

## Minutes

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)

Board of Directors Meeting

9:45am Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 1424 Clarke Rd, London  
(Hybrid Meeting)

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Brian Petrie, UTRCA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:54am.

### Members Present:

Peter Cuddy – Online  
Skylar Franke  
Tom Heeman  
Anna Hopkins  
Sandy Levin  
Hugh McDermid  
Paul Mitchell

Harj Nijjar – Online  
Brian Petrie – Chair  
Mark Schadenberg  
Dean Trentowsky  
George Way  
Scotty Zehr

### Regrets:

Debbie Heffernan  
Jim Craigmile

Solicitor: G. Inglis

### Staff Present:

Jenna Allain  
Tracy Annett  
Laura Biancolin  
Emily Chandler  
Christine Creighton  
Ben Dafoe  
Brad Glasman  
Mark Helsten  
Mike Knox

Stefanie Pratt  
Christine Saracino  
Jessica Schnaithmann  
Chris Tasker  
Brent Verscheure  
Michelle Viglianti – Recorder  
Karen Winfield  
Brandon Williamson

## 1. Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair read the territorial acknowledgement.

## 2. Modifications to the Agenda

There were no modifications made to the agenda.

## 3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

## 4. Administrative Business

### **4.1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: March 26, 2024**

Mover: Paul Mitchell

Secunder: Scotty Zehr

THAT that the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Board of Directors' minutes dated March 26, 2024, including any closed session minutes, as amended on the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority web-site. Carried.

### **4.2. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### **4.3. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

## 5. Delegations/Presentations

### **5.1. City of London Delegation – Mud Creek**

Shawna Chambers, Division Manager, Stormwater Engineering and Scott Mathers, Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development presented their delegation supporting the Mud Creek Two Zone concept. They provided a history of the area and infrastructure, outlined the problem of frequent flooding on Oxford Street, and reviewed the next steps for the significant work and improvements planned, noting the urgency to move the work forward.

Ongoing collaboration between the City and UTRCA staff was noted. Members confirmed UTRCA staff were committed to engaging with the City when reviewing the responses to the Streamlining Initiatives Request for Proposal (RFP), and that the City would confirm what City Staff members should be involved. Members also confirmed

City staff were committed to sitting down with UTRCA staff to discuss workflow matters in order to speed up processes.

## 6. Reports – For Consideration

### **6.1. Mud Creek Two Zone Concept**

(Report attached)

There was a discussion on the wording of the third section of the staff recommendation in regards to the proposed 'every 10 year' review period. The Board agreed the recommendation should be changed to read "at least every 10 years". The change was made with the intent to provide more flexibility going forward.

Mover: Sandy Levin

Secunder: Anna Hopkins

THAT the UTRCA Board of Directors approve the concept for a two-zone approach for a defined area within the Mud Creek Subwatershed in the City of London;

AND

THAT the existing board-approved policies for flood fringe and floodway be implemented for the area identified for the two-zone approach,

AND FURTHER,

THAT the two-zone concept within the Mud Creek Subwatershed be reviewed at least every 10 years.

Carried.

The Chair called for a short recess at 10:41am.

The Chair called the meeting back to order at 10:54am.

## 7. Reports – In-Camera

There were no in-camera reports.

## 8. Reports – For Information

### **8.1. Administration and Enforcement – Section 28 Status Report**

Mover: Sandy Levin

Secunder: Skylar Franke

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.

Carried.

## **8.2. Project Status Update**

Staff noted the Fee Freeze letter would be added to the project status update report next month.

Mover: Mark Schadenberg

Seconder: Scotty Zehr

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.

Carried.

## **8.3. Proposed Regulation Minister's Permit and Review Powers ERO #019-8320**

The General Manager and Chair attended a meeting with the Minister yesterday with other high growth Conservation Authorities. The Minister confirmed the intent of the proposed Minister's powers was that they only be used in case of timing issues, in order to move applications forward.

Mover: George Way

Seconder: Sandy Levin

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

Carried.

## **8.4. Hydro Plan Update**

Mover: Hugh McDermid

Seconder: Tom Heeman

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

Carried.

## **8.5. Former Children's Safety Village – Progress Update**

Staff provided a presentation on the history of the Children's Safety Village and progress to date on the building updates.

The Board discussed the budget for the future projects at this site, the status of the partnership with the YMCA for 2025, and the original funders.

Members noted they looked forward to seeing the business plan for the former Children's Safety Village.

Mover: Skylar Franke

Seconder: Anna Hopkins

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

Carried.

### **8.6. UTRCA Land Acquisition – Wheeler Tract (Fish Creek Property Donation)**

Mover: Paul Mitchell

Seconder: Scotty Zehr

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

Carried.

### **8.7. Thames River Current – April Edition**

The April edition of the Thames River Current was presented for the member's information.

Mover: Mark Schadenberg

Seconder: Sandy Levin

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

Carried.

## **9. Reports – Committees**

### **9.1. Finance and Audit Committee**

There will be a Finance and Audit Committee meeting at 12:00 this afternoon.

### **9.2. Hearing Committee – March 24, 2024 Outcome**

Mover: Dean Trentowsky

Seconder: Paul Mitchell

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

Carried.

There will be a virtual Hearing Committee meeting on Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **10. Notices of Motion for May 28, 2024**

There were no notices of motion.

## 11. Chair's Comments

The Chair, Vice-Chair and General Manager attended the Conservation Ontario meeting in Toronto yesterday. Highlights of the meeting included the election of a new Board of Directors and a report on section 28 reporting showing 95% of all permits issued by Conservation Authorities met the Provincial guidelines (up from 91% in 2022), and 89% of all permits met the tighter Conservation Ontario best practice timelines (up from 84% in 2022).

The Chair commended Conservation Ontario for their work and ability to get funding for Conservation Authorities to access, noting that the funding for the Wheeler project came through Conservation Ontario.

The Chair complimented Conservation Ontario for arranging a meeting with the Minister and complimented the Minister for being open to looking at evidence supporting an end to the Fee Freeze.

## 12. Member's Comments

Mark Schadenberg informed the members of a community tree planting event taking place in Woodstock on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Chair reminded the members that it is Thames River Clean Up season, and that Ingersoll is holding their cleanup day April 20<sup>th</sup>.

## 13. General Manager's Comments

The General Manager noted it was a busy time of year with lots of activities and opportunities for members to participate.

The General Manager noted that the parks will be fully open soon and are currently open for the spring shoulder season. She noted that seasonal staff hiring went very smoothly this year with a lot of returning staff.

The General Manager noted that Conservation Ontario is currently collecting comments from all Conservation Authorities for the current postings on the Environmental Registry of Ontario.

## 14. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am on a motion by Tom Heeman, seconded by Skylar Franke.

Tracy Annett, General Manager  
/mv