

December 9, 2010

The Board of Directors of the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation met on the above date at the Administration Office at the hour of 1:30 p.m.

Directors Present:     Lyn Goddard, Vice President  
                              Norm Giffen, Treasurer  
                              Bill Bilton  
                              Cathy Evers  
                              John Simmons  
                              John Mitchell  
                              Andy Bruziewicz  
                              Rex Crawford

Directors Absent       Duncan Skinner, President  
                              Laura Margetts  
                              Ken Brooks  
                              Ottavio Colosimo

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

The Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and 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-10-248**

**Giffen - Simmons**

**“That the minutes of the October 21, 2010 meeting be adopted as distributed.”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report on conservation education was presented.

- Education Program Advertising: instead of sending five, sixteen page Program Booklets to each school, once again this fall, each teacher was given a flyer outlining a condensed version of all education programs. For more detailed information, teachers were directed to the web site to view the Teachers Program Book. All fall programs, including the Dow Wetlands, L.C. Henderson C.A. and in-school programs have increased numbers.
- Education Classes: total number of students for outdoor and indoor programming: 2,406 (September - October)
- Dow Wetlands: 338 participants - 50 percent of classes visiting the Wetlands this fall were High School level. Teachers are utilizing the “Water Management Program” to enhance the water monitoring program curriculum. Beavers were trapped on Talfourd creek to reduce flooding in drainage ditches. The dam was also removed.

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- Henderson C.A: 1,470 participants - geocaching and Instincts for Survival continue to be popular. Orienteering is being booked along with Geocaching because of the mapping skills learned in the program. The 2 programs highlight “old and new” methods of navigation.
- In School Presentations: 598 participants - programs include River Rap, Go with the Flow, Species at Risk and high school Children’s Water Festival training. There have been many requests for programs in the Chatham/Wallaceburg area. River Bottom Critters: 7 school visits are booked for November.
- Children’s Water Festival 2010: Oct. 5, 6, and 7: 1195 students visited the Children’s Water Festival at Wilson C.A. in Chatham. Three SCRCA Education staff assisted with the Festival. Prior to the event, four days were spent training volunteer High School students on how to run the activity centres. All 42 activity centres were run by the volunteers. The Festival provides a great opportunity for students and supervisors to learn about water conservation, water quality, history of water, and stresses on our water.
- Events/Activities:
  - Geocaching: LCH - “Open Trails Henderson” Sunday September 12 - Free admission to the C.A. for the day. Fifty enthusiastic geocachers descended on the property to find 15 new hidden caches. The GPS units purchased by the Foundation were made available for lending to new geocachers for both geocaching events.
  - Wawanosh - “Caching at the Wetlands”. Sunday September 26 - Despite the rain, 60 geocachers participated in this fund raiser for the Huron House Boys Home. 15 new caches were placed for the event.
  - Environmental Forum at Lambton College - Teachers and grade 12 students were invited for a presentation on ways to green their schools and learn more about the environment. Education Staff gave a short presentation on the role of a Conservation Authority and promoted our education programs. A display was set-up for the day. Lower Thames C.A., Lambton College, Suncor Sustainable Energy and MNR staff also gave presentations. Education Staff will be attending the “Rekindle the Sparks” Workshop at the Albion Hills Field Centre, just north of Bolton on November 24, 25, 26th. This 3 day workshop will enhance programs already in place. It is a great opportunity to exchange ideas with other C.A. staff!
- other
  - CM2HHill held a special event at the Dow Wetlands to open the new boardwalk created and funded by their company. It is a gift to the education program. It will allow students to dip net for aquatic species in a safer manner and reduce erosion problems along the shoreline. Site visitors have increased since the article appeared in the Sarnia Observer.
  - data and ideas are being collected for a new indoor “climate change, sustainability, alternative fuels program” for High School students. Cole Nadalin, a Lambton College student currently taking the Alternative Energy course, will assist in the development of the program and will build 2 models:
    1. a hydrogen fuel cell that will run a small toy car.
    2. a small wind turbine for demonstration.

**CF-10-249****Bilton - Mitchell**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the conservation education report dated December 1, 2010 including education program advertising, fall education classes and events and activities.”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report bingo was explained.

- bingo profits to the end of September were \$8,003.63. Profits are up slightly to last year’s numbers
- bingo donations to the Authority total \$7,000.17 to the end of November.

**BD-10-250****Bilton - Crawford**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the 2010 Bingo status report including a report to the Board, bingo profits to September 30, 2010 and the 2010 purchases to November 30, 2010 to support the work of the Conservation Authority.”**

**CARRIED**

A letter to the City of Sarnia, outlining the Foundation’s proposed 2011 budget and use of bingo funds was considered.

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

**BD-10-251****Simmons - Evers**

**“That the Board of Directors approves the letter to the City of Sarnia dated December 11, 2010 outlining the proposed 2011 budget and use of the bingo funds.”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report outlining events planned to celebrate the Authority’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was reviewed.

- Annual Meeting - Thursday, February 17
  - morning meeting
  - lunch for guests followed by a short program including a 50 year video, greetings from dignitaries, conservation awards and guest speaker (Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner)
- Strathroy and District Chamber of Commerce: February 24, 2011. Host: Biz after Biz at the Administration Office.
- Maple Syrup Festival - Saturday and Sunday, March 19 - 20
  - wagon rides
- Canoe Race - Sunday, April 17
  - remarks from Foundation and Authority
- plant a tree in each municipality as part of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Members Bus Tour - Thursday, June 16 (combined with June SCRCA Board Meeting)
  - highlight milestones in Authority development
- Open House at Conservation Areas - Free Admission - Saturday, June 18

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- in addition to these, events will be branded with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary theme including:
  - Paddle Day - May 28
  - Ontario Hiking Week - Oct 1
  - Geocaching Events - tba
  - Earth Day Tree Planting - April 21
  - Family Fishing Weekend - July 2
  - National River Clean Up Day - September 17

**BD-10-252****Giffen - Crawford**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the events planned to celebrate the Authority’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.”**

**CARRIED**

A report on Foundation property updates and activities was presented.

- Bates Conservation Lands - Estate and Stewardship Trust fund: attached is the final release for the estate. It has been executed and forwarded to the legal counsel. As noted they cannot release any funds until all documents have been filed.
- Stirling Property: (Rondeau Bay) Ducks Unlimited has advised they may require until March 2011 to complete the transaction for the Stirling Property. (workload and illness) DU has impacted the original target dates. Mr. Stirling had also been in discussions with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation regarding the woodlot on his property north of the property. A forester has valued the timber which appears to be for donation purposes.
- RLSN - Sinclair and Gawne properties: I have relayed the terms of the long term agreement as discussed at the October 2010 board meeting. RE: no hunting, lease with RLSN vs. Ontario NativeScape , length of agreement (4 -5 year agreements with options to renew) , acreage check and discussion on the rate per acre. The Stewardship Council has approved the construction of an outbuilding (bare ground coverall) for the Sinclair property. Approvals of location, building permits etc. will be required from the Foundation, including their assumption of all additional insurance and tax costs for the development.
- Glenview Conservation Lands - 6 acres have been site prepared for tree planting in 2011. Staff are seeking grants with Trees Ontario to carry out the work. We have also completed acorn collection from the site for replanting. The land which will be retained by the owners has excellent specimens of oak which are being discussed as part of the development plan. As we have previously discussed the Environmental Assessment reviews of their subdivision plans are being undertaken by Tara Chir of the Upper Thames Conservation Authority as an independent review. This ensures no conflict of interest.
- Cuddy Pond and Memorial Forest: I provided a site specific fact sheet and mapping including a site visit with P. Strybosch of Century 21 who represents Gerald Slemko (President) of Cuddy Farms in the collection of information for the consideration. I have met with Gerald previously to begin the negotiations and have the direction of their intent. We reviewed the process, benefits and requirements including stewardship funds. Items such as long term maintenance funds, memorial trees have been tagged and the dam inspection by our engineering staff or consultant engineer will be required for safety, integrity etc. It is important that they outline the items that are key to their

- donation so that we may develop a plan and budget around this to ensure we will honour their wishes.
- 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.
  - Solar:
    - further to our October 21, meeting we investigated through Ontario Power Association our eligibility to participate in the MicroFit program. Attached please find their response, as well as the list of Eligible Participants from their application process. I have enquired through all conservation authorities as to eligibility and have received varied responses so will continue to investigate through Conservation Ontario.
    - a contact referenced through John Simmons provided some excellent background and process information. I had an opportunity to meet with Senad Kosaric of Vydexa Industrials Corp., London who provided support and full service development for recently developed project in Kitchener.
  - we will continue to pursue avenues to either be placed on the edibility list or how this opportunity for green energy can be developed. I have asked Conservation Ontario to assist with eligibility if required.
  - Volunteer opportunities: at the March 2011 meeting the board members can have an opportunity to discuss volunteer opportunities for programs, i.e scholarship program, bingos, special events such as the memorial forests or canoe race for education, carbon offset contacts etc., land negotiations.
  - Conservation Authority Annual General Meeting: February 17, 2011 - Celebrating 50 years of Conservation. Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario has agreed to be the keynote speaker. Gord will be speaking on climate change, biodiversity as well as other current issues. An invitation has been extended to Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Natural Resources as the lead Ministry for Conservation Authorities. Invitations and details will be provided once we hear from key speakers. A detailed list of events supporting and celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary is available. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in Point Edward. The business meeting (audits, budget, elections and limited business) will be in the morning from 10 - 11:30. While public and invited guests are most welcome to attend the business meeting they may wish to attend only the lunch, presentations, awards and guest speaker will commence at 12:00 and continue to approximately 2:30 pm.
  - Melvin Dale: On October 25, Norm Giffen delivered the framed collage representing Melvin's valued time with the Conservation Authority and Foundation (28 years). He sincerely appreciated the gift and remembrance with a good visit with Norm. I followed with a call expressing the board's appreciation for all that he has contributed to the Conservation Authority and Foundation and reflecting on his contributions.

**CF-10-253**

**Crawford - Simmons**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 29, 2010 on the Foundation property updates and activities.”**

**CARRIED**

Statements outlining the financial status of the Foundation to October 31, 2010 were presented.

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**CF-10-254**

**Giffen - Bilton**

**“That the Board of Directors approves the statement of revenue and expenses to October 31, 2010.”**

**CARRIED**

A list of disbursements to November 30 was reviewed.

**CF-10-255**

**Mitchell - Bilton**

**“That the Board of Directors approves the list of disbursements to November 30, 2010.”**

**CARRIED**

A report outlining the Foundation’s Investments was reviewed.

**CF-10-256**

**Crawford - Giffen**

**“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-10-257**

**Simmons - Mitchell**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report on the changes to calculation of the Disbursement Quota for charities with year ends on or after March 4 2010 and further approves the 2010 donations and expenditures of up to \$96,946 to meet our commitments to the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and 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 2011 Nominating Committee was discussed.

**CF-10-258**

**Bilton - Crawford**

**“That Laura Margetts, Norm Giffen, President, Duncan Skinner, ex officio, Vice President Lyn Goddard, ex officio be appointed to the 2011 nominating committee for the Foundation and further that the committee present its report on membership and committees to the 2011 annual meeting.”**

**CARRIED**

A schedule of meetings for 2011 was considered. The June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting was rescheduled to June 16<sup>th</sup> including the Bus Tour.

**CF-10-259**

**Giffen - Bruziewicz**

**“That the Board of Directors approves the 2011 tentative schedule of meetings for the Board of Directors, dated November 22, 2010.”**

**CARRIED**

The 2011 budget was presented for the Board’s consideration.

**CF-10-260**

**Giffen - Simmons**

**“That the Foundation acknowledges the request for financial assistance for 2011, as outlined in the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s 2011 budget and further that the Foundation’s 2011 budget, dated November 26, 2010, be approved and the Executive Director be authorized to carry out the transactions and expenditures outlined in the budget.”**

**CARRIED**

**CF-10-261**

**Simmons - Bilton**

**“That the meeting be adjourned.”**



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Duncan Skinner  
President

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Ralph Coe  
Executive Director