

Hamilton Region Conservation Authority

Minutes

Special Meeting

Board of Directors

November 25, 2025

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Tuesday November 25, 2025 at 2:00 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
	Elise Copps	Lisa DiCesare
	Susan Fielding	Matt Francis
	Mike Spadafora	Wayne Terryberry
	Alex Wilson	Maureen Wilson

REGRETS:

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa Burnside, Gord Costie, Marlene Ferreira, Scott Fleming, Liam Fletcher, Brandon Good, Rob Gray, Matt Hall, Kristine Leach, Amanda Martin, Scott Peck, Mike Stone, Jaime Tellier, Sandra Winner

OTHERS: Jordan Diacur (Gowlings WLG); Mac Christie (media)

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. CAO Lisa Burnside indicated an Addendum regarding correspondence received was circulated and will be addressed under item number 3, as 3.1.

BD12, 3558

MOVED BY: Craig Cassar

SECONDED BY: Jeff Beattie

THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

3.1 Correspondence to be received:

3.1.1 United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry – Counties Resolution Conservation Authorities, dated November 17, 2025

3.1.2 Essex Region Conservation – Letter re: Resolution 90-25(Bill 68 and ERO Posting 025-1257, dated November 19, 2025

3.1.3 Niagara This Week – Conservation authority chairs question proposed mergers, dated November 21, 2025

BD12, 3559

MOVED BY: Susan Fielding

SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare

THAT the correspondence circulated be received

CARRIED

4. Member Briefing

4.1. Overview of MECP November 18, 2025 presentation

Lisa Burnside provided an overview of the presentation that was made to conservation authorities and municipalities by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), that highlighted the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act, including the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency through Bill 68 and proposal for regional consolidation of conservation Authorities on the Environmental Registry. The ERO is open for comment until December 22, 2025.

Members discussed the changes announced by the Province, expressing concern regarding how these would affect the conservation authorities and, specifically, the HCA. It was noted that HCA already delivers efficient, coordinated local services. Areas of concerns were numerous including:

- That limited information has been provided to justify the proposed restructuring;
- The proposed model would shift governance away from the municipalities that created and fund conservation authorities, resulting in a significant loss of local decision-making and community accountability; what affect it would have on staff's ability respond to local issues and/or flooding events;
- Impact on HCA land holdings and ensuring that they remain protected for future generations;
- The future role of the Foundation in the new model.

5. In Camera Items

BD12, 3560

**MOVED BY: Lisa DiCesare
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding**

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

CARRIED

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

5.1. Confidential Discussion – BD/Nov 02-2025

Legal Council was present to guide the discussion and provide legal opinions with respect to Bill 68 and the ERO proposal.

BD12, 3561

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

THAT confidential verbal discussion BD/Nov 02-2025 be received and remain in camera

CARRIED

BD12, 3562

**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry
SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar**

THAT the Board of Directors moves out of closed session

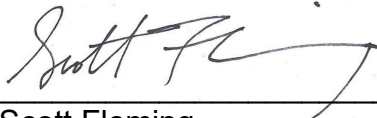
CARRIED

6. 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.

7. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned.



Scott Fleming
Secretary-Treasurer