



Essex Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 14, 2023

Time: 6:00 pm

Location and Details: Council Chambers, County of Essex Civic Centre
360 Fairview Avenue West, Essex, ON

Attendance

Members Present:

Jim Morrison (Chair)	Michael Akpata
Sue Desjarlais (Vice-Chair)	Anthony Abraham
Molly Allaire	Larry Verbeke
Katie McGuire-Blais	Dayne Malloch
Jason Matyi	Tania Jobin
Kim DeYong	Angelo Marignani
Thomas Neufeld	Mark McKenzie
Tracey Bailey	Kieran McKenzie
Ryan McNamara	
Peter Courtney	Joe Bachetti

Absent:

Regrets:

Staff Present

Tim Byrne, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
Nicole Kupnicki, Corporate Services, Human Resources Manager/EA
Shelley McMullen, CFO/Director Finance and Corporate Services
Kevin Money, Director Conservation Services
Danielle Breault-Stuebing, Director Community and Outreach Services
James Bryant, Director Watershed Management Services
Paul Giroux, Forester

Others

Melissa Tremain-Snip
Chis Snip
Vic Chalea
Tom Dufour, Geomatics Technician

1. Call to Order

Good evening and welcome to the September 14, 2023, meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors. I will call the meeting to order. Thank you all.

We have regrets this evening from:

- Councillor Peter Courtney, Amherstburg
- Councillor Thomas Neufeld, Kingsville
- Deputy Mayor Joe Bachetti, Tecumseh

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 Potawatomi 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. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. Approval of Agenda

A. ERCA Board of Directors

Resolution 99/23 Moved by Kimberly DeYong
Seconded by Mark McKenzie
THAT the Agenda of the September 14, 2023, meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors be approved. **Carried**

5. Hearings

None

6. Adoption of Minutes

A. ERCA Board of Directors

Resolution 100/23 Moved by Angelo Marignani
Seconded by Tania Jobin
THAT the Minutes of the August 3, 2023, meeting of the Board of Directors and the recommendations therein be approved as distributed. **Carried**

7. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

A. BD36/23 Provisions for Electronic Meetings of the ERCA Board of Directors, Committees and Advisory Boards

Resolution 101/23 Moved by Kieran McKenzie
Seconded by Angelo Marignani
THAT the Board endorse that meetings be limited to either fully virtual electronic or in-person format; and further,

THAT the Chair, in consultation with the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer (or his/her designate), endeavour to schedule Board, Advisory Board and Committee meetings in a meeting format that considers the anticipated resources available at the time, the prevailing circumstances of

the meeting, and any other factors that support the holding of in-person or electronic meeting, as described herein; and further,

THAT Administration be instructed to engage of the services of a consultant to conduct a review of the Administrative By-Laws to include provisions for holding meetings electronically, including provision for a hybrid format, and other such recommended amendments to bring the Administrative By-law into compliance with the Conservation Authorities Act and reflect best current practice for governance. **Carried**

Resolution 102/23 Moved by Michael Akpata
Seconded by Sue Desjarlais

THAT Administration explore all of the requisite technical supports to hold hybrid meetings following the adoption of amended Administrative By-law to allow electronic meetings to be held. **Carried**

8. Announcements

Over the past few months, ERCA has been actively engaged in meetings with municipal administration in the region related to the Municipal Cost Apportionment Agreements for Category Three (Non-Mandatory) services that are required to be completed by December 31, 2023 through resolution by Municipal Councils. ERCA will be attending scheduled Council meetings in October and November, and we anticipate being able to complete these agreements within the required deadlines with support from various municipal administrations.

With the recent storm activity in our region on August 23 & 24, 2023, James Bryant will provide Members with a brief overview of the storm event under New Business, understanding that a full report will be coming forward at our October meeting.

I would like to acknowledge the quick response of staff in addressing the damage to our conservation areas caused by the storms and high winds. Their extraordinary efforts to remove downed trees, clear trails and repair other damage ensured that residents could continue to safely enjoy conservation areas with minimal interruption.

Significant work has taken place in conservation areas over the summer, with the parking lots at both Devonwood and the Homestead tar and chipped.

Bridge replacements along the greenway continue with municipal partners in accordance with the drainage act.

And, on September 23, the Essex Region Conservation Foundation will host its annual Bike Tour, with routes beginning and ending in Kingsville. There are routes for every age and ability, and the funds raised this year will help us to build a new community entrance to the Cypher Systems Group Greenway. We hope you, your family and friends will participate.

On October 3 and 10, 2023 ERCA will host an open house for the public to provide input into the Hillman Marsh Restoration Plan. More information is at your desk, and members are invited to attend.

9. Delegations

None

10. Presentations

A. Cedar Creek Restoration Update

Resolution 103/23 Moved by Molly Alliare

Seconded by Kimberly DeYong

THAT the Cedar Creek Restoration Update presentation be received for Members' information.

B. BD37/23 Oak Wilt Update

Resolution 104/23 Moved by Kieran McKenzie

Seconded by Angelo Marignani

THAT ERCA staff continue with an Oak Wilt prevention strategy, including public education on Oak Wilt identification, and further,

THAT ERCA continue to be a forestry extension resource to the local municipalities regarding the identification of Oak Wilt and Best Management Practices; and further,

THAT ERCA will follow up with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency regarding a potential embargo of firewood being permitted to be brought into a Conservation Area.

11. Reports for Approval

A. BD38/23 2024 Holiday Beach Seasonal Camping Fees

Resolution 105/23 Moved by Molly Alliare

Seconded by Mark McKenzie

THAT the 2024 Seasonal Camping fees for Holiday Beach Conservation Area be increased to \$2,960.00 plus HST.

12. Reports for Information

A. BD 39/23 Watershed Management Services Activities Report for July and August 2023

Resolution 106/23 Moved by Larry Verbeke

Seconded by Sue Desjarlais

THAT the review of Regulations and Planning Applications, as presented in Report BD39/23 be received for Members' information. **Carried**

B. Environmental Registry Reports

- i. Conservation Ontario's Comments on the "Technical Bulletin - Flooding Hazards: Data Survey and Mapping Specifications" (ERO# 019-4706)

Resolution 107/23 Moved by Mark McKenzie

Seconded by Angelo Marignani

THAT Conservation Ontario comments on ERO#019-4706 be received for Members' information. **Carried**

C. Correspondence

- i. Letter from MECP regarding Moving to a Project List under the Environmental Assessment Act dated August 9, 2023

Resolution 108/23 Moved by Angelo Marignani
Seconded by Anthony Abraham
THAT correspondence be received for Members' information. **Carried**

13. Committee of the Whole

None

14. New Business

A. Storm Events, August 23 & 24, 2023

James Bryant, Director Watershed Management Services provided a brief verbal summary of the storm event that took place on August 23 and 24, 2023. A full report will be provided to the Board at the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

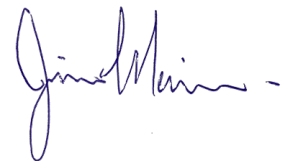
15. Other Business.

A. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on October 12, 2023, starting at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Civic Centre in Essex, ON.

16. Adjournment

Resolution 109/23 Moved by Angelo Marignani
Seconded by Molly Alliare
THAT the September 14, 2023 meeting of the Essex Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors be adjourned. **Carried**



Jim Morrison, Chair



Tim Byrne, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer