

Policy. There were none.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Chair requested any additions or deletions to the agenda. Lisa Burnside advised that there were two addendums that were circulated to members: One item of correspondence from Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, which will be addressed as item 5.7 and the results of the disposal of solid waste tender, which will be addressed following 10.2 on the agenda.

Additionally, an in-camera item regarding confidential information related to a funding agreement currently underway will be added as Item 12.2. Lisa Burnside also recommended that the Board move in camera immediately following approval of the agenda to address all in-camera items.

BD12, 3613

**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry
SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare**

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 – March 5, 2026
- 5.3. Approved – November 20, 2025 Budget & Administration Committee Minutes – for receipt only
- 5.4. Email correspondence with respect to City of Hamilton Climate Change Funding
- 5.5. Email correspondence from the Ministry Environment, Conservation and Parks to Board Chairs regarding legislative amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act

- 5.6. Email correspondence from Ministry Environment, Conservation and Parks with respect to the Minister's direction for conservation authorities regarding fee changes associated with planning, development and permitting fees
- 5.7. Email Correspondence from Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority with respect to Provincial Announcement – Next Steps to Improve Ontario's Conservation Authority System

In response to a question from Councillor Cassar regarding the Minister's direction to freeze permit fees, Lisa Burnside advised that the HCA's 2026 planning and permitting fees had already been approved prior to the directive and came into effect on January 1, 2026. As the Minister's fee freeze took effect on March 10, 2026, the Authority was able to implement the approved fee adjustments prior to that date.

6. Foundation Briefing

Graham Reid, Vice Chair of the Foundation reported that a total of \$36,000 in donations from March 1st to March 31st, 2026 were received. This brings the fiscal year-to-date fundraising total to \$335,905 which is 67% of the 2025 goal.

Gift Highlights include:

- A renewed gift of \$20,000 from Darling Ingredients in support of Outdoor Environmental Education
- \$2,010 from the McMaster Asian Focus student group. Over the past year, this group was heavily engaged in volunteering and participated in 3 trail clean ups and 1 tree planting event.

The Foundation has brought back the spring 50/50 draw. Increased marketing and promotion will roll out over the month. Draw will take place in June. Plans are also underway for the Foundation's Annual General Meeting which will take place May 11, 2026.

BD12, 3618

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

THAT the Foundation Briefing be received.

CARRIED

7. Member Briefing

7.1. 2025 HCA Annual Report

Lisa Burnside provided an overview of the Annual Report, highlighting the

achievements made towards accomplishing the initiatives within the four priority areas as outlined in the Strategic Plan. The document will be shared with local Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament, in addition to being posted on HCA's website and social media platforms.

Brad Clark thanked HCA staff for their effort during the year as well as for amazing production of the document.

BD,12 3619

**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar
SECONDED BY: Elise Copps**

THAT the Member Briefing entitled 2025 HCA Annual Report be received.

CARRIED

7.2 Verbal Update – Provincial Announcement – Conservation Authorities Act/Amalgamation

Lisa Burnside provided a presentation to update the Board on the Provincial Conservation Authority consolidation, highlighting key points from the Province's March 10 announcement and the March 26 budget bill, including:

- Legislation has been introduced to consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into nine regional authorities and has passed Second Reading
- The Hamilton Conservation Authority would become part of the Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority, along with the Niagara, Halton, and Credit Valley Conservation Authorities
- The Province has indicated there will be no staffing reductions and that existing programs, services, and projects will continue; transitional funding will support implementation
- Following Royal Assent of the Bill, Transition Committees will be established comprising the CAOs of affected conservation authorities and a municipally appointed Board member; a Project Executive will chair the committee and oversee the transition process; the proposed effective transition date is February 1, 2027
- Core operations will continue, including natural hazard protection, natural area conservation, and public access to nature

BD,12 3620

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

THAT the Member Briefing entitled Provincial Announcement – Conservation Authorities be received.

CARRIED

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none.

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

There were none.

