

# Minutes

## Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)

### Board of Directors Meeting

#### Tuesday, August 23, 2022

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Virtual Meeting Due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

Alan Dale, UTRCA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

#### Members Present:

M.Blosh	P.Mitchell
A.Dale – Chair	A.Murray
A.Hopkins	B.Petrie
T.Jackson	J.Salter
S.Levin	A.Westman
M.Lupton	
H.McDermid	

#### Regrets:

N.Manning  
J.Reffle  
M.Schadenberg

Solicitor: G. Inglis

#### Staff Present:

J.Allain	J. Howley
T.Annett	C.Saracino
E.Chandler	J. Schnaithmann
B.Dafoe	S. Singh
B.Dryburgh	C.Tasker
M.Funk	
T.Hollingsworth	

## 1. Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair read the territorial acknowledgement.

## 2. Modifications to the Agenda

The Chair inquired whether the members had any proposed modifications to the agenda. There were none.

## 3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

## 4. Delegations/Presentations

There were no delegations or presentations.

## 5. Administrative Business

### **5.1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: June 28, 2022**

The Chair confirmed the mover and seconder were willing to let their names stand.

Mover: A. Murray

Secunder: B. Petrie

THAT that the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Board of Directors' minutes dated June 28, 2022, including any closed session minutes, as posted on the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority web-site.

Carried.

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

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### **5.3. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

## 6. Reports – For Consideration

### **6.1. UTRCA COVID-19 Interim Vaccination Policy - Update**

The Chair confirmed the wording of the motion with the mover and confirmed the seconder was willing to let their name stand.

H.McDermid left the meeting at 9:41am due to an emergency.

The Members thoroughly discussed the motion on the floor.

Some members felt the purpose of the policy failed since the vaccine failed at preventing the spread of the virus. They also felt that the current policy should be suspended given the good hygienic practices, ability to socially distance and evidence that most exposures happen in social settings. Those members also questioned why the COVID vaccine was required when proof of other vaccines was not, and felt staff were responsible enough to make the best decision for themselves.

Some members felt the staff recommendation was the responsible choice, that the policy was one more tool to help keep staff and their families healthy, and felt it appropriate to continue to follow the advice of the local Public Health Units.

There were questions and concerns around the lack of requirement of booster shots. The Policy has been, and will continue to be, reviewed at least four times a year by the Joint Health and Safety Committee.

Mover: T.Jackson

Secunder: P.Mitchell

TO suspend the vaccine mandate for staff and new hires effective immediately.

Defeated.

## **6.2. 2022 Mid-Year Financial Report and Budget Revisions**

T.Jackson left the meeting at 10:02am.

The Chair confirmed the mover and seconder were willing to let their names stand.

Due to new software being brought online, the draft 2023 budget will be presented at the November meeting.

The audio visual equipment needed to hold hybrid meetings has been ordered, but due to supply chain issues it is unknown when it will be in place. Staff hope hybrid meetings can start later in the fall.

Mover: B. Petrie

Seconder: J.Salter

THAT the Board of Directors approve the recommendation as presented in the report.  
Carried.

### **6.3. Review of Mileage Rates**

The Chair confirmed the mover and seconder were willing to let their names stand.

A member raised concerns around per diems, as their municipality found they do not align with the Canadian Revenue Agency evaluations.

Staff noted the per diem rate will either be reviewed in the New Year, or when an agricultural representative is appointed to the Upper Thames Board.

Mover: S. Levin

Seconder: A.Westman

THAT the Board of Directors approve the recommendation as presented in the report.  
Carried.

## **7. Reports – For Information**

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

(Report attached)

The Chair confirmed the mover and seconder were willing to let their names stand.

Questions were raised around the status of Planning Act applications with the new, shorter deadlines. Staff noted the high growth Conservation Authorities are currently working on an annual reporting and planning service delivery template. Staff outlined the unit structural changes and increased capacity in the Environmental Planning and Regulations unit centered on meeting the new deadlines in Bill 109: More Homes For Everyone Act.

Mover: M.Blosh

Seconder: A.Hopkins

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.  
Carried.

## **7.2. Celebrating Natural Connections Project**

The Chair confirmed the mover and seconder were willing to let their names stand.

Mover: J. Salter

Secunder: S. Levin

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.

Carried.

## **7.3. General Manager of Conservation Ontario – Announcement**

The Chair confirmed the mover and seconder were willing to let their names stand.

Mover: M.Lupton

Secunder: A. Murray

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.

Carried.

## **7.4. June For Your Information Report**

The Chair confirmed the mover and seconder were willing to let their names stand.

Mover: B. Petrie

Secunder: P.Mitchell

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.

Carried.

The Chair noted a correspondence from City of London Ward 2 Concillor Shawn Lewis congratulating the Authority on tree planting in rural areas.

## **8. Notices of Motion**

The Chair inquired whether any Board members had motions to bring to the floor for a future meeting. There were none.

## 9. Chair's Comments

The Chair extended condolences on behalf of the Board to Alex Westman and his family on the loss of his wife Donna.

The Chair extended good luck to all of the members running for municipal office and congratulation to those who had been acclaimed.

The Chair thanked Scott Gillingwater and all staff that were involved with organizing the Reptiles at Risk Lab Tour. He noted that himself and P.Mitchell were able to attend and there was a great turnout.

## 10. Member's Comments

B. Petrie encouraged attendance at both the Burgess park Celebrating Natural Connections event and the Ingersoll's Kiwanis Harvest market August 27th.

B. Petrie attended the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) session regarding changes to the Conservation Authorities Act. He noted municipalities and Authorities used the opportunity to tell the Minister of the Environment Conservation and Parks that the regulations surrounding Board composition were too stringent, would be difficult for municipalities to implement, and would not result in good representation on Conservation Authority Boards. The Minister communicated a willingness to make exceptions and encouraged municipalities to apply for exemptions.

A. Westman extended thanks to all Board members and staff on behalf of himself and his family for the support he has received.

## 11. General Manager's Comments

The General Manager noted that an update would be provided at the September meeting on the organizational changes.

The General Manager noted that Conservation Ontario has been working on developing guideline documents to serve as a Framework for Conservation Authorities to follow.

The General Manager noted that staff have been providing input to the Lands Management Strategy and core watershed-based resource management strategy documents and highlighted the work Conservation Ontario has undertaken to ensure a coordinated approach to meet the regulatory requirements.

The General Manager reminded members that Latonell will be returning this year in a new format and location. Registration information for those interested in attending should be forwarded to M.Viglianti.

## 12. Reports – In-Camera

The Chair confirmed the mover and seconder were willing to let their names stand.

Mover: B.Petrie

Secunder: A.Murray

THAT the Board of Directors adjourn to Closed Session – In Camera, in accordance with Section C.13 of the UTRCA Administrative By-Law, to discuss litigation affecting the Authority.

Carried.

Moved by: J.Salter

Seconded by: M. Lupton

THAT the Board of Directors Rise and Report progress.

Carried.

### **12.1. Litigation Affecting the Authority – Updates on On-Going Cases**

Mover: A.Westman

Secunder: J. Salter

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.

Carried.

## 13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10am on a motion by M.Blosh.



Tracy Annett, General Manager

Att.