

# **Hamilton Region Conservation Authority**

## **Minutes**

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

**November 6, 2025**

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Thursday, November 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**  
                         **Craig Cassar**                            **Elise Copps**  
                         **Lisa DiCesare**                           **Susan Fielding**  
                         **Wayne Terryberry**                   **Alex Wilson**

**André Chabot – Foundation Chair**

**REGRETS:**            **Jeff Beattie, Matt Francis, Mike Spadafora and Maureen Wilson**

**STAFF PRESENT:** **Madolyn Armstrong, Nancy Arnold, Jonathan Bastien, Lisa Burnside, Gord Costie, Marlene Ferreira, Scott Fleming, Liam Fletcher, Rob Gray, Matt Hall, Amanda Martin, Stacey McConnell, Scott Peck, Mike Stone, Jaime Tellier, Stacey Van Opstal, Sandra Winninger**

**OTHERS:**            **Joey Coleman**

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

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

Councillor Clark welcomed Elise Copps, a new citizen representative, to the Board of Directors. He indicated that Elise was appointed by the City of Hamilton, filling the position vacated by Brian McHattie. Elise was also a current citizen member of the Conservation Advisory Board.

#### **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 advised that two addendums were circulated: a report regarding a tender award to repair the Mineral Springs Detention Facility, which will be addressed under Other Staff Reports/Memoranda, as item 10.3 on the agenda and, an HCA website news item regarding the provincial announcement from October 31, 2025. This will appear under New Business, item, 11.1.

**BD12, 3546**

**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar**

**SECONDED BY: Wayne Terryberry**

**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. Permit Applications Summary Report
- 5.2. Approval of Board of Directors Minutes – October 2, 2025
- 5.3. Approved – June 12, 2025 Conservation Advisory Board Minutes – for receipt only
- 5.4. Correspondence from City of Hamilton, Office of the Mayor with respect to 2026 Budget Directive
- 5.5. Correspondence from the City of Hamilton, Office of the Mayor with respect to Mayoral Directive to Staff

### **6. Foundation Briefing**

André Chabot, Chair of the Conservation Foundation, reported that that between

October 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>, the Foundation received \$93,084 in donations. This brings the fiscal year-to-date fundraising total to \$1,094,440 (29% above fundraising goal of \$847,300).

This month, some gift highlights include:

- \$50,000 from an individual donor in support of the Outdoor Education program
- \$10,000 from Trans Canada Trail in support of the Basadinaa Project
- \$7,900 through the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation in support of new interpretative signage at Saltfleet Conservation Area
- \$1,527 in donations through CAMIS system; the best month yet, in large part due to reservations made for fall colours.
- Donations in response to our fall direct mail appeal are starting to trickle in. We've received just over \$2,000 in donations so far.

Earlier this month, the Foundation supported a volunteer tree planting event at the Eramosa Karst Conservation Area. A total of 440 native trees and shrubs were planted by 18 volunteers. Trees were purchased through donations made to the Foundation's Plantings Fund.

**BD12, 3547**

**MOVED BY: Lisa DiCesare  
SECONDED BY: Elise Copps**

**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 – October 9, 2025  
(Recommendations)

9.1.1 CA2522 – HCA's Planning and Regulations Policies Update

Wayne Terryberry provided an overview of the staff report. Mike Stone provided additional details for members, noting the document was revised to reflect the changes to the regulations of the Conservation Authorities Act, which took effect April 1, 2024 as well as providing direction to staff when reviewing Permit and land use applications.

**BD12, 3548**

**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry  
SECONDED BY: Elise Copps**

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

**THAT the *Policies for Land Use Planning and  
Development Regulation in the Watersheds of the  
Hamilton Conservation Authority (September 2025)*  
be adopted.**

**CARRIED**

**9.1.2 CA2523 – Final Eramosa Karst Conservation Area Master Plan and  
Chippawa Rail Trail Management Plan for Approval**

Wayne Terryberry brought forward the staff report and indicated that the Conservation Advisory Board was given a detailed review of the process used to create the plans. The two plans have undergone both an internal and external review and will guide the respective conservation areas, including operations and capital works planned for the next ten years.

**BD12, 3549**

**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry  
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding**

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

**THAT this report and accompanying Master and  
Management Plans of September 2025 be received  
as information for project background and general  
understanding;**

**and further**

**THAT the Eramosa Karst Conservation Area  
Master Plan and Chippawa Rail Trail Management  
Plan of September 2025 be approved.**

**CARRIED**

### 9.1.3 CA 2524 – Water Resources Engineering Monitoring Network – Review and Enhancements

Wayne Terryberry provided an overview of the staff report noting the review was undertaken as part of the Year 1 Strategic Plan initiative to identify priority enhancements needed to update the Water Resources Monitoring Network. Included in the upgrades are the servers and software, gauge data loggers and expanding the monitoring network.

**BD12, 3550**

**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry**

**SECONDED BY: Elise Copps**

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

**THAT the *Water Resources Engineering Monitoring Network - Review and Enhancements* staff report be adopted.**

**CARRIED**

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

### 10.1. Watershed Conditions Report

Jonathan Bastien presented a summary of the memorandum, noting that September 23<sup>rd</sup> to October 27<sup>th</sup> 2025, there were no significant watercourse flooding events, no significant watercourse water safety concerns, and no Lake Ontario shoreline flooding events. Three additional items were noted since the report was written:

- Valens reservoir is at winter level but Christie is being drawn down more slowly to support salmon spawning in Spencer Creek;
- Data suggests that Level 1 drought conditions exist but the response is being deferred due to less demand for water from the agricultural sector and the increase in precipitation that normally occurs in November and December; conditions will be reevaluated in the Spring.
- A storm event is being predicted for November 9<sup>th</sup> with potential wave levels reaching 2 metres for shoreline of Lake Ontario; messaging will be circulated if warranted.

**BD12, 3551**

**MOVED BY: Lisa DiCesare**

**SECONDED BY: Wayne Terryberry**

**THAT the memorandum entitled Watershed Conditions Report be received.**

**CARRIED****10.2. Conservation Areas Services Update**

Liam Fletcher provided a summary of the memorandum highlighting events within the conservation areas, including:

- The Road 2 Hope race that occurred at Confederation Beach Park on the first weekend in November, welcoming 4,600 participants
- Conclusion of the reservation system on November 9<sup>th</sup> at Spencer Gorge
- The continuation of the annual deer harvest by the Haudenosaunee in the Dundas Valley
- A successful Halloween program at Westfield Heritage Village, welcoming 2,700 visitors over the weekend.

**BD12, 3552****MOVED BY: Elise Copps****SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare**

**THAT the memorandum entitled Conservation Areas Services Update be received.**

**CARRIED****10.3 Request to Award Tender – Slope Slump Repair at Mineral Springs Detention Facility**

Scott Peck brought forward the staff report to request a tender award to repair the slope slump for the Mineral Springs Detention Facility, located on the Sulphur Creek crossing with Martin Road, Ancaster, to C.R.L. Campbell Construction & Drainage Ltd. be accepted at a cost not to exceed \$ 164,377.33. The Mineral Springs Detention Facility was constructed by HCA as a flood control project in 1992 under an agreement indicating that the City of Hamilton is responsible for ongoing maintenance and repairs. Discussion with City staff have confirmed the City will reimburse HCA for repair costs.

**BD12, 3553****MOVED BY: Lisa DiCesare****SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding**

**THAT the Tender for the Slope Slump Repair of Mineral Springs Detention Facility submitted by C.R.L. Campbell Construction & Drainage Ltd. be accepted at a cost not to exceed \$ 164,377.33 inclusive of contingency and HST;**

**THAT Watershed Management Services reserves be utilized to pay for the slope slump repair of the Mineral Springs Detention Facility for a total of \$164,377.33; and further**

**THAT HCA staff be directed to continue to work with the City of Hamilton regarding reimbursement of the costs of this project per the Mineral Springs Detention Facility agreement between the HCA and the City of Hamilton (Town of Ancaster).**

## **CARRIED**

### **11. New Business**

#### **11.1. HCA acknowledges new provincial conservation agency – website announcement**

Lisa Burnside shared the media information piece which will be posted on HCA's website. Lisa advised of the following:

- On October 31, Environment Minister Todd McCarthy and Hassaan Basit, Chief Conservation Executive, announced the Government of Ontario's intention to introduce amendments to establish a new agency called the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, to provide leadership, governance, and strategic direction for Ontario's Conservation Authorities.
- Additionally, the Province is proposing consolidation of Conservation Authorities from 36 down to several regional entities.
- The Province plans to introduce legislation soon, with a 45-day public consultation period on the ERO.
- Implementation of changes is anticipated to take place in late 2026 to 2027, following current municipal election cycles.
- It's business as usual and we await full details of the proposed amendments and remain committed to watershed protection and the continued delivery of all programs and services at the local level without interruption.
- As noted in the MECP media release, under the leadership of the new agency, conservation authorities will continue to deliver existing programs such as protecting people and property from natural hazards, drinking water source protection and the management of lands and recreational trails, including public access to local natural areas, as well as other recreational and educational activities.

- We look forward to engaging with the Province, Conservation Ontario, and other stakeholders through the upcoming consultation process following the ERO release.

Members discussed the proposed changes announced by the Province, expressing concern regarding how these changes would affect conservation authorities and, specifically, the HCA. One area of concern was the potential loss of addressing local issues. Following discussion, it was agreed that a special board meeting, with the HCA's lawyer in attendance, to review the details of the proposal as well as to discuss HCA's response to the proposal.

**BD12, 3554**

**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar**

**SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare**

**THAT the HCA Website News Item be received.**

**CARRIED**

## **12. In-Camera Items**

**BD12,3555**

**MOVED BY: Susan Fielding**

**SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare**

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

**CARRIED**

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

### **12.1. Confidential Report – BD/Nov 01-2025**

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

**BD12, 3556**

**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar**

**SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare**

**THAT the confidential report entitled BD/Nov 01-2025 be approved and remain in camera.**

**CARRIED**

**BD12, 3557**

**MOVED BY: Susan Fielding**



**SECONDED BY: Elise Copps**

**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 4, 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.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Scott Fleming", is written over a horizontal line.

Scott Fleming  
Secretary-Treasurer