

Hamilton Region Conservation Authority

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

July 6, 2023

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Thursday, July 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., at the HCA main office, 838 Mineral Springs Road, in Ancaster, and livestreamed on YouTube.

PRESENT: **Santina Moccio – in the Chair**
 Dan Bowman **Craig Cassar**
 Brad Clark **Jim Cimba**
 Susan Fielding - Webex **Matt Francis**
 Cynthia Janzen **Maria Topalovic**
 Alex Wilson - Webex

Jennifer Stebbing – Foundation Chair

REGRETS: **Maureen Wilson**

STAFF PRESENT: **Jonathan Bastien, Lisa Burnside, Grace Correia, Scott Fleming, Bruce Harschnitz, Colin Oaks, Scott Peck, Elizabeth Reimer, Mike Stone, Jaime Tellier, and Nancy Watts**

OTHERS: **None**

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. The Chair commented on the recent appointments of City of Hamilton Councillors, Jeff Beattie and Mike Spadafora, who will join the Board of Directors once the City of Hamilton's citizen appointments to the Board are also completed.

The Chair read HCA's recently adopted Indigenous Land Acknowledgement. This was followed by a moment of silence for Mark Bistoyong, a lifeguard at Wild Waterworks, following his passing on July 2nd. The Board expressed their condolences to the Bistoyong family.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

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

3. Approval of Agenda

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

BD12, 3208

**MOVED BY: Brad Clark
SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic**

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 – June 1, 2023
- 5.3. Approved April 13, 2023 Conservation Advisory Board Minutes – for receipt only

A correction to the minutes from the June 1, 2023 Board of Directors meeting was raised. Under approval of the agenda, the mover of the motion was corrected to read Susan Fielding.

6. Foundation Briefing

Jennifer Stebbing reported on the following:

The Foundation received a total of **\$59,957** in new donations from June 1st to June 30th 2023. They break down as follows:

- **\$45,700** from the Community Services Recovery Fund to support capacity building for the Foundation, primarily to conduct a fundraising feasibility study.

- **\$6,750** to our Trail Development Fund from corporate sponsorships of employee volunteer days.
- **\$5,205** to our “Step Into Nature” Environmental Education Fund.

The remaining **\$2,302** was directed to various projects, including Area of Greatest Need Fund, Planting Fund, Dundas Valley Trails Fund and Land Securement Fund. This brings the fiscal year-to-date fundraising total to **\$701,048**.

The 2023 Election of Officers was held at the June Board of Directors meeting, with Jennifer Stebbing and Graham Reid remaining as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively, and Kathy Lacasse being appointed as Secretary-Treasurer. Upcoming Foundation work will focus on working with KCI Philanthropy to conduct a feasibility study for increasing the Environmental Education Endowment.

BD12, 3209

**MOVED BY: Jim Cimba
SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar**

THAT the Foundation Briefing be received.

CARRIED

7. Member Briefing

There was none.

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

8.1. HCA Quarterly Report #5 to MNRF - Ontario Regulation 687/21

Lisa Burnside presented a summary of the report.

BD12, 3210

**MOVED BY: Alex Wilson
SECONDED BY: Matt Francis**

THAT the memorandum entitled HCA Quarterly Report #5 to MNRF - Ontario Regulation 687/21 be received.

CARRIED

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

9.1. Conservation Advisory Board – June 8, 2023

9.1.1. CA 2318 Proposal to Terminate HCA Water Quality Monitoring Related to Darling Ingredients Effluent Discharge to Christie Lake – Amended

Scott Peck presented a summary of the report and answered the members' questions. It was noted that receiving the monthly sampling results from Darling Ingredients is helpful and appreciated. The parameters the results would contain were discussed.

BD12, 3211 **MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic**
SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman

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

THAT HCA's water quality monitoring related to Darling Ingredients operational effluent discharge to Christie Lake be terminated; and

THAT HCA request monthly sampling results and receive annual ECA discharge reports from Darling Ingredients for staff review.

CARRIED

9.1.2. CA 2319 Fifty Point Watercourse and Pond Restoration Project Update / Final Design

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

An objective of the project to create a self-sustaining fishery was highlighted through discussion. It was noted that HCA's approach to recreational fishing and practices are addressed in the recently completed Fifty Point Conservation Area and Marina Master Plan.

BD12, 3212 **MOVED BY: Matt Francis**
SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic

THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors

THAT the Fifty Point Conservation Area Wetland and Fisheries Enhancement Project Update be received and further;

THAT upon completion of the Stage 2 archaeological work, staff finalize design plans and move forward to tender the project for construction which is anticipated in late Fall 2023/Winter 2024.

CARRIED

10. Other Staff Reports/Memoranda

10.1. Minimum Wage Increase to Casual Wage Rates

Nancy Watts presented a summary of the report and answered the members' questions.

BD12, 3213

**MOVED BY: Jim Cimba
SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar**

THAT the revised Casual/Seasonal wage grids for Hamilton Conservation Authority, Confederation Beach Park and Wild Waterworks as attached to this report be approved, which provides for the following:

- a) THAT the Provincially mandated increase to minimum wage effective October 1, 2023 be applied across all wage categories, and further;**
- b) THAT HCA maintain its approach for an additional 25 cents applied across all wage categories and further;**
- c) THAT HCA engage in a market review with our job evaluation consultant to benchmark our casual wage rates to ensure competitiveness in the casual/seasonal wage grids with the results brought forward to the Budget & Administration Committee.**

CARRIED

10.2. Proposed Addition within the Regulated Area of Lake Ontario at 68 Seabreeze Crescent, Stoney Creek

Mike Stone presented a summary of the report and answered the members' questions. There was discussion regarding the reduced legal implications and risk in

approving the application that does not comply with HCA policy. Scott advised that Provincial direction allows for development where the proposal does not increase susceptibility to natural hazards. Staff were satisfied that this proposal did not encroach further into the shoreline hazards of Lake Ontario.

BD12, 3214

MOVED BY: Jim Cimba

SECONDED BY: Matt Francis

THAT the HCA Board of Directors approve the issuance of a permit under *Ontario Regulation 161/06* (HCA's Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses) for the construction of an addition within the regulated area associated with Lake Ontario, 68 Seabreeze Crescent, Stoney Creek, City of Hamilton.

CARRIED

10.3. Watershed Conditions Report

Jonathan Bastien presented a summary of the memorandum, noting there were no recent observations or reports of significant watercourse flooding events or Lake Ontario shoreline flooding events. There was a current water safety statement for Upper Spencer Creek due to elevated water levels with the rain received on July 3rd. There was also potential thunderstorm activity that staff were monitoring. There were no observations, reports, or expectations that significant watercourse flooding or significant public safety concerns are occurring at the time of the report.

Jonathan explained how rain events can contribute to beach closures due to surface runoff. Jonathan also provided a summary of how storm events are monitored and documented by HCA and used for flood forecasting and to estimate impacts of future storms. Monitoring data can be used in watershed studies to understand correlations between storm events, water quality and ecological health/impacts.

BD12, 3215

MOVED BY: Brad Clark

SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic

THAT the memorandum entitled Watershed Conditions Report be received.

CARRIED

10.4. Conservation Areas Experiences Update

Gord Costie presented a summary of the memorandum, highlighting the busy Canada Day long weekend, including sold out camping reservations at Fifty Point and Valens Lake. He also noted the long weekend being the second of four long weekends where the Spencer Gorge Reservation System will be in effect for this Summer. He also highlighted June 23/24 as the opening weekend for Wild Waterworks. The park is operating on a five day a week schedule and will include all summer holiday Mondays. He commended staff on all of the work required to prepare for the operating season.

BD12, 3216

**MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
SECONDED BY: Matt Francis**

THAT the memorandum entitled Conservation Areas Experiences Update be received.

CARRIED

11. New Business

11.1. AGM Date

In anticipation of the City of Hamilton appointing its three citizens to HCA's Board of Directors for the 2023 – 2026 term, it was recommended that a special meeting of the Board of Directors be scheduled to hold the AGM and election of officers.

Craig Cassar advised the City of Hamilton selection committee has made decisions on citizen appointments as of June 29th. The item will be on the agenda for the July 14th Council meeting for ratification.

BD12, 3217

**MOVED BY: Brad Clark
SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar**

THAT a special meeting of the Board of Directors be scheduled for Thursday, August 3rd, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. for the 2023 Annual General Meeting

CARRIED

12. In-Camera Items

BD12, 3218

**MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic
SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen**

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

CARRIED

During the *in camera* session, one legal/agreement negotiation matter was discussed.

12.1. Confidential Report – BD/Jul 01-2023
(Legal/Agreement Negotiation Matter)

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

BD12, 3219

MOVED BY: Brad Clark
SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar

THAT the confidential report entitled BD/Jul 01-2023 be received and remain in camera.

CARRIED

BD12, 3220

MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba

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, August 3, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the HCA Main Administration Office – Woodend Auditorium, 838 Mineral Springs Road, Ancaster, Ontario. This will be a special meeting for the Annual General Meeting.

14. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned.



Scott Fleming
Secretary-Treasurer