



Essex Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, January 20, 2022

Time: 6:00 pm

Location and Details: via Zoom Web Conferencing

Attendance

Members Present:

Tania Jobin (Chair	Mark Carrick
Kieran McKenzie (Vice-Chair)	Sue Desjarlais
Marolyn Morrison	Trevor Jones
Peter Courtney	Larry Verbeke
Morley Bowman	Dayne Malloch
Chris Vander Doelen	Joe Bachetti
Laura Lucier	Jeewen Gill
Larry Patterson	Jim Morrison
Tracey Bailey	Ed Sleiman
Len Janisse	

Absent:

Regrets:

Staff Present

Tim Byrne, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
Nicole Kupnicki, Corporate Services, Human Resources Manager/EA
Shelley McMullen, CFO/Director Corporate Services
Kevin Money, Director Conservation Services
Danielle Stuebing, Director Community and Outreach Services
James Bryant, Director Watershed Management Services
Ryan Rossman, Director Information Technology Services
Aaron Zimmer, Multimedia Specialist

Others

1. Call to Order

Good evening and welcome to the January 2022 Annual General Meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors. I will call the meeting to order and we will start by taking a roll call of all Board Members to confirm attendance. We have no regrets this evening.

We will begin in alphabetical order by municipality.

- Councillor Peter Courtney, Amherstburg
- Marolyn Morrison, Amherstburg
- Councillor Morley Bowman, Essex

- Councillor Chris Vander Doelen, Essex
- Councillor Laura Lucier, Kingsville
- Councillor Larry Patterson, Kingsville
- Deputy Mayor Tracey Bailey, Lakeshore
- Councillor Len Janisse, Lakeshore
- Councillor Mark Carrick, LaSalle
- Councillor Sue Desjarlais, LaSalle
- Trevor Jones, Leamington
- Deputy Mayor Larry Verbeke, Leamington
- Councillor Dayne Malloch, Pelee Island
- Deputy Mayor, Joe Bachetti, Tecumseh
- Councillor Jeewen Gill, Windsor
- Vice Chair, Kieran McKenzie, Windsor
- Councillor James Morrison, Windsor
- Councillor Ed Sleiman, Windsor

Thank you all.

2. Land Acknowledgement

I'd like to begin by acknowledging that this land is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomie Peoples.

We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island - North America who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

3. Comments from the Chair

Good evening, everyone, and welcome to our virtual Annual General Meeting. Thanks to everyone for joining us this evening, especially to our Conservation Award Winners and their guests, who will be more suitably introduced later this evening.

I would also like to acknowledge and welcome our elected officials, members of the Essex Region Conservation Foundation, ERCA staff members and those that may be watching this meeting via live-stream. Welcome, everyone!

Before vacating the Chair, I would like to express to each of you what a privilege it has been to serve with you all on this Board. As we gathered virtually at last year's Annual Meeting, we could not have predicted what 2021 had in store, but as always, we continued to adapt and provide seamless service to those we serve.

We will have the opportunity to reflect on some of our many accomplishments later this evening with our annual report video, but there are a few notable highlights that I will take with me from this past year.

In particular, to witness the people flock to conservation areas and trails for their physical and mental well-being certainly reinforced the importance of these natural assets as essential to the landscape of our community.

I was extremely proud to have had the opportunity to celebrate the grand opening of the new Heritage & Conservation Centre at the John R. Park Homestead, which will provide a legacy of accessible and equitable experiential learning and serve as a tourism hub.

And I was most impressed by the incredible progress of ERCA's digital transformation to improve service and reduce risks; and by the leadership demonstrated in proactively inventorying our programs and services and developing the Transition Plan. This impressive model was adopted by several other authorities across the Province.

To the members of the Board, I thank each of you for your dedication, commitment, and support. One of the most important elements of this Board is our relationships – with each other, with all levels of government, volunteers, organizations and many others. I am pleased that we had the opportunity to strengthen our relationships and carry on our important watershed management work to ensure the sustainability of the communities we serve.

I look forward to continuing to work with you all for years to come.

We do have some regular business of the Authority to conduct this evening in addition to recognizing some of our staff and Conservation Award Winners from 2021. With that, we will continue with this evening's agenda.

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

5. Approval of Agenda

Resolution 01/22 Moved by Morley Bowman
Seconded by Larry Verbeke

THAT the Agenda for the January 20, 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Board of Directors be approved. **Carried**

6. Adoption of Minutes

A. ERCA Board of Directors

Resolution 02/22 Moved by Jeewen Gill
Seconded by Larry Patterson

THAT the Minutes of the Thursday, December 09, 2021 meeting of the Board of Directors and the recommendations therein be approved as distributed. **Carried**

B. ERCA Executive Committee

Resolution 03/22 Moved by Trevor Jones
Seconded by Laura Lucier

THAT the minutes for the December 14, 2021 meeting of the Executive Committee and the recommendations therein be approved as distributed. **Carried**

C. Conservation Ontario (CO) Council

Resolution 04/22 Moved by Mark Carrick
Seconded by Joe Bachetti

THAT the minutes for the December 13, 2021 meeting of Conservation Ontario Council meeting* be received. **Carried**

* distributed via email per report BD 37/09

7. Election of ERCA's Chair and Vice-Chair

A. Election of Chair

Resolution 05/22 Moved by Jeewen Gill
Seconded by Kieran McKenzie

THAT the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer of the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) be authorized to act as Chair for the 2022 election of Chair of the Essex Region Conservation. **Carried**

B. Election of Chair

Resolution 06/22 Moved by Joe Bachetti
Seconded by Morley Bowman

THAT nominations for the position of Chair be closed. **Carried**

THAT Councillor Tania Jobin is the Chair of the Essex Region Conservation Authority for the next year. **Acclaimed**

C. Election of Vice-Chair

Resolution 07/22 Moved by Ed Sleiman
Seconded by Len Janisse

THAT nominations for the position of Vice-Chair be closed. **Carried**

THAT Councillor Kieran McKenzie is the Vice-Chair of the Essex Region Conservation Authority for the next year. **Acclaimed**

8. Remarks from the Chair

Thanks to all of you for your confidence in re-electing me as Chair – I look forward to serving this Board and the Windsor-Essex-Pelee Island community in this role.

Congratulations also to Kieran McKenzie on his re-election.

To all of the Members of the Board, I look forward to working with you as we continue to provide the integrated watershed management services that are critical to the resiliency, and livability, of our Windsor-Essex-Pelee Island region.

There's no question that a healthy economy, healthy citizens and healthy environment are linked together, and the decisions we make will ultimately affect our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren as we strive to create a future of environmental sustainability for this region.

9. Actions

A. Appointment of ERCA Auditor, Financial Institutions, Solicitor and Insurance Company for 2022

i. Auditor

Resolution 8/22 Moved by Trevor Jones
Seconded by Larry Verbeke
THAT the firm of Hicks, MacPherson, latonna and Driedger LLP be appointed as the Authority's Auditor for 2022. **Carried**

ii. Financial Institution

Resolution 9/22 Moved by Peter Courtney
Seconded by Marolyn Morrison
THAT the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and the Windsor Family Credit Union be appointed as the ERCA financial institutions and utilized for banking, including borrowing and short-term investments, for 2022. **Carried**

iii. Solicitors

Resolution 10/22 Moved by Sue Desjarlais
Seconded by Laura Lucier
THAT the firms of Shibley Righton, LLP, M. Gordner Law Professional Corporation, and McTague Law Firm be appointed the ERCA Solicitors for 2022. **Carried**

iv. Insurance Company

Resolution 11/22 Moved by Chris Vander Doelen
Seconded by Len Janisse

THAT ERCA continues to participate in the Conservation Ontario Group Insurance program for its insurance coverage for 2022. **Carried**

B. Approval for ERCA Borrowing Resolution for 2022

Resolution 12/22 Moved by Jim Morrison
Seconded by Mark Carrick

WHEREAS it is necessary for the Essex Region Conservation Authority (hereinafter called the "Authority") to borrow the sum of up to 1,500,000 dollars required for its purposes until payment to the Authority by participating municipalities, designated as such under the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter C.27, and grant payments received from senior levels of government.

Be it Therefore Resolved,

THAT the Authority borrow, at the lowest effective interest rate, from any one of its appointed financial institutions or participating municipalities, a sum not to exceed in the aggregate 1,500,000 dollars at any one time necessary for its purposes by way of loans, advances, overdrafts, or promissory note, or notes of the Authority until payment to the Authority of any grants and of sums to be paid to the Authority by participating municipalities. **Carried**

C. Correspondence

- i. Email from Susan Ecclestone, Director, Species at Risk Branch, MECP regarding Endangered Species Act Regulatory Decision – Species Conservation Charges and Conditional Exemption Regulations dated December 10, 2021
- ii. Email from Annamaria Cross, Director, Environmental Assessment Modernization, MECP regarding Environmental Assessment Modernization Decisions: Updating EA Requirements for Transmission Lines and Clarifying the Authority to Amend a Class EA dated December 14, 2021

Resolution 13/22 Moved by Tracey Bailey
Seconded by Marolyn Morrison

THAT correspondence be received for Members' information. **Carried**

10. ERCA Annual Report

Resolution 14/22 Moved by Kieran McKenzie
Seconded by Laura Lucier

THAT the ERCA 2021 Annual Report be received for Members' information. **Carried**

11. ERCA Staff Awards

This year, staff were required to figure out how to undertake the critically important watershed management protection they provide remotely, virtually overnight and without interruption. We are so fortunate to have staff who, over many years, continue to contribute to the sustainability of the region. These people are among the most dedicated staff members I have had the pleasure of working with.

To them, the protection of our environment is not just a job, but a way of life. We have undertaken the practice of recognizing special milestones, and planting a tree to signify years of service. To those staff tuning in tonight, on behalf of the Board, I would like to say 'thank you'. At this time, I invite you to watch this short video celebrating some significant years of service.

Gina Pannunzio, 5 years

Bryan Schmidt, 15 years

Michael Dick, 15 years

Kevin Money, 20 years

Thanks to all of you for your contributions and dedicated service. Kevin Money, Michael Dick, Bryan Schmidt and Gina Pannunzio – thank you, and we hope that you will continue to contribute to the sustainability of this region for many years to come.

12. ERCA Conservation Awards Presentation

Taking the time to honour those organizations and individuals who have made significant contributions to protecting and improving our region's natural environment is one of the most exciting elements of each year's annual meeting.

Conservation Awards have been presented annually since 1992, and once again, we are delighted to recognize those who have made a difference in enriching and sustaining our region.

To all of the winners tuning in tonight, on behalf of the Board I extend my most sincere Congratulations, and look forward to presenting you with your plaque, in person, when it is safe to do so.

But for tonight, we celebrate these incredible organizations and individuals who have taken significant action to protect and restore our local environment with this video:

Coopers Hawk Vineyards, 2021 Conservation Farm Award

Cara Braun, 2021 Youth Conservation Award

Healthy Headwaters Lab, 2021 Conservation Education Award

SuNaAnRu Green Earth, 2021 Volunteer Conservation Award

Bill Roesel, 2021 Individual Environmental Achievement Award

Enbridge, 2021 Environmental Achievement Award
Aaron Zimmer, 2021 Denis Chase Staff Award

Congratulations to all the award winner! Again, we encourage you to do your good work as you are an example and inspiration to others.

13. Other Business

A. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, February 17, 2022 starting at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom web conferencing

14. Adjournment

Resolution 15/22 Moved by Larry Patterson
Seconded by Chris Vander Doelen
That the January 20, 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Essex Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors be adjourned. **Carried**



Tania Jobin
Chair



Tim Byrne
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer