

## Minutes

### Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)

#### Board of Directors Meeting

9:30am Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 1424 Clarke Rd,  
London (Hybrid Meeting)

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

#### Members Present:

Peter Cuddy – Online

Jim Craigmile

Skylar Franke

Tom Heeman – Online

Anna Hopkins

Sandy Levin

Hugh McDermid – Online

Paul Mitchell

Harj Nijjar – Online

Mark Schadenberg – Online

Dean Trentowsky – Meeting Chair

Scotty Zehr

George Way

#### Regrets:

Brian Petrie

#### Solicitor:

#### Staff Present:

Jenna Allain

Tracy Annett

Emily Chandler

Christie Kent

Brad Glasman

Joe Gordon

Mark Helsten

Mike Knox

Cathy Quinlan

Christine Saracino

Chris Tasker

Tara Tchir

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 made to the agenda.

### 3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

### 4. Delegations/Presentations

There were no delegations or presentations.

### 5. Administrative Business

#### **5.1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: August 27, 2024**

Mover: Sandy Levin

Seconder: Scotty Zehr

THAT that the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Board of Directors' minutes dated August 27, 2024.

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. Draft UTRCA Land Acquisition and Disposition Policy**

The Members discussed where revenue generated through disposition should be allocated, noting the current draft does not include Category 1 programs as an option. Members asked staff to add a section specifying where the land sale revenue will be allocated.

The Board discussed potential tax implications of land sales that, in certain scenarios, could result in a loss of revenue. They asked staff to highlight any tax implications when bringing proposed land dispositions to the Board for consideration.

It was suggested that staff prepare a flow chart showing the entire disposition process from start to finish.

Mover: Sandy Levin

Seconded: Scotty Zehr

1. THAT the Board of Directors receive the Draft Acquisition and Disposition Policy for information and discussion.

2. THAT staff BE DIRECTED to finalize the Draft UTRCA Acquisition and Disposition Policy based on feedback received from the members today.

Carried.

## **6.2. Provincial Offences Act Officer Designation for Joe Gordon**

Mover: Sandy Levin

Seconded: Anna Hopkins

That the Board of Directors designate Joe Gordon as a Provincial Offences Act Officer pursuant to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act for the purpose of administering and enforcing Ontario Regulation 41/24, Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits.

Carried.

## **6.3. Service Level Review Update**

Mover: Sandy Levin

Seconded: George Way

THAT the Board approve an RFP to an upset limit of \$100,000 to complete a service level review to streamline processes for planning and permitting services throughout the Watershed.

Carried.

## **7. Reports – In-Camera**

Mover: Scotty Zehr

Seconded: Jim Craigmile

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 pending acquisition or disposition of land.

Carried.

The Board adjourned to closed session 10:03 am to discuss a pending acquisition or disposition of land.

The Board rose from closed session at 10:40 am and the meeting resumed at 10:45am after a short break.

### **7.1. Position, Plan and Instruction to be Applied to Negotiation – Land Lease Agreement**

The Board rose from closed session and passed the following resolution:

Mover: Anna Hopkins

Seconder: George Way

1. THAT the Board of Directors receive the Draft Lands Inventory report for information and discussion, as presented in Closed Session.

2. THAT staff BE DIRECTED to finalize the Draft Lands Inventory report based on feedback received from the members.

Carried.

## **8. Reports – For Information**

### **8.1. Administration and Enforcement – Section 28 Status Report**

Mover: Skylar Franke

Seconder: Jim Craigmile

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.

Carried.

### **8.2. Project Status Update**

Staff provided a brief, verbal update on the hydro plant, noting a full report would be provided at the October Board meeting.

The former Children's Safety Village was missing from the table, the error will be corrected in the October report.

Mover: Skylar Franke

Seconder: Scotty Zehr

THAT the Board of Directors receive the project status update report for information.

Carried.

### **8.3. Natural Hazard Policy Update**

The new Planning Coordinator, Christie Kent, was introduced to the Board.

Members asked staff to bring a report to the October or November meeting outlining how the changes to the Provincial Policy Statement affect Conservation Authorities.

Mover: Anna Hopkins

Seconder: Scotty Zehr

THAT the Board of Directors receives the Natural hazard update report for information.  
Carried.

