

Minutes

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, June 23, 2026 at 1424 Clarke Rd, London (Hybrid Meeting)

Brian Petrie, UTRCA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

Members Present:

Jean Coles - Online
Jim Craigmile
Skylar Franke
Anna Hopkins
Sandy Levin
Hugh McDermid
Paul Mitchell

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

Regrets:

Peter Cuddy
Tom Heeman

City of London: Adrienne Sones, Environmental Services Engineer, Stormwater Management

Solicitor: Grant Inglis

Staff Present:

Jenna Allain
Emily Chandler – AV Operator
Karlee Flear
Joe Gordon
Teresa Hollingsworth
Tatianna Lozier
Chris Tasker

Brent Verscheure
Michelle Viglianti – Recorder
Christine Saracino
Stephanie Schreiner
Julie Welker
Brandon Williamson

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair read the territorial acknowledgement.

2. Modifications to the Agenda

Mover: Mark Schadenberg

Seconder: Hugh McDermid

THAT the June 23, 2026 UTRCA Board of Directors agenda be modified to include correspondence from the CEO of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency as part of item 6.2.

Carried.

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. Presentations/Delegations

There were no presentations or delegations.

5. Administrative Business

5.1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: May 26, 2026

Mover: George Way

Seconder: Anna Hopkins

THAT that the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Board of Directors' minutes dated May 26, 2026, including any closed session minutes.

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. Dingman Creek Flood Hazard Map Update, City of London

Jenna Allain, UTRCA Manager of Environmental Planning and Regulations, Adrienne Sones, City of London Environmental Services Engineer Stormwater Management, and

Stephanie Schreiner, UTRCA Water Resources Engineer, gave a presentation outlining the background, current status, and next steps of the Dingman Creek Flood Hazard Environmental Assessment (EA) and Map update.

It was noted that one formal concern was filed and addressed through the commenting period by a property owner and no concerns or comments were formally received through the commenting period from members of the development industry.

The Chair thanked everyone involved for the years of work put into this project, highlighting the working relationships built through the lengthy process.

Mover: Sandy Levin

Seconder: Anna Hopkins

THAT the Board of Directors approve the Dingman Creek Flood Hazard Map update, City of London.

Carried.

6.2. Request for Clarification on Minister's Direction Issued Under Section 1.14 of the Conservation Authorities Act Regarding UTRCA Agricultural Land Lease Tender and Term

Mover: Sandy Levin

Seconder: Jean Coles

THAT the Board of Directors support staff seeking the required authorization from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA), in accordance with Ministerial direction, to proceed with the proposed agricultural land lease program;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be authorized to take all necessary actions to implement the approved tender process.

AND FURTHER THAT the Board receives the correspondence dated June 22nd for information and that the correspondence be appended to the minutes of this meeting.
Carried.

6.3. Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority Guiding Principles

The Chair suggested that the Guiding Principles document be circulated to all member municipalities with a letter explaining its importance.

Mover: Mark Schadenberg

Seconder: Hugh McDermid

THAT the report on the Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority Guiding Principles for Transition be received;

AND THAT the Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority Guiding Principles for Transition be approved.

Carried.

7. Reports – In-Camera

Mover: Dean Trentowsky

Seconder: Skylar Franke

THAT the Board of Directors adjourn to Closed Session – In Camera, in accordance with Section C.12 of the UTRCA Administrative By-Law to discuss a position, plan or instruction to be applied to negotiations and litigation affecting the Authority.

Carried.

The Board adjourned to closed session at 10:01am.

The Board rose from closed session at reported progress at 10:20am.

7.1. Position, Plan or Instruction to be Applied to Negotiations – Fanshawe Land Lease Program

Mover: Paul Mitchell

Seconder: Jean Coles

THAT the Board of Directors receive this report for information;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board endorse the continued advancement of a targeted legislative amendment to the Residential Tenancies Act, in collaboration with the Municipality of Thames Centre and the Fanshawe Land Lease Association.

Carried.

7.2. Litigation Affecting the UTRCA – Essex Street – Verbal Update

Mover: Anna Hopkins

Seconder: George Way

The Board received a verbal update from staff regarding a legal case pertaining to a property on Essex Street.

Carried.

8. Reports – For Information

8.1. UTRCA Lands Contributing to Canada's 30x30 Target

Mover: Hugh McDermid

Seconder: Harj Nijjar

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

Carried.

8.2. Upper Thames Phosphorus Reduction Program Update

Staff noted errors in Table 2 and provided the Board with the corrected version.

Members thanked Tatianna Lozier and all staff involved for the high level of public involvement and engagement. They also thanked the Federal Government and the Canada Water Agency for funding the program, noting that six Conservation Authorities and various other organizations are delivering the program on behalf of the Canada Water Agency.

The Board shared concerns over the status of the funding and delivery of the program with the upcoming change to the Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority. The Chair noted that according to the Province, all contracts and agreements will continue until the end of the term. Staff noted the only concern voiced by the Canada Water Agency has been the ability of the Conservation Authorities to continue to deliver the programs post amalgamation.

Mover: Skylar Franke

Seconder: Mark Schadenberg

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report with the corrections to Table 2 for information.

Carried.

8.3. 2026-2027 Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Project Approval Update

The Chair congratulated staff, noting the UTRCA received 20% of the total funds available through the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) program, saving member Municipalities and watershed taxpayers a million dollars. Members suggested circulating this report to each of the benefiting municipalities for the approved projects, highlighting the financial relief. The Chair suggested sending a letter to watershed politicians using this as an example to highlight the value of the UTRCA to the member Municipalities.

Members and staff discussed the options moving forward for the projects that did not receive funding, specifically for the Embro Conservation Area dam removal.

Mover: Hugh McDermid

Seconder: Jim Craigmile

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

Carried.

8.4. Administration and Enforcement – Section 28 Status Report

Mover: Skylar Franke

Seconder: Hugh McDermid

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

Carried.

8.5. Project Status Update

Mover: Jim Craigmile

Seconder: Anna Hopkins

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

Carried.

8.6. Thames River Current – June Edition

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

Mover: Dean Trentowsky

Seconder: Skylar Franke

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

The Hearing Committee met following the May meeting to approve minutes, no other business was conducted or discussed.

10. Notices of Motion for Next Meeting

There were no notices of motion.

11. Chair's Comments

The Chair shared that he has given his final delegation presentation to Municipalities regarding the Conservation Authority consolidations. He heard a lot of concerns from Municipal councils on both what is and isn't happening with the transition to Regional Conservation Authorities.

The Chair noted that the Conservation Authority consolidation transition is entering a short lull period while interviews for project executives take place, transition committees are being formed, and Ernst and Young creates the transition Playbooks for each Regional Conservation Authority. He warned that once those have concluded lots of information will be provided mostly likely in a short period of time.

The Chair and Vice-Chair attended a Conservation Ontario council meeting yesterday. The Chair noted that not much was shared regarding the consolidations.

The Chair encouraged everyone to enjoy what the UTRCA parks have to offer. He encouraged members of the public to take advantage of the UTRCA park passes available to borrow through libraries across the watershed.

The Chair commented on the number of positive YouTube videos and reviews from people visiting the parks and thanked staff for their hard work.

The Chair noted the theme of the June agenda was collaboration. He thanked staff for their work and expressed his appreciation at seeing so many long terms projects getting finished and approved.

12. Member's Comments

Mark Schadenberg shared that the City of Woodstock has refurbished the disk golf course on the north shore of Pittock, originally installed by the UTRCA.

13. General Manager's Comments

Acting General Manager Brent Verscheure reminded the members there was no meeting scheduled for July, wished everyone a great summer, and noted the next Board meeting will be held on August 25th.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:56am on a motion by Skylar Franke, seconded by Hugh McDermid.

Brent Verscheure, Acting General Manager, Manager of Lands, Facilities and Conservation Areas

/mv

Att.