

Hamilton Region Conservation Authority

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

March 6, 2025

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., at the HCA main office, 838 Mineral Springs Road, in Ancaster, and livestreamed on YouTube.

PRESENT:

Brad Clark – in the Chair	
Jeff Beattie	Craig Cassar
Lisa DiCesare	Susan Fielding
Wayne Terryberry	Alex Wilson
Maureen Wilson	

Kathy Lacasse – Foundation Chair

REGRETS: **Matt Francis, Brian McHattie, and Mike Spadafora**

STAFF PRESENT: **Gina Aicken, Jonathan Bastien, Lisa Burnside, Gord Costie, Marlene Ferreira, Scott Fleming, Liam Fletcher, Brandon Good, Rob Gray, Jyoti Kasav, Matt Hall, Amanda Martin, Stacey McConnell, Bryson McEwen, Colin Oaks, Scott Peck, Mike Stone, Jaime Tellier, Stacey Van Opstal, Sandra Winninger**

OTHERS: **None**

For clarity, 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.

BD12, 3460

MOVED BY: Jeff Beattie

SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar

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. Permit Applications Summary Report

5.2. Approval of Board of Directors Minutes – February 6, 2025

5.3. Approved – December 12, 2024 Conservation Advisory Board Minutes
– for receipt only

6. Foundation Briefing

Kathy Lacasse reported on the following:

The Foundation received a total of **\$54,348** in new donations between February 1st and February 28th, 2025. She noted that that this includes the first pledge payment of \$50,000 from a new gift of \$150,000 from TD Bank in support of Saltfleet Conservation Area.

Additional funds were directed to various projects including Dundas Valley Trails, Outdoor Education, Land Acquisition, and Greatest Needs.

This brings the Foundation's fiscal year-to-date fundraising total to **\$172,411**, which represents 20% of the overall goal.

BD12, 3461

MOVED BY: Susan Fielding

SECONDED BY: Jeff Beattie

THAT the Foundation Briefing be received.

CARRIED

7. Member Briefing

There was none.

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

8.1. Vacancies for Conservation Advisory Board and Budget and Administration Committee

It was noted at the AGM in February that there are still vacancies on both the Budget and Administration Committee and Conservation Areas Advisory Board. Maureen Wilson joined the Budget and Administration Committee. Brian McHattie indicated his interest, in writing prior to the Board meeting, in joining the Conservation Advisory Board; both appointments were accepted.

BD12, 3462

MOVED BY: Maureen Wilson

SECONDED BY: Wayne Terryberry

THAT Maureen Wilson be confirmed as a member of the Budget and Administration Committee for 2025, and,

THAT Brian McHattie be confirmed as a member of the Conservation Advisory Board for 2025.

CARRIED

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

9.1. Conservation Advisory Board – February 27, 2025

9.1.1. CA 2504 Westfield Artifact Accessions for 2024

Wayne Terryberry reviewed the staff report, indicating the recommended items to be accessioned by Westfield Heritage Conservation Area, including a wooden cradle ca. 1796, a double bed with an in-tact canopy and 1800s medicinal spoon.

BD12, 3463

MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry

SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar

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

THAT the Westfield 2024 Artifact Accessions List 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 2505 HCA Open Data Portal

Wayne Terryberry reviewed the staff report, indicating that the HCA is ready to launch an open data portal, which aligns with open data initiatives of Conservation Ontario and other Conservation Authorities, allowing the public access to key datasets.

BD12, 3464

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

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

**THAT the platform for HCA's Open Data Portal and initial
datasets for publication, as outlined in this report dated
February 27, 2025, be approved.**

CARRIED

9.1.3 CA 2506 - Expansion of the library Program to First Nations

Wayne Terryberry brought forward the staff report indicating that The *Check Out the Great Outdoors Library Program* has been a success since its launch in 2022, granting day-use entry through the gate system to HCA Conservation Areas through local libraries. The HCA is now seeking to partner with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River, and Hamilton Regional Indian Centre, to provide membership passes to their library / resource centres to improve access to nature for Indigenous communities.

BD12, 3465

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

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

**THAT HCA partner with First Nations libraries and
community centres to deliver the *Check Out the Great
Outdoors Library Program*.**

CARRIED

10. Other Staff Reports/Memoranda

Reports to be Approved

10.1. Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project– SC-5, Stage 3 Archeological Assessment Request for Proposal

Scott Peck presented a summary of the report, which recommends that Archaeological Research Associates Ltd be awarded the contract to complete the required Stage 3 archeological assessment at the Sc-5 wetland, for \$727,750.

Maureen Wilson raised the question regarding the procurement policies used by conservation authorities, specifically with respect to purchasing items from Canadian suppliers. Lisa Burnside noted that each conservation authority has their own procurement policies. Given the nature of our programs and services, Lisa advised that the majority of HCA procurement would be local / Canadian. A motion regarding direction to staff was presented under New Business.

