

Hamilton Region Conservation Authority

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

July 2, 2026

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Thursday, July 2, 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 – Virtually **Craig Cassar – Virtually**
 Lisa DiCesare **Susan Fielding**
 Wayne Terryberry – Virtually **Alex Wilson – Virtually**
 Maureen Wilson

Graham Reid – Foundation Chair

REGRETS: Elise Copps, Matt Francis, Mike Spadafora

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa Burnside, Lindsay Davidson, Marlene Ferreira, Brandon Good, Rob Gray, Amanda Martin, Scott Peck, Elizabeth Reimer, Mike Stone, Jaime Tellier, Sandra Winner

OTHERS: **None**

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 advised that an addendum was circulated, an item of correspondence from the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks that will appear under item number 5, Consent Items for Applications, Minutes and Correspondence, and be as addressed as item 5.4

BD12, 3650

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

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 – June 4, 2026
- 5.3. Approved – May 29, 2026 Budget & Administration Committee Minutes – for receipt only
- 5.4. Letter from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, regarding the Minister's Director with respect to budget and apportionment matters.

6. Foundation Briefing

Graham Reid indicated that The Foundation held its election of officers at the June Board Meeting, and, at that meeting he was elected as the Chair of Hamilton Conservation Foundation Board of Directors. Other officers include Margret Reid (no relation) who will serve as Vice-Chair, as well as Paul Keast who will continue as Secretary-Treasurer. The Board will be on hiatus from meetings until September, but the committees will remain active throughout the summer.

The Foundation received a total of **\$7,110** in donations and lottery revenue from June 1st to June 30th, 2026, bringing the fiscal year-to-date fundraising total to **\$2,331,764** which is 98% of the annual goal. Additionally, the Donor Impact Report was recently published and shared with the Foundation's community of supporters.

BD12, 3651**MOVED BY: Jeff Beattie
SECONDED BY: Alex Wilson****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. Budget & Administration Committee – June 25, 2026
(Recommendations)****9.1.1 2025 Reserve Balances & 2025 Accumulated Surplus Allocation**

Susan Fielding brought forward the staff report indicating that at the end of 2025, the Hamilton Conservation Authority had an accumulated surplus of \$913,803 to be allocated to reserves. It was recommended that \$800,000 would be allocated to the General Land Acquisition reserve and \$113,803 would be added to the Watershed Management Services reserve to support on-going projects.

BD12, 3652**MOVED BY: Susan Fielding
SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar****THAT the Budget & Administration Committee
recommend approval by the Board of Directors the
allocation of the accumulated surplus balance at
December 31, 2025 of \$913,803 as follows:**

- \$800,000 to the General Land Acquisition reserve,
- and \$113,803 to the Watershed Management Services reserve.

CARRIED

9.1.2 2027 Budget Process and Year 3 Strategic Plan Initiatives

Susan Fielding provided an overview of the staff report indicating that the 2027 budget process will be accelerated to ensure that the budget is completed prior to the municipal elections and in accordance with the Minister's direction. The proposed 2027 budget will be a maintenance budget, that continues existing programs and services and assumes a proposed 3.7% municipal levy increase, continued \$2 million capital block funding from the City of Hamilton and is supported by the use of reserves, support from our Foundation and conservation area revenues.

The report highlighted the Year 3 initiatives from the Strategic Plan which will continue to implement the priorities from the comprehensive program and service reviews completed in 2025 and advance priorities across all four pillars of the Strategic Plan.

BD12, 3653

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

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

THAT this report be received for information; and further,

**THAT the Year 3 initiatives identified in the report that
support all four priority areas in the 2025–2029 Strategic
Plan be approved and incorporated into 2027 year
budgeting.**

CARRIED

9.1.3 Legislative Minimum Wage Increase to HCA Casual Wage Rates

Susan Fielding provided an overview of the staff report indicating that the HCA will increase the minimum wage as legislated by the Province on October 1, 2026; the HCA's Casual/Seasonal Wage Grid will be adjusted to reflect this. Additionally, Level 1, Step 2 of the Casual/Seasonal Wage Grid will be increased, to recognize the experience and operational value of returning employees and to ensure appropriate difference between the two wage ranges.

BD12, 3654

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

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

THAT the revised Casual/Seasonal wage grids for Hamilton Conservation Authority and Confederation Beach Park, Lakeland Pool and Wild Waterworks be approved, which provides for the following:

- a) The provincially mandated minimum wage rate of \$17.95, effective October 1, 2026, be applied to Level 1, Step 1 positions; and**
- b) An additional increase of seventeen cents to be applied to Level 1, Step 2 positions for the 2027 hiring year.**

CARRIED

10. Other Staff Reports/Memoranda

Reports to be Approved

10.1. Wild Waterworks Administration Building Roof Replacement – Tender Results

Rob Gray provided an overview of the staff report indicating that roof of the administrative building at Wild Waterworks requires replacing due to water infiltration. Following a public tender process, staff recommend GRRC Roofing to be awarded the contract; they were the lowest bidder and provided strong, solid references.

