



Essex Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, December 14, 2023

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	Sue Desjarlais (Vice-Chair)
	Peter Courtney	Anthony Abraham
	Jason Matyi	Larry Verbeke
	Tracey Bailey	Joe Bachetti
	Thomas Neufeld	Angelo Marignani (@ 6:21pm)
	Ryan McNamara	Kieran McKenzie
Absent:	Kim DeYong	
Regrets:	Katie McGuire-Blais	Tania Jobin
	Dayne Malloch	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	
	Kris Ives, Curator/Education Coordinator	
Others	Tom Dufour, Geomatics Technician	
	Katie Stammler, Water Quality Scientist/Project Manager Source Water Protection	
	Tom Fuerth, Chair, Source Water Protection Committee	

1. Call to Order

Good evening and welcome to the December 14, 2023, meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors. I will call the meeting to order. Thank you all.

We have regrets this evening from:

- Councillor Katie McGuire-Blais, Essex
- Deputy Mayor Dayne Malloch
- Councillor Tania Jobin, Tecumseh
- 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 137/23 Moved by Joe Bachetti

Seconded by Larry Verbeke

THAT the Agenda of the December 14, 2023, meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors be approved. **Carried**

5. Hearings

6. Adoption of Minutes

A. ERCA Board of Directors

Resolution 138/23 Moved by Tracey Bailey

Seconded by Jason Matyi

THAT the Minutes of the November 9, 2023, meeting of the Board of Directors and the recommendations therein be approved as distributed. **Carried**

B. ERCA John R. Park Homestead Advisory Board

Resolution 139/23 Moved by Sue Desjarlais

Seconded by Michael Akpata

THAT the Minutes of the November 22, 2023 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

8. Announcements

Since our last meeting, Tim and Shelley have completed meetings with all Municipal Administration related to the Cost Apportionment Agreements for non-mandatory services and are now working to finalize all agreements. On behalf of the Board, I would like to personally thank you for both your vigilance in undertaking this work on behalf of the Authority.

We will discuss the outcome of these meetings in tonight's budget discussion

Last week, staff facilitated five Public Information Centres across the region, in partnership with the County of Essex, to provide information about the updated Shoreline Natural Hazard mapping.

I'm pleased to share that the structural roof repairs to the John R. Park Homestead have taken place, and additional restoration works continue. A big thank you to all the donors who contributed more than \$45,000 towards this work on November 28 for Giving Tuesday. And of course, we continue to thank the Conservation Foundation for making the Homestead repairs its top fundraising priority.

And lastly, I'd like to extend my very best of the holiday season to all Board members. Thank you for your service and commitment to creating a future of sustainability for our region, and I look forward to continuing to work with you in the years to come.

9. Delegations

None

10. Presentations

None

11. Reports for Approval

A. BD48/23 2024 Draft Budget and Municipal Cost Apportionment

Resolution 140/23 Moved by Peter Courtney
Seconded by Joe Bachetti

THAT the 2024 Draft Budget including the Budget Discussion & Analysis companion document, be received for Members' review and approval; and further,

THAT the Board of Directors support the municipal cost apportionment of \$2,971,088, for mandatory programs and services (+2.6%, \$75,965) as supported by the Finance and Audit Advisory Board (Resolution FAAB 09/23); and further,

THAT the Board of Directors support the reduced municipal cost apportionment of \$317,262, restricted to the seven unanimously supported Category 3 programs and services (-63.7%, - \$555,850), and reflecting the outcome of municipal discussions and Resolutions of Councils, regarding the Cost Apportioning Agreement for Category 3 (non-mandatory) programs and services, and further,

THAT Administration circulate the 2024 Draft Budget, Discussion & Analysis companion document, as attached herein, to member municipalities for consultation in accordance with Ontario Regulation 402/22. **Carried**

Resolution 141/23 Moved by Kieran McKenzie
Seconded by Joe Bachetti

THAT the Board of Directors continue to endorse the full suite of Category 3 non-mandatory services, as described in the funding envelope, and included in the draft municipal Cost Apportioning Agreements; and further,

THAT the Board of Directors support the temporary pausing of the watershed stewardship & agricultural outreach program for 2024 and exclude it from non-mandatory cost apportionment, due to insufficient funding; and further,

THAT Administration continue to engage interested member municipalities in the support of agreed-to contributions for land acquisition and protection and; and further,

THAT the Board of Directors accept discretionary municipal contributions to a new and separate land acquisition and protection fund, if directed by any member municipality and included in its Cost Apportioning Agreement, or a revised Agreement with the Authority.

