

October 15, 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 10:00 a.m.

Directors Present: Duncan Skinner, President
 Lyn Goddard, Vice President
 Melvin Dale, Treasurer
 Norm Giffen
 Ken Brooks
 Ted Butler
 John Mitchell
 Laura Margetts
 John Simmons
 Rex Crawford

Directors Absent Shirley Warner
 Bill Bilton
 Ottavio Colosimo

Also Present: Ralph Coe, Executive Director
 Marlene Dorrestyn, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

The President welcomed John Mitchell to the Board of Directors and everyone to the Meeting. He 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-09-031

Crawford - Simmons

“That the minutes of the March 5, 2009 meeting be adopted as distributed.”

CARRIED

A report on the Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship was presented.

- Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship: following the tragic death of Mary Jo Arnold on July 13, 2009, a scholarship was proposed as a lasting legacy for Mary Jo. In discussion and request by her father Steve Arnold, the Foundation and scholarship was identified for donations through the funeral home and notice. News articles and newsletters to our partners also assisted in receiving donations. The support for Mary Jo and the Arnold family has been heartwarming.
- Principle Value: the goal was to raise \$10,000 using interest to provide an annual scholarship value of \$500.00 (current donations from over 130 donors is \$10,623.00)
- Investment: awaiting an investment opportunity to return 5% minimum . At the September meeting of the Conservation Authority Board of Directors they agreed to contribute the balance between interest earned and \$500 until such time as the principle investment provides the interest required to support the \$500.00.

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- criteria for award winners: a young woman who is entering post secondary education in the conservation field and who has a passion and interest in conservation. No academic, community involvement or any other criteria are required. Must reside within the St. Clair Region.
- this scholarship will be offered at the same time as the A.W Campbell Conservation Scholarship and the Tony Stanak Scholarship
- first scholarship to be offered in the spring of 2010.

CF-09-032**Giffen - Brooks**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 6, 2009 on the Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship and thank the donors and family for the opportunity to establish this legacy in her honour.”

CARRIED

A staff report on memorial forest fall dedications was presented.

- two dedications were held in the month of September. The McKenzie and Blundy dedication was held on September 20. Norm Giffen brought greetings from the Foundation and Authority. Approximately 600 people attended. Attendance was a bit lower this year due, in part, to a cemetery dedication service which was scheduled for the same day. An American Beech was planted as a symbol for all trees dedicated over the last year through the McKenzie and Blundy Funeral Home. A video of the dedication is on McKenzie & Blundy’s website.
- the Foundation dedication was held on September 27. Duncan Skinner provided the remarks. The prayer was done by Lillian Maw and the Arnold family planted the ceremonial tree. Approximately 100 people attended. A Blue Ash was planted as a symbol for all trees dedicated over the last year through donations from individuals not associated with a funeral home program.

CF-09-033**Butler - Simmons**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 28, 2009 on the memorial forest fall dedications.”

CARRIED

A staff report on Conservation Scholarships was explained.

- presentations were made in July to the scholarship winners. The Conservation Scholarship program rewards graduating high school students continuing their post secondary studies in a conservation related field based on their academic achievement and their demonstrated interest and involvement with the environment. In total, \$2,800 was awarded across the St. Clair region this year. Felicia Syer from Lambton Central Collegiate and Vocational Institute and Nicole Robbins from Northern Collegiate Institute and Vocational School were selected as the recipients of the 2009 A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarship. These \$1,000 scholarships are presented to the top two candidates among the applicants for scholarships offered by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.
- four individuals received the Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarships this year: Joshua Deline, Lambton Kent Composite School; Sarah Campbell, Glencoe District High School; Brad Jennings,

Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School; and Kevin McGregor, Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School. These students each received a \$200 award.

- the scholarships are made possible through trust funds established by the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation and its donors.

CF-09-034

Goddard - Giffen

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 23, 2009 on Conservation Scholarships.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the new Conservation Education Promotional Flyer was reviewed.

- with the Conservation Education Program about to launch into its season, a new promotional flyer was produced highlighting the numerous programs available to students. In past years a limited number of full information booklets were produced and five sent to each school. These flyers were distributed to each teacher in the region highlighting the 28 outdoor and 4 in-classroom programs offered. It is hoped this will be a more effective way to promote our programs with all teachers.
- Teachers are directed to a more detailed booklet on our website that described each program and the applicable curriculum ties are shown so that the teachers can see how we can help bring a hands-on approach to existing curriculum requirements.

CF-09-035

Crawford - Goddard

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 23, 2009 on the Conservation Education Promotional Flyer.”

CARRIED

A report on the St. Clair River Rap video was presented.

- the Conservation Authority Education Program staff has been working on the production of a RAP video highlighting a new program developed in conjunction with the Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR) on the St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan. Over the last two years the FOSCR have donated \$2,000 each year to support an in-class education program on the activities related to the Remedial Action Plan for the River. This video will be used to introduce the program and to promote the program in the community.
- the production included children from Sarnia to Florence. The main sites used along the river were Centennial Park, Guthrie Park, Willow Park, and Branton Cundick Park. Background shots highlighted some of the impairments to the water and some of the Remedial Action Plan Projects in place.
- staff have viewed an early version of the video and we all agree it will be a hit with young people.
- the FOSCR donated \$6,000 toward the \$8,000 cost of the production. From funds budgeted from the Foundation for conservation education, the Foundation is supplying the remaining \$2,000.

CF-09-036

Brooks - Butler

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 29, 2009 on the St. Clair River RAP video.”

CARRIED

A report on the Dow Wetlands was presented:

- a meeting was held with Ralph Coe, Rick Battson and Catherine Creber, Dow Chemical regarding a possible land donation regarding the Dow Wetlands on September 25.
- Background:
 - the Dow Wetlands were originally developed to treat surface water runoff from surrounding lands, including a Dow landfill to the south of the wetlands. Should an overflow from the wetlands require release into the adjacent Talfourd Creek, permission was required from the Ministry of the Environment. We have been told that the water quality from the wetlands were such that no further treatment was required and releases into Talfourd Creek were approved.
 - over the last eight years, the Conservation Authority has been working with Dow Chemical to offer education programs at the Dow Wetlands. In addition, Authority staff has worked to help develop the site by enhancing the wetlands with tree and shrub planting. Currently, approximately 2,500 students participate in programs at the wetlands.
- Current Status:
 - Dow Chemical is in the process of selling off its assets in the Sarnia area. While Dow will maintain ownership of the landfill to the south, Dow is proposing a land donation of the wetland area to the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (which would then be transferred to the Foundation).
 - depending on the exact boundary agreed upon, the donation would be either approximately 75 acres or 87 acres). The larger area would include the land and buildings now used by the emergency response unit.
- clearance of water coming from the landfill will still be required, therefore, Dow is proposing to move the compliance point to a collection area on the adjacent landfill, releasing any requirement of further approvals for the Dow Wetlands itself.
- Outstanding issues
 - in addition to the land donation, Dow recognizes there will be an on-going cost to maintaining the property and to providing conservation education opportunities. Negotiations would include a suitable cash donation to satisfy this requirement.
 - currently the land is zoned industrial – not sure what the taxes would be on this parcel – need to have the land re-zoned to environment protection and determine long-term tax costs
- need to ensure the property has received all necessary environmental clearances

CF-09-037

Mitchell - Dale

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 29, 2009 on the Dow Wetlands.”

CARRIED

A status report outlining bingo profits and purchases was presented.

- bingo profits to the end of July were \$6,116.57. Profits to the end of July were about \$100 less than all of last year.
- bingo donations to the Authority total \$7,042.30 to the end of September.

CF-09-038

Goddard - Simmons

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the 2009 Bingo status reports including bingo profits to July 31, 2009 purchases to September 30, 2009 to support the work of the Conservation Authority.”

CARRIED

A Foundation Property Update was explained.

- Moses Property: Strathroy Caradoc – 40 acre parcel adjacent to the Clark Wright Conservation Area.
 - Mrs. Moses remained in the home until her passing on July 7, 2009.
 - Bill Moses contacted the Foundation to discuss the donation and opportunity. The remaining family members were not in a position to donate and while Bill was prepared to donate his share, this required the Foundation to “purchase” the property from the estate and his contribution would offset some of the purchase price.
 - the family had advised they felt the property was valued at approximately \$240,000 and there were 4 family members. As part of the deal they wanted the home severed and sold back to the sister at a reasonable cost.
 - as the original proposal of the land was to be donated to now Foundation purchase, Mr. Moses was advised that this required the Board to discuss and funding was a challenge. Bill withdrew his offer, advised the family he wished to have them purchase his share at a reduced amount. Mr. Moses was thanked for the opportunity.
- Gawne Property:
 - RLSN has indicated they wished to assume the agricultural property and the Board had agreed to this partnership for expanded tall grass prairie nursery land close to the Sinclair property. Currently the land is in corn and not suitable for their needs in 2010 as they would like beans before planting tall grass prairie. Current rental rates are \$115 per acre. We are awaiting a decision from RLSN if they wish the land in 2010 or 2011.
- Murray Property: (Forest)
 - an abutting neighbour has inquired whether all or any of the three vacant lots donated would be available for purchase. There are no conditions on retaining the lots and while they abut the Esli G Dodge Conservation Area, they have not been incorporated into active park area and used as a buffer. The majority of the lots are hazard land and not a suitable building site. Prior to any consideration, direction from the Foundation /Authority (and the municipality) regarding long term retention in the asset management plan of lands.
- Maples Woodlot Property Taxes: Our application for Conservation Land Tax Status for the 8 acre woodlot has been denied by the Ministry of Natural Resources because of zoning which does not protect the property. The second alternative would be to receive Forest Management Tax status, however the property is required to be a minimum of 10 acres. Conservation lands require protection through zoning and criteria to meet the definition. Current taxes on the property are in

- excess of \$1700.00 and we are currently working with Plympton-Wyoming for rezoning to meet the conservation land tax status.
- Clark Wright Conservation Area: this has been a positive transfer, no longer required to use a common driveway, not maintaining outbuildings that were of no value to the Authority/Foundation.
 - Bates Conservation Lands: Road closing of an unopened road allowance to Lake Erie. (Kent Bridge Road) -
 - on March 10, 2004, Chatham Kent Council agreed to close the road and transfer this to the Foundation. The request was supported by neighbours, staff and council based on the will of Melba Bates. The closing and transfer however was not completed and council was again required to deal with this issue in July of this year. Chatham Kent staff have assured there they will complete the process.
 - concerned was raised by Keith McLean because of the a news article and Keith spoke directly to the councillor. It appears there is progress for the closing and transfer and we will provide an update at the Foundation meeting.
 - Western Land Company: Encroachment issues. Strathroy Conservation Area north.
 - enforcement for the removal of structures on the lands has been a long but successful process with all but 2 small items remaining (rail fence and walking stones). Sheds, fences, firepits, swing sets etc have all been removed.
 - trees have been planted on much of the buffer lands in an attempt to speed up the naturalization process. Grass cutting however continues by 11 landowners on both Authority or Municipal owned properties, despite all correspondence and warnings throughout this process. It has been agreed by Town and municipal staff that grass cutting is to stop and options are still being considered in an attempt to avoid legal action.
 - Huff Woodlot: Chatham Kent
 - new sign was installed acknowledging the property donation and uses.

CF-09-039

Giffen - Margetts

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 6, 2009 on the Foundation property updates.”

CARRIED

An update on the Glenview Conservation Lands was presented:

- Glenview Estates: 80 acres of valley lands abutting the Glenview Estates (Petrolia/Enniskillen Township) Update:
 - Trust Agreement was drafted by Alison Dale of Rob Waters office and approved by the Foundation Board in February 2009.
 - Donald Craig prepared a Durham Creek Woodlot Management Plan for the 80 acre site (as a private consultant to the Investors) owners. This document will be used as a guideline for managing the natural resources of the site and will be referenced in the Trust Agreement.
 - Enniskillen Township required that all unopened road allowances within the 80 acre property were to be closed prior to transfer. Gary Ingram arranged the survey, public notice and court approval on the road closings at a cost of over \$10,000.
 - continued negotiations with Gary Ingram were required on the agreement with respect to

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clauses on environmental clearance, oil well closures and the trust or stewardship fund. On July 27th Ralph met with Gary Ingram and his partners John Williams, Pran Mehta and Murray Kemp to discuss the final requirements. Subsequent to the meeting Gary advised that they were prepared to sign the agreement upon the roads being closed. The shareholders agreed to \$10,000 minimum as a Trust Fund (Stewardship Fund) with additional funds to come when Phase V (final phase) was in place.

- recommend the first stewardship funds be deposited no later than the proposed transfer of the land at which time the long term plans maintenance, development and operating costs will be recognized.
- transfer is not expected until Phase V is well underway or complete which can be 5-10 years.
- recommend the agreement be approved and registered on title.

CF-09-040

Giffen - Goddard

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report dated October 6, 2009 on the Glenview Conservation Lands and further authorize the signing officers to execute the Trust Agreement and required documents for registration of the agreement on title and that the transfer of the property be completed at a mutually agreeable time in the future as per terms of the agreement.”

CARRIED

A report on the work at the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area funded by the Foundation was discussed.

