

Hamilton Region Conservation Authority

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

Date June 6, 2024

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

PRESENT:

Susan Fielding - in the Chair	
Jeff Beattie - Virtual	Craig Cassar
Lisa DiCesare	Brian McHattie
Wayne Terryberry - Virtual	Alex Wilson - Virtual

Jennifer Stebbing – Foundation Chair

REGRETS: Brad Clark, Mike Francis, Mike Spadafora and Maureen Wilson

STAFF PRESENT: Jonathan Bastien, Lisa Burnside, Gord Costie, Marlene Ferreira, Scott Fleming, Brandon Good, Matt Hall, Amanda Martin, Scott Peck, Mike Stone, Jaime Tellier, and Sandra Winninger

OTHERS: Kathy Lacasse, Michael Howes (2WA Consults), Richard Leitner (media)

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Members were informed of the absence of Councillor Clark due to a family matter.

Lisa Burnside welcomed and introduced Amanda Martin, the new Executive Director for the Foundation.

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; there were none.

BD12, 3358

MOVED BY: Craig Cassar

SECONDED BY: Brian McHattie

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 2, 2024
- 5.3. Two items of correspondence Received re: Development Sulphur Springs Road
- 5.4. Closure of Ancaster Wells Due to Road Construction on Sulphur Springs Road

Lisa DiCesare joined the meeting.

- 5.5. Letter to Minister of Health re: Phasing out of Free Well Water Testing and Closure of the Hamilton water lab

Staff responded to questions in regard to some of the items of correspondence posed by board members.

6. Foundation Briefing

Jennifer Stebbing reported on the following:

The Foundation received a total of **\$545,464** in new donations from May 1st to May 31st 2024. This includes:

- **\$500,000** to the Saltfleet CA Fund. This represents the third installment of Heritage Green Community Trust's two-million-dollar pledge
- **\$20,155** to the Environmental Education Fund

- **\$20,589** to the Westfield Unrestricted Fund

The remaining **\$4,902** was directed to various projects, including Area of Greatest Need Fund, Dundas Valley CA, and the Land Securement Fund.

This brings the Foundation's fiscal year-to-date fundraising total to **\$680,809** which is 85% of the annual goal.

The Foundation held its Annual General Meeting of Members on Monday, May 13th. The audited financial statements are available for review on the Foundation website.

Susan Fielding, Acting Chair, thanked Jennifer Stebbing for her time as Chair of the Foundation; it was her last meeting. Kathy Lacasse, who was also in attendance, was welcomed as the new Chair of the Foundation.

BD12, 3359

MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry

SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar

THAT the Foundation Briefing be received.

CARRIED

7. Member Briefing

Jonathan Bastien provided a verbal update on the partnership between the HCA and PWQMN, highlighting the program measures water quality in rivers and streams across Ontario, with partner organizations which include conservation authorities. The data helps provides insight into the quality of ground and surface water in the Province. Conservation Authorities use the data gathered as part of it's Watershed Report Card which is produced every 5 years.

BD12, 3360

MOVED BY: Lisa DiCesare

SECONDED BY: Wayne Terryberry

THAT the Verbal Report be received

CARRIED

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

8.1. Final Draft HCA Strategic Plan Report

– 2WA Consultants

Michael Howes of 2WA Consultants provided an update to the Strategic Plan, outlining stakeholder and public engagement that occurred since the March 7, 2024 Board of Directors meeting. He noted that the results of the engagement didn't change the

priorities or the vision of the plan but did affect some of the language in the plan as well as informing the first-year initiatives.

Councillor Alex Wilson commended the work done on the plan and specifically liked the amount of engagement, including staff participation that occurred.

BD12, 3361

**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar
SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare**

THAT the Final Draft HCA Strategic Plan Report and content for the 2025 – 2029 HCA strategic plan be approved

CARRIED

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

There were none.

10. Other Staff Reports/Memoranda

Reports to be approved

10.1. ERO #19-8364 – Proposed Amendments to Development Permit Exemptions, Under R.R.O. 1990, Regulation 828 for lands in Niagara Escarpment Planning Area

Scott Peck brought forward the staff report regarding comments to be submitted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) on proposed changes to the Niagara Escarpment Commission, to allow exceptions of the permitting process within their development control area. It was noted that the HCA is generally supportive of these changes but requested clarification on specific aspects from the Province. Scott Peck answered members questions regarding the report.

BD12, 3362

**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry
SECONDED BY: Alex Wilson**

THAT the comments as detailed in Appendix “A” of the report titled “Proposed amendments to development permit exemptions under R.R.O 1990, Regulation 828 for lands in the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area that is the area of development control - ERO #019-8364” dated June 6, 2024 be approved; and further,

THAT HCA staff be directed to submit the approved comments to the Public Input Coordinator as detailed in the posting 019#8364.

CARRIED

Memorandums to be received

10.2. Proposed Regulatory Changes under the Planning Act (Bill 185) and associated EROs

Scott Peck brought forward the staff memorandum which outlines proposed regulatory changes under the Planning Act relating to the *Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024 (Bill 185): Removing Barriers for Additional Residential Units*. Additionally, there is an Environmental Registry of Ontario to address 2020 Provincial Policy Statements. It was noted that comments to the Province have been submitted to meet the May 10, 2024 deadline.

BD12, 3363

**MOVED BY: Brian McHattie
SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar**

THAT the memorandum entitled Proposed Regulatory Changes under the Planning Act (Bill 185) and associated EROs be received.

CARRIED

10.3. Watershed Conditions Report

Jonathan Bastien presented a summary of the memorandum.

BD12, 3364

**MOVED BY: Lisa DiCesare
SECONDED BY: Jeff Beattie**

THAT the memorandum entitled Watershed Conditions Report be received.

CARRIED

10.4. Conservation Areas Experiences Update

Brandon Good provided a summary of the memorandum and answered the members' questions.

BD12, 3365

MOVED BY: Alex Wilson

SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare

THAT the memorandum entitled Conservation Areas Experiences Update be received.

CARRIED

11. New Business

There was none.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, July 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the HCA Main Administration Office – Woodend Auditorium, 838 Mineral Springs Road, Ancaster, Ontario.

13. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned.



Scott Fleming
Secretary-Treasurer