#### **8.4. Regulated Area Maps – Notification and Consultation**

The members discussed the progress of the project.

Tom Heeman left the meeting at 11:14am.

Mover: Skylar Franke

Seconder: Paul Mitchell

THAT the Board of Directors receives the Regulated Area Maps – Notification and Consultation report for information.  
Carried.

#### **8.5. Asset Management Planning Update**

There was a discussion on including natural assets as a class of assets in the asset management plan. Staff noted that while it would not be an immediate priority, they would investigate further, noting that recent reports circulated by Conservation Ontario included natural asset valuations.

Mover: Skylar Franke

Seconder: Anna Hopkins

Amend the recommendation to add a direction to staff to include natural assets as a class of assets in the asset management plan.  
Carried.

Mover: Anna Hopkins

Seconder: Skylar Franke

THAT the Board of Directors receives the presentation for information and gives direction to staff to include natural assets as a class of assets in the asset management plan.  
Carried.

#### **8.6. Flood, Augmentation and Erosion Control Operations Plans**

Mover: Sandy Levin

Seconder: George Way

THAT the Board of Directors receives the presentation for information.

Carried.

### **8.7. Ice Management Plan**

Mover: Sandy Levin

Seconder: Paul Mitchell

THAT the Board of Directors receives the presentation for information.

Carried.

### **8.8. Thames River Current – September Edition**

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

Mover: Scotty Zehr

Seconder: Jim Craigmile

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

Carried.

## **9. Reports – Committees**

### **9.1. Finance and Audit Committee**

The Finance and Audit Committee will be meeting at 1:00 this afternoon.

### **9.2. Hearing Committee August 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting Decisions**

Mover: Sandy Levin

Seconder: Skylar Franke

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

Carried.

## **10. Notices of Motion**

There were no notices of motion for October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

## **11. Chair's Comments**

The Vice-Chair thanked Chair Brian Petrie for his advocacy efforts to end the fees freeze and read sections of the update letter provided by Chair Petrie. Interest has

started to spread through neighbouring Conservation Authorities and the General Manager noted the General Managers of the South West Conservation Authorities would be discussing the letter at the meeting on Monday.

It was clarified that the Board will receive the package sent to the minister for information at the October Board meeting.

Several members thanked Chair Petrie for the work he did and the time and effort he has put into this advocacy piece.

Mover: Anna Hopkins

Seconder: Scotty Zehr

THAT the Board of Directors receive the letter for information and that the letter be appended to the minutes of September 24, 2024.

Carried.

## 12. Member's Comments

Mark Schadenberg shared that on Sunday TD Tree Days was held in Woodstock, with UTRCA's Brad Hertner leading the tree planting.

Paul Mitchell informed the members that Zorra would be hosting Zorra Doors Open Saturday September 28 and will include community centres, fire halls, the Zorra maintenance facility outside Kintore, and the new Municipal Centre in Thamesford.

## 13. General Manager's Comments

The General Manager attended the Conservation Ontario Council meeting yesterday. During the meeting Council approved a couple of Guidance documents for Conservation Authorities to utilize to meet Ontario Regulation 41/24.

In addition, the Conservation Ontario Levy was approved with a 3.1% overall increase. With the levy distribution being determined by apportionment amongst Conservation Authorities based on average revenues over the past three years, the UTRCA levy increase for 2024 is approximately \$5,000.

The General Manager invited Teresa Hollingsworth, Manager of Community and Corporate Services to provide comments on the Doors Open event called the Hope and Action Climate Change Festival, held at Fanshawe Conservation Area on September 21<sup>st</sup>. T. Hollingsworth spoke on the success of the event and highlighted the many partners who helped make the day such a success.

The General Manager invited Brad Glasman, Manager of Integrated Watershed Management, to provide an update on the Environment and Climate Change Canada grant. B. Glasman informed the Board that a four-year contract had been signed and highlighted a number of programs and projects included within that contract all centered around a precision conservation approach to reduce phosphorus loads from entering Lake Erie.

#### 14. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:53 am on a motion by Skylar Franke.

Tracy Annett, General Manager  
/mv