Brad Clark initiated discussion on the cost of the archaeological assessment, including additional fees for First nation monitoring, and put forward a motion to seek City support to offset the cost in efforts to help preserve the reserve account that will be needed for future expenditures. The motion recognizes past support received from the City and the benefits of the wetland project. The Board passed the motion, which Councillor Clark will bring to City Council, to request that the City of Hamilton enter into a Contribution Agreement to help support the archaeological costs for the wetland on the Punchbowl lands (SC-5) to be funded through GFL royalties or other means.

BD12, 3466

**MOVED BY: Brad Clark
SECONDED BY: Jeff Beattie**

WHEREAS the Saltfleet Wetland Restoration Project is a major environmental restoration project within the City of Hamilton;

WHEREAS the wetlands will reduce the impacts of flooding and erosion below the Niagara Escarpment in Stoney Creek and further the long-term vision of the entire Saltfleet Conservation Area, which will provide new natural areas and associated habitats and trails connecting these natural areas;

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton has demonstrated its partnership and support through the provision of \$2M grant for the purposes of land acquisition for the Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration project in 2014 funded through royalties related to the GFL Stoney Creek

Landfill Site, participation in the 2018 Environmental Assessment through technical comment and input and resolution in 2024 confirming municipal partnership to support requirements of an external fund application,

Therefore be it resolved:

THAT staff be directed to enter into a Contribution Agreement and any other ancillary agreement with the City of Hamilton, to facilitate the granting of \$1M for the purpose of supporting archaeological costs for the third wetland on the Punch Bowl lands (SC-5) funded through GFL royalties or other means; and further;

THAT the HCA Chair bring forward a motion to City Council to request the grant.

CARRIED

Following the discussion above, members returned to item 10.1.

BD12, 3467

MOVED BY: Jeff Beattie

SECONDED BY: Wayne Terryberry

THAT the Board of Directors approve the quote submitted by Archaeological Research Associates Ltd., to complete the required Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment for the SC-5 Wetland for an upset limit of \$727,750.00 excluding HST

CARRIED

10.2 Embankment Repairs Design, Mineral Springs Dam

Jonathan Bastien brought forward the staff report, indicating that approval was use from the reserve in order to complete the detailed evaluation of the dam and repair options.

In response to a question from Brad Clark regarding public safety concerns, Jonathan Bastien indicated that there isn't any immediate danger to the public because of the issue. He added that the assessment and design for repair options should be a relatively quick process and it is hoped that repairs will occur in 2005. It was also noted that the City of Hamilton will be made aware of the issue and repair options.

BD12, 3468**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar
SECONDED BY: Maureen Wilson****THAT the Board of Directors authorize staff to utilize reserves to cover the cost of the consulting design for the Mineral Springs Dam Embankment Repairs.****CARRIED**Memorandums to be Received10.3 2024 Annual Monitoring Program Summary

Ecology staff (Stacey Van Opstal, Jyoti Kasav, Bryson McEwen and Gina Aicken, along with Mike Stone and Jonathan Bastien) provided members with an update on the monitoring work carried out in 2024, highlighting data and trends as a result of terrestrial and aquatic monitoring and answered members questions.

Staff were recognized and congratulated for their presentations.

BD12, 3469**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar
SECONDED BY: Jeff Beattie****THAT the memorandum entitled 2024 Annual Monitoring Program Summary be received.****CARRIED**10.4. Watershed Conditions Report

Jonathan Bastien provided a summary of the memorandum and answered the members' questions.

BD12, 3470**MOVED BY: Susan Fielding
SECONDED BY: Alex Wilson****THAT the memorandum entitled Watershed Conditions Report be received.****CARRIED**10.5 Conservation Area Services Experiences Update

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

Additionally, Brandon Good provided a brief presentation regarding visitor attendance in 2024. He noted there were 1,6216,040 visitors who enjoyed all of HCA's owned and managed areas. There is a close comparison to previous years, with 2024 seeing a slight decrease from 2023 in HCA owned areas.

BD12, 3471

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

THAT the memorandum entitled Conservation Area Services Experiences Update be received.

CARRIED

11. New Business

Brought forward from item 10.1, Maureen Wilson provided direction to staff in the form of a motion, as stated below. The results will be presented at a future Budget and Administration Committee.

BD12, 3472

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

That Staff be requested to review the HCA's current procurement policy and report on the feasibility and consequence of prioritizing Canadian supplies and suppliers.

CARRIED

12. In-Camera Items

BD12, 3473

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

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

CARRIED

Alex Wilson left the meeting

During the *in-camera* session, one land matter was discussed.

12.1. Confidential Report – BD/Mar 01-2025

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

BD12, 3474**MOVED BY: Jeff Beattie
SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar****THAT the confidential verbal update entitled BD/Mar 01-2025 be approved/received and remain in camera.****CARRIED****BD12, 3475****MOVED BY: Susan Fielding
SECONDED BY: Maureen Wilson****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, April 3, 2025 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