

Hamilton Region Conservation Authority

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

May 7, 2026

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Thursday, May 7, 2026 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 - virtual **Craig Cassar**
 Elise Copps **Lisa DiCesare**
 Susan Fielding - virtual **Wayne Terryberry - virtual**
 Maureen Wilson

Graham Reid – Foundation Vice Chair

REGRETS: **Matt Francis, Mike Spadafora, Alex Wilson**

STAFF PRESENT: **Rondalyn Brown, Lisa Burnside, Gord Costie, Louis DiSalvo, Marlene Ferreira, Scott Fleming, Liam Fletcher, Brandon Good, Matt Hall, Cari Hobbs, Amanda Martin, Scott Peck, Carissa Smith, Mike Stone, Jaime Tellier, Sandra Winninger**

OTHERS: **Lisa Abbot (Tourism Hamilton), Tara McCarthy, (MT Planners), Hildegard Snelgrove, (Tourism Hamilton), Warren Waxman, Drew Wensley, (MT Planners)**

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.

Lisa Burnside advises of an addendum which was circulated:

- One item of correspondence received was added to item number 5, Consent Items for Applications, Minutes and Correspondence, and appeared as item 5.5 on the agenda.
- A Memorandum regarding direction received from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, which was addressed under item number 8, Business Arising from the Minutes as item 8.2
- Updated confidential Reports were circulated, for items 12.1, and 12.3.

BD12, 3626

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

THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

4. Delegations

There were two delegates presenting to the Board

4.1. Warren Waxman, regarding opposition of parking on Lower Lions' Club Road

Mr. Waxman provided an overview regarding his opposition and those of residents of Lower Lion Club Road that he indicated he represents to the planned parking lot on Lower Lions Club Road, to provide managed access to Tiffany Falls Conservation Area. Mr. Waxman provided a list of reasons for which the parking lot should not be constructed which included: lack of sidewalks and streetlights on the road; the dangerous intersection at Lower Lions Club and Wilson Streets and concern regarding the ecology of the area of the planned parking lot. The Board did not have any questions or comments from following the presentation.

4.2. Lisa Abbot, Director of Tourism & Culture, City of Hamilton; Tara McCarthy, Project Lead, MT Planners regarding drafted recommendations from the Waterfall Destinations Master Plan

Lisa Abbot from Tourism Hamilton and Tara McCarthy provided a review of the drafted recommendations from the Waterfall Destinations Master Plan, indicating that the Plan is designed to provide a "road map" for partners who own/manage waterfalls in the Hamilton area. Partners include the Royal Botanical Gardens, Conservation Halton, Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club, Hamilton Halton Brant Tourism

Organization and the Hamilton Conservation Authority. Specifically, the Plan suggests a platform for comprehensive communication to visitors regarding waterfalls; allow for data-driven management of waterfall areas to allow visitation to be monitored and, prioritize sustaining the ecology of waterfall sites.

Lisa Burnside provided an example of how the HCA has managed visitation at Spencer Gorge Conservation Area in response to a question posed by Craig Cassar, with respect to handling large number of visitors. Concern was expressed by Brad Clark regarding how promotion of waterfalls and, the behaviour of visitors affects the waterfall area as well as the surrounding community.

BD12, 3627

**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar
SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare**

THAT the following delegations be received:

- 4.1 Warren Waxman respecting opposition to parking lot on Lower Lions Club Road**
- 4.2 Lisa Abbot, Drew Wensley & Tara McCarthy with respect to drafted recommendations from the Waterfall Destinations Master Plan**

CARRIED

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 2, 2026
- 5.3. Approved – February 12, 2026 Conservation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes (for receipt only)
- 5.4. Item of Correspondence regarding support for the Visitor Use Management Plan for Tiffany Falls Conservation Area and the parking lot planned for Lower Lions Club Road
- 5.5. Item of Correspondence regarding the Ministers' Director under section 1.14 of the Conservation Authorities Act

6. Foundation Briefing

Graham Reid, Vice Chair of the Foundation reported that the Foundation received a

total of **\$78,326** in donations from April 1 – April 30, 2026. This brings the fiscal year-to-date fundraising total to **\$415,844** which is 83% of the goal for this year.

Gift Highlights include:

- \$25,000 from the A. Bernard C. and Joan E. Johnson Fund, \$17,500 from the Estate of Tanya Grace Jenkins, and \$12,766 from the Kurt A Berger Foundation all in support of greatest needs.
- \$7,000 from the Lois Evans Natural Heritage Fund designated to Saltfleet.
- \$5,000 from the Copetown Lions in support of Land Acquisition.
- \$3,000 in sponsorship for the Christie Lake Disc Golf course.

The Foundation Spring 50/50 draw pot is growing. Pot is now over \$1,000 and the draw will take place June 22, 2025. Three new board members will be welcomed at The Foundation's Annual General Meeting which will take place May 11, 2026.

Councillor Clark thanked Graham Reid and the Foundation Board and Amanda Martin for their fundraising efforts.

BD12, 3628

**MOVED BY: Maureen Wilson
SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare**

THAT the Foundation Briefing be received.

CARRIED

7. Member Briefing

There was none.

