

The Chair requested any additions or deletions to the agenda. Lisa Burnside advised of an additional item regarding a property matter to be added as item 12.2 in camera.

BD12, 3152

**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding**

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 – February 2, 2023
- 5.3. Approved November 10, 2022 Conservation Advisory Board Minutes – for receipt only

6. Foundation Briefing

Jennifer Stebbing reported on the following:

The Foundation received a total of **\$2,059** in new donations from February 1st to February 28th 2023, directed to the Area of Greatest Need, Dundas Valley Trails, Westfield Locomotive Restoration, Land Securement and *Step Into Nature* Education Fund.

This brings their fiscal year-to-date fundraising total to **\$104,560**, and still well ahead of the same time last year.

Fundraising efforts for this year will again focus on fully funding the Environmental Education Program, funding future work at Saltfleet Conservation Area, the Westfield Locomotive Restoration, as well as possible other projects identified through HCA master plans.

BD12, 3153

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

THAT the Foundation Briefing be received.

CARRIED

7. Member Briefing

There was none.

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none.

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

9.1. Conservation Advisory Board – February 9, 2023 (Recommendations)

9.1.1. CA 2304 Westfield 2022 Accessions List

Dan Bowman brought forward the report recommending a number of items to be added to the permanent artifact collection at Westfield.

BD12, 3154

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

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

THAT the Westfield 2022 Artifact Accessions List as noted in the February 9, 2023 Accessions report be accepted as the artifacts to be added to the Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Area and the Hamilton Conservation Authority collection.

CARRIED

9.1.2. CA 2305 Advance Purchase Day Use Passes – 2023 Pilot Program

Dan Bowman brought forward a staff report to pilot advanced day entry purchase. This new method of payment and method of entry is expected to help speed up entry and alleviate congestion at Conservation Area gates. Staff answered a number of questions on customer experience and technology that will be used for the new feature.

**BD12, 3155 MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
 SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding**

WHEREAS HCA continues to identify and act upon investment in visitor services opportunities in our conservation areas;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report entitled "Advanced Purchase Day Use Passes – 2023 Pilot Program" be received and further;

THAT the Conservation Advisory Board (CAB) recommend to the Board of Directors that staff be authorized to initiate the 2023 pilot program as outlined in the report at Christie Lake, Valens Lake, Fifty Point and Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Areas; and further

THAT staff report back to CAB on the outcome and success of the 2023 pilot program.

CARRIED

9.1.3. CA 2306 Invasive Species Program Plan 2023

Dan Bowman brought forward a staff report outlining work undertaken in 2022 toward meeting the goals of HCA's Invasive Species Strategy, as well as an overview of the priorities planned for 2023 for endorsement.

Scott Peck and Mike Stone answered a number of questions regarding Ecology and Stewardship programming related to invasive species. Additionally, it was noted that HCA will be updating its existing invasive species strategy later this year and will include additional initiatives to educate the public and businesses about invasive species. As 2024 budget is prepared, staffing needs will also be reviewed.

BD12, 3156

**MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar
THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to
the Board of Directors:**

**THAT the Invasive Species Program Plan for 2023 be
adopted.**

CARRIED**10. Other Staff Reports/Memoranda****10.1. Amendment to Inventory of Programs and Services**

Lisa Burnside presented a summary of the report noting HCA had included a service to provide planning review outside of natural hazards in our initial inventory. As a result of Bill 23, CA's are no longer permitted to provide this service (can only comment on natural hazards). Therefore, this service was amended to reflect a watershed monitoring program to support the objectives of both HCA and our two municipal partners. This amendment continues to work within the costs noted in the inventory and this program would be considered a non-mandatory program requiring an agreement, just as the previous service.

It was clarified that the watershed monitoring program includes some existing work in HCA's ecological monitoring program and will also build on the existing ecological monitoring program.

There was discussion regarding the financial implications of changes through Bill 23 for planning applications. It was noted that it is too soon to understand the financial implications, however, staff are not anticipating a significant impact as HCA will still be circulated applications to comment on natural hazard considerations.

BD12, 3157

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

**THAT the Board of Directors approve the amendment in
the Core Watershed Based Resource Management
Strategy (program CW3) in the HCA Inventory of
Programs and Services as outlined in this report.**

CARRIED

10.2. Stage 4 Archeological Quote for SC-8 Wetland

Scott Peck presented a summary of the report and quote for archaeological work on the SC-8 wetland, part of the Saltfleet Conservation Area. Scott shared that stage 4 assessments need to be completed for two of four identified sites, however, that cost estimates for two of the four locations were cost prohibitive and therefore the existing design will be altered to avoid and protect these two sites. As a result, the wetland will be smaller and will withhold less water than originally planned. However, as this is the smallest of the four proposed wetlands for Saltfleet, staff are confident the project will meet the overall intent of the Environmental Assessment completed to inform the project, to withhold water and protect lands downstream from flooding and erosion. Capacity may be added to the remaining two wetlands to account for the decreased size of SC-8.

There was discussion regarding the ultimate possession of archeological artifacts found on the various sites. Scott will inquire with the consultant to confirm the process.

BD12, 3158

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

THAT the Board of Directors approve the quote submitted by Detritus Consulting Ltd., to complete the required Stage 4 Archeological Assessments for the SC-8 Wetland for an upset limit of \$106,700 excluding HST; and further

THAT staff be permitted to fund the archaeological consultant fee along with all associated costs for Aboriginal engagement from the East Mountain Wetland reserve.

