

Hamilton Region Conservation Authority

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

June 5, 2025

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Thursday, Date, 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
Matt Francis	Brian McHattie
Wayne Terryberry	Alex Wilson
Maureen Wilson	

Kathy Lacasse – Foundation Chair

REGRETS: Mike Spadafora

STAFF PRESENT: Jonathan Bastien, Lisa Burnside, Gord Costie, Marlene Ferreira, Scott Fleming, Liam Fletcher, Brandon Good, Rob Gray, Matt Hall, Christina Jager, Shara Keates, Amanda Martin, Scott Peck, Mike Stone, Jaime Tellier, Sandra Winninger

OTHERS: Jeremy Schofield, Anne Straus; Friends of Westfield volunteers

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, 3488

MOVED BY: Craig Cassar

SECONDED BY: Jeff Beattie

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 – April 3, 2025
- 5.3. Approved - February 27, 2025 Conservation Advisory Board Minutes – for receipt only
- 5.4. Approved - March 25, 2025 Budget & Administration Committee Minutes – for receipt only
- 5.5. 2025 Tar and Chip Tender Email Poll Results – April 29, 2025

6. Foundation Briefing

Kathy Lacasse reported on the following:

A total of \$562,547 in new donations was received from April 1st to May 31st 2025. A few gift highlights include:

- \$500,000 for the Saltfleet project. This represents the fourth and final installment of the Heritage Green Community Trust's two-million-dollar pledge commitment.
- \$25,000 and \$12,000 gifts through two private donor funds.
- \$10,000 in tribute benches.

This brings the Foundation's fiscal year-to-date fundraising total to \$795,059.89 towards fundraising goal of \$847,300 which is 94% of the annual goal.

The Foundation held its Annual General Meeting of Members on Monday, May 12th; The Board officially elected six new Directors to the Foundation's Board of Directors for four-year terms, and said good-bye to two Directors, Jennifer Stebbing and Mark Cachia. The election of officers for the Foundation board will happen at our June Board meeting next week. Kathy indicated that she will be stepping down as Chair of the Foundation Board of Directors. Councillor Clark thanked Kathy for her future endeavors.

BD12, 3489

MOVED BY: Maureen Wilson

SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding

THAT the Foundation Briefing be received.

CARRIED

7. Member Briefing

7.1. Cheque & Verbal Presentation, Friends of Westfield to Foundation

Jeremy Schofield, President of the Friends of Westfield, provided an update on the group's fundraising activities for Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Area. He highlighted the projects in which the Friends provided financial support in the past as well as those for which they are currently raising funds: to restore of the tender on Locomotive 103 and replacement of the commercial dishwasher in the Ironwood Hall. The fundraising events scheduled for 2025 were noted as well the attractions found within the Village and conservation area.

A cheque for \$50,000 was presented to the Hamilton Conservation Foundation on behalf of the Friends of Westfield, by Jeremy Schofield and Anne Straus, Westfield's Gift Shop Manager, which represents the fundraising efforts from 2024.

BD12, 3490

MOVED BY: Alex Wilson

SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding

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. Budget & Administration Committee – May 15, 2025 (Recommendations)

9.1.1. BA 2516 Canadian Supplies and Suppliers

Susan Fielding brought forward the staff report noting that report was in response to the Board's direction from the March 6th meeting, requesting a review of our procurement policy with a focus on prioritizing Canadian suppliers, particularly in light of new U.S. trade tariffs.

Based on these results of an analysis of recent purchasing activity, staff are recommending a formal update to the Purchasing Policy to include language indicating a preference for Canadian-owned vendors and materials.

BD12, 3491

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

**THAT the Budget & Administration Committee
recommends to the Board of Directors;**

**THAT staff be directed to amend the HCA Purchasing
Policy to add a clause indicating preference for
Canadian-owned vendors and sourcing Canadian
materials and supplies.**

CARRIED

10. Other Staff Reports/Memoranda

10.1. ERO Comments re: Special Economic Zones, Endangered Species Act and Species Conservation Act

Scott Peck reviewed the memorandum, indicating the changes to these Acts are related to Bill 5, *Protect Ontario By Unleashing the Economy Act 2025*. Bill 5 has since passed in the legislature and the two items that were part of the Environmental Registry of Ontario are now enacted.

Board members expressed concern regarding changes to the Endangered Species Act as well as the Special Economic Zones as outlined in Act. It was noted that funding may be available to allow habitat restoration; the HCA may be able to access these funds for restoration on HCA lands.

BD12, 3492**MOVED BY: Maureen Wilson
SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare****THAT the memorandum entitled ERO Comments re:
Special Economic Zones, Endangered Species Act and
Species Conservation Act be received.****CARRIED****10.2. Watershed Conditions Report**

Jonathan Bastien presented a summary of the memorandum, highlighting that the period between March 24th to May 26th 2025, there were no significant watercourse flooding events nor Lake Ontario shoreline flooding events. However, significant water safety concerns and localized watercourse flooding of low-lying areas that typically flood during higher water levels did occur. There were three rain events that warranted issuing messages and additional monitoring of watercourse conditions. It was also noted that both Christie and Valens' reservoirs are at summer levels.

BD12, 3493**MOVED BY: Alex Wilson
SECONDED BY: Jeff Beattie****THAT the memorandum entitled Watershed Conditions
Report be received.****CARRIED****10.3. Conservation Areas Experiences Update**

Brandon Good provided a summary of the memorandum, highlighting that with the summer season approaching, the HCA is entering peak operations across its conservation areas. Camping reservations are tracking within 3.8% of last year, and the boat rental program at Christie and Valens Lake Conservation Areas has expanded to include stand-up paddle boards

BD12, 3494**MOVED BY:
SECONDED BY:****THAT the memorandum entitled Conservation Areas
Experiences Update be received.****CARRIED**

11. New Business

There was none.

12. In-Camera Items**BD12, 3495****MOVED BY: Jeff Beattie****SECONDED BY: Alex Wilson**

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

CARRIED

During the *in-camera* session, two land matters were discussed.

12.1. Confidential Report – BD/June 01-2025
(Land Matter)

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

BD12, 3496**MOVED BY: Jeff Beattie****SECONDED BY: Alex Wilson**

THAT Confidential Report BD/June 01-2025 be approved and remain in camera.

CARRIED

12.2. Confidential Report – BD/June 02-2025
(Property/Legal Matter)

Scott Peck provided a summary of the report regarding a property/land matter and answered the members' questions.

BD12, 3497**MOVED BY: Alex Wilson****SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar**

THAT Confidential Report BD/June 02-2025 be approved and remain in camera.

CARRIED

BD12, 3498**MOVED BY: Susan Fielding
SECONDED BY: Alex 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, July 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