Minutes for Meeting of the Board of Directors held Thursday, September 15, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.
in Council Chambers, Essex County Civic Centre, 360 Fairview Avenue West, Essex, ON.

**Members Present:**
Steve Bjorkman
Terry Burns
Susanne Coghill
Al Fazio
Fred Francis
John Jacobs
Len Janisse
Tania Jobin
Rick Masse
Crystal Meloche
Rita Ossington
Larry Patterson
Hilary Payne
Ed Sleiman (Chair)
Larry Snively
Ron Sutherland
Larry Verbeke

**Absent:**
Rick Fryer
Irek Kusmierczyk

**Regrets:**

**Staff:**
Richard Wyma, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Candice Kondratowicz, Corporate Services: Administrative Associate
Tim Byrne, Director, Watershed Management Services
Shelley McMullen, Director, Finance & Corporate Services
Kevin Money, Director, Conservation Services
Mike Nelson, Watershed Planner

**Guests:**
Assorted Media
1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Good evening, everyone, and welcome. We regrets tonight from Councillors Rick Fryer and Irek Kusmierczyk.

I would also like to welcome ERCA Staff that have joined us this evening:
Mike Nelson, Watershed Planner

2. **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Resolution BD56/16    Moved by Larry Verbeke
Seconded by Tania Jobin

THAT the Agenda for the Thursday, September 15, 2016, Meeting of the Board of Directors be approved.    - CARRIED

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

(a). **ERCA Board of Directors**

Resolution BD57/16    Moved by Larry Snively
Seconded by Steve Bjorkman

THAT the Minutes of the Thursday, June 16, 2016, Meeting of the Board of Directors and the recommendations therein be approved as distributed. - CARRIED

(b). **Conservation Ontario (CO)**

Resolution BD58/16    Moved by Larry Verbeke
Seconded by Rita Ossington

THAT the Agenda and Minutes of the June 27, 2016, Conservation Ontario Council Meeting be received. - CARRIED

(c). **John R. Park Homestead Advisory Committee (JRPHAC)**

Resolution BD59/16    Moved by Fred Francis
Seconded by Hilary Payne
THAT the Minutes from the April 18, 2016, John R. Park Homestead Advisory Committee meeting be received as distributed. - CARRIED

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a). Comments from the Chair, Ed Sleiman

Over the summer months, we welcomed thousands of visitors to experience the beauty of our wonderful local conservation areas, and hosted a number of successful special events, including the South Coast Adventure Race, Lost Arts Festival, and serving as a rest stop for the Great Waterfront Trail Ride.

We also provided valuable summer work experiences for ten secondary and post-secondary students, to help develop the next generation of conservation professionals. These students, under staff guidance, made valuable contributions to our local conservation efforts while gaining valuable knowledge for their future careers. These include experiences in surveying, water quality testing, outdoor education, invasive species removal, native plants, curatorial techniques, visitor experiences, customer service, and event planning.

ERCA completed the first phase of a pilot project to control phragmites in a wetland cell in Hillman Marsh. The next phase will take place over the autumn months, and Board members will receive a full report on the project this winter.

As well, we are pleased to report that construction of the Cypher Systems Group Greenway will begin later this month. Formal details and a groundbreaking event date will be forwarded shortly.

Staff have already begun lining up the slate of spring restoration projects. If Board members know of municipal or private properties which could benefit from tree planting or other restoration activities, we would encourage you to speak with Kevin Money at your earliest convenience.

I hope that Board members will be able to enjoy some of our amazing conservation areas and exciting family activities planned for the autumn months – the Festival of Hawks concludes this upcoming weekend, and of course, Holiday Beach Conservation Area has been identified as the best location in all of Canada to witness the Hawk Migration.

Also, join us for the Canada South Coast Bike Tour on September 24, or our upcoming Harvest and Horses event at the John R. Park Homestead in October. Looking forward to seeing you there!

