

Minutes

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)

Board of Directors Meeting

9:30am Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 1424 Clarke Rd,
London (Hybrid Meeting)

Dean Trentowsky, UTRCA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

Members Present:

Jean Coles

Jim Craigmile

Peter Cuddy – Online

Tom Heeman

Anna Hopkins – Online

Skylar Franke – Online

Hugh McDermid

Paul Mitchell

Harj Nijjar – Online

Brian Petrie

Mark Schadenberg

Dean Trentowsky – Chair

George Way

Scotty Zehr

Regrets: Sandy Levin

UTRCA Solicitor: Grant Inglis

Staff Present:

Jenna Allain – Acting General Manager

Emily Chandler

Erin Dolmage

Eleanor Heagy

Teresa Hollingsworth

Tatianna Lozier

Damian Schofield

Chris Tasker

Michelle Viglianti – Recorder

Brandon Williamson

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair read the territorial acknowledgement.

2. Modifications to the Agenda

Mover: Brian Petrie

Seconder: Scotty Zehr

THAT The Board of Directors amend the agenda to include Mike Wallace from the London Development Institute to 4. Presentations/Delegations, and THAT item 7.

Reports In-Camera be moved to follow item 9. Committee Updates.

Carried.

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. Delegations/Presentations

4.1. London Development Institute (LDI) – Mike Wallace

The Chair introduced Mike Wallace, representing the London Development Institute (LDI).

Mike Wallace spoke in support of agenda item 8.3 Hazard Mapping Consultation Update Report, specifically the new November date for Board consideration of the regulated area mapping updates. Mike Wallace noted his appreciation for the recent consultation with staff and gave an overview of the last meeting with UTRCA staff and LID's consultants, noting LDI's commitment to having comments into staff in time for the new deadline.

5. Administrative Business

5.1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: August 26, 2025

Mover: Mark Schadenberg

Secunder: George Way

THAT that the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Board of Directors' minutes, dated August 26, 2025.

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. 2026 Draft Budget – City of London Request

Members raised concerns over potential public relations issues with the perception of preferential treatment to the City of London with an apparent 1.5% decrease while other Municipalities' numbers increase. Staff confirmed the noted 1.5% decrease for the City of London was a 1.5% decrease from the estimated increase provided to the City as part of their multi-year budgeting process back in 2023. Staff confirmed communication materials are being prepared to include in the draft budget package to explain the London 'decrease'.

Mover: Paul Mitchell

Seconder: Scotty Zehr

THAT the Board of Directors direct staff to provide the attached information to the Mayor of London, Josh Morgan and Budget Chair Elizabeth Pelosa.

Carried.

Item 7. Closed Session was moved to follow item 9. Reports – Committee Updates

8. Reports – For Information

8.1. Administration and Enforcement – Section 28 Status Report

The members discussed the role and importance of clearances in the permitting process.

Mover: Jean Coles

Seconder: Tom Heeman

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

Carried.

8.2. Project Status Update

Mover: Hugh McDermid

Seconder: Peter Cuddy

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

Carried.

8.3. Hazard Mapping Consultation Update

Staff presented the report, noting the timeline change which moves the online posting of the hazard mapping updates to October, for consideration of approval at the November Board meeting. Staff noted that the delay will allow staff to ensure all interested parties are satisfied.

It was noted that in 2026 the UTRCA will begin the consultation process for the rest of the watershed. Education sessions will be held for member municipalities to provide information and an overview of the process. Since the updates and peer review of the modeling have already been completed, it is only the consultation pieces that will need to be rolled out to the rest of the watershed.

A member thanked staff for the report and the collaborative efforts which they felt set a good precedent for the rest of the watershed.

Mover: Hugh McDermid

Secunder: Jim Craigmile

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.

Carried.

8.4 Thames River Current – September Edition

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

Mover: Scotty Zehr

Secunder: Anna Hopkins

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

Carried.

9. Reports – Committees

9.1. Finance and Audit Committee

There will be a Finance and Audit Committee following today's Board meeting.

9.2. Hearing Committee

The next meeting of the Hearing Committee will be October 28th following the Board meeting.

7. Reports – In-Camera

Mover: Jean Coles

Secunder: 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 matters involving advice that is subject to lawyer-client privilege related to litigation.
Carried.

The Board moved into closed session at 10:21 a.m.

Peter Cuddy left the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

The Board rose and reported progress at 11:11 a.m. as follows:

7.1. Advice that is Subject to Lawyer-Client Privilege Related to Litigation – Verbal Report

The Board discussed matters involving advice that is subject to lawyer-client privilege related to litigation and the board provided direction to legal counsel and staff.

10. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion for the next meeting.

11. Chair's Comments

The Chair highlighted the Conservation Ontario meeting that took place in Richmond Hill yesterday. He noted the 2026 Workplan was approved, and the funding for flood mapping and protection was highlighted in the pre-budget submission to the Federal Government. Further, he noted that the Council decided that any surplus funds be used to increase advocacy efforts with upper levels of government. Guest speakers included Aquanty Inc. out of the University of Waterloo, who discussed the use of AI to assist with the mapping process, and Forest Canada and Tree Canada, who discussed tree planting partnerships as part of their ongoing efforts to plant more trees in urban and rural settings. The speaker from Forest Canada announced the initial goal of 50 million trees planted had been reached this year. The new goal is the two billion trees objective put forward by the Federal Government.

12. Member's Comments

Mark Schadenberg shared that on Tuesday September 30th, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, there will be a Sunrise Ceremony with Mary Lou Smoke at Pittock Conservation Area.

Paul Mitchell and Harj Nijjar noted the water levels in Stratford had returned to their normal seasonal level in time for the Dragon Boat races, without a need to pump in additional water.

13. General Manager's Comments

Acting General Manager Jenna Allain passed along regrets from General Manager Tracy Annett and voiced her appreciation for the opportunity to attend the in-person Conservation Ontario Council meeting on behalf of the General Manager.

Jenna Allain provided a brief overview of the main topics discussed at the Conservation Ontario meeting, including continued communication and advocating with all levels of Government, and plans on moving forward with further planning and regulations policies.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22am on a motion by Brian Petrie, seconded by Jim Craigmile.

Jenna Allain, Acting General Manager, Manager of Environmental Planning and Regulations

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