



Essex Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, June 20, 2024

Time: 6:00 pm

Location and Details: Council Chambers, County of Essex Civic Centre
360 Fairview Avenue West, Essex, ON

Attendance

Members Present:

Jim Morrison (Chair)	Michael Akpata
Molly Allaire	Anthony Abraham
Jason Matyi	Larry Verbeke
Katie McGuire-Blais	Joe Bachetti (joined at 6:08pm)
Dennis Rogers	Tania Jobin (joined at 6:06pm)
Tracey Bailey	Angelo Marignani (joined at 6:11pm)
Ryan McNamara	

Absent:

Regrets:

Sue Desjarlais (Vice-Chair)	Dayne Malloch
Peter Courtney	Kieran McKenzie
Thomas Neufeld	Mark McKenzie

Staff Present

Tim Byrne, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
Nicole Kupnicki, Corporate Services, Human Resources Manager/EA
Shelley McMullen, CFO/Director Finance and Corporate Services
Kevin Money, Director Conservation Services
James Bryant, Director Watershed Management Services
Tian Martin, Watershed Engineer

Others

Pete Zuzek, Zuzek Inc
Kris Ives, Curator/Education Coordinator
Katie Stammler, Water Quality Scientist/SWP Project Manager
Tom Fuerth, Chair Source Water Protection Committee

1. Call to Order

Good evening and welcome to the June 20, 2024, meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors. I will call the meeting to order. We have regrets this evening from:

- Councillor Peter Courtney, Amherstburg
- Councillor Thomas Neufeld, Kingsville
- Councillor Sue Desjarlais, Lasalle
- Deputy Mayor Dayne Malloch, Pelee
- Councillor Kieran McKenzie, Windsor
- Councillor Mark McKenzie, Windsor

2. Land Acknowledgement

I'd like to begin by acknowledging that this land is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi Peoples.

We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island - North America who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. Approval of Agenda

A. ERCA Board of Directors

Resolution 56/24 Moved by Molly Alliare
Seconded by Jason Matyi
THAT the Agenda of the June 20, 2024, meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors be approved.
Carried

5. Hearings

None

6. Adoption of Minutes

A. ERCA Board of Directors

Resolution 57/24 Moved by Michael Akpata
Seconded by Tania Jobin
THAT the Minutes of the April 11, 2024, meeting of the Board of Directors and the recommendations therein be approved as distributed. **Carried**

B. ERCA Executive Committee

Resolution 58/24 Moved by Larry Verbeke
Seconded by Dennis Rogers
THAT the Minutes of the May 30, 2024, meeting of the Executive Committee and the recommendations therein be approved as distributed. **Carried**

C. ERCA Finance & Audit Advisory Board

Resolution 59/24 Moved by Katie McGuire-Blais
Seconded by Molly Alliare
THAT the Minutes of the June 11, 2024, meeting of the Finance & Audit Advisory Board and the recommendations therein be approved as distributed. **Carried**

D. ERCA John R. Park Homestead Advisory Board

Resolution 60/24 Moved by Tania Jobin
Seconded by Larry Verbeke

THAT the Minutes of the June 5, 2024, meeting of the John R. Park Homestead Advisory Board and the recommendations therein be approved as distributed. **Carried**

7. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

A. Tender: Hillman Marsh Barrier Beach and Wetland Restoration – Phase 1

Resolution 61/24 Moved by Tracey Bailey
Seconded by Katie McGuire-Blais

THAT following review from the Engineer and Administration, the Tender for Hillman Marsh Barrier Beach & Wetland Restoration Phase 1, be awarded to South Shore Contracting of Essex County Inc. in the amount of \$588,100.

8. Announcements

It's been a busy Spring, and much has been achieved. After an incredibly wet and long tree planting season, we were successful in adding 65,000 trees to the regional landscape.

I was most thankful to Past Chair Kieran McKenzie who represented the Board in thanking Caesars Windsor for its investment in Devonwood Conservation Area, which has made the entrance safer, more accessible and more welcoming for guests.

He also attended the Essex Region Conservation Foundation's Donor Appreciation and Awards to extend our Board's gratitude to the many donors who helped raised over \$670,000 for conservation projects last year.

We continue to see strong attendance at our conservation areas, and outdoor education programs have returned to pre-pandemic levels this spring, allowing more children to have opportunities to connect with nature.

Applications for permits and reviews continue to be steady, and significant time has been invested in the updates to the Regional Stormwater Guidelines which will help ensure clarity and consistency for developers across the region.

Finally, I'd like to remind all Board members about the Foundation's upcoming Golf Tournament. This is the Foundation's largest fundraising event, and considering the significant funds it raises for conservation projects, it would be wonderful if we could all lend our support. You can email Danielle for further information.

9. Delegations

None

10. Presentations

A. BD13/24 Essex Region Shoreline Hazard Mapping Project Completion

Resolution 62/24 Moved by Molly Alliare
Seconded by Ryan McNamara

THAT the Essex Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the new shoreline hazard mapping, associated reports, and supporting technical information for use by ERCA Administration to support Section 28 regulatory approvals, development reviews, and hazard management policies of the Authority. **Carried**

B. John R. Park Homestead Restoration Project Update

Resolution 63/24 Moved by Angelo Marignani
Seconded by Joe Bachetti

THAT Members' receive the John R. Park Homestead Restoration Project Update for information. **Carried**

11. Reports for Approval

A. BD14/24 Draft 2023 Audited Financial Statements and Financial Condition Update

Resolution 64/24 Moved by Angelo Marignani
Seconded by Molly Alliare

THAT Administration review and report to the Finance & Audit Advisory Board with a recommendation for a draft Investment Policy. **Carried**