6. DELEGATIONS

(a). None
7. PRESENTATIONS
(a). Wetland and Aquatic Habitat Restoration Projects (presentation attached)
   - Kevin Money, Director of Conservation Services
   
   Resolution BD60/16    Moved by  Rick Masse
   Seconded by  Jon Jacobs
   THAT the presentation be received as presented. - CARRIED

8. REPORTS FOR APPROVAL
(a). Report BD25/16 - Big Creek official plan and zoning by-law to protect natural heritage
   
   Resolution BD61/16    Moved by  Ron Sutherland
   Seconded by  Crystal Meloche
   THAT BD25/16 be received as information; and further,
   THAT Administration continue to work with the Municipality of Amherstburg and others to implement the Big Creek Watershed Management Plan - CARRIED

   
   Resolution BD62/16    Moved by  Len Janisse
   Seconded by  Susanne Coghill
   THAT ERCA submit comments on the Draft Wetland Conservation Strategy for Ontario 2016-2030” (EBR 012-7675); and further,
   THAT ERCA share its comments with Conservation Ontario in support of a coordinated review on behalf of all Conservation Authorities. - CARRIED

(c). Report BD27/16 – Holiday Beach Seasonal Camping fees
   
   Resolution BD63/16    Moved by  Rita Ossington
   Seconded by  Crystal Meloche
   THAT the seasonal camping rate fee be increased by $10 in 2017. - CARRIED

Resolution BD64/16  Moved by  Fred Francis
Seconded by  Tania Jobin

THAT Report BD28/16 be received as information with regard to the update on the 2015-16 Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) projects; and further,

THAT Report BD28/16 be received as information with regard to the update on the 2016-17 WECI projects; and further,

THAT the project described above and proposed to be submitted for funding through the WECI Program for 2017-18 be carried out as described in Report BD28/16 subject to funding approval; and further,

THAT upon confirmation of municipal support, ERCA staff continue to make funding applications to the WECI program for maintenance of flood and erosion control projects within the Essex Region; and further,

THAT Administration continue discussions with other member municipalities and provide updates to the Board of any further proposed applications  - CARRIED

(e). Report BD29/16 - ERCA 2017 Budget Pressures (presentation attached)

Resolution BD65/16  Moved by  Terry Burns
Seconded by  Crystal Meloche

THAT ERCA Administration develop a Draft 2017 Budget based on the (2016-2025) Strategic Plan, the final year of the 5-Year Sustainability Plan (2013-2017), the identified fixed cost increases, and address the additional program issues as described herein.  - CARRIED

(f). Report BD30/16 - Update on the Conservation Authorities Act Review

Resolution BD66/16  Moved by  Fred Francis
Seconded by  Steve Bjorkman

THAT comments submitted by ERCA on the Proposed Priorities for Renewal supporting an Integrated Watershed Planning model, an inter-ministry approach to program support, provincial funding for provincially mandated programs, and updated policies and guidelines to increase consistency across Ontario and improve client service delivery standards be received; and further,  - CARRIED
THAT Administration share its comments with member municipalities and Conservation Ontario.

9. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

(a). Report BD31/16 - Statement of Operating Activity for 7 months ended July 31, 2016 and Infrastructure Reserve Update

Resolution BD67/16 Moved by Len Janisse
Seconded by Crystal Meloche

THAT the July Statement of Operating Activity, including 2016 year end projections, and Infrastructure Reserve Fund continuity schedule be received, as included in Report BD31/16. - CARRIED


Resolution BD68/16 Moved by Al Fazio
Seconded by Crystal Meloche

THAT the review of Regulations and Planning Applications, as presented in Report BD32/16, be received. - CARRIED

(c). Correspondence

Resolution BD69/16 Moved by Fred Francis
Seconded by John Jacobs

THAT the correspondence be received for members’ information. - CARRIED

10. CLOSED SESSION – IN CAMERA

Meeting move from Board of Directors to Closed Session: Confidential Property Related Matters

Resolution BD70/16 Moved by Al Fazio
Seconded by Terry Burns

THAT meeting move from Board of Directors to Committee of the Whole - CARRIED
Meeting moved from Closed Session to Board of Directors’ Open Session

Resolution BD71/16 Moved by Al Fazio
Seconded by Terry Burns

THAT actions of the Committee of the Whole be endorsed - CARRIED

11. OTHER BUSINESS

(a). The next meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors is at the Call of the Chair and is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 13, 2016 starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Essex County Civic Centre, Council Chambers.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution BD72/16 Moved by Fred Francis
Seconded by Rita Ossington

THAT the Meeting be adjourned. - CARRIED

Richard J.H. Wyma
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
WETLAND AND AQUATIC HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS IN THE ESSEX REGION

AGENDA

- Detroit River Aquatic Habitat Feasibility Study
- Wetland Creation Projects
- Sturgeon Creek Wetland Rehabilitation Projects

Detroit River Aquatic Habitat Feasibility Study

Background

- Detroit River is a Federally listed Area of Concern (AOC)
- Currently 4 of 14 criteria are still considered impaired.
- Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations
- Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Each Year ERCA applies for funds to build new habitat in the Detroit River Watersheds to address impairment issues.

Detroit River Aquatic Habitat Feasibility Study

Study Purpose

- Undertake a feasibility assessment of seven (7) potential habitat creation sites within the Detroit River Area of Concern
- Guide restoration efforts aimed at achieving the delisting criteria for both the "Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat" and the "Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations" beneficial use impairments.
- To examine and assess the non-biological aspects of developing the candidate habitat sites
- To determine the overall feasibility of developing the sites from a physical habitat, hydrographic, cost and navigational perspective.

Detroit River Aquatic Habitat Feasibility Study

Study Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Restoration Opportunity</th>
<th>Proposed Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peche Island: Site 2</td>
<td>North of Island</td>
<td>Construct series of breakwaters in shallow water area north of island</td>
<td>Induce establishment of aquatic vegetation providing spawning &amp; nursery areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peche Island: Site 4</td>
<td>Inner Canals</td>
<td>Open island's inner canals; construct small current deflector at mouth</td>
<td>Improve water quality and reduce sedimentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighting Island: Site 4</td>
<td>Western shore @ south most disposal cell</td>
<td>Construct current deflector at northern point of site and extend 200m into river; construct off-shore islands in cell water created by current deflector</td>
<td>Create open water wetland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighting Island: Site 5</td>
<td>Western shore and southernmost disposal cell</td>
<td>Series of off-shore islands in area of shallow water shelf</td>
<td>Create open water wetland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighting Island: Site 6</td>
<td>South end of Island</td>
<td>South end of island: reconstruct historical islands previously lost due to wave action</td>
<td>Create open water wetland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bois Black (Boblo) Island: Site 3</td>
<td>Cove on east side of Island</td>
<td>Expand existing break wall by installing large boulders; construct similar breakwater to the south of the existing dock</td>
<td>Protect cover from wave and current in the main river; induce aquatic vegetation to establish and provide increased spawning &amp; nursery areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amherstburg Old Boblo Dock</td>
<td>East shoreline</td>
<td>Treatment type unknown. Consultant to recommend treatment.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Design Considerations

- Water Depths & River Bottom Elevations
- Water Level Fluctuations
- River Current and Flow Velocities
Design Considerations

- Wave Climate
- Soils
- Commercial and Private Vessel Operation

Design

- Sheltering islands cordon off shallow water areas so that submergent and emergent wetland vegetation can be preserved or established and sustained.

Wetland Creation

Each Year ERCA applies for funds to build 5 acres of new wetlands throughout our region.

Scoping and Design

- Soils
- Landowner wish list
- Topography
- Elevations
- Existing natural features
- Access for machinery

Implementation
ESSEX REGION WETLAND RESTORATION

TRANSFORMATION LEADS TO BENEFITS

STURGEON CREEK MARINA

CURRENT CONDITION

STURGEON CREEK MARINA

CURRENT CONDITION

STURGEON CREEK WETLAND REABILITATION PROJECT

CURRENT CONDITION
STURGEON CREEK WETLAND REHABILITATION PROJECT

DESIGN ELEMENTS

• Remove all dock and vertical shoreline features
• Create gradual slope for wildlife
• Ensure long term viability
• Habitat Restoration

PARTNERSHIPS

MUNICIPALITIES
Caldwell First Nation
Habitat Stewardship Program
School Boards
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Volunteers
National Wetland Conservation Program
Ducks Unlimited
Detroit River Canadian Cleanup
Private Landowners
Environment Canada
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
# 2017 Budget Considerations

**Essex Region Conservation Authority**

**Board of Directors**

*September 15, 2015*

## Corporate Challenges

- Historic Accumulated Operational Deficit
- Lack of Capital and Operational Reserves
- Internal efficiencies, collaboration and communications
- Core Programs with at-risk Funding

## A Way Forward: 5-Year Sustainability Plan

- **Historic Accumulated Operational Deficit**
- Lack of Capital and Operational Reserves
- Internal efficiencies, collaboration and communications
- Core Programs with at-risk Funding

## A Way Forward: Eliminating Operational Deficit

- **Eliminating Operational Deficit**
  - Creation/continued contribution to Capital and Operational Reserves
  - Organizational restructuring to enhance efficiencies, internal collaboration and communication
  - Direct funding to offset key programs and services with at-risk Funding

Projected reduction of $96,000 in 2017 to eliminate accumulated/historic operational deficit

## A Way Forward: Creating Operational Reserves

- **RESERVE TARGETS:**
  - Revenue Stabilization: $120,000
  - Matching Grant: $100,000
  - Office: $50,000
  - Legal/Insurance: $30,000
  - Human Resources: $10,000

## A Way Forward: Creating Capital Reserves

- **Cumulative Infrastructure Reserve Contributions**
  - Infrastructure Deficit = Assets long past useful life = Capital Reserves funding Capital Plan
A Way Forward: Maintaining Capital Asset Replacement

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"... seek and identify ways of reducing the impact of the Sustainability Plan to Clean Water - Green Spaces acquisition funding through phased levy increases and other means..." Board of Directors Re 20/23
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Capacity to Act:

2016-2025 Strategic Plan and the "Next Generation of Conservation Challenges"
- Great Lakes and Water Quality
- Wetland and Habitat loss
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Stormwater and Green Infrastructure
- Sustainable Communities

The Next Generation 'Sustainability Plan' (2017)

Capacity to Act: Supporting Key Regional Needs

Adapting to the "Next Generation" of conservation challenges:
- Climate Change - flooding, Stormwater
- Great Lakes water quality, Priority Watersheds
- Loss of wetlands and habitats
- Integrated watershed planning/management

Implementing key programs through 3rd party funding means we are limited in our ability to respond and be proactive in addressing them.

Capacity to Act: Responding to Regional Growth

Growth in the Windsor-Essex region has led to significant increase in numbers of permit applications. Development interests demand more immediate responses than is provided for under MNRF guidelines.

Capacity to Act: Managing Regional Assets

- Conservation Areas and Greenways
  - significant determinant in selecting places to live and invest
  - Increased use and demand for Conservation Areas and Greenways
  - increases operational needs:
    - Maintenance
    - Proactive risk management
    - Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act

Chrysler Canada Greenway, Cypher Systems Group Greenway, and Oldcastle ‘Hub’ acquired and developed by ERCF, corporate partners and grants with no municipal levy.

Capacity to Act: Supporting Programs

Facilitating Outdoor Education with School Boards
- Corporate/Program Support
  - Demand for end user support
  - Records Management
  - Third Party funding - reporting and tracking
  - Legislative obligations (ADD, MFIPPA, etc.)
  - Seasonal Demands
**Fixed Cost Increases**

- Approved Salary/Grid Increases
- Pay Equity Legislative Obligations
- Civic Centre Building Fund
- Municipal Taxes/Drainage
- Full Staff Complement

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**Funding Conservation**

ERCA ranked 10th largest of all 36 CAs in terms of regional programs and services

ERCA ranked 7th smallest of all 36 CAs in terms of percent of levy supporting operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40.2%</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>27.0%</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Funding Conservation: Mitigating Factors**

- Risk Management Planning
- Water Quality Research Initiatives
- Past unrestricted surpluses due to grants
- Savings in Office equipment/vendors
- WECI/Municipal Savings
- Regional Coordination

ERCA has introduced its capital and operational reserves, deficit reduction, and organizational stabilization with no increase in contributions directly attributable to those outcomes.

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**Next Steps**

- **December 2016**: Draft Budget to Board of Directors and Distribution of Draft Budget to Municipalities
- **January/February 2017**: Municipal Council Visits
- **February 2017**: Final Budget to Board of Directors/Weighted Vote