

Minutes Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, November 23, 2021

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.Reffle
S.Levin	J.Salter
M.Lupton	M.Schadenberg
N.Manning	A.Westman
H.McDermid	

Regrets: None

Solicitor: G. Inglis

Staff:

J.Allain	S. Pratt
T.Annett	C.Saracino
J.Dony	D.Schofield
B.Glasman	A.Shivas
C.Harrington	C.Tasker
T.Hollingsworth	B.Verscheure
J.Howley	J.Welker
S.Musclow	M.Viglianti - Recorder

1. Approval of Agenda

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

Mover: P.Mitchell

Secunder: A.Murray

THAT the Board of Directors approve the agenda as posted.

Carried.

2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

The Chair inquired whether the members had any conflicts of interest to declare relating to the agenda. There were none.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – October 26, 2021

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

Mover: B.Petrie

Secunder: J.Reffle

THAT the UTRCA Board of Directors approve the Board of Directors' minutes dated October 26, 2021, including any closed session minutes, as posted on the Members' web-site.

Carried.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Concerns about Continued Dumping of Sewage into the Thames River – Email from Mayor Strathdee, St. Marys

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

Members proposed an amendment to the motion, adding a part b which would include asking the City of London, through Scott Matthers, Director of Water and Wastewater, to forward the City of London's pollution prevention control plan and slides from their public information centre number two on it's wastewater treatment operations master plan to the Mayor of St. Marys as part of the UTRCA response to this correspondence. The mover and seconder agreed to the amendment. It was confirmed the response to Mayor Strathdee's letter would come from the UTRCA Chair and Vice-Chair.

The Board asked staff to obtain the last five years of watershed wide sewage discharge information from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to establish benchmark data to monitor if the situation is improving or getting worse. The Board asked to see this information in the new year. Staff clarified that the timeline will be determined by if or when the information is made available by the MECP.

Mover: J.Salter

Secunder: M.Schadenberg

THAT the Board of Directors receives the correspondence for information and b) asks the City, through Scott Matthers, to forward to the Mayor of St. Marys, as part of our response, the City's Pollution Prevention Control Plan and slides from its public information centre number two on its waste water treatment operations master plan. Carried.

7. Business for Approval

7.1. Conservation Authorities Act Inventory and Transition Plan

(Report attached)

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

Mover: A.Westman

Secunder: M.Blosh

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

7.2. 2022 Fees Policy and Fee Schedule Updates

(Report attached)

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

A typo was noted at the top of page 11. The category Minor Municipal Projects should be \$790.00.

Staff noted Schedule 1: Planning & Regulations Fees would be updated when the new regulations come through from the Province. The new regulations will guide Section 28 permit fees.

Mover: A.Hopkins

Seconder: T.Jackson

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

7.3. 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Dates

(Report attached)

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

The members proposed an amendment to the schedule moving the proposed October 25th meeting to Wednesday October 26th, 2022 due to the Municipal election on October 24th. The mover and seconder agreed to the amendment.

Mover: S.Levin

Seconder: M.Lupton

THAT the Board of Directors approve the recommendation as presented in the report with the change of October 26th.

Carried.

7.4. John St. Weir Removal

(Report attached)

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

Staff presented a series of photos and maps for the Board to get a visual of the structure in question. It was noted this was a preliminary question to find out if there was UTRCA support for this option. It was emphasized that this was one option being considered by the City of Stratford, a preferred alternative had not been determined.

Staff confirmed they would be applying for sources of funding to help with the cost of the project, but ultimately the Municipality would be responsible for most of the costs, should it proceed.

Mover: N.Manning

Secunder: H.McDermid

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

7.5. Investment Policy Revision

(Report attached)

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

Staff presented the following amendments, provided by PH&N, to the Eligible Investments, Allocation and Exposures asset categories presented in the staff report.

Asset	Range of Total Portfolio	Target of Total Portfolio
Equities: Publicly traded domestic or foreign equity securities, common and preferred stocks rights, warrants, convertible debentures, American and Global Depository Receipts	20%-60% 45% - 65%	55% 60%
Fixed Income: Investment grade bonds, high yield or global bonds, debentures (convertible or not), notes or other debt instruments of governments, government agencies or corporations including mortgage or asset-backed securities	15% - 45% 20% - 40%	30% 25%
Cash or money market securities issued by governments or corporations, Treasury bills, commercial paper, bankers acceptances and certificates issued by banks, trusts and insurance companies	0%-30% 0% - 15%	0%
Alternative Investments: for example, Canadian real estate, mortgages , and investments which may be typically more complex and less liquid frequently traded than public bonds or stocks.	0%-15% 0% - 20% Note that target has to be different from upper/lower bound.	15%

Mover: A.Murray

Secunder: P.Mitchell

THAT the Board of Directors approve the recommendation as amended.
Carried.

8. Business for Information

8.1. Administration and Enforcement - Section 28 Status Report (Report attached)

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

Mover: J.Reffle

Secunder: B.Petrie

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.

Carried.

8.2. 2022 Election Preparation (Report attached)

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

Mover: M.Schadenberg

Secunder: J.Salter

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.

Carried.

8.3. Draft Budget Progress Update Presentation (Report attached)

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

Staff provided a presentation to the Board on the progress of the 2022 draft budget, specifically noting the work and adjustments made to reduce the proposed levy increase to approximately 3.5% based on Board feedback from the October meeting. Members noted their appreciation for the efforts taken by staff to revise the draft budget.

Mover: M.Blosh

Secunder: A.Westman

THAT the Board of Directors receives the presentation as presented.

Carried.

9. November 2021 For Your Information Report

The October FYI was presented for the member's information.

10. Other Business (Including Chair and General Manager's Concluding Remarks)

The Chair provided comments on the flooding in British Columbia.

The General Manger noted Phase Two regulations were expected from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks by the end of this year. Staff will notify the Board when they receive the new regulations.

11. Closed Session – In Camera

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

Mover: T.Jackson

Seconder: A.Hopkins

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 or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals affecting the Authority.

Carried.

11.1. Litigation Affecting the Authority

Moved by: M.Lupton

Seconded by: S.Levin

THAT the Board of Directors Rise and Report progress.

Carried.

Mover: H.McDermid

Seconder: P.Mitchell

THAT the Board of Directors receive the reports as presented in closed session for information.

Carried.

12. Adjournment

The Chair confirmed the mover was willing to let their name stand. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:46 am on a motion by A.Murray.

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.