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

8.1. Appointment of Transitional Committee Members

Lisa Burnside provided an overview of the staff report, indicating that a Transition Committee for each new Regional Conservation will be formed to assist in amalgamation of conservation authorities following the Royal Assent of the Budget Bill on April 23, 2026. As per the legislation, each Committee will be comprised of Chief Administrative Officer and a municipally elected board member from each of the four conservation authorities that now make up the new Western Lake Ontario Region Conservation Authority. Councillor Brad Clark along with Lisa Burnside were recommended to represent the Hamilton Conservation Authority on this Committee.

BD12, 3629**MOVED BY: Maureen Wilson
SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare****THAT the Board of Directors appoint Chief Administrative Officer, Lisa Burnside, and Board Chair, Councillor Brad Clark, to the Transition Committee for the Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority.****CARRIED****8.2 Ministerial Director Affecting Board Decision-Making During Transition Period**

Lisa Burnside provided an overview of the staff memorandum, which outlines the directive received from the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks. The Ministers' Direction, effective May 1, 2026, limits certain Board actions with respect to the changing of administrative by-laws, changes in employment status for senior leadership and essential workers as well as requiring written approval for land acquisitions, dispositions and lease agreements.

BD12, 3630**MOVED BY: Maureen Wilson
SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare****THAT the memorandum entitled Ministerial Direction Affecting Decision-Making During Transition Period be received.****CARRIED****9. Reports from Budget & Administration Committee and Conservation Advisory Board****9.1. Conservation Advisory Board – April 9, 2026
(Recommendations)****9.1.1 Resolution CA2611 2026 Westfield Artifact Special Accession**

Wayne Terryberry provided an overview of the staff report that was presented at the April 9th Conservation Advisory Board meeting regarding the donation of a 1929 Ford Model A sedan. The car has been reviewed by the HCA's Fleet Coordinator and was determined to be in good condition and should easily be restored to running condition. The addition will enhance visitor experience at heritage village.

BD12, 3631**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding**

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

THAT the 1929 Model A Ford be accepted as an artifact into the Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Area and the Hamilton Conservation Authority artifact collection.

CARRIED

10. Other Staff Reports/Memoranda

10.1. Fifty Point Marina Channel Dredging

Matt Hall brought forward the staff report which provided results of a tender to complete dredging of the marina channel at Fifty Point Marina. The low bid, from Kehoe Marine for \$204,100, was recommended for approval. The majority of funds for this work have been allocated in the 2026 Capital Budget; \$50,000 will be needed from the Unscheduled Capital reserve to fully fund the project. In response to a question posed by Brad Clark, it was indicated that dredging would occur in mid-July and material dredged will be disposed in the lake, as approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

BD12, 3632

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

THAT the Board of Directors award the construction tender for the Fifty Point Marina Channel Dredging project to Kehoe Marine Construction for a total cost of \$204,100.00 (before taxes) which includes a contingency sum; and further

THAT the Board approves the allocation of \$50,000 from the Unscheduled Capital reserve to fully fund the project.

CARRIED

10.2. Watershed Conditions Report

Scott Peck presented a summary of the memorandum, highlighting noting that during the period of March 23rd to April 27th 2026, there were no significant watercourse flooding events, and no significant Lake Ontario shoreline flooding events. However, there were several rain events that warranted issuing messages and additional monitoring of watercourse conditions. There were no received observations, reports, or expectations of significant watercourse flooding. However, although no reports were received, it is expected that localized watercourse flooding of low-lying areas that typically flood during higher water levels and significant water safety concerns occurred during some of these rain events. The winter gates have been removed at

Christie Lake to allow the water to rise to the preferred summer levels. Valens Lake is at the summer water level.

BD12, 3633

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

THAT the memorandum entitled Watershed Conditions Report be received.

CARRIED

10.3. Conservation Areas Services Update

Brandon Good provided a summary of the memorandum noting that conservation areas have transitioned to the spring operating season. Preparations are underway at Confederation Beach Park, with Wild Waterworks and Lakeland Pool scheduled to open in late June. Upcoming events include: the annual Sulphur Springs Trail Race on May 23 to 24, 2026, where participants can race varying distances from 10 kilometers to 100 miles.

Christie Lake recently held its Spring Fling Disc Golf Tournament, welcoming over 100 players. Enhancements have been made to the disc golf course including installation of new course signage. Additionally, special conservation series discs have been launched in support of the Hamilton Conservation Foundation; proceeds of the sales will support the Foundations' initiatives.

BD12, 3634

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

THAT the memorandum entitled Conservation Areas Services Update be received.

CARRIED

11. New Business

There was none.

12. In-Camera Items

BD12, 3635

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

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

CARRIED

During the *in-camera* session, one three property matters were discussed.

**12.1. Confidential Report – BD/May 01-2026
(Property Matter)**

Lisa Burnside provided a summary of the report regarding a property matter and answered the members' questions.

BD12, 3636

**MOVED BY: Maureen Wilson
SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare**

THAT the confidential report entitled BD/May 01-2026 be approved/received and remain in camera.

CARRIED

**12.2 Confidential Verbal Update – BD/May 02-2026
(Property Matter)**

Scot Peck provided a verbal update on a property matter and answered members' questions.

BD12, 3637

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

THAT the confidential verbal update – BD/May 02-2026 be received.

CARRIED

**12.3 Confidential Report – BD/May 03-2026
(Property Matter)**

Scott Peck provided an overview of the staff report and answered members' questions.

BD12, 3638

**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding**

THAT the Confidential report titled BD/May 03-2026 be approved and remain in “in camera”.

CARRIED

BD12, 3639

**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar
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, June 4, 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