



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: March 31, 2022

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Remote

Directors Present: Diane Brewer, Pat Brown, John Brennan, Vice-Chair; Terry Burrell, Bill Dennis, Joe Faas, Greg Grimes, Aaron Hall, Frank Kennes, Brad Loosley, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Kevin Marriott, Steve Miller, Frank Nemcek, Lorie Scott, Chair; Mike Stark, Jerry Westgate, Tim Wilkins

Regrets: Al Broad, Dan McMillan

Staff Present: Erin Carroll, Director of Biology; Chris Durand, Manager of IT/GIS; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator; Ken Phillips, General Manager

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the recent appointment of Director Greg Grimes, representing the Village of Point Edward. It was 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-22-29

Loosley – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors adopts the agenda for the meeting as presented.”

CARRIED

The Sydenham watershed is heavily impacted by human activities. Sustained monitoring of benthic communities and surface water is important to assess long-term changes in water quality. By obtaining baseline data on these watercourses, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) can better understand the risks of nutrient loading, runoff, and potential spills from various land uses and how to mitigate their effects. Stewardship implementation projects, such as wetland restoration and tree planting, help to sequester carbon, improve water quality, reduce erosion, and provide wildlife habitat.

SCRCA’s Biology Department and Conservation Services delivers a habitat stewardship program for landowners throughout the watershed to assist with the implementation of various habitat projects and agricultural best management practices (BMPs) to maintain/improve water quality and to create wildlife habitat. The Healthy Watershed Program has restored or enhanced over 1,000 ha of land and over 4 million trees have been planted throughout the region. These projects, along with our outreach and education events, aim to minimize non-point source sedimentation, nutrient loading and thermal changes of water bodies within our watershed.

In June 2021, a proposal was submitted to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) requesting \$80,450 from the Ontario Community

Environment Fund (OCEF) for support to St. Clair Region Conservation Authority's Stewardship and Aquatic Monitoring programs.

Specifically, SCRCA requested funding to:

- Plant a minimum of ten acres of native or non-invasive trees or shrubs
- Restore a minimum of two acres of wetland
- Implement a minimum of three green infrastructure projects
- Bank stabilization at the Warwick Conservation Area
- Support Ipperwash Phrag Phighters to remove invasive phragmites from a Provincially Significant Wetlands and other natural areas of interest
- Complete watershed health monitoring:
 - Water samples at 18 locations
 - E.coli samples at 18 locations
 - Benthic invertebrate samples at 15 locations
 - Long-term temperature data at 8 locations

Amount requested from OCEF:	\$80,450
Amount from all other sources (cash / donations):	\$123,500
Amount from all other sources (in-kind):	\$103,100
Amount from SCRCA	\$4,400
Total value of project:	\$311,450

St. Clair Conservation was notified by MECP in March 2022 that \$56,643.65 was allocated from the OCEF towards the project for 2022/2023.

Directors Comments:

Director Pat Brown noted the difference in funds received vs. funds requested and enquired how staff intend to bridge the gap in funding. Director of Biology, Erin Carroll explained that all projects have been scaled back, relative to the gap in funding, in addition to the cancellation of the Warwick Conservation Area bank stabilization project.

Revised project detail is as follows:

- Plant a minimum of ten acres of native or non-invasive trees or shrubs
- Restore a minimum of two acres of wetland
- Implement a minimum of two green infrastructure projects
- Support Ipperwash Phrag Phighters to remove invasive phragmites from a Provincially Significant Wetlands and other natural areas of interest
- Complete watershed health monitoring:
 - Water samples at 18 locations
 - E.coli samples at 18 locations
 - Benthic invertebrate samples at 15 locations
 - Long-term temperature data at 8 locations

Amount from OCEF:	\$56,643.65
Amount from all other sources (cash / donations):	\$106,531.35
Amount from all other sources (in-kind):	\$96,900
Amount from SCRCA	\$5,100
Total value of project:	\$265,175

BD-22-30

Burrell – Faas

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated March 17, 2022 on the Ontario Community Environment Fund (OCEF) grant “Habitat Restoration and Monitoring in the St. Clair Region” and authorizes St. Clair Conservation Authority (SCRCA) to enter into a funding agreement with the Province of Ontario.”

CARRIED

Under New Business

Director Tim Wilkins informed the Board of Directors that the Township of Plympton-Wyoming is working to collect quotes and remediate existing damage to the Highland Glen Conservation Area as soon as possible, with intentions to begin such repairs in April or May, 2022. Ministry approval to transfer ownership of the lands back to the Township of Plympton-Wyoming remains outstanding. Mr. Wilkins requested to confirm that in the event that the request to change ownership is denied, that the Board of Directors is prepared to fund their portion of the repairs to the boat launch. General Manager Ken Phillips explained that funds are set aside within the 2022 budget to complete some of the work, as previously approved by the Board of Directors, and that funds may be reallocated with Board approval. Permits and timing will be dependent upon the type of work planned.

Chair Mike Stark congratulated the 2022 Outstanding Farmer Award recipients, Brad and Monica Douglas, who are 5th generation farmers from Plympton-Wyoming. The Douglas family is being recognized for their contribution to conservation through excellent farming practices. Mr. Stark expressed his regret for not being at the awards ceremony, but thanks Stewardship Communications Technician, Emily Febrey for presenting the award on his behalf.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held in person at the SCRCA Administration Office on Thursday, April 21 at 10:00 a.m.

BD-22-31

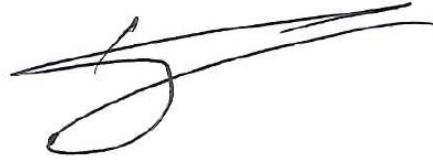
Burrell – Scott

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED



Mike Stark
Chair



Ken Phillips
General Manager