- A.W. Campbell Workshop:
 - A.W. Campbell Conservation Area is located in Brooke/Alvinston, it is over 300 acres in size has over 140 campsites (90 seasonal campers), 3 picnic pavilions, 2 washrooms and a 25 x 50 concrete pool.
 - in February the Foundation accepted the A.W. Campbell Workshop as a project for 2009.
 - plans were prepared, the project was advertised and 7 local contractors provided quotations to build the workshop.
 - Van Ver Construction of Watford was awarded the contract and completed the work shop on May 28th
 - it has been serviced with hydro, water and telephone.
 - costs to construct, service and landscape around the building was \$38,000.00
 - the workshop is centrally located to the main campground and day use area and provides better staff accessibility for visitors to the conservation area
 - it has been well received by all campers and provides a new and clean first impression and it has also assisted greatly to the overall security and staff efficiencies
- Mary & Alice Alderman Donation:
 - in June, Mary & Alice Alderman donated \$ 5,000.00 toward the maintenance and operation at the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area
 - these funds were used to upgrade the hydro in the group camp area, install fascia and eave troughs on the pool and main washroom buildings and install 3 park benches around the conservation area
- Foundation Bingo Fund:
 - each year through bingo proceeds the Foundation donate funds toward projects at our

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- conservation area
- this year these funds were used to install new carpet and 4 x 4 side railings on our mini golf courses at Campbell and Henderson CA, to resurface with chip & dust more than 2 km of nature trails and to purchase and plant 80 wildlife shrubs.

CF-09-041

Crawford - Butler

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 30, 2009 on the Foundation funded work at the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area including the new workshop, service and building upgrades through the Alderman donation and recreation equipment upgrades through the bingo funds.”

CARRIED

A report on playground equipment and donation was considered.

- the Conservation Authority operates 3 regional campgrounds (Warwick, L.C. Henderson, and A.W. Campbell)
- we have over 500 campsites with more than 370 seasonal campers
- most weekends during the summer our campsites are either full or near full
- our campgrounds cater to family camping with many activities geared to children
- with more families visiting our campgrounds, there is a need to expand the current playground equipment
- between 1995 and 2002 the Foundation donated funds to install playground equipment in each of our campgrounds
- cost to expand or add to existing equipment would be \$ 30,000.00

CF-09-042

Mitchell - Simmons

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 1, 2009 on playground equipment in our regional campgrounds and approves the donation of \$30,000.00 to establish new equipment in these Conservation Areas as part of the 2010 draft.”

CARRIED

Statements outlining the financial status of the Foundation to September 30, 2009 were presented.

CF-09-043

Dale - Giffen

“That the Board of Directors approves the statement of revenue and expenses to September 30, 2009.”

CARRIED

A list of disbursements to for June, July and August, was reviewed

CF-09-043

Simmons - Goddard

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

CARRIED

A report outlining the Foundation’s Investments was reviewed.

- on April 6th the Investment Committee (Duncan Skinner, Melvin Dale, Norm Giffen,) decided to sell our GIC with CIBC yield of 4.0% and buy a Manulife Trust bond with a 6.7% .
- on June 18th the Committee sold the Manulife bond which had rose in value to \$105 per unit from the \$97.51 per unit price we had purchased it at. This move allowed the Foundation to not only invest the principal amount, but also the \$ 6,956 gain on holding into a CHIP Mortgage trust bond.
- on August 18th the Committee was able to reinvest the gain on the CHIP Mortgage trust bond of \$3,818 into a Province of Nova Scotia Bond with and annual yield of 5.06%. So all in all, the Foundation has been successful in being able to make small gains on its investments and continue with good rates of return in this economic climate we find ourselves currently, all with the help of our people at Scotia McLeod and BMO Nesbitt Burns

CF-09-044

Butler - Dale

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the investment report to August 31, 2009, outlining the status of Foundation investments.”

CARRIED

A draft 2010 budget was reviewed for information purposes. The budget will be discussed at the December meeting.

CF-09-045

Crawford - Giffen

“That the Foundation acknowledges the draft 2010 budget dated September 30, 2009 for final consideration at the December 10, 2009 meeting of the Foundation.”

CARRIED

Under New Business, information regarding a memorial bench donation was discussed for the Directors’ information.

A possible property donation in Enniskillen Township was discussed. The directors felt it was a good project to consider and directed the staff to investigate further.

CF-09-046

Goddard - Dale

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

Duncan Skinner
President

Ralph Coe
Executive Director