

December 10, 2009

The Board of Directors of the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation met on the above date at the Administration Office at the hour of 1:00 p.m.

Directors Present: Duncan Skinner, President
 Melvin Dale, Treasurer
 Norm Giffen
 Ted Butler
 John Mitchell
 Laura Margetts
 John Simmons
 Rex Crawford
 Bill Bilton
 Ottavio Colosimo

Directors Absent Lyn Goddard, Vice President
 Shirley Warner
 Ken Brooks

Also Present: Ralph Coe, Executive Director
 Rick Battson, Communications Officer
 Bill Dakin, Director of Financial Services
 Marlene Dorrestyn, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. The President then requested that each Director declare a conflict of interest at the appropriate time, on any item within this agenda in that a Director may have pecuniary interest.

CF-09-047

Crawford - Simmons

“That the minutes of the October 15, 2009 meeting be adopted as distributed.”

CARRIED

A conservation education report was presented:

- Fall Education Programs (to date)
 - Dow Wetlands 546 students
 - L.C. Henderson 1494 (to date)
 - Gr.12 Tree Management. 20
 - Endangered Species 457
 - High School Training 200 (Children’s Water Festival)
 - Go With The Flow 812
 - River Bottom Critters 550
 - River Rap 54
 - Total (Sept-Oct) 4133 students
- Dow Wetlands:
 - classes are finished for the season. New signs were placed to help combat the problem of people walking dogs off the leash.
 - two Naturalization Area signs were placed in the Memorial Forest area.

St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation Meeting - December 10, 2009

- L.C. Henderson
 - pond studies at the Primary, Junior and Intermediate levels as well as Geocaching and Instincts for Survival continue to be very popular programs this fall. Currently, attendance is up 334 over 2008 with 2 more fall classes still to attend.
- Lambton /Kent Professional Development presentation
 - John Ferguson, head of the Environmental Science Committee invited Kim Gledhill to give a presentation on High School Programs available in the St. Clair Region. The presentation covered all programs with an emphasis on water quality studies as requested. Twenty-five teachers attended this very informative session which was very well received by the secondary teachers.
- River Rap Premier – November 20, 2009
 - the premier viewing of the River R.A.P. video was held at The St. Clair Township Centre in Mooretown. Guests Speakers were Norm Griffin, Board Director, Steve Arnold, Mayor of St. Clair Township and Darrell Randell of Friends of the St. Clair River.
 - all cast and family were invited to see the video for the first time and receive a copy of the R.A.P. Everyone certainly enjoyed the evening. Kudos to Jan Dawes for organizing this event.
- Rekindle the Sparks Workshop: - Nov. 25-27, 2009, Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, Bradford. Sessions attended by staff included:
 - Risk Assessment in your Outdoor Education Program
 - Environmental Assessment plan for your education centre
 - Outdoor Education on a shoe string
 - new High School Majors program
 - how to write a grant proposal
 - Animal Tracking
 - Barking up the Right Tree
 - Beyond 9 – 5: Drawing people in for weekends, special events and festivals
- Award: The “Excellence in Outdoor Education” Award for being a partner in the organization of the first Rekindle the Sparks Workshop in 1994 was presented to Sharon Nethercott. This award was also presented to the former Ausable-Bayfield C.A. Outdoor Educator. This was the first year that this award has been presented.

CF-09-48

Bilton - Butler

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the conservation education report dated November 30, 2009 including fall education classes, Lambton Kent professional development presentation, the River RAP premier and Rekindle the Spark Workshop.”

CARRIED

A report on Conservation Scholarships was discussed.

- the Conservation Authority offers scholarships for graduating high school students living in or attending a high school within the region under jurisdiction of the Authority. Students must be pursuing an education in a conservation/environmental related course of study (eg. forestry, biology, geography, hydrology, ecology) in a recognized Canadian University or College.
- last year, a trust fund was established by family and friends of Mary Jo Arnold to establish a scholarship in her memory. Based on the wishes of the family, this \$500 scholarship is to be

awarded to a woman each year who is continuing her post secondary education in a conservation related field.

- currently, three \$200 awards are presented through the Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarships. With the addition of new scholarships over the years, staff is recommending we change this to one \$500 scholarship. This would now provide two \$1000 and two \$500 scholarships in total.

CF-09-049

Giffen - Mitchell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 27, 2009 on Conservation Scholarships and approves the amended program as outlined in the report.”

CARRIED

A status report outlining bingo profits and purchases was presented.

- bingo profits to the end of September were \$7,688.23. Profits to the end of September were more than all of last year.
- bingo donations to the Authority total \$10,375.98 to the end of October.

CF-09-050

Bilton - Margetts

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the 2009 Bingo status report including a report to the Board, bingo profits to September 30, 2009 and the 2009 purchases to November 30, 2009 to support the work of the Conservation Authority.”

CARRIED

A letter to the City of Sarnia, outlining the Foundation’s proposed 2010 budget and use of bingo funds was reviewed.

- proposed bingo revenues to support: outdoor education, forestry and habitat restoration, visitor services in the our regional Conservation Areas and trail development.

CF-09-051

Colosimo - Crawford

“That the Board of Directors approves the letter to the City of Sarnia dated December 10, 2009 outlining the proposed 2010 budget and use of the bingo funds.”

CARRIED

A Foundation Property Update was explained.

- Bates Conservation Lands - Road closing of an unopened road allowance to Lake Erie. (Kent Bridge Road) - Rob Waters has been directed by the solicitor representing Chatham-Kent to prepare the deed for transfer of the road allowance. We have provided Rob all the relevant information and documents should be ready for signing prior to year end. We will advise when this is complete.
- Phragmites - the control of phragmites has been successful and while touch up and monitoring must continue it is important to note the cattails and aquatic plants have successfully been reestablished. 15 acres
- Gawne Property: RLSN has agreed to assume the lease at \$115 per acre for additional tall grass prairie nursery land close to the Sinclair property. The Inspections to the property have found significant garbage dump and debris which will be cleaned.

- Glenview Conservation Lands - the signed Trust Agreement from the partners of Glenview Estates has been received. The Foundation signing officers can sign at the Foundation meeting. Gary Ingram discussed with their lawyer and subsequently myself the option of not registering the agreement on title. He referred to the planning/permitting requirements of the Conservation Authority in the next phases of the subdivisions (Phases 4 and 5). I have clearly outlined that the planning is a Conservation Authority programs and will not impact the decisions because of this.
- all other Foundation lands - detailed report provided in the October meeting. No hunting signs have been installed on key properties with issues such as Harrison Woodlot.

CF-09-052

Dale - Simmons

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 27, 2009 on the Foundation property updates and activities.”

CARRIED

Statements outlining the financial status of the Foundation to October 31, 2009 were presented.

CF-09-053

Colosimo - Bilton

“That the Board of Directors approves the statement of revenue and expenses to October 31, 2009.”

CARRIED

A list of disbursements to for September, October and November was reviewed.

CF-09-054

Butler - Mitchell

“That the Board of Directors approves the list of disbursements to November 30, 2009.”

CARRIED

A report outlining the Foundation’s Investments was reviewed.

CF-09-055

Giffen - Dale

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the investment report, outlining the status of Foundation investments.”

CARRIED

A Notice of Confirmation from Canada Customs and Revenue Agency advising our disbursement quota was explained.

CF-09-056

Colosimo - Simmons

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Charity Information Return Summary from Canada Customs & Revenue Agency outlining the disbursement excess of \$131,287 and the 2009 disbursement quota of \$75,113 based on 2008 donations and further approves the 2009 donations and expenditures of up to \$108,245 to meet our commitments to the St. Clair Region Conservation

Authority and further that the monies donated be used for the purpose of conservation and preservation of our region's natural resources in accordance with the provisions of the charter."

CARRIED

The 2010 Nominating Committee was discussed.

CF-09-057

Bilton - Simmons

"That Laura Margetts and Melvin Dale be appointed to the 2010 nominating committee for the Foundation and further that the committee present its report on membership and committees to the 2010 annual meeting."

CARRIED

A schedule of meetings for 2010 was considered.

CF-09-058

Crawford - Butler

"That the Board of Directors approves the 2010 tentative schedule of meetings for the Board of Directors, dated November 23, 2009."

CARRIED

The 2010 budget was presented for the Board's consideration.

CF-09-059

Mitchell - Dale

"That the Foundation acknowledges the request for financial assistance for 2010, as outlined in the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority's 2010 budget and further that the Foundation's 2010 budget, dated November 27, 2009, be approved and the Executive Director be authorized to carry out the transactions and expenditures outlined in the budget."

CARRIED

The meeting went In Camera to discuss property issues.

CF-09-060

Giffen - Dale

"That the Board of Directors go in camera at 2:00 p.m. to discuss property management issues with all staff remaining."

CARRIED

CF-09-061

Bilton - Giffen

"That the Board of Directors rise and report at 2:40 p.m."

CARRIED

Direction on other property issues was given in the in camera portion of the meeting.

Under new business, the President reminded everyone to hand in their questionnaire and to pick up a copy of the RAP video.

Ted Butler announced that he would be resigning effective at the Annual Meeting in March. The President accepted Mr. Butler's resignation with regret. Ted will be formally thanked at the Annual meeting.

CF-09-062

Mitchell - Bilton

"That the meeting be adjourned."

CARRIED

Duncan Skinner
President

Ralph Coe
Executive Director