Resolution 65/24 Moved by Tracey Bailey
Seconded by Dennis Rogers

THAT the additional identified unbudgeted transfers to the Authority's reserve funds (Table 1), of \$84,355, as initiated by Administration, and supported by the FAAB, be approved by the Board of Directors; and further,

THAT, as recommended by the FAAB, the operating surplus remain intact until a recommendation is made through the Executive Committee prior to December 31, 2024, regarding a formal succession plan for key management positions; and further,

THAT, as recommended by the FAAB, the draft audited Financial Statements of the Essex Region Conservation Authority, including the Independent Auditor's Report, for the year ended December 31, 2023, be approved by the Board of Directors and released as final audited Financial Statements. **Carried**

B. BD15/24 Windsor/Essex Region Stormwater Manual Update

Resolution 66/24 Moved by Ryan McNamara
Seconded by Larry Verbeke

THAT ERCA incorporate the updated Windsor/Essex Region Stormwater Manual into policy for use in reviewing development applications; and further,

THAT the updated Windsor/Essex Region Stormwater Manual be distributed to partners to be incorporated into municipal development standards; and further,

THAT Administration continue to be proactive in working with Municipalities to undertake regional studies to effectively manage water resources related to development pressures and issues. **Carried**

C. BD16/24 Hillman Marsh Restoration and Climate Adaptation Project – Pre-Qualified Engineering Services

Resolution 67/24 Moved by Larry Verbeke
Seconded by Angelo Marignani

THAT Essex Region Conservation Authority enter into an agreement with SJL Engineering Inc. for engineering services, as described in Report BD16/24, for a maximum value of \$1,317,300.00 plus HST, pending confirmation of funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada. **Carried**

D. BD17/24 John R. Park Homestead Emergency Response and Disaster Plan

Resolution 68/24 Moved by Katie McGuire-Blais
Seconded by Jason Matyi

THAT the John R. Park Homestead Emergency Response and Disaster Plan be approved for inclusion in ERCA's submission to the Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG), as required by the Provincial Museum Operating Standards. **Carried**

12. Reports for Information

A. BD18/24 Watershed Management Services Activities Report for April and May 2024

Resolution 69/24 Moved by Tania Jobin
Seconded by Joe Bachetti

THAT the review of Regulations and Planning Applications, as presented in Report BD18/24 be received for Members' information. **Carried**

B. Environmental Registry Reports

- i. Conservation Ontario's comments on the "Regulation detailing new Minister's Permit and Review powers under the Conservation Authorities Act" (ERO #019-8320), May 6, 2024
- ii. Conservation Ontario's comments on the "Review of proposed policies for a new provincial planning policy instrument" (ERO# 019-8462)
- iii. Conservation Ontario's Comments on the "Proposed Regulatory Changes under the Planning Act Relating to the Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024 (Bill 185): Removing Barriers for Additional Residential Units" (ERO# 019- 8366); "Proposed Planning Act, City of Toronto Act, 2006, and Municipal Act, 2001 Changes (Schedules 4, 9, and 12 of Bill 185 - the proposed Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024)" (ERO# 019-8369); and the, "Proposed Changes to Regulations under the Planning Act and Development Charges Act, 1997 Relating to the Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024 (Bill 185): Newspaper Notice Requirements and Consequential Housekeeping Changes" (ERO# 019-8370)

Resolution 70/24 Moved by Tania Jobin

Seconded by Angelo Marignani

THAT Conservation Ontario comments on ERO#019-8320, ERO#019-8462 and Bill 185 Associated ERO Proposals be received for Members' information. **Carried**

C. Correspondence

- i. Letter from the City of Windsor regarding Council Resolution 189/2024 Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act dated May 10, 2024

Resolution 71/24 Moved by Ryan McNamara

Seconded by Tracey Bailey

THAT correspondence be received for Members' information. **Carried**

D. Confidential Matters related to Property Matters

Resolution 72/24 Moved by Tania Jobin

Seconded by Molly Alliare

THAT the meeting move from Board of Directors to Committee of the Whole related to property matters. **Carried**

E. Resume Open Session

Resolution 73/24 Moved by Ryan McNamara

Seconded by Dennis Rogers

THAT the actions of the Committee of the Whole be endorsed. **Carried**

13. New Business

A. Phragmites

A discussion was held with respect to control of invasive species, phragmites. ERCA is collaborating as part of a newly formed multi-agency working group to address this issue at a regional level. In 2023, ERCA received board approval to participate in a scientific study using biological control at Collavino Conservation Area. Results of this initiative are still pending review and publication. One of the goals of the regional working group is to determine a strategy for meaningful progress with broad application.

B. ERCA's role with Blue Heron Pond

A permit for construction was issued by ERCA at this site. There is no existing bylaw/regulation for ERCA to have care and control over this area. Secondary use recommendation includes allowing this area to become a naturalized site as much as practically possible but that does not limit the municipality's ability to maintain the area. Fishing is not an activity under the purview of ERCA.

14. Other Business.

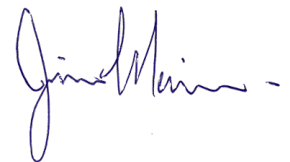
A. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 6:00pm in Council Chambers, Essex Civic Centre.

15. Adjournment

Resolution 74/24 Moved by Molly Alliare
Seconded by Ryan McNamara

THAT the June 20, 2024 meeting of the Essex Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors be adjourned. **Carried**



Jim Morrison, Chair



Tim Byrne, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer