



Essex Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, February 15, 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)	Tracey Bailey
Sue Desjarlais (Vice-Chair)	Ryan McNamara
Molly Allaire	Anthony Abraham
Jason Matyi	Larry Verbeke
Katie McGuire-Blais	Joe Bachetti
Kim DeYong	Tania Jobin
Thomas Neufeld	Angelo Marignani
	Kieran McKenzie

Absent:

Regrets:

Peter Courtney	Dayne Malloch
Michael Akpata	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
Danielle Breault-Stuebing, Director Community and Outreach Services
James Bryant, Director Watershed Management Services
Jenny Gharib, HMCA Restoration and Adaptation Strategy Coordinator
Jacqueline Serran, DRCC Remedial Action Plan Coordinator

Others

1. Call to Order

Good evening and welcome to the February 15, 2024, meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors. I will call the meeting to order. Thank you all.

We have regrets this evening from:

- Councillor Peter Courtney, Amherstburg
- Deputy Mayor, Mike Akpata, Lasalle
- Deputy Mayor Dayne Malloch, Pelee
- 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 18/24 Moved by Angelo Marignani
Seconded by Molly Alliare

THAT the Agenda of the February 15, 2024, meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors be approved. **Carried**

5. Hearings

None

6. Adoption of Minutes

A. ERCA Board of Directors

Resolution 19/24 Moved by Kieran McKenzie
Seconded by Thomas Neufeld

THAT the Minutes of the January 18, 2024, Annual General Meeting of the Board of Directors and the recommendations therein be approved as distributed. **Carried**

7. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

None

8. Announcements

Much has taken place in the short weeks since our successful Annual General Meeting.

Bridge repairs continue along the Chrysler Canada Greenway, with intermittent sections of the trail closed during construction.

It was disappointing to learn that some conservation areas have been recent victims of vandalism. Staff have spoken to neighbours of these areas and encouraged them to report any inappropriate behaviours to police and are looking at options for physical barriers to prevent these types of action in the future.

Development around the region continues at a rather frantic pace. Most significantly the Gorie Howe International Bridge continues to rise out of the Detroit River shoreline. Authority Planning and Regulation staff have been extremely busy working with the region's municipalities ensuring that hazards mapping and standards are lock-step with the municipality's official plans and zoning by-laws. On the hazard front, the region's shoreline hazard mapping is being finalized with a target date of completion of March 1, 2024.

Speaking of development around the bridge... I was pleased to attend an event hosted by the Gordie Howe International Bridge, where it was announced that they would become part of the TransCanada Trail. When ERCA opened the Chrysler Canada Greenway in the year 2000, it became the southern-most extent of the Trans Canada Trail. It is exciting to think about what new opportunities may arise as a result of this significant announcement, and I look forward to exploring them.

Staff are also gearing up to host the Maple Syrup Festival on March 9th and 10th and 16th and 17th at the John R. Park Homestead. I hope members will be able to attend.

Members are also welcome to attend the upcoming Eclipse events which will be hosted at the John R. Park Homestead and Holiday Beach Conservation Areas on April 8th, 2024.

9. Delegations

None

10. Presentations

None

11. Reports for Approval

A. BD01/24 ERCA 2024 Budget Approval and Municipal Cost Apportionment Agreements

Resolution 20/24 Moved by Joe Bachetti
Seconded by Anthony Abraham

THAT the 2024 Draft Budget totalling \$8,888,090, be approved as the 2024 Final Budget, in accordance with Ontario Regulation 402/22 and Bylaw A-1: Administrative Procedures, and further,

THAT the Board of Directors approve the total municipal cost apportionment of \$3,288,350, including \$2,971,088 (+2.6%,\$75,965), representing the reduced operating and capital costs, directly attributable to the Category 1 mandatory programs and services, and \$317,262, (-63.7%,-\$555,850), representing the reduced operating and capital costs, attributable to the unanimously supported non-mandatory Category 3 programs and services; and further,

THAT the vote to approve Recommendation 1, by the Board of Directions, be carried by a weighted majority and recorded, satisfying Sections 16 and 23 of O. Regulation 402/22.

Recorded Vote:

- Support - Councillor Molly Allaire, Amherstburg
- Support - Councillor Jason Matyi, Essex
- Support - Councillor Katie McGuire-Blais, Essex

Support - Deputy Mayor, Kim DeYong, Kingsville
Support - Councillor Thomas Neufeld, Kingsville
Support - Mayor, Tracey Bailey, Lakeshore
Support - Councillor Ryan McNamara, Lakeshore
Support - Councillor Sue Desjarlais (Vice-Chair), Lasalle
Support - Councillor Anthony Abraham, Leamington
Support - Deputy Mayor, Larry Verbeke, Leamington
Support - Deputy Mayor, Joe Bachetti, Tecumseh
Support - Councillor Tania Jobin, Tecumseh
Support - Councillor Angelo Marignani, Windsor
Support - Councillor Kieran McKenzie, Windsor
Support - Councillor Jim Morrison (Chair), Windsor

Carried

Resolution 21/24 Moved by Jason Matyi
Seconded by Molly Alliare

THAT the Board of Directors accept the discretionary and recommended municipal contributions, to a new and separate land acquisition and protection fund, from the Town of Essex in the amount of \$24,321, and the Township of Pelee in the amount of \$1,378, in accordance with respective signed Cost Apportioning Agreements and Resolution or Bylaw of Council. **Carried**

B. BD02/24 Hillman Marsh Climate Adaptation and Restoration Plan

Resolution 22/24 Moved by Kieran McKenzie
Seconded by Sue Desjarlais

THAT BD02/24 Hillman Marsh Climate Adaptation and Restoration Plan be received for information; and further,

THAT ERCA continue to collaborate with Caldwell First Nation and other partners to implement the Hillman Marsh Conservation Area Climate Adaptation and Restoration Plan. **Carried**

12. Reports for Information

A. BD03/24 Biological Success of the Peche Island Erosion Mitigation and Habitat Restoration Project

Resolution 23/24 Moved by Kieran McKenzie
Seconded by Angelo Marignani

THAT Report BD03/24 be received for Members' information; and further,

THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to the Clerk at the City of Windsor for inclusion in an upcoming Council Agenda. **Carried**

B. BD04/24 Watershed Management Services Activities Report for December 2023 and January 2024

Resolution 24/24 Moved by Larry Verbeke
Seconded by Sue Desjarlais

THAT the review of Regulations and Planning Applications, as presented in Report BD04/24 be received for Members' information. **Carried**

C. Environmental Registry Reports

None

D. Correspondence

- i. Letter from MECP regarding Amendments to the Species at Risk in Ontario List regulation made under the Endangered Species Act, 2007 dated January 31, 2024 Committee of the Whole

Resolution 25/24 Moved by Ryan McNamara
Seconded by Kimberly DeYong

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

E. Confidential Matters related to Property Matters

Resolution 26/24 Moved by Joe Bachetti
Seconded by Anthony Abraham

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

F. Resume Open Session

Resolution 27/24 Moved by Ryan McNamara
Seconded by Kieran McKenzie

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

13. New Business

None

14. Other Business.


A. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on April 11, 2024, starting at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Civic Centre in Essex, ON.

15. Adjournment

Resolution 28/24 Moved by Molly Alliare
Seconded by Angelo Marignani

THAT the February 15, 2024 meeting of the Essex Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors be adjourned. **Carried**



Jim Morrison, Chair



Tim Byrne, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer