

The Board of Directors meeting of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority was held on the above date, at the Administration Office in Strathroy, at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Present: Steve Arnold, Chair; Terry Burrell, Vice Chair; Bill Bilton, David Boushy, Tony Bruinink, Joe Faas, Norm Giffen, Rod Glen, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Kevin Marriott, Don McCallum, John McCharles, Steve Miller, Lonny Napper, Frank Nemcek

Absent: Elizabeth Davis-Dagg, Anne Gilbert, Anne Marie Gillis, Larry MacKenzie, Ben Phay

Also Present for all or part of Meeting: Brian McDougall, General Manager; Rick Battson, Director of Communication; Patty Hayman, Director of Planning; Dallas Cundick, Environmental Planner/Regs Officer; Regulations Officer; Tracy Prince, Director of Financial Services; Kevan Baker, Director of Lands; Girish Sankar, Water Resources Engineer; Muriel Andreae, Senior Biologist; Marlene Dorrestyn, Administrative Assistant; Ken Williams, Woods Pearson Associates; Chantell Core, Nick Core

The Chairman 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.

BD-14-001

Glen - Bruinink

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held December 12, 2013, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

BD-14-002

MacKinnon – Bilton

“That the Board of Directors accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee approving the proposal submitted by Graceview Enterprises Inc. of Belmont, Ontario, for a project cost of \$98,310.00 including HST and directing staff to proceed with the project as soon as permits are in place regarding the addition to the workshop at Clark Wright Conservation Area.”

CARRIED

The General Manager’s Report was presented:

- the cold temperatures and snowy conditions that we have experienced over the last few weeks have presented a few challenges to overcome:
 - frozen pipes at residential rental properties – propane heaters
 - snow removal – increased contractor and staff time
 - ice conditions on the watercourses – thickness monitoring and tracking of potential ice breaking vessels
- Tom McGregor has provided notice to both the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and the Authority that, due to other commitments, he has resigned as a Director on the Authority Board
- Tom’s support of Authority staff during his membership on the Board has been greatly appreciated
- Chatham-Kent has appointed Anne Gilbert to fill their vacancy on the Board of Directors and we will welcome Anne at the Annual General Meeting

- Larry MacKenzie will not be returning to the Authority Board for 2014 due to his additional commitments as Mayor of Point Edward
- Larry's commitment to the organization and his steadfast support of staff are greatly appreciated
- John Romlewski has been appointed to the Authority Board by the Village of Point Edward for 2014 and we will welcome John at the Annual General Meeting

BD-14-003

Nemcek - Boushy

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated January 29, 2014.”

CARRIED

Conservation Ontario Board meeting minutes of December 6, 2013 were reviewed.

BD-14-004

MacKinnon - Glen

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the minutes of the December 6, 2013 Conservation Ontario Council meeting.”

CARRIED

Correspondence from Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority has circulated a resolution to all Conservation Authorities and Conservation Ontario for information and support regarding “Food & Water First” campaign to save our farmland and protect our water.

BD-14-005

Bruinink - Faas

“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors support in principle the “Food and Water First” campaign.”

CARRIED

Mr. Ken Williams of Woods Pearson Associates, presented the 2013 Audited Financial Statements.

BD-14-006

Faas - Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report from the Authority’s auditors, Woods, Pearson & Associates Chartered Accountants LLP, accepts responsibility for the 2013 financial statements and the Statement of Continuity of Reserves and Reserve Funds and year end finances and further approves the yearend adjustments, reserves and reserve adjustments as outlined in the schedule dated December 31, 2013 and recommends that the Board of Directors approve the 2013 Audited Financial Statements.”

CARRIED

December 2013 disbursements totaling \$432,033.78 were considered.

Directors Comments:

- requested that consideration be given to purchasing Giant Tiger Gift Cards as opposed to Superstore.

BD-14-007

Glen - Bruinink

“That the Board of Directors approves the December 2013 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$432,033.78.”

CARRIED

A status report on general levy received to date was discussed. All 2013 general levy was received by year end.

BD-14-008

Bilton – Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges that all 2013 municipal general levy has been received.”

CARRIED

The draft 2014 budget was submitted to member municipalities in November 2013. The carry forwards results are included in this budget.

BD-14-009

Faas - Boushy

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the changes to the 2014 Proposed Budget, and recommends to the Board of Directors the amended 2014 Proposed Budget, dated January 29, 2014 of \$6,2422,159 with a municipal general levy of \$658,935.”

CARRIED

A Conservation Lands Update was reviewed:

- Conservation Area Projects approved for 2014:
 - Warwick Conservation Area:
 - main access roadway to be relocated do to stream bank erosion along Bear Creek
 - project to consist of engineering, land securement, bank stabilization and road construction
 - new property identification sign to be installed
 - 15 new picnic tables and 3 new benches to be purchased
 - exterior improvements to be made to the pool washroom building
 - roads to be upgraded with gravel
 - new campsite indicators to be installed on 40 campsites
 - 600 meter trail to be developed on the upland area overlooking Bear Creek (Foundation Project)
 - bike cross loop to be developed (Foundation Bingo Project)
 - L.C. Henderson Conservation Area:
 - main reservoir weir to be improved with new cable concrete surfacing
 - new property identification sign to be installed
 - 15 new picnic tables to be purchased
 - roads to be upgraded with gravel
 - 450 meters of existing trails to be resurfaced with chip & dust (Foundation Project)

- A.W. Campbell Conservation Area:
 - upgrades to be made to the women's pool washroom
 - 15 new picnic tables to be purchased
 - a new property identification sign to be installed
 - roads to be upgraded with gravel
 - new campsite indicators to be installed on 20 campsites
 - lake trail to be improved with chip & dust surfacing and new boardwalks (Foundation Project)
 - new carpet to be installed on the mini golf course (Foundation Bingo)
 - bike cross loop to be developed (Foundation Bingo)
- Wawanosh, Highland Glen, Clark Wright:
 - new property identification signs to be installed
 - Highland Glen, harbour and boat ramp area to be dredged
- McKeough Upstream Lands:
 - Properties 38, 40 and 103 will have soil erosion repair works completed
 - Property 79/80 – a wetland to be developed
 - Property 82/83 – two hikenbottoms to be repaired
 - Property 97 – wildlife shrubs to be planted around the wetland
 - Properties 38, 39, 40, 83 north, 95 north – grass buffers strips to be planted along drains and natural water courses
- Lambton County Lands:
 - Lambton County Heritage Forest:
 - staff regularly inspect and perform maintenance on the 8 kms of trails
 - forestry staff to inventory, mark and oversee logging operations within one of the forest management compartments
 - Marthaville:
 - a new trail sign and a 200' section of fencing to be installed
 - staff regularly inspect and perform maintenance
 - Bowes Creek:
 - 8,100 seedlings to be planted and 43,000 previously planted seedlings to be sprayed with herbicide to control grass and weeds
 - subsurface drainage tile to be repaired
 - Perch Creek
 - trail improvements to include widening and extending the existing trail; and developing a plan for future trails
 - staff regularly inspect and perform maintenance
 - existing trails will be cut by a local grass contractor

BD-14-010

MacKinnon - Marriott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Lands Update, dated January 23, 2014 concerning maintenance and development on conservation areas, and McKeough Upstream Lands.”

CARRIED

A staff report on water levels, current and flood conditions was presented.

- Watershed Precipitation and Streamflow Conditions
 - winter conditions have been experienced across the watershed since early December with mean temperatures in December of minus 3.7 degrees and then significantly colder in January with minus 9.7 degrees. With lower temperatures snow accumulations were experienced all many areas resulting from snow storm events in early December only to be lost with slightly warmer temperatures and subsequent rainfall mid-month. Flows were increased at this time with combined snow melt and additional precipitation falling as rain during this period. This pattern was repeated following extreme cold temperatures in the first week of January when large amounts of snowfall coupled with 20 to 30 mm of rain increased levels for an extended period over the first week followed by a milder period. During this time ice became soft and in many places dislodged into flowing ice sheets which then quickly refroze as temperatures fell overnight. In most locations, while the quality of the ice was impacted, there appears to have been limited movement of the ice pack in most watercourses however any flooded areas have now frozen in place.
 - regional precipitation numbers indicate near normal precipitation in quarterly and the last six month periods but rainfall from the early part of the year helped to improve overall numbers by 20% for the entire year. Interestingly errors in Environment Canada climate data reporting for Sarnia resulted in a report of 360 mm of precipitation being recorded for the month of December. SCRA data was used to correct this number for our reporting.
- Snow and Ice conditions
 - conditions continue to be variable across the watershed but significant amounts were lost in the second week of January. Conditions are monitored on a bi-weekly basis together with the integrity of river ice at strategic locations. Currently watercourses have 6 – 8 inches of white slightly deteriorated ice with some open sections near higher flow areas. All areas are anticipated to thicken into February with the extremely cold temperatures together with increased snow cover. Some ice jams have been experienced in the St. Clair River but ice remains in place in the Chenal Ecarte and into the mouth of the Sydenham River.
- Weather Forecast (Weather Network, Environment Canada)
 - January - Snow with average temperatures but milder conditions near the end of the month. Below normal precipitation with slightly above average temperatures
 - Winter - Temperatures will be above with coldest periods in both mid-January and February. Snowfall below normal into spring
- Great Lake Levels (NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research 1948 to 2013)
 - current average compared to entire period of record (96 years) for Lake Huron indicates the last ten years average is 41cm (16 ins) lower than the average for the entire period of record.

BD-14-011

Napper - Giffen

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated January 27, 2014 on the Great Lakes water levels and current watershed conditions.”

CARRIED

Minutes of the January 17, 2014 Flood Action Committee were reviewed.

BD-14-012

Faas - MacKinnon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the minutes of the Flood Action Committee held on January 17, 2014 in Wallaceburg.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the 2013 Deer Hunt on McKeough Upstream Lands was presented.