BD12, 3655

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

THAT the Board of Directors award the construction tender for the Wild Waterworks Administration Roof Replacement project to GRRC Roofing for a total cost of \$112,000.00 (before taxes) which includes a contingency sum.

CARRIED

10.2. Proposed pool accessory to a new dwelling in a regulated area of Lake Ontario at 24 Copes Lane, City of Hamilton (Stoney Creek) – Permit application SC/F,C,A/26/43

Elizabeth Reimer provided a summary of the staff report indicating an application was received for the construction of a pool and cabana at 24 Copes Lane, Stoney Creek, that required Board approval because the proposal does not fully comply with HCA's current shoreline policies. Staff recommended approval because a Permit for the home was approved and substantially constructed under the previous policy

framework and no feasible alternative pool location exists outside the hazard area, and appropriate shoreline protection measures will be maintained.

BD12, 3656

**MOVED BY: Jeff Beattie
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding**

THAT the HCA Board of Directors approve the issuance of a permit under Section 28.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act, subject to submission of final drawings and subject to standard conditions, for construction of a pool within the regulated area associated with Lake Ontario at 24 Copes Lane, Stoney Creek, City of Hamilton.

CARRIED

10.3. Watershed Conditions Memorandum

Scott Peck provided an overview of the memorandum, noting that during the period of May 25th to June 22nd 2026, there were no significant flooding or water safety concerns, related to area watercourses or the Lake Ontario shoreline.

Currently, there are no observations, reports, or expectations of significant watercourse flooding, localized watercourse flooding of low-lying areas that typically flood during higher water levels, or significant water safety concerns. Current flows are estimated to range from slightly elevated above baseflow conditions in some watercourses (Ancaster Creek and Redhill Creek) to elevated but slightly below thresholds for significant water safety concerns in other watercourses (Spencer Creek). There aren't any observations, reports or expectations of significant Lake Ontario shoreline flooding. The Lake Ontario mean daily water level averaged across the entire lake is 34 cm above average for this time of year.

BD12, 3657

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

THAT the memorandum entitled Watershed Conditions be received.

CARRIED

10.4. Conservation Areas Services Update

Brandon Good reported that conservation area operations are at full summer season levels. A new Wind Phone at Dundas Valley Conservation Area has been installed

and well received, providing visitors with a reflective space for grief, remembrance, and healing while supporting HCA's commitment to mental wellness and meaningful connections to nature. Wild Waterworks and Lakeland Pool are now open, with Wild Waterworks celebrating its 40th operating season. HCA is also partnering with the Province of Ontario to deliver the Learn to Fish program at Christie Lake, Valens Lake, and Fifty Point Conservation Areas. Strong registration levels demonstrate continued community interest in accessible outdoor recreation and nature-based learning opportunities

BD12, 3658

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

THAT the memorandum entitled Conservation Areas Services Update be received.

CARRIED

11. New Business

There was none.

12. In-Camera Items

BD12, 3659

**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry
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 Security/Legal matter, one Negotiation matter and one Property matter were discussed.

12.1. Confidential Report – BA/June 01-2026 (Security/Legal Matter)

Susan Fielding provided a summary of the confidential staff report coming forward from the Budget and Administration Committee, regarding a security/legal matter.

BD12, 3660

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

THAT the Budget & Administration Committee recommends to the Board of Directors:

THAT Confidential Report BA/June 01-2026 be approved

CARRIED

12.2 Confidential Report – BD/July 01-2026
(Negotiation Matter)

Lisa Burnside provided an overview of the confidential report and answered members' questions.

BD12, 3661

MOVED BY: Alex Wilson

SECONDED BY: Jeff Beattie

THAT the Board of Directors approve Confidential Report BD/July 01-2026;

And THAT this report remain in camera.

CARRIED

12.3 Confidential Report – BD/July 02-2026
(Property Matter)

Lisa Burnside provided a summary of the confidential report and answered members' questions.

BD12, 3662

MOVED BY: Craig Cassar

SECONDED BY: Wayne Terryberry

THAT the Board of Directors approve Confidential Report BD/July 02-2026;

AND THAT this confidential report and recommendation remain in camera.

CARRIED

BD12, 3663

MOVED BY: Maureen Wilson

SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare

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, Thursday, September 3, 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