

Minutes

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Brian Petrie, UTRCA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:32am.

Members Present:

Jim Craigmile

Peter Cuddy - Online

Skylar Franke

Debbie Heffernan

Anna Hopkins

Sandy Levin - Online

Hugh McDermid

Paul Mitchell

Harj Nijjar

Brian Petrie - Chair

Mark Schadenberg

Dean Trentowsky

George Way

Regrets: Scotty Zehr, Tom Heeman

Solicitor: G. Inglis

Staff Present:

Jenna Allain

Tracy Annett

Emily Chandler

Brad Dryburgh – Online

Mike Funk – Online

Teresa Hollingsworth – Online

Damian Schofield

Chris Tasker

Brent Verscheure

Michelle Viglianti – Recorder

Brad Glasman

Rob Davies

Tatianna Lozier

Tara Tchir

Craig Irwin

Cathy Quinlan

Eleanor Heagy

Dave Charles

Damian Schofield

Erin Carroll

Christine Saracino

Jessica Kilpatrick

Elijah Wilson – Online

Mike Funk – Online

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair read the territorial acknowledgement.

2. Modifications to the Agenda

Mover: M.Schadenberg

Seconder: S.Franke

THAT the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board of Directors modify the agenda to include 4.1 Integrated Watershed Management Unit Presentation to the agenda.

Carried.

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. Delegations/Presentations

4.1. Integrated Watershed Management Unit Presentation

Brad Glasman and Tatianna Lozier provided an interactive presentation on the programs and services of the Integrated Watershed Management Unit.

5. Administrative Business

5.1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: May 23, 2023

A clerical error was found in the minutes, the date should be May 23, not May 25th. The corrected version has been posted on the website.

Vice-Chair S.Levin asked staff to follow up with himself and B.Petrie to confirm that nothing further is required from them regarding the closed session item on the May agenda.

Mover: H.McDermid

Seconder: G.Way

THAT that the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Board of Directors' minutes dated May 23, 2023, 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. 20 Year Flood Control Capital Plan

(Report attached)

Mover: H.McDermid

Seconder: S.Franke

THAT:

1. The Board approves the 20 Year Flood Control Capital Repair Plan dated June 2023.
2. The Board receives the 2022/23 Final WECI Expenditure Report as included in the 2022/23 WECI Year End Report package dated March 10, 2023.
3. The Board receives the Approved WECI Budget as per the Schedule “D” Budget of the Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement.

Carried.

6.2. Administrative By-Law Updates

(Report attached)

Staff noted that a couple of typos were found and corrected.

Mover: S.Franke

Seconder: A.Hopkins

That the Board approves the amended Administrative By-Laws updated June 11, 2023, effective July 1, 2023 for the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority.

Mover: M.Schadenberg

Seconder: P.Mitchell

THAT a heading be added to section 4.2, after 4.2.8 titled Reports from Committees, and further that all headings after that be renumbered accordingly.

Carried.

That the Board approves the amended Administrative By-Laws updated June 11, 2023, effective July 1, 2023 for the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and that a heading be added to section 4.2, after 4.2.8 titled Reports from Committees, and further that all headings after be renumbered accordingly.

Carried.

6.3. Proposed Direction to Staff – Renewable Energy Generation

S.Franke clarified there were no timelines to either of her motions (6.3 and 6.4). They are topics she would like to see on the agenda for discussion in the future.

Mover: S.Franke

Seconder: M.Schadenberg

TO direct staff to present a discussion paper to the Board regarding barrier removals.

Carried.

6.4. Proposed Direction to Staff – Renewable Energy Generation

It was noted that if funding were to become available for renewable energy projects, it would be beneficial to already have projects identified.

Mover: S.Franke

Seconder: G.Way

TO direct staff to review existing hydro generation at the Fanshawe Dam, and review the feasibility of renewable energy generation on other UTRCA structures (including, but not limited to solar, wind and hydroelectric).

Carried.

6.5. POA Officer Designation – Elijah Wilson

Mover: A.Hopkins

Seconder: H.Nijar

That the Board of Directors designate Elijah Wilson as a Provincial Offences Act Officer for the purpose of enforcing the Trespass to Property Act and the Conservation Authority Regulations on UTRCA property, as a requirement of the position of Assistant Superintendent at Pittock Conservation Area.

Carried.

7. Reports – In-Camera

There were no reports to be discussed in closed session.

8. Reports – For Information

8.1. Administration and Enforcement – Section 28 Status Report

(Report attached)

After discussion and feedback from the Board, staff confirmed more detail will be added to the report going forward, including type of permit, timeline information and how long the permit has been in the queue. Staff will also look into the total number of permits completed within the same timeline as the thirty two permits in progress. Staff also confirmed future reports will include Environmental Assessments, to better capture the total workload.

Members were advised to follow up with staff directly if there was any specific information they would like to see.

Mover: G.Way

Seconder: S.Franke

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.

Carried.

8.2. Deferred Revenue versus Reserves

Mover: P.Mitchell

Seconder: D.Heffernan

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.

Carried.

8.3. Quarterly Progress Report #5 – Inventory of Programs and Services

Staff noted that no inventory table was included in this update because there were no new amendments or comments at this time. The next update will be provided in October and will include the draft 2024 budget numbers.

Mover: H.Nijar

Seconder: G.Way

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.

Carried.

8.4. Project Status Update

The Board requested monthly project status update reports going forward.

It was noted that the hazard modeling and mapping update being presented at the August meeting will include a communications plan and indicate what areas will be targeted first.

Mover: M.Schadenberg

Secunder: H.Mcdermid

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.

Carried.

8.5. June For Your Information Report

The June For Your Information Report was presented for the member's information.

Mover: A.Hopkins

Secunder J.Craigmile

THAT the Board of Directors accept the report.

Carried.

9. Notices of Motion for August 22, 2023

There were no notices of motion.

10. Chair's Comments

The Chair shared some remarks made by the first UTRCA Board Chair, Dr. J. Cameron Wilson, found in the book Twenty Five Years of Conservation on the Upper Thames Watershed, 1947-1973.

11. Member's Comments

Board members thanked staff for the excellent May tour and tour booklet.

D.Trentowsky thanked staff for the organization and work that went into the Perth County Water Festival. He noted it was very well attended and people seemed to really enjoy themselves.

12. General Manager's Comments

The Environmental Registry of Ontario posting of the Provincial Policy Statement now includes proposed updates to the Natural Heritage policies. The policies have not changed much, but a number of definitions have been included. Conservation Ontario will be coordinating a response on behalf of Conservation Authorities.

Further Section 28 amendments are not expected until the legislature is sitting again.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 am on a motion by S.Franke.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tracy Annett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tracy Annett, General Manager
Att.