

Hamilton Region Conservation Authority

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

June 1, 2023

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Thursday, June 1, 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 **Alex Wilson**
 Maureen Wilson

Jennifer Stebbing – Foundation Chair

REGRETS: **Matt Francis, Cynthia Janzen, Maria Topalovic**

STAFF PRESENT: **Jonathan Bastien, Lisa Burnside, Grace Correia, Scott Fleming, Matt Hall, Bruce Harschnitz, Scott Peck, Mike Stone, Jaime Tellier, and Nancy Watts**

OTHERS: **None**

1. Call to Order

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

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

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

3. Approval of Agenda

The Chair requested any additions or deletions to the agenda.

BD12, 3200

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

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 – May 4, 2023

Dan Bowman entered the meeting.

With regard to item 5.1, there was a question related to the sharing of results of pipeline integrity digs to understand any potential risks to the HCA watershed. Scott provided a summary of the purpose of pipeline integrity digs and HCA's role in permitting the activity. HCA has mapping of the pipelines and the companies provide HCA with their emergency response plans. Staff will follow up to understand if the results of the integrity digs could be shared with HCA for staff review.

6. Foundation Briefing

Jennifer Stebbing reported on the following:

Donations

The Foundation received a total of **\$510,733** in new donations from May 1st to May 30th 2023. They break down as follows:

- **\$500,000** from Heritage Green Community Trust. This donation is the second installment of their commitment to the Saltfleet wetland construction.
- **\$6,573** to our Area of Greatest Need Fund
- **\$2,500** to our Memorial Bench Fund

The remaining **\$1,660** was directed to various projects, including Dundas Valley, Tribute Tree Fund, and Land Securement Fund.

This brings the fiscal year-to-date fundraising total to **\$640,062**.

The Foundation held its Annual General Meeting of Members on Monday, May 8th. Three new Directors – André Chabot, Paul Keast, and Karen Walker – were elected to the Board, and Secretary-Treasurer, Justin Taravski, retired from the Board. The audited financial statements are available for review on the Foundation website.

BD12, 3201

MOVED BY: Susan Fielding

SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba

THAT the Foundation Briefing be received.

CARRIED

7. Member Briefing

There was none.

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

8.1. HCA Land Acknowledgement

The Chair recognized June as the National Indigenous History Month and June 2nd is the 8th anniversary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action.

Lisa Burnside presented a summary of the report.

BD12, 3202

MOVED BY: Dan Bowman

SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar

THAT the Board of Directors endorse the following Land Acknowledgement for HCA:

The HCA joins in stewardship of lands and waters with Indigenous Peoples who have cared for them since time before memory. We acknowledge that the land on which we gather, and the HCA watershed, is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee.

As an organization, we are committed to learning about the shared history and experiences of Indigenous Peoples in Canada and creating relationships based on respect, trust and friendship. In our shared gratitude for every aspect of the natural world, may we create a lasting legacy now and for future generations.

CARRIED

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

There were none.

10. Other Staff Reports/Memoranda

10.1. Pausing HCA Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Verification & Testing Policy

Lisa Burnside presented a summary of the report and answered the members' questions. The recommendation was made in light of the evolution of the pandemic and Ministry of Health information and guidelines, and given that municipalities, including our two participating municipalities (Hamilton and Puslinch), and other Conservation Authorities are also pausing their vaccine mandates. The policy can be reactivated in the future, if needed.

BD12, 3203

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

**THAT the HCA pause the Mandatory COVID-19
Vaccination Verification and Testing Policy; including**

(a) new staff (full time, contract, casual, volunteers, students) as a condition of employment with Hamilton Conservation Authority; and further;

(b) That the Director of Human Resources & Wellness amend the Policy accordingly, effective June 1, 2023

CARRIED

10.2. 2022 Reserve Funds Balances & Budget Surplus Reserves Allocation

Scott Fleming presented a summary of the report and provided details on the four reserve funds to which the surplus funds were recommended to be allocated as follows:

Fifty Point Wetland

- The wetland enhancement project is intended to reduce minor flooding associated with watercourse 11, provide additional natural area and habitat diversity within the conservation area, and promote the establishment of a self-sustaining fishery in the pond that will provide conservation area guests with additional fishing opportunities.
- The \$900,000 is anticipated to cover the estimated cost and the design is currently being finalized.

East Mountain (Saltfleet)

- This reserve fund will allow for continued design and construction work for the creation of the Saltfleet wetlands on the East Mountain in the Upper Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek watersheds and will support the purchase of a property where the final wetland will be located.
- These wetlands will reduce the impacts of flooding and erosion in lower Stoney Creek, protect property and residents downstream, and provide increased natural areas and recreation opportunities for the public.

Climate Change Initiatives

- This new reserve fund will enable HCA to undertake projects flowing from the newly approved HCA Climate Change Strategy.
- For example, staff are working with the Foundation to submit a grant application for an electric vehicle charging station at the main office that will require matching funds.

Records Management & IT

- The Board approved allocation of \$212,000 to implement the unfunded 2023 priorities identified in the newly approved IT Modernization Strategy following the completion of a network assessment.

BD12, 3203

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

THAT the Board of Directors approve the creation of two new reserve funds, one for the Fifty Point Wetland project as well as another for Climate Change Initiatives; and further

THAT the allocation of the 2022 operating surplus \$1.68M be directed as follows:

- \$900,000 to the Fifty Point Wetland reserve,
- \$493,000 to the East Mountain (Saltfleet) reserve,
- \$212,000 to the Records Management & IT reserve (previously approved),
- \$75,000 to the Climate Change Initiative reserve.

CARRIED

10.3. ERO Posting Provincial Planning Statement Review

Scott Peck presented a summary of the report and answered the members' questions.

BD12, 3204

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

THAT the comments as detailed in Appendix "C" of the report titled "ERO #019-6813 Posting – Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument regarding ERO# 019-6813" dated June 1, 2023 be approved; and further,

THAT HCA staff be directed to submit the approved comments to the Provincial Land Use Plans Branch as detailed in the posting 019#6813.

CARRIED

10.4. Appointment of Enforcement Officer – Jeffrey Tweedle

Mike Stone introduced Jeffrey Tweedle, Conservation Planner, and presented a summary of the report.

BD12, 3205

**MOVED BY: Jim Cimba
SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman**

THAT the HCA Board of Directors appoint Jeffrey Tweedle, Conservation Planner, as an Enforcement Officer for the purpose of enforcement 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

10.5. Watershed Conditions Report

Jonathan Bastien presented a summary of the memorandum. The most recent drought assessment indicated that normal conditions were an appropriate overall characterization of the watershed. However, the Low Water Response Team has noted limited precipitation and has deferred a decision on a Level 1 Low Water Condition and will re-evaluate in July.

BD12, 3206

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

THAT the memorandum entitled Watershed Conditions Report be received.

CARRIED

10.6. Conservation Areas Experiences Update

Bruce Harschnitz provided a summary of the memorandum and answered the members' questions.

BD12, 3207

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

THAT the memorandum entitled Conservation Areas Experiences Update be received.

CARRIED

11. New Business

11.1. Citizen Appointments to HCA Board of Directors

The City of Hamilton continues to work toward renewal of HCA's citizen appointments with their selection committee. While timing is not yet known, Councillor Clark took the opportunity to recognize and thank the current citizen members for their dedication and service to the HCA Board of Directors.

12. In-Camera Items

There were none.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, July 6, 2023 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