

Hamilton Region Conservation Authority

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

May 2, 2024

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m, at the HCA main office, 838 Mineral Springs Road, in Ancaster, and livestreamed on YouTube.

PRESENT:

Brad Clark – in the Chair	
Jeff Beattie – Virtual	Craig Cassar
Lisa DiCesare	Susan Fielding – Virtual
Matt Francis – Virtual	Brian McHattie – Virtual
Wayne Terryberry – Virtual	Alex Wilson
Maureen Wilson	

Jennifer Stebbing – Foundation Chair - virtual

REGRETS: **Mike Spadafora**

STAFF PRESENT: **Jonathan Bastien, Lisa Burnside, Grace Correia, Gord Costie, Marlene Ferreira, Scott Fleming, Matt Hall, Scott Peck, Mike Stone, Jaime Tellier, and Sandra Winninger**

OTHERS: **Media – Richard Leitner**

1. Call to Order

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

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

The Chair asked members to declare any conflicts under the Board's Governance Policy. There were none. HCA's Indigenous Land Acknowledgement was read.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Chair requested any additions or deletions to the agenda.

BD12, 3344**MOVED BY: Alex Wilson
SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar****THAT the agenda be approved.****CARRIED****4. Delegations**

There were none.

5. Consent Items for Applications, Minutes and Correspondence

The following consent items were adopted:

- 5.1. Applications – Development, Interference with Wetlands, Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses
- 5.2. Approval of Board of Directors Minutes – April 4, 2024
- 5.3. Approved February 8, 2024 Conservation Advisory Board Minutes – for receipt only
- 5.4. One item of correspondence from Halton-Hamilton Source Protection, Regarding Recommended Phase Out of Free Well Water Testing

There was discussion regarding item 5.4, specifically regarding concerning closure of the Hamilton water testing lab and the gap in water testing this may result in. It was decided that a letter from the HCA would be sent to the Ministry of Health from Board Chair & CAO.

6. Foundation Briefing

Jennifer Stebbing reported on the following:

The Foundation received a total of **\$21,964** in new donations from April 1st to April 30th 2024. They break down as follows:

- **\$12,080** to the Area of Greatest Need Fund
- **\$5,175** to the Dundas Valley Trails Fund
- **\$2,500** to the Memorial Bench Fund

The remaining **\$2,209** was directed to various projects, including Westfield Heritage Village, the Tribute Tree Fund, Webster Falls, and the Land Securement Fund.

This brings the fiscal year-to-date fundraising total to **\$133,748** which is 17% of the Foundation's annual goal and slightly ahead of the same time last year.

It was noted that members will have received an email with information about the current 50/50 Raffle; she requested that the information be shared with their contacts.

It was also noted that a new Executive Director, Amanda Martin, has been hired and who will be starting May 6th; there will be two weeks overlap with Grace before she retires.

The Chair expressed the Board's appreciation for the work Grace has done with the Foundation and wished her well for the future.

BD12, 3345

**MOVED BY: Maureen Wilson
SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare**

THAT the Foundation Briefing be received.

CARRIED

7. Member Briefing

There was none.

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

8.1. Verbal Presentation, Wetland Mapping and Impact Assessment as result of *O. Reg. 41/24*

Mike Stone reviewed, through a presentation, a summary of impacts as they are currently understood of the changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The presentation reviewed changes in regard to regulation limits and mapping for watercourses and wetlands, permit exemption and tests and provided some specific examples.

In summary, Mike noted that HCA continues to regulate watercourses, wetlands and hazard prone areas such as river valleys and shoreline areas

- Wetland mapping has been updated; no change to watercourse mapping
- Overall regulated area reduced by 9%
- Relatively few properties removed from regulated area had file history (10%)
- Permits will continue to be required for development activities in such areas in most cases

- Most permits have natural hazard considerations
- Relatively few permits where conservation of land / pollution were the only considerations (6% of permits in 2023)
- Anticipate relatively few permit exemptions (5-7 annually)

Mike answered questions posed by the Board and member McHattie expressed concern regarding the role that cumulative impacts play in loss of ecosystem functions and biodiversity. There was discussion regarding how these regulatory changes will be communicated to the public. It was noted that following this presentation to the Board, that staff will create an information piece. It was noted that the slide-show will be shared with Board members.

BD12, 3346

**MOVED BY: Brian McHattie
SECONDED BY: Jeff Beattie**

THAT the Verbal Report be received.

CARRIED

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

9.1. Budget & Administration Committee – April 18, 2024

9.1.1. BA 2404 Asset Management Strategy

Susan Fielding brought forward the staff report and members' questions were answered.

BD12, 3347

**MOVED BY: Susan Fielding
SECONDED BY: Alex Wilson**

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

THAT the HCA 2024 Asset Management Strategy be approved.

CARRIED

9.1.2 BA 2405 Hiring of Contract Employee to support Compliance with new Public Sector Accounting Asset Retirement Obligations

Susan Fielding brought forward the staff report and members' questions were answered.

BD12, 3348

**MOVED BY: Susan Fielding
SECONDED BY: Alex Wilson**

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

THAT this report on the new Asset Retirement Obligations be received for information; and further

THAT in order to achieve compliance with the Public Sector Accounting Board's newly instituted PS 3280 Asset Retirement Obligations requirement, a contract employee be added to the Finance department's complement, funded through reserves as needed.

CARRIED

9.2. Conservation Advisory Board – April 11, 2024

9.2.1. CA 2411 HCA Natural Hazard Infrastructure – Asset Management and Operation Plans

Wayne Terryberry brought forward the staff report and member's questions were answered.

BD12, 3349

**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry
SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare**

THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors of the Hamilton Conservation Authority that the Hamilton Conservation Authority Natural Hazard Infrastructure - Asset Management Plan dated March 2024 be approved; and further,

THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors of the Hamilton Conservation Authority that the Hamilton Conservation Authority Operational Plan dated March, 2024 be approved.

CARRIED

9.2.2. CA 2412 Saltfleet Study Area Master and Management Plans

Wayne Terryberry brought forward the staff report and Madolyn Armstrong provided a brief overview of the three master/management plans. Question arose regarding connectivity of trails, specifically between the Dofasco Trail and the Bruce Trail within the Vinemount Conservation Area. It was noted that a meeting between Councillors Clark, Beattie and HCA staff will occur to discuss this further. Members congratulated staff on the work done to prepare these plans.

BD12, 3350**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry****SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare****THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors:****THAT this report and accompanying Master and Management Plans of March 2024 be received as information for project background and general understanding;****and further****THAT the Saltfleet Conservation Area Master Plan, Dofasco 2000 Trail Management Plan and Winona and Vinemount Conservation Areas Management Plan of 2024 be approved.****and further****THAT the Winona and Vinemount Conservation Areas Management Plan be submitted to the NEC and MNR for final approval.****CARRIED****10. Other Staff Reports/Memoranda**Reports to be approved

10.1. ERO #019-8320 – Regulation detailing new Minister’s Permit and Review Powers Under the *Conservation Authorities Act*

Mike Stone reviewed the staff report and answered member’s questions.

BD12, 3351**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar
SECONDED BY: Maureen Wilson****THAT this report be received as information; and****THAT HCA staff be directed to submit the comments included in Attachment A to the Conservation Authorities and Natural Hazards Section of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry as detailed in the ERO posting #019-8320.****CARRIED**

10.2. Appointment of Officers under the Conservation Authorities Act

Mike Stone reviewed the staff report and answered member's questions.

BD12, 3352**MOVED BY: Lisa DiCesare
SECONDED BY: Alex Wilson****THAT the HCA Board of Directors appoint the staff identified in Attachment A as Officers under Section 30.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, for the purposes of enforcing the *Conservation Authorities Act* and related regulations, as well as the *Trespass to Property Act*, as more specifically identified in Attachment A.****CARRIED**Memorandums to be received

10.3. Watershed Conditions Report

Jonathan Bastien reviewed the staff memorandum and answered the member's questions.

BD12, 3353**MOVED BY: Susan Fielding
SECONDED BY: Matt Francis****THAT the memorandum entitled Watershed Conditions Report be received.****CARRIED**

10.4. Conservation Areas Experiences

Gord Costie reviewed the staff memorandum and introduced the two new Senior Managers of the Conservation Areas Services.

BD12, 3354

**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry
SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare**

THAT the memorandum entitled Conservation Areas Experience Update be received.

CARRIED

11. New Business

There was none.

12. In-Camera Items

BD12, 3355

**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar
SECONDED BY: Maureen Wilson**

THAT the Board of Directors moves *in camera* for matters of law, personnel and property.

CARRIED

During the *in camera* session, one Legal Matter was discussed.

**12.1. Confidential Report – BD/May 01-2024
(legal matter)**

BD12, 3356

**MOVED BY: Alex Wilson
SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar**

THAT the confidential report entitled BD/May 01-2024 be approved.

CARRIED

BD12, 3357

**MOVED BY: Alex Wilson
SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar**

THAT the Board of Directors moves out of closed session.

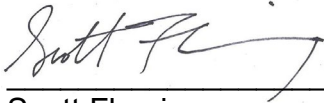
CARRIED

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the HCA Main Administration Office – Woodend Auditorium, 838 Mineral Springs Road, Ancaster, Ontario.

14. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned.



Scott Fleming
Secretary-Treasurer