you and your officials to create partnerships that allow us to achieve our mutual objectives of protecting people, property and the environment.

I would request an early meeting with you to discuss both the completion of the regulatory regime arising out of Bill 229 and to discuss how Conservation Ontario can assist in achieving the important environmental priorities contained in the Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards



Andy Mitchell
Chair, Conservation Ontario

c.c. Kim Gavine, General Manager, Conservation Ontario

Conservation Ontario
120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket ON L3Y 3W3
Email: info@conservationontario.ca | (Tel) 905.895.0716

Report

TO: Budget & Administration Committee

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

PREPARED BY: Nancy Watts, Director of Human Resources and Wellness

MEETING DATE June 17, 2021

RE: Minimum Wage Increase to Casual Wage Rates

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Budget & Administration Committee recommends to the Board of Directors:

THAT the revised October 1, 2021 Casual/Seasonal wage grids for Hamilton Conservation Authority, Confederation Beach Park/Wild Waterworks and Construction/Millgrove as outlined in the June 17, 2021 report be approved.

BACKGROUND

HCA has a casual wage grid for seasonal staff hired to assist our owned and managed operations. Effective, October 1, 2021, the Provincial Government has legislated a \$0.10 increase to the general and student minimum wages. The general minimum wage is currently \$14.25/hr and will increase to \$14.35. The student minimum wage is currently \$13.40/hr and will increase to \$13.50/hr. Subsequently, all service levels have increased by .10 cents.

STAFF COMMENT

HCA hires approximately 225 casual/seasonal staff each year, distributed as follows:

Area	Number of casual staff
HCA conservation areas	80
Confederation Beach Park non wave pool	20
Confederation Beach Park Wild Waterworks	125

The majority of staff are hired using rates based on the minimum wage, noted as Service Level 1. Service Level 2 encompasses positions that require some credential or higher levels of skill or qualification such as security.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Organizational Excellence**
 - Attracting and retaining a skilled workforce and promoting staff training, mentoring and succession planning

AGENCY COMMENTS

None

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The minimum wage increase and 0.10 cent increase to all service levels is estimated to have an impact of approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000 for casual staffing expenses in 2022.

CONCLUSIONS

The change to the 2021/2022 casual/seasonal wage grids will provide for the required increase to minimum wage effective October 1 and maintain a standard \$0.25 step increase for staff to reward their experience and assist with recruitment efforts.

October 1, 2021 / 2022 HCA Hiring Request – Seasonal CA and Office Staff

PLEASE ATTACH COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM AND/OR RESUME

ENSURE THAT AN EMAIL IS NOTED TO RECEIVE E-PAY STATEMENTS

EMPLOYEE NAME: _____ Ms. Mr.

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL ADDRESS: _____

FIRST TIME EMPLOYEE? Yes No EXTENSION OF EMPLOYMENT? Yes No

POSITION CATEGORY:

(check appropriate box)

	PROV. MIN. RATES					
HOURLY RATES						
POSITION CATEGORY:	Under 18	2 nd step <18	Minimum Wage	2 nd step	3 rd Step	4 th step
Conservation Area Services Level 1	13.50	13.75	14.35	14.60	14.85	15.10
includes titles – Park/Grounds Maintenance, Gate/Campground/Marina/Boat Rental Attendants, Food Service, Cashier, Cook, Customer Service						
Conservation Area Services Level 2			15.35	15.60	15.85	16.10
includes titles – Accounting/Payroll Staff, Historical Interpreter, Team Leader						
Conservation Area Services Level 3			16.35	16.60	16.85	17.10
includes titles – Conservation Area Worker, Licenced Security						

SPECIFIC POSITION TITLE: _____

SUPERVISOR: _____

WORK LOCATION: (Cons. Area, Workplace)

ACCOUNT NO: _____

EMPLOYMENT PERIOD: (Start & Final Date)

CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK REQUIRED (check one box) Yes No

DRIVER'S LICENCE CHECK REQUIRED (check one box) Yes No

REPLACEMENT FOR: (If replacing another employee, give name of employee being replaced and date they left)

REVISION OF EMPLOYMENT: (State revision, i.e. rate of pay/position, supervisor, etc.)

REQUESTED BY: _____

(Name)

(Title)

(Signature)

(Date)

APPROVAL: _____ (Date): _____

(Director of Conservation Area Services or Human Resources)



October 1, 2021 / 2022 HCA Hiring Request – Confederation Beach Park/WWW

*** PLEASE ATTACH COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM AND/OR RESUME ***

*** ENSURE THAT AN EMAIL IS NOTED TO RECEIVE E-PAY STATEMENTS ***

EMPLOYEE NAME: _____ Ms. _____ Mr. _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL ADDRESS: _____

FIRST TIME EMPLOYEE? Yes _____ No _____ EXTENSION OF EMPLOYMENT? Yes _____ No _____

POSITION CATEGORY: _____

(check appropriate box)

	PROV. MIN. RATES					
HOURLY RATES						
POSITION CATEGORY:	Under 18	2 nd step <18	Minimum Wage	2 nd step	3 rd Step	4 th step
Conservation Area Services Level 1	13.50	13.75	14.35	14.60	14.85	15.10
includes titles – Park / Grounds Maintenance, Food Service, Cashier, Cook						
Conservation Area Services Level 2			15.35	15.60	15.85	16.10
includes titles – Security, Assistant Plant Operator, Food Concession, Guest Services Representative, Team Leader						
Conservation Area Services Level 3			15.85	16.10	16.35	16.60
includes titles – NLS Lifeguard and Lifeguard Team Leader						
Conservation Area Services Level 4			17.35	17.60	17.85	18.10
Includes titles – WWW Maintenance / Cash / Food / Lifeguard Supervisors						

SPECIFIC POSITION TITLE: _____

SUPERVISOR: _____

WORK LOCATION: (Cons. Area, Workplace) _____

ACCOUNT NO: _____

EMPLOYMENT PERIOD: (Start & Final Date) _____

CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK REQUIRED (check one box) Yes _____ No _____

DRIVER'S LICENCE CHECK REQUIRED (check one box) Yes _____ No _____

REPLACEMENT FOR: (If replacing another employee, give name of employee being replaced and date they left) _____

REVISION OF EMPLOYMENT: (State revision, i.e. rate of pay/position, supervisor, etc.) _____

REQUESTED BY: _____

(Name)

(Title)

(Signature)

(Date)

APPROVAL: _____ (Date): _____

(Director of Conservation Area Services or Human Resources)

2022 HCA Hiring Request – Construction, Forestry & Fleet Casual Staff

PLEASE ATTACH COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM AND/OR RESUME

ENSURE THAT AN EMAIL IS NOTED TO RECEIVE E-PAY STATEMENTS

EMPLOYEE NAME: _____ Ms. Mr.

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL ADDRESS: _____

FIRST TIME EMPLOYEE? Yes No EXTENSION OF EMPLOYMENT? Yes No

POSITION CATEGORY:

HOURLY RATES				
POSITION CATEGORY:	1 st step	2 nd step	3 rd Step	
Level 1: General Labourer	17.35	18.35	19.35	
Labourer for construction, carpentry, electrical, landscaping, forestry and fleet				
Level 2: Skilled Labourer/Light Equipment Operator	19.60	21.10	22.60	
Light equipment operator with 2+ years of experience, certified/trained labourer with 2+ years of experience				
Level 3: Licensed Truck Driver/Heavy Equipment	22.85	24.85	26.85	
DZ driver, AZ driver or an experienced heavy equipment operator				
POSITION CATEGORY:	1 st step	2 nd step	3 rd Step	4 th step
Apprentice Program	18.35	20.35	22.35	24.35
Skilled Trades (i.e. carpentry, electrical etc.)				

SPECIFIC POSITION TITLE: _____

SUPERVISOR: _____

WORK LOCATION: Millgrove Works Yard – 594 5th Concession W. Waterdown, Ont.

ACCOUNT NO: _____

EMPLOYMENT PERIOD: (Start & Final Date)

CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK REQUIRED (check one box) Yes No

DRIVER'S LICENCE CHECK REQUIRED (check one box) Yes No

REPLACEMENT FOR: (If replacing another employee, give name of employee being replaced and date they left)

REVISION OF EMPLOYMENT: (State revision, i.e. rate of pay/position, supervisor, etc.)

REQUESTED BY: _____

(Name)

(Title)

(Signature)

(Date)

APPROVAL: _____ (Date): _____

(Director of CaPSS, Secretary Treasurer or Human Resources)

Report - Addendum

TO: Conservation Advisory Board

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

RECOMMENDED BY: Gordon R. Costie, Director of Conservation Area Services

PREPARED BY: Bruce Harschnitz, Manager of Conservation Area Services

MEETING DATE: June 10, 2021

RE: HCA Conservation Area Pay & Display Parking Lots – Parking Enforcement Support

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS HCA has limited resources to enforce paid admission at non-gated Conservation Area parking lots with only pay & display systems; and

WHEREAS HCA is currently working with City Parking Bylaw Enforcement in discouraging roadside parking near Conservation Areas through their enforcement of No Parking signage or Special Enforcement Area signage across the city where deemed unsafe or where causing vehicle congestion around communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors:

THAT City of Hamilton Parking Bylaw Enforcement Officers be authorized to enforce all unauthorized parking on private property at Conservation Areas for non-payment of daily permit or non-display of HCA membership access at selected parking lots; and

THAT HCA staff undertake the steps necessary to obtain an agreement between City of Hamilton Parking Bylaw Enforcement and HCA to enforce Unauthorized Parking – Private Parking at non-gated Conservation Area parking lots; and further

THAT the agreement be for an initial pilot period of 6 months, from July to December 2021, and staff report back on the experience to the Conservation Advisory Board and Board of Directors.



A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

Report

TO: Conservation Advisory Board

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

RECOMMENDED BY: Gordon R. Costie, Director of Conservation Area Services

PREPARED BY: Bruce Harschnitz, Manager of Conservation Area Services

MEETING DATE: June 10, 2021

RE: HCA Conservation Area Pay & Display Parking Lots – Parking Enforcement Support

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THAT HCA staff undertake the steps necessary to obtain an agreement between City of Hamilton Parking Bylaw Enforcement and HCA to enforce Unauthorized Parking – Private Parking at non-gated Conservation Area parking lots.

BACKGROUND

HCA has over twenty (20) parking lots across the watershed ranging from our major gated/staffed Conservation Areas to our smaller parkette style Conservation Area parking lots. Typically, the smaller areas are more remote with limited infrastructure/parking spaces and only equipped with pay & display payment stations.

Pay station parking lots are based on a manual system where visitors are required to make payment and display ticket or display HCA membership pass for proof of authorized parking. Conservation Area staff have limited resources and ability to monitor vehicles once they are parked in HCA parking lots. Limited monitoring that staff have undertaken shows that not all vehicles are displaying a membership pass or daily permit receipt.

STAFF COMMENT

City of Hamilton Parking Bylaw Enforcement has offered support to HCA to undertake the enforcement of the pay & display parking lots under the city bylaw – Unauthorized Parking – Private Property using their Parking Bylaw Enforcement Officers which provide roadside parking enforcement for the City. City Parking Bylaw already provide this service for others.

This enforcement strategy approach helps strengthen and supports Conservation Area visitors who are HCA membership pass holders or who are already making the required payments, treating all visitors parking in HCA areas in a fair manner.

Additional signage will be placed at Conservation Area parking lots in strategic locations as determined and in consultation with Parking Bylaw department managers to advise of parking enforcement.