B. BD49/23 John R. Park Homestead Museum Operating Policies

Resolution 142/23 Moved by Sue Desjarlais
Seconded by Anthony Abraham

THAT the Overarching, Collections, Conservation, Interpretation and Education, and Research policy updates for the John R. Park Homestead Conservation Area be approved. **Carried**

C. BD50/23 Development of Policies Regarding E-bike Usage on ERCA Properties

Resolution 143/23 Moved by Molly Alliare
Seconded by Angelo Marignani

THAT Report BD50/23 be received for Members' information; and further,

THAT ERCA Administration be directed to engage in public consultation in order to identify any potential conflicts with the use of e-bikes within ERCA properties and subsequently formulate appropriate policies for the ERCA Board of Directors' consideration. **Carried**

12. Reports for Information

A. BD51/23 Windsor/Essex Stormwater Management Manual Update

Resolution 144/23 Moved by Peter Courtney
Seconded by Ryan McNamara

THAT Report BD51/23 be received for Member's information. **Carried**

B. BD52/23 Essex Region Shoreline Hazard Mapping Project Update

Resolution 145/23 Moved by Larry Verbeke
Seconded by Angelo Marignani

THAT Report BD52/23 be received for Member's information. **Carried**

C. BD53/23 Update on ERCA Bridge Remediation Plan

Resolution 146/23 Moved by Ryan McNamara
Seconded by Angelo Marignani
THAT Report BD53/23 be received for Member's information. **Carried**

D. BD54/23 Watershed Management Services Activities Report for November 2023

Resolution 147/23 Moved by Peter Courtney
Seconded by Thomas Neufeld
THAT the review of Regulations and Planning Applications, as presented in Report BD54/23 be received for Members' information. **Carried**

E. Environmental Registry Reports

- i. Conservation Ontario's comments on the "Proposed regulatory amendments to encourage greater reuse of excess soil" (ERO#019-7636)
- ii. Conservation Ontario's Comments on the "Proposal to return lands to the Greenbelt - Greenbelt Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023 (ERO #019-7739) and the "New Act regarding the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve easements and covenants" (ERO #019-7735)
- iii. Conservation Ontario's Comments on the "Proposed amendments to the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act" (ERO# 019-7696)

Resolution 148/23 Moved by Kieran McKenzie
Seconded by Molly Alliare
THAT Conservation Ontario comments on ERO#019-7636, ERO#019-7739, ERO#019-7735 and ERO#019-7696 be received for Members' information. **Carried**

F. Correspondence

- i. Letter from Prince Edward County with a resolution regarding support for the Province stop the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) proposal to expand the use of the permit-by-rule to waste management systems, storm water management systems, and certain water taking activities, dated November 17, 2023.

Resolution 149/23 Moved by Michael Akpata
Seconded by Angelo Marignani
THAT correspondence received for Members' information. **Carried**

13. Committee of the Whole

None

14. New Business

A. Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) Funding for Coastal Resilience Plans (Verbal)

James Bryant, Director Watershed Management Services informed the Board of the County's commitment to the Climate Resilient Coastal Communities (CRCC) funding through Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN). With Essex County Council's approval, the County has committed up to \$50k to the Lake St. Clair Resilience Plan and up to \$150k to the Pelee Coastal Resilience Plan. These commitments are contingent on successful funding by NRCAN, which would be matching project dollars at a 3:1 ratio (i.e. up to 75% of project costs). Applications were due and submitted by the respective project leads on December 13, 2023.

15. Other Business.

A. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at the Annual General Meeting on January 18, 2024, starting at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Civic Centre in Essex, ON.

16. Adjournment

Resolution 150/23 Moved by Angelo Marignani
Seconded by Peter Courtney

THAT the December 14, 2023 meeting of the Essex Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors be adjourned. **Carried**



Jim Morrison, Chair



Tim Byrne, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer