

Minutes

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)

Board of Directors Meeting

10:00am Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 1424 Clarke Rd, London
(Hybrid Meeting)

Dean Trentowsky, UTRCA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:12am.

Members Present:

Jean Coles

Peter Cuddy – Online

Tom Heeman – Online

Anna Hopkins

Sandy Levin

Skylar Franke

Hugh McDermid

Paul Mitchell

Harj Nijjar – Online

Brian Petrie

Mark Schadenberg

Dean Trentowsky – Chair

George Way

Regrets: Jim Craigmile, Scotty Zehr

Staff Present:

Jenna Allain

Tracy Annett

Joe Gordon

Eleanor Heagy

Teresa Hollingsworth

Karlee Flear

Brad Hertner

Tatianna Lozier

Graeme Shaw

Chris Tasker

Brent Verscheure

Michelle Viglianti – Recorder

Brandon Williamson

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair read the territorial acknowledgement.

2. Modifications to the Agenda

Mover: Brian Petrie

Seconder: Sandy Levin

THAT Item 7.1 be moved to follow item 5.3 on the agenda.

Carried.

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. Delegations/Presentations

There were no delegations or presentation.

5. Administrative Business

5.1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: March 25, 2025

Mover: Mark Schadenberg

Secunder: George Way

THAT that the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the Board of Directors' minutes, including any closed session minutes, dated March 25, 2025.

Carried.

5.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5.3. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

7. Reports – In-Camera *This item was moved to follow item 5.3

Mover: Hugh McDermid

Secunder: Jean Coles

THAT the Board of Directors move into closed session at 10:16am.

Carried.

The Board of Directors adjourned to Closed Session in accordance with Section C.12 of the UTRCA Administrative By-Law to discuss potential litigation affecting the Authority at 10:16am.

***7.1 Potential Litigation Affecting the Authority**

The Board rose and reported progress on potential litigation affecting the authority.

Mover: Anna Hopkins

Seconder: Hugh McDermid

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

Carried.

6. Reports – For Consideration

6.1. City of London 2026 Budget Request

The Chair expressed his appreciation to Mayor Morgan and Budget Chair Peloza for attending the March Board meeting in person to discuss the 2026 budget.

Members suggested the following items to include in the letter: language at the beginning of the letter to clarify that more information will be forthcoming and further meetings will be held throughout the budget process, the financial impacts of items identified as needing advocacy, and adding financial and legislative stability to the list of advocacy pieces.

Mover: Sandy Levin

Seconder: Brian Petrie

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report and direct staff to provide the attached letter with the amended suggestions noted to the City of London Mayor and Budget Committee Chair.

Carried.

6.2. Annual Updates to Regulated Area Maps

Peter Cuddy left the meeting at 11:45am.

Mover: Sandy Levin

Seconder: Anna Hopkins

The Board of Directors approve the annual review and update of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority's (UTRCA) Regulated Area maps to incorporate any new information available to regulate natural hazards such as floodplains, steep slopes and wetlands as per Ontario Regulation 41/24.

Carried.

8. Reports – For Information

Administration and Enforcement – Section 28 Status Report

Mover: Sandy Levin

Seconder: Mark Schadenberg

THAT the Board of Directors receives the Section 28 Status Report for information.

Carried.

8.1. Project Status Update

Mover: George Way

Seconder: Skylar Franke

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

Carried.

8.2. First Quarter Financial Update

Mover: Paul Mitchell

Seconder: Hugh McDermid

THAT the Board of Directors accepts this report, statement of operations, and statement of financial position for information.

Carried.

8.4 Former Children’s Safety Village Update

The Board discussed UTRCA rental facilities and their current uses.

Mover: Hugh McDermid

Seconder: Jean Coles

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

Carried.

8.5 Community Engagement

A Board member noted the Ingersoll Thames River Clean Up, taking place on April 26th, was missing from the report.

Members suggested creating a platform where the details (date, time and location) of UTRCA events can be easily accessed by Members.

Anna Hopkins and Skylar Franke left the meeting at 12:05pm.

The Board discussed the response to the two phosphorus presentations and staff offered to provide a future update report on program uptake.

Members discussed the difference in delivery of the phosphorus reduction programs between the UTRCA and Ontario Soil and Crop Association.

Members thanked staff for working with Thames Centre to develop the Thames Centre Tree Power program.

Mover: Paul Mitchell

Seconder: Brian Petrie

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

Carried.

8.6 Thames River Current – April Edition

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

The Chair encouraged Board members to circulate the Thames River Current to colleagues and partner organizations.

Mover: George Way

Seconder: Hugh McDermid

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

Carried.

9. Reports – Committees

9.1. Finance and Audit Committee

There was no report from the Finance and Audit Committee.

9.2. Hearing Committee

There was no report from the Hearing Committee.

10. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion for the next meeting.

11. Chair’s Comments

The Chair provided an overview of the Conservation Ontario Annual General Meeting Board of Directors election results.

The Chair thanked all members for their input and participation in today’s meeting.

12. Member’s Comments

Brian Petrie shared that Brad Hertner, UTRCA Community Partnerships Coordinator, attended an Ingersoll Council meeting to discuss a tree planting partnership project between the Town of Ingersoll and UTRCA to plant and monitor 4,300 trees over a three-year period.

13. General Manager’s Comments

The General Manager asked that any members available to attend the upcoming Conservation Areas staff orientation sessions contact Michelle Viglianti, Administrative Assistant.

The General Manager noted a digital version of the Conservation Ontario 2024 Annual Report would be circulated to members following the meeting and provided some highlights from the report.

The General Manager highlighted the new Chair of Conservation Ontario’s desire to have the Provincial working group reinstated so Conservation Authorities can provide input on legislative changes before they appear on the Environmental Registry of Ontario.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:17pm on a motion by Sandy Levin, seconded by Hugh McDermid.

Tracy Annett, General Manager
/mv