Directors Comments:

- overall requests for hunting permission was down in 2013.
- number of hunters is less
- number of tags given out are down

BD-14-013

Miller - Glen

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated January 16, 2014 regarding the 2013 deer hunt on McKeough Upstream Lands.”

CARRIED

BD-14-014

Bruinink - Giffen

“That the Board of Directors adjourn the regular Board of Directors meeting at 11:20 a.m. and convene as a Hearing Board pursuant to Ontario Regulation 171/06 – “Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses” Regulation to consider Application #10852 of Nick and Chantelle Core.”

CARRIED

The Chair presented an outline how the hearing would proceed, as per Section 28 (3) Conservation Authorities Act Hearing Guidelines, October 2005, prepared by Conservation Ontario and Ministry of Natural Resources and an explanation of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Roll Call was taken.

Dallas Cundick then presented an outline of the Core’s application and explained the Authority’s staff recommendations as they pertain to the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s policies and the hazard that exists at the site.

Background

SCRCA Lake Huron Shoreline Policy for Major Additions at the Subject Location States;

1. Major Additions;
 - a. total proposed area for the addition is greater than 30% and less than 50% of the existing

foundation area or footprint area (whichever is the lesser amount);

Summary of Pre-Consultation Steps/Chronology of Discussions with Landowners

Step 1:

- existing dwelling footprint is 69 sq. m, and therefore a 34.5 sq. m addition is permissible onto the landward side of existing dwelling;

Step 2:

- CA staff discussed with landowner that the existing detached garage could be removed, and its footprint (41 sq. m) could be used as permissible addition sq. area for addition onto existing dwelling;

Step 3:

- CA staff discussed with landowner that potentially the existing dwelling could be relocated outside the 60 yr. RR, the existing detached garage could be removed, and the combined footprint of the existing dwelling and existing detached garage could be used to determine the total square area permissible for relocated/redeveloped dwelling with addition and attached garage;
 - therefore, total square area for proposed relocated/redeveloped dwelling with addition and attached garage to be no greater than 164 sq. m;
 - due to the buildings existing on-site, staff of the SCRCA thought this approach reasonable and within policy framework;

Therefore, as per SCRCA policies and pre-consultation with landowners, permitted total square area allowed (relocated structure plus additions) no greater than 164 sq. m.

- 164 sq. m meets Plympton-Wyoming Zoning By-law;

Core's submitted application with proposed relocated dwelling and additions with total gross square area of 218.5 sq. m.

- Core's application was for total gross square area of 218.05 sq. m, this is an approximately 100% total gross square area addition to existing combined footprint.
- therefore:
 - the proposed relocation and addition does not meet SCRCA Lake Huron Shoreline policies. Proposed development extends beyond relocation and major addition and constitutes redevelopment or new structural development.

SCRCA Shoreline Policies dictate that:

- for new structural development within the Erosion Hazard;
 - the development must be setback a minimum distance equivalent to the Stable Slope Hazard plus 60% of the Erosion Hazard while considering the protection works standard and access standard to the maximum extent and level possible ;
- as outlined through technical studies single lot protection is not feasible at this reach of shoreline;
- therefore, recommended that this application for permission be denied.

The property owners Nick and Chantelle Core presented their thoughts on their new application:

- thanked the Board for their quick turn around
- reduced square footage from last application
- asking for a compromise
- removed the 3rd floor, but left the windows for aesthetics

- wants to add value to house
- thanked the Board for their time.

BD-14-015

Bilton - Glen

“That the Hearing Board go in camera at 12:34 p.m. to review and discuss the appeal of Application #10852.”

CARRIED

BD-14-016

Miller - Bilton

“That the Hearing Board regarding the appeal of Application #10852 rise and report at 12:55 p.m..”

CARRIED

BD-14-017

MacKinnon – Faas

“That the Hearing Board, in accordance with the requirements of the Conservation Authorities Act, held a hearing regarding Nick & Chantelle Core, Application #10000852 on February 6, 2014, and hereby approves the application as per Lot Grading Plan of Lot 46, Registered Plan 28(PY) Town of Plympton-Wyoming, County of Lambton, completed by Nisbet, Robertson, Drawing Number 13-234-C, dated September 3, 2013, conditional on the following:

- 1. Total square area (the total area of all floors above grade measured between the outside surfaces of exterior walls, including interior parking) is not greater than 164 sq.m;**
- 2. The approval is based on relocation of the existing dwelling as per the application;**
- 3. All other standard SCRCA staff approval permit requirements (i.e. proper grading/drainage, hazard on title).”**

CARRIED

BD-14-018

Miller - Bilton

“That the Hearing Board adjourns the Hearing and reconvenes as the Board of Directors at 12:55 p.m.”

CARRIED

BD-14-019

Faas - Burrell

“That the meeting be adjourned.”



Steve Arnold
Chair

Brian McDougall
General Manager

Attached to original minutes: Roll Call Attendance sheet