



# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: October 26, 2023      Time: 10:00 a.m.  
SCRCA Administration Office/Remote via Zoom

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**Directors Present:** John Brennan, Al Broad, Pat Brown, Sue Cates Anne Marie Gillis, Frank Kennes, Emery Huszka, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Don McCabe, Don McCallum, Mary Lynne McCallum, Steve Miller, Ross O’Hara, Kristen Rodrigues, Jerry Westgate

**Remote:** Terry Burrell, Aaron Hall, Adam Kilner, Rhonda Jubenville

**Regrets:** Greg Grimes, Lorie Scott

**Staff Present:** Donna Blue, Manager of Communications; Melissa Deisley, Director of Planning and Regulations; Chris Durand, Manager of IT/GIS; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator; Chunning Li, Director of Corporate Services; Tim Payne, Manager of Forestry; Ken Phillips, General Manager; Girish Sankar, Director of Water Resources; Greg Wilcox, Manager of Lands

**1. Call to Order**

The 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.

**2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

Director Emery Huszka declared a pecuniary interest pertaining to budgetary items, as per the terms of his appointment as agricultural representative through the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

The Chair requested any additions or deletions to the agenda.

**BD-23-86**

**MacKinnon – Kennes**

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

**CARRIED**

**4. Minutes**

**4.1 Minutes of the September 14, 2023 Board of Directors meeting**

**BD-23-87**

**Miller – Gillis**

**“That the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting, held September 14, 2023, be approved as distributed.”**

**CARRIED**

**5. Delegations and/or Presentations**

A presentation on flood forecasting/monitoring and warning was provided by Girish Sankar, Director of Water Resources, followed by a question and answer period.

Directors expressed their appreciation for the detailed presentation and requested that copies of the slides be distributed to member municipalities. Directors were reminded that staff are available to present to staff and/or councils at their request.

Director Don McCabe requested that a letter be drafted to Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) appealing for investment into weather networks/stations in order to provide greater accuracy in flood forecasting models and that a copy of this letter be provided to other Conservation Authorities, for their information, endorsement and/or support.

**BD-23-88**

**McCallum, Mary Lynne – Huszka**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledge the presentation from Girish Sankar, Director of Water Resources providing an overview of the Water Resources department and recent flooding events.”**

**CARRIED**

**6. Reports**

**6.1 General Manager’s Report**

Director Anne Marie Gillis communicated her satisfaction with the progress made by the General Manager on streamlining initiatives and appreciation for clear communication.

**BD-23-89**

**O’Hara – Burrell**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated October 16, 2023.”**

**CARRIED**

**6.2 2024 Nominating Committee**

Nominations were taken from the floor.

**BD-23-90**

**Burrell - Westgate**

**“That the 2024 Nominating Committee consisting of the following four directors representing the four districts of the Authority being Sarnia, Lambton, Chatham-Kent, and Middlesex be: Pat Brown, Terry Burrell, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Rhonda Jubenville, Lorie Scott and further that the Nominating Committee’s recommendation for the 2024 committee membership be presented at the Annual General Meeting.”**

**CARRIED**

### **6.3 2024 Tentative Schedule of Meetings**

**BD-23-91**

**Miller – Kennes**

**“That the Board of Directors approves the 2024 tentative schedule of meetings for the Board of Directors and Committees, dated October 6, 2023.”**

**CARRIED**

### **6.4 2024 Preliminary Draft Budget**

Clarifying questions were asked and Directors gave thanks to staff for their efforts in lowering the proposed general levy percentage increase

**BD-23-92**

**Westgate – Gillis**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the 2024 preliminary draft budget of \$11,230,089 with a proposed municipal general levy of \$1,611,345, and further that the Board of Directors direct staff to circulate the draft budget booklet to member municipalities for information and input, and to post on the Governance section of the SCRCA’s website in accordance with Ontario Regulation.”**

**CARRIED**

### **6.5 A.W. Campbell House Update**

Director Don McCabe declared a conflict of interest, abstained from voting on the matter and made himself available to respond to questions, if necessary.

While it was generally agreed that the SCRCA has done its due diligence investigating the options surrounding the A.W. Campbell House, directors debated the next steps in response to the Municipality of Brooke Alvinston’s refusal to issue a demolition permit. A recorded vote was requested.

**Recorded Vote**  
**In reference to Motion: BD-23-93**

<b>Director's Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
Brennan, John	✓	
Broad, Alan	✓	
Brown, Pat	✓	
Burrell, Terry	✓	
Cates, Sue	✓	
Gillis, Anne Marie		✓
Grimes, Greg	Not Present	
Hall, Aaron	✓	
Huszka, Emery	✓	
Jubenville, Rhonda	✓	
Kennes, Frank	✓	
Kilner, Adam	✓	
MacKinnon, Betty Ann	✓	
McCabe, Don	Abstained	
McCallum, Don		✓
McCallum, Mary Lynne	✓	
Miller, Steve	✓	
O'Hara, Ross	✓	
Rodrigues, Kristen		✓
Scott, Lorie	Not Present	
Westgate, Jerry	✓	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>

**BD-23-93**

**Huszka – Brennan**

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated Oct 11 2023 on the AW Campell House and requests that staff prepare an application to the appropriate authority for appeal on the Municipality of Brooke Alvinston's decision to deny the issuance of a demolition permit for the AW C House.

**CARRIED**

**BD-23-94**

**Broad - MacKinnon**

That the Board of Directors approve the purchase and placement of portable fencing to surround and secure the A.W. Campbell House until such time the matter of demolition is resolved.

**CARRIED**

**7. Information Items**

- (a) Business Arising**
- (b) Current Watershed Conditions**
- (c) Healthy Watershed Program Update**
- (d) Regulations Activity Report**
- (e) Planning Activity Report**
- (f) Revenue and Expenditure Report**
- (g) Disbursements**
- (h) 2023 General Levy Update**
- (i) Fee Policy and 2024 Approved Fees**
- (j) Investment Reports**
- (k) Communications Update**
- (l) St. Clair River AOC**

**BD-23-95**

**Broad – Cates**

**“That the Board of Directors approves the consent agenda and receives the accompanying items 8.1 (a) through 8.1 (l) as information.”**

**CARRIED**

**8. Board Correspondence**

There was no correspondence received.

**9. In-Camera**

The Board of Directors went in-camera to discuss property and legal matters

**BD-23-96**

**Kennes – McCallum, Mary Lynne**

**“That the Board of Directors move in-camera at 11:25a.m to discuss legal and property matters with only the Administrative Assistant/Board Coordinator, General Manager, Manager of Lands and Manager of IT/GIS present.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-23-97**

**Broad – Hall**

**“That the Board of Directors rise and report at 11:33 a.m.”**

**CARRIED**

**10. New Business**

The 2024 draft Conservation Services fees were reviewed and accepted for incorporation into the Fee Policy and 2024 Approved Fees.

**BD-23-98**

**McCabe – Cates**

**“That the Board acknowledges the report on the 2024 draft Conservation Services Fees and approves the updated fee schedule as presented.”**

**CARRIED**

Enquiries were made regarding the status of the Strathroy and Coldstream dam decommissioning studies. Staff informed the board that a final draft is expected in the near future. Due to the very technical nature of the study report, staff will be providing a summary document, which can be distributed to municipal partners.

Director Al Broad commended the SCRCA Water Resources department for their hard work and provision of updates/bulletins during recent flooding events.

## **11. Adjournment**

**BD-23-99**

**Miller – McCallum, Don**

**“That the meeting be adjourned.”**

**CARRIED**



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**Pat Brown**  
Chair



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**Ken Phillips**  
General Manager