CARRIED

10.3. Permit Review and Approval Timelines – 2022 Annual Report

Mike Stone presented the annual report flowing from a 2019 Conservation Ontario initiative intended to support the province's strategic objectives for development through improved client service and accountability among Conservation Authorities. CA's have been tracking review times for permit applications since previous service standards were set in 2010. New service standard guidelines aim for permit application review times that are approximately 50% shorter than the previous standards. As is typical for HCA, in 2022, HCA generally met the 2010 standards for review times, however, due to staffing shortages and, in some cases, complex applications and multiple revisions and submissions, was not always able to meet

the standards in the 2019 guidelines. Some staff positions have been filled and the department is currently recruiting to return to the full staffing complement.

BD12, 3159

**MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding**

THAT the memorandum entitled Annual Reporting on CA Permit Review Timelines – January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 be received.

CARRIED

10.4. HCA Land Acknowledgement

Lisa Burnside presented a summary of the memorandum noting that staff and the Acting Chair of the Board recognized and identified an Indigenous land acknowledgement as important for HCA. An internal working group of senior staff and Acting Chair was struck to participate in an indigenous-led facilitation process to guide us through the development of the land acknowledgement. Once completed, Board meetings will begin with the reading of the land acknowledgement. It is anticipated it will be completed this April.

The qualifications of Cambium Indigenous Professional Services were noted and an overview of the process utilized to develop the land acknowledgement was provided.

The members were supportive of the initiative and requested the final acknowledgement be brought forward for their endorsement

It was also noted that with the development our upcoming strategic plan, that this provides an opportunity to identify and include initiatives related to Indigenous engagement in the next five years.

BD12, 3160

**MOVED BY: Susan Fielding
SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar**

THAT the Land Acknowledgement will be brought to the Board for endorsement.

CARRIED

10.5. Watershed Conditions Report

Jonathan Bastien presented a summary of the memorandum, noting that during the reporting period, there were no observations or reports of significant watercourse flooding events or Lake Ontario shoreline flooding events. However, there was a

potential watercourse flooding event that warranted issuing messages and additional monitoring of conditions. There is an ongoing potential for Lake Ontario shoreline flooding, which HCA engineering staff continue to closely monitor. HCA issued a Flood Watch regarding this potential flooding earlier today.

Currently, there are no significant watercourse flooding, public safety concerns, or Lake Ontario shoreline flooding. Current flows range from baseflow conditions to elevated above baseflow conditions but below the adopted thresholds for significant public safety concerns or for significant watercourse flooding. The Lake Ontario mean daily water level averaged across the entire lake is currently about 17 cm above average for this time of year. Current Christie Lake and Valens Lake levels are just above the preferred winter operating levels.

There are currently no significant rainfall or snowmelt events (+20 mm in a day) forecasted for the watershed over the next 2 weeks.

The most recent drought assessment indicated that normal conditions are an appropriate overall characterization of the watershed. HCA will be suggesting a return from a Level 2 Low Water Condition to Normal watershed conditions to the Hamilton Low Water Response Team.

BD12, 3161

MOVED BY: Susan Fielding

SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman

THAT the memorandum entitled Watershed Conditions Report be received.

CARRIED

10.6. Conservation Areas Experiences Update

Gord presented a summary of the memorandum, sharing details that advanced reservations are required for maple syrup experience at Westfield and also of the reservation service for Spencer Gorge in 2023. The evolution of the reservation service for Spencer Gorge was reviewed by the Conservation Advisory Board, including changes to the service in 2023 which allows for greater access. The reservation system continues to assist with managing visitation levels and visitor experience at both areas.

The Chair noted that a report was recently brought forward to the City of Hamilton regarding changes to by-law enforcement. Gord advised that the report commits to making additional resources available to continue to provide dedicated by-law enforcement to address parking issues for HCA, particularly in special enforcement areas.

BD12, 3162**MOVED BY: Brad Clark
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding****THAT the memorandum entitled Conservation Areas Experiences Update be received.****CARRIED****11. New Business**

There was none.

12. In-Camera Items**BD12, 3163****MOVED BY: Susan Fielding
SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar****THAT the Board of Directors moves *in camera* for matters of law, personnel and property.****CARRIED****During the *in camera* session, one property matter was discussed.****12.1. Confidential Verbal Update – BD/Mar 01-2023
(Property Matter)**

Scott Peck provided a verbal update regarding a property matter and answered the members' questions.

BD12, 3164**MOVED BY: Susan Fielding
SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar****THAT the confidential verbal update entitled BD/Mar 01-2023 be received and remain in camera.****CARRIED****12.2. Confidential Discussion – BD/Mar 02-2023
(Property / Legal Matter)**

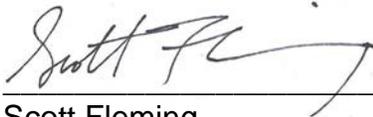
Lisa Burnside presented a legal matter and answered the members' questions.

BD12, 3165**MOVED BY: Maureen Wilson
SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar****THAT the confidential legal matter entitled BD/Mar 02-2023 be approved and remain in camera.****CARRIED****BD12, 3166****MOVED BY: Brad Clark
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding****THAT the Board of Directors moves out of *in camera*.****CARRIED****13. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, April 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