A comprehensive communication plan will also be developed and implemented to make all visitors aware of required parking payments and for the proper display of daily permits and/or valid HCA membership pass to facilitate inspections.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2019-2023:

- **Strategic Goal – Organizational Excellence**
 - Providing a positive and safe environment for both staff and visitors

- Foster strong working relationships with our federal, provincial and municipal partners through regular meetings to discuss issues of mutual interest
- **Strategic Goal – Conservation Area Experience**
 - Develop visitor and parking management strategies to support conservation areas for sustainable recreation, education and tourism
 - Continue to expand installation of automatic gates across our conservation areas

AGENCY COMMENTS

City of Hamilton Parking Bylaw are aware of this report and will definitely enter into an agreement with HCA for enforcing Unauthorized Parking – Private Property at selected Conservation Area parking lots, should this approach be endorsed by CAB and approved by the HCA Board.

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

City of Hamilton Parking Bylaw provides parking enforcement across the city and on private parking lots where authorized. Parking Bylaw will undertake this enforcement initiative and under current municipal legislation at no cost to HCA. All proceeds from the parking enforcement program will be retained by the City.

CONCLUSIONS

In light of the above, staff recommend that, through formal agreement, the City of Hamilton Parking Bylaw Enforcement Officers be authorized to enforce all Unauthorized Parking Private Property at selected Conservation Areas in respect and fairness of all visitors parking and using these areas for access.



Memorandum

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

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

PREPARED BY: Jonathan Bastien, Water Resources Engineering

DATE: June 23, 2021

RE: Watershed Conditions Report

SYNOPSIS

The Hamilton Low Water Response Team recently declared a Level 1 Low Water Condition for the watershed. Accompanying this declaration, a 10 percent reduction in water use was encouraged for water supplied from watercourses, waterbodies, and groundwater sources. Drought conditions will be re-assessed at the beginning of July, including whether declaring a Level 2 Low Water Condition is warranted.

Streamflows this year have been significantly below long-term monthly averages.

Due to the dry conditions the past few months, Christie Lake reservoir levels have yet to reach typical past summer water levels, with current reservoir levels (768.33 ft) at approximately 2.7 feet below typical levels (771.0 – 771.5 ft). HCA staff continue to actively manage the annual filling of the reservoir, while also maintaining minimum flow targets for ecological health downstream in Lower Spencer Creek. The current reservoir levels in Valens Lake are within the range of typical past summer water levels.

There have been no recent or current observations or reports of significant watercourse flooding, public safety concerns, or Lake Ontario shoreline flooding. However, a high wave event on May 28 and 29 warranted issuing a Flood Watch – Lake Ontario Storm Surge message, although there were no reports or observations of significant shoreline flooding or erosion due to this event.

No significant watercourse flooding, public safety concerns, or Lake Ontario shoreline flooding events are expected within the next 1 to 2 weeks.

CURRENT WATERSHED CONDITIONS – June 23, 2021

Current Water Levels in Major Area Watercourses

At this time, there are no observations, reports, or expectations of significant watercourse flooding or significant public safety concerns.

Current flows are significantly below the long-term average monthly flows for June at all five monitored locations (Upper Spencer Creek at Safari Road, Middle Spencer Creek at Highway 5, Lower Spencer Creek at Market Street, Ancaster Creek at Wilson Street, and Redhill Creek at Barton Street).

Also, for January to May and June to date, in general the average monthly flows were significantly below the long-term average monthly flows.

Current Lake Ontario Water Levels

At this time, there are no observations, reports, or expectations of significant shoreline flooding. The Lake Ontario mean daily water level is approximately 74.72 m IGLD85. This is about 35 cm below average for this time of year.

Current Storages in HCA Reservoirs

The past few months have been very dry, with significantly below normal watercourse flows and rainfall amounts. This has presented challenges during the annual filling of Christie Lake reservoir. Reservoir levels have yet to reach typical past summer water levels, with current reservoir levels (768.33 ft) at approximately 2.7 feet below typical levels (771.0 – 771.5 ft). HCA staff continue to actively manage the annual filling of the reservoir, while also maintaining minimum flow targets for ecological health downstream in Lower Spencer Creek. The timeline for obtaining typical past summer water levels in Christie Lake reservoir will continue to depend largely on the amount of rain received over the coming days / weeks.

The current reservoir level at the Valens Lake dam (about 275.34 m) is within the range of typical past summer water levels (275.25 - 275.45 m). The reservoir is at 93 percent of its preferred maximum storage capacity (corresponding to a water level of 275.5 m).

Current Soil Conditions

The surface and root-zone soils are dry to moist, presently.

RECENT STORM EVENTS

During the period of May 21, 2021 to June 22, 2021, there were no observations or reports of significant watercourse flooding events, public safety issues, or Lake Ontario shoreline flooding events.

However, a high wave event on May 28 and 29 warranted issuing a Flood Watch – Lake Ontario Storm Surge message and additional monitoring of conditions.

Lake Ontario Shoreline Flooding

May 28 to 29

Forecasts ahead of the high wave event expected sustained shore-bound winds of up to 39 km/hr, with wind gusts of up to 72 km/hr. Wave heights of up to 2.0 m were forecasted. There was an increased risk of significant localized flooding along Hamilton's shoreline, due to the forecasted storm surge and wave action.

However, there were no reports or observations of significant shoreline flooding or erosion due to this event. The reported maximum wave height was 2.2 m, and the maximum hourly Lake Ontario water level was 74.89 m IGLD85.

In the lead up to and during this event, HCA engineering staff closely monitored conditions, and issued the following messages to communicate the potential Lake Ontario Shoreline flooding risks to the City and public:

- Flood Watch – Lake Ontario Storm Surge on May 27
- Termination of Flood Watch – Lake Ontario Storm Surge on May 31

RECENT WATERSHED LOW WATER CONDITIONS

Rainfall during March to now has been significantly below normal with extended dry periods, resulting in significantly below normal flows in the area watercourses.

As a result of this, on June 16 the Hamilton Low Water Response Team (Hamilton LWRT) declared a Level 1 Low Water Condition for the entire Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) watershed. This includes Spencer Creek, Chedoke Creek, Redhill Creek, Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek, Stoney Creek Numbered Watercourses, as well as all of their tributaries and other minor watercourses.

Accompanying this declaration, the Hamilton LWRT encouraged a 10 percent reduction in water use. This applies to all users of water supplied from watercourses, waterbodies, and groundwater sources within the HCA watershed.

This was communicated through a June 16 press release, HCA website posting, and letters distributed to area Permit To Take Water holders. In addition, Hamilton LWRT members have been encouraged to share this water conservation message with other water users in their area / sector.

The Level 1 was declared as three-month precipitation totals were below 80 percent of long-term averages, and 30-day average streamflows are below the minimum average summer month flow. In fact, the three-month precipitation totals (March 1 to May 31) indicated Level 1 or Level 2 Low Water Conditions at all 8 available stations. The three-month precipitation totals were 50 to 68 percent of long-term averages, with 4 of 8 stations receiving less than 60 percent (the threshold for Level 2). In addition, 30-day average streamflows at the end of May indicated Level 1 Low Water Conditions at two of the five available stations (Red Hill Creek at Barton Street and Ancaster Creek at Wilson Street).

FORECASTED WATERSHED CONDITIONS

Watercourse Flooding

There are currently no significant rainfall events (+20 mm in a day) forecasted for the watershed over the next 2 weeks. HCA staff continue to monitor conditions and forecasts routinely. Resultant water levels and flows from currently anticipated rain are not expected to pose significant watercourse flooding or public safety concerns.

Lake Ontario Shoreline Flooding

There are currently no significant Lake Ontario shoreline flooding events anticipated within the watershed over the next 9 days.

According to International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board information, Lake Ontario is expected to begin a slow seasonal decline over the next few weeks. The rate and magnitude of water level changes will depend largely on received precipitation amounts and temperatures.

Watershed Low Water Conditions

Conditions will be re-assessed at the beginning of July, including whether declaring a Level 2 Low Water Condition is warranted. This would be accompanied by the suggestion to reduce water use by a further 10 percent.