



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: September 19, 2024 Time: 10:00 a.m.
SCRCA Administration Office
205 Millpond Cres., Strathroy, ON N7G 3P9

Directors Present: Al Broad, John Brennan, Pat Brown, Chair; Terry Burrell, Greg Grimes, Frank Kennes, Don McCabe, Mary Lynne McCallum, Steve Miller, Kristen Rodrigues, Jerry Westgate

Directors Remote: Anne Marie Gillis, Aaron Hall, Rhonda Jubenville,

Directors Regrets: Sue Cates, Emery Huszka, Adam Kilner, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Don McCallum, Ross O'Hara, Lorie Scott, Vice-Chair

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

1. Land Acknowledgement

A land acknowledgment was read by Chair, Pat Brown which recognized the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority watershed as part of the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Chonnonton Nations, who have a sacred responsibility to preserve the land and water of southwestern Ontario. Also acknowledged are the Treaties that allow the SCRCA to work alongside the First Nation Communities of Kettle and Stony Point, Aamjiwnaang and Bkejwanong to ensure we share the responsibility of preserving the land and water.

2. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Pat Brown, who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Adoption of Agenda

BD-24-56

Kennes – Burrell

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

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

The Chair 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.

5. Presentation

5.1 Drone Footage of the McKeough Agricultural Lands

BD-24-57

McCallum, Mary Lynne – Grimes

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the presentation of drone footage, showing the McKeough agricultural lands.”

CARRIED

6. Minutes

6.1 Board of Directors June 27, 2024 Minutes

BD-24-58

Rodrigues – Miller

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held June 27, 2024, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

6.2 Conservation Ontario Council June 24, 2024 Minutes

BD-24-59

Brennan – Westgate

“That the minutes of the Conservation Ontario Council meeting, held June 24, 2024 be received for information.”

CARRIED

7. Reports

7.1 General Manager’s Report

Comments:

General Manager (GM), Ken Phillips provided a verbal update. On September 20, 2024, the GM and SCRCA staff will attend an Environment and Climate Change Canada funding announcement in Windsor, Ontario. SCRCA has been selected to receive \$7.8 million over a 4-year period in order to implement and support stewardship projects and agricultural best management practices. Staff will provide a report to the October 24, 2024 board meeting with further information.

BD-24-60

Miller – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated September 10, 2024.”

CARRIED

7.2 Revisions to the Conservation Authorities Act

Comments:

Directors elected to defer the motion to consider the best approach in choosing committee members. Suggestions include having the Executive Committee act as a hearing board and/or appointing 1-2 substitutes as a safeguard.

BD-24-61

Grimes – Broad

“That the Board of Directors acknowledge the report dated September 6, 2024 regarding the revisions to the Conservation Authorities Act and further, that the Board of Directors establish a Hearing Board of five individuals to deal with appeals under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act; and further, that the General Manager be appointed the designated official to conduct the administrative review in accordance with s.8 Ontario Regulation 41/24.”

DEFERRED

7.3 2025 Draft Fee Schedule

Comments:

Directors request that a report be provided exploring the options and costs associated with providing an electric vehicle (EV) charging station within campground parking lots. It is also suggested that campground rules and regulations be proactively updated to prohibit EV charging on camp sites.

BD-24-62

Kennes – Gillis

“That the Board of Directors acknowledge the report, dated September 9, 2024 regarding the 2025 draft fee schedule further accept the recommended changes, approving the draft fee schedule as presented.”

CARRIED

7.4 Preliminary General Levy Estimate for 2025

Comments:

GM, Ken Phillips provided a verbal summary of the budget pressures within the preliminary levy estimate

- Compensation and benefits
 - Review has not been completed in over 10 years

- Consultant to be retained
- Technology upgrades
 - Windows 10 software is no longer supported for updates and security
 - Need for additional IT and security services to be contracted.
- Loss of Revenue
 - Changes to Conservation Authorities Act
 - Freezing of planning and regulations fees over several years
 - Loss of revenue from drainage fees

Directors suggest that SCRCA seek to partner with other Conservation Authorities in retaining a compensation and benefits compensation consultant, with the aim of reducing the cost of such services.

BD-24-63

Kennes – Miller

“That the Board of Directors receive for information and discussion the report, dated September 6, 2024 on the preliminary levy estimate for the 2025 Budget.”

CARRIED

8. Consent Items

- 8.1 (a) Business Arising**
- (b) Current Watershed Conditions**
- (c) 2024-2026 WECI Projects**
- (d) Conservation Area Updates**
- (e) Regulations Report**
- (f) Planning Report**
- (g) Revenue and Expenditure Report**
- (h) Disbursements**
- (i) 2024 General Levy Update**
- (j) Investments**
- (k) Communications Update**
- (l) AOC Report**

BD-24-64

Miller – Westgate

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

CARRIED

9. Correspondence

9.1 Correspondence from Municipality of Chatham-Kent

BD-24-65

Burrell – McCabe

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the correspondence dated August 8, 2024 from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent regarding the 2025 draft budget.”

CARRIED

9.2 Correspondence from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

BD-24-66

McCabe – Westgate

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the correspondence dated September 9, 2024 from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, responding to SCRCA’s recommendation for further investment into weather networks/stations.”

CARRIED

10. New Business

Comments:

Chair, Pat Brown thanked GM, Ken Phillips for presenting the Conservation Scholarships to recipients during his absence.

Directors are encouraged to attend the Second Annual Honouring of the St. Clair River event on Thursday, September 26th, 2024.

Director Al Broad brought forth concerns regarding the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation Greenhill Gardens property. Directors are advised to direct any comments or concerns to the attention of Tim Payne, Manager of Forestry or GM, Ken Phillips.

Director John Brennan thanked SCRCA staff for the presentation to Strathroy-Caradoc Council regarding the Head Street Dam proposals and potential options.

Director Don McCabe thanked SCRCA for their participation as an exhibitor at the Lambton Farm Safety Association’s Agriculture Safety Day.

11. Adjournment

BD-24-67

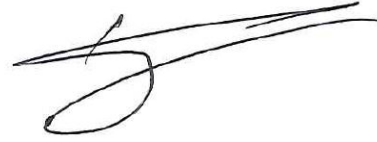
Grimes - Burrell

“That the Board of Directors Meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED

Pat G. Brown

Pat Brown
Chair



Ken Phillips
General Manager