

Minutes

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

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

Members Present:

Peter Cuddy
Skylar Franke
Sandy Levin
Hugh McDermid
Paul Mitchell
Harj Nijjar - Online

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

Regrets:

Jim Craigmile
Debbie Heffernan

Tom Heeman
Anna Hopkins

Solicitor: G. Inglis

Staff Present:

Jenna Allain
Tracy Annett
Vanni Azzano
Emily Chandler
Brad Dryburgh – Online
Mike Funk – Online
Eleanor Heagy
Justin Henry

Teresa Hollingsworth
Damian Schofield
Cathy Quinlan
Chris Tasker
Brent Verscheure
Michelle Viglianti – Recorder
Brandon Williamson

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair read the territorial acknowledgement.

2. Modifications to the Agenda

There were no modifications to the agenda.

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. Delegations/Presentations

4.1. Lands, Facilities and Conservation Areas Overview

Brent Verscheure, Manager, provided an overview presentation of the Lands, Facilities and Conservation Areas unit.

Mover: P.Cuddy

Seconder: G.Way

THAT the Board of Directors receive the presentation for information.

Carried.

5. Administrative Business

5.1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: April 25, 2023

Staff noted two small administrative errors in the minutes that have been corrected. Jim Craigmile and Skylar Franke attended the April meeting in person, not online as indicated in the draft minutes.

Mover: P.Mitchell

Seconder: H.McDermid

THAT that the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Board of Directors' minutes dated April 25, 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. Report from the Finance and Audit Committee – Approval of the 2022 Audited Financial Statements

(Report attached)

The Members requested that C.Saracino give a brief overview of deferred revenue and its connection to reserves at a future meeting.

Mover: H.McDermid

Seconder: S.Franke

THAT: 1. The Board of Directors accepts the audited financial statements for 2022 as attached on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee. AND,
2. The Board of Directors accepts the recommendation from the Finance and Audit Committee to appoint Seebach and Co. as the Authority's audit firm for the current fiscal year.

Carried.

6.2. Category 3 Cost Apportioning Agreements

(Report attached)

Staff confirmed a similar Guide to Cost Apportioning Agreements will be prepared for each Municipality, noting they are all, including the one provided, still in progress. The packages will be circulated to their respective Board members before they are presented to councils.

Staff confirmed the category three agreements would go to Oxford County Council for approval, but UTRCA staff would be reaching out to municipal staff at the participating municipalities for category two agreements, mostly for existing land management agreements.

Mover: S.Franke

Seconder: G.Way

THAT the Board of Directors of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) directs staff to prepare a Category 3 programs and services cost-apportioning agreement to seek municipal support to continue to fund these programs and services.

Carried.

7. Reports – In-Camera

Mover: P.Cuddy

Seconder: D.Trentowsky

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 a personal matter about an identifiable individual.

Carried.

7.1. Personal Matters about an Identifiable Individual

Rise and Report

The Board of Directors rose and reported progress on a personal matter about an identifiable individual.

Mover: P.Mitchell

Seconder: P.Cuddy

THAT the Board accept the recommendation of the Chair and Vice Chair with respect to adjusting the General Managers compensation in accordance with section 5.02 of the UTRCA Personnel Regulations.

Carried.

8. Reports – For Information

8.1. Administration and Enforcement – Section 28 Status Report

(Report attached)

Staff confirmed the June report would include the extra details as requested at the April meeting.

Mover: S.Franke

Seconder: P.Cuddy

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.

Carried.

8.2. May For Your Information Report

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

9. Notices of Motion for June 20, 2023

S.Franke provided notice for the following proposed motion: Direct staff to present a discussion paper to the Board regarding barrier removals.

S.Franke provided notice for the following proposed motion: 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).

Staff confirmed the motions would appear on the June agenda for the Board's consideration.

10. Chair's Comments

The Chair encouraged the other members to visit and promote the UTRCA parks, noting that most libraries have passes available to borrow.

11. Member's Comments

H.McDermid asked about having an Agricultural Representative. Staff confirmed the appointments come from the Province, and so far only five Conservation Authorities have received appointments.

D.Trentowsky informed the Board that West Perth would be hosting the Perth County Children's Water Festival on Sunday May 29th.

12. General Manager's Comments

The General Manager reported that four thousand students participated in the Middlesex Children's Water Festival over four days and another four thousand people attended the free Water Festival Family Night. She also noted the Perth County Children's Water Festival would be held on Sunday May 29th.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30am on a motion by S.Franke.



Tracy Annett, General Manager
Att.