

# Hamilton Region Conservation Authority

## Minutes

### Board of Directors Meeting

**November 7, 2024**

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., at the HCA main office, 838 Mineral Springs Road, in Ancaster, and livestreamed on YouTube.

**PRESENT:**

<b>Brad Clark – in the Chair</b>	
<b>Jeff Beattie - Virtual</b>	<b>Craig Cassar</b>
<b>Susan Fielding</b>	<b>Matt Francis</b>
<b>Brian McHattie - Virtual</b>	<b>Mike Spadafora - Virtual</b>
<b>Wayne Terryberry- Virtual</b>	<b>Alex Wilson - Virtual</b>
<b>Maureen Wilson - Virtual</b>	

**Kathy Lacasse – Foundation Chair - Virtual**

**REGRETS:** Lisa DiCesare

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jonathan Bastien, Lisa Burnside, Gord Costie, Marlene Ferreira, Scott Fleming, Liam Fletcher, Cherish Gamble, Matt Hall, Amanda Martin, Scott Peck, Jeff Stock, Mike Stone, Jaime Tellier, Sandra Winninger

**OTHERS:** John Olah (Beard Winter LLP), Brandon Orct (Beard Winter LLP)

*For clarity purposes, the minutes will follow the order of the agenda.*

#### **1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. HCA's Indigenous Land Acknowledgement was read.

#### **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.

Lisa Burnside requested the in-camera item be moved up the agenda, following the Foundation Briefing, as legal counsel was present.

**BD12, 3405**

**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar**

**SECONDED BY: Matt Francis**

**THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.**

**CARRIED**

### 4. Delegations

There were none.

### 5. Consent Items for Applications, Minutes and Correspondence

The following consent items were adopted:

- 5.1. Applications – Development, Interference with Wetlands, Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses
- 5.2. Approval of Board of Directors Minutes – October 3, 2024

### 6. Foundation Briefing

Kathy Lacasse, Chair of the Foundation, presented, indicating that the Foundation received a total of **\$76,751** in donations from October 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup> 2024, bringing our fiscal year-to-date fundraising total to **\$870,332**. This exceeds the Foundation's annual fundraising goal by 8%.

Two highlights this month include:

- 1) Thanks to the generosity of the community, **\$5,013** was raised for repairs to the Valens Lake Fishing Bridge, with the Foundation matching donations up to \$5,000. This brings the total raised to **\$10,013**. These funds will cover the repair costs, with any surplus directed to other projects at Valens Lake.
- 2) A generous contribution of **\$50,000** was donated from an individual in support of our Outdoor Education Program. This is the largest gift from an individual in the

Foundation's history. More information regarding the donor will be shared in the coming months.

Other gifts include:

- **\$9,565** to the Environmental Education Fund
- **\$4,000** to the Tribute Bench Fund
- **\$3,262** to the Area of Greatest Need
- And **\$4,911** that was directed to various projects including the Westfield Undesignated Fund, Dundas Valley Trails Fund and the Trail Development Fund.

**BD12, 3406**

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

**THAT the Foundation Briefing be received.**

**CARRIED**

## **7. Member Briefing**

### **7.1. Watershed Stewardship Awards and 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Presentation**

Mike Stone, Jeff Stock and Cherish Gamble shared a slide show with the Board highlighting the 30-year history of the program. Additionally, two videos were shared of work completed by Stewardship staff in conjunction with private landowners to restore natural features and watershed function on their lands. It was noted that this was produced and shown as part of the Watershed Steward Appreciation Day Awards, held on October 5th at Fifty Point Conservation Area. Clarification was requested on the goals of the Stewardship Program. Scott Peck indicated one of the first-year priorities of the new Strategic Plan is for the newly hired GIS technician to help identify priority parcels of land to be targeted and staff will also be looking to develop measurable objectives within WMS workplans, including the Stewardship Program.

**BD12, 3410**

**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar  
SECONDED BY: Matt Francis**

**THAT the Member Briefing be received.**

**CARRIED**

## 8. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none.

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

9.1. Conservation Advisory Board – October 10, 2024 – Wayne Terryberry  
(Recommendations)

9.1.1 CA 2422 HCA Conservation Areas Strategy pursuant to Ontario Regulation 686/21

Wayne Terryberry brought forward the staff report indicating that the Conservation Area Strategy identifies objectives for HCA's Conservation Areas including the acquisition and disposition of land, identification of mandatory and non-mandatory programs on HCA lands, whether HCA lands augment any natural heritage features and integrate with provincial or municipal lands and trails, establishment of land use categories and a process to periodic review and updating of the strategy. He also noted that the Strategy is required by Provincial legislation and is to be completed on or before December 31, 2024

**BD12, 3411**

**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry  
SECONDED BY: Jeff Beattie**

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

**THAT the Conservation Area Strategy (2024) be approved.**

**CARRIED**

9.1.2 CA 2423 HCA Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy pursuant to Ontario Regulation 686/21

Wayne Terryberry brought forward the staff report indicating that the strategy is required by Provincial legislation and is to be completed on or before December 31, 2024. He also noted that the Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy will provide HCA with guidance regarding continued programs and projects and the development and implementation of resource management programs on a watershed basis.

**BD12, 3412****MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry  
SECONDED BY: Brian McHattie****THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors:****THAT the Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy (2024) be approved.****CARRIED**9.1.3 CA 2424      HCA Land Inventory

Wayne Terryberry brought forward the staff report which is required by Provincial legislation to be completed on or before December 31, 2024. He also noted that the Inventory identifies information regarding parcels of land including location, survey information, date of acquisition, funding information, method of acquisition, type of ownership, land use categories, the type of recreation use, and, if the parcel is suitable for the purpose of housing. It was noted that the housing aspect refers to zoning, augmentation of natural heritage as well as connection to provincial and municipal lands and trails. A key aspect for both the Conservation Area Strategy and Land Inventory is that no HCA lands are identified for disposal; the majority of HCA lands augment natural heritage or connect to provincial or municipal lands or trails with many parcels achieving both.

**BD12, 3413****MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry  
SECONDED BY: Maureen Wilson****THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors:****THAT the Land Inventory (2024) be approved.****CARRIED**

## **10. Other Staff Reports/Memoranda**

### 10.1. Watershed Conditions Report

Jonathan Bastien presented a summary of the memorandum, highlighting there were no observations, reports, or expectations of significant water safety concerns, significant watercourse flooding events, or Lake Ontario shoreline flooding events. Current Christie Lake levels are slightly below the preferred summer operating levels yet well above the preferred winter operating levels.

**BD12, 3414****MOVED BY: Susan Fielding  
SECONDED BY: Wayne Terryberry****THAT the memorandum entitled Watershed Conditions Report be received.****CARRIED****10.2. Conservation Areas Experiences Update**

Liam Fletcher provided a summary of the memorandum, highlighting the reservation system at Spencer Gorge will conclude on November 10, 2024; the annual Haudenosaunee Habitat Wildlife Deer Harvest began on November 4<sup>th</sup> and will run until December 4<sup>th</sup> and the Hamilton Road2Hope Marathon will take place on November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Confederation Beach Park.

**BD12, 3415****MOVED BY: Jeff Beattie  
SECONDED BY: Mike Spadafora****THAT the memorandum entitled Conservation Areas Experiences Update be received.****CARRIED****11. New Business**

There was none.

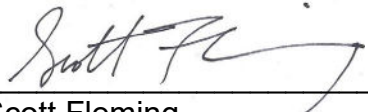
**12. In-Camera Items****BD12, 3407****MOVED BY: Craig Cassar  
SECONDED BY: Matt Francis****THAT the Board of Directors moves *in camera* for matters of law, personnel and property.****CARRIED****During the *in-camera* session, one legal matter was discussed.****12.1. Confidential Report – BD/Nov-01-2024  
(Legal Matter)**

**BD12, 3408****MOVED BY: Craig Cassar  
SECONDED BY: Matt Francis****THAT the confidential report entitled BD/Nov-01-2024 be approved and remain in camera.****CARRIED****BD12, 3409****MOVED BY: Susan Fielding  
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, December 5, 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.

  
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Scott Fleming  
Secretary-Treasurer