10. Other Staff Reports/Memoranda**10.1. Request for Proposal – Bidder Results – Dundas Valley Creeks Floodplain Mapping Study**

Jonathan Bastien brought forward the staff report and answered members' questions. Staff recommended that the proposal for the Dundas Valley Creeks Floodplain Mapping Study to D.M. Wills Associated Ltd, for an adjusted cost not to exceed \$137,050. The study will provide an up-to-date flood plain mapping, to better understand flood risks and direct development away from natural hazards for watercourses in the Dundas Valley which include Ancaster, Sulphur, Tiffany, Spring and Ann Street Creeks.

BD12, 3621**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar
SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare****THAT the Board of Directors approve the proposal for the Dundas Valley Creeks Floodplain Mapping Study submitted by D.M. Wills Associates Limited, at an adjusted cost not to exceed \$137,050 (not including HST); and further****THAT the Board approve the use of Watershed Management Services reserve funds and, if required, HCA General Stabilization reserves to fund project costs exceeding the approved \$50,000 capital budget allocation, with any funding secured through the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program anticipated to reduce the amount drawn from reserves.****CARRIED****10.2. Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project – SC-5, Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment Request for Proposal**

Scott Peck provided an overview of the staff report that requested that the quote

received by Archaeological Research Associates for the required Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment for the SC-5 Wetland be approved. The company's quote was not the lowest quote but a review of all four quotes indicated that the selected company provided the most cost-efficient approach to the project in addition to providing confidence that the work will be completed within the anticipated schedule.

BD12, 3622

**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar
SECONDED BY: Jeff Beattie**

THAT the Board of Directors approve the quote submitted by Archaeological Research Associates to complete the required Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment for the SC-5 Wetland for an upset limit of \$1,930,475.00 excluding HST

CARRIED

10.3. Watershed Conditions Report

Jonathan Bastien presented a summary of the memorandum, highlighting that during the period of February 23 to March 23, 2026, there were no significant watercourse flooding events, and no Lake Ontario shoreline flooding events. However, one longer period of rain and snowmelt (March 4 to 18, 2026) warranted issuing messages and additional monitoring of watercourse conditions.

There is a potential for rain on April 4, 2026; conditions will be monitored and a flood watch will be issued if necessary.

BD12, 3624

**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry
SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare
THAT the memorandum entitled Watershed Conditions Report be received.**

CARRIED

10.4. Conservation Areas Services Update

Liam Fletcher provided a summary of the memorandum noting that conservation areas are preparing for the upcoming season and will be open for the Easter weekend. Specific areas of the Dundas Valley are temporarily closed to allow for the migration of the Jefferson salamanders.

BD12, 3625

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

THAT the memorandum entitled Conservation Areas Services Update be received.

CARRIED

10.5 Request for Tender – Bidder Results for 2026 to 2029 Solid Waste Disposal

Liam Fletcher brought forward the staff report regarding tender results for solid waste disposal. Staff recommended Emterra Environmental to be awarded the contract despite not being the lowest bidder in accordance with the HCA's Purchasing Policy, which states preference should be given to Canadian companies.

BD12, 3623

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

THAT the Board of Directors award the 2026-2029 Solid Waste Disposal contract to Emterra Environmental at an estimated total cost of \$162,672.43 plus HST.

CARRIED

11. New Business

There was none.

12. In-Camera Items

BD12, 3614

**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar
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, two legal matters were discussed.

12.1. Confidential Correspondence – BD/April 01-2026
(Legal Matter)

Brad Clark provided a summary of the correspondence regarding a legal matter and answered members' questions.

BD12, 3616**MOVED BY: Jeff Beattie
SECONDED BY: Wayne Terryberry****THAT the confidential correspondence entitled BD/April 01-2026 be approved/received and remain in camera.****CARRIED****12.2 Confidential Verbal Update – BD/Apr 02-2026
(Legal Matter)**

Lisa Burnside provided a verbal update on a legal matter and answered members' questions.

BD12, 3615**MOVED BY: Jeff Beattie
SECONDED BY: Wayne Terryberry****THAT the Confidential Verbal Update be received and remain in camera****CARRIED****BD12, 3617****MOVED BY: Craig Cassar
SECONDED BY: Jeff Beattie****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, May 7, 2026 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 was adjourned.



Scott Fleming
Secretary-Treasurer