

Minutes

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

Virtual Meeting Due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

Alan Dale, UTRCA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:32am.

Members Present:

M.Blosh	P.Mitchell
A.Dale – Chair	A.Murray
A.Hopkins	B.Petrie
M.Lupton	J.Reffle
N.Manning	J.Salter
H.McDermid	M.Schadenberg

Regrets:

S.Levin
T.Jackson
A.Westman

Staff Present:

J.Allain	C.Saracino
T.Annett	C.Tasker
E.Chandler	B.Verscheure
B.Glasman	M.Viglianti – Recorder
T.Hollingsworth	

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair read the territorial acknowledgement.

2. Modifications to the Agenda

The Chair noted an error on the agenda, item 7.3 should say September For Your Information, not August.

The Chair inquired whether the members had any proposed modifications to the agenda. There were none.

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 23, 2022

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

Mover: M.Lupton

Secunder: N.Manning

THAT that the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Board of Directors' minutes dated August 23, 2022, 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

5.3.1. Correspondence from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

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

Conservation Authorities are not anticipating any major changes with the transition back to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry at this time.

Mover: H.McDermid

Secunder: P.Mitchell

THAT the Board of Directors receives the correspondence for information.

Carried.

6. Reports – For Consideration

6.1. 2023 Draft Budget Concepts Memo

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

Board members voiced support for the proposed budget concepts, feeling it was a reasonable and cautious approach given the current economic situation and upcoming transition period.

Concerns were raised on the inaccurate population numbers and lack of differentiation between Single-Tier and Lower-Tier Municipalities in the table provided by the Province. Staff confirmed they would bring the questions and concerns to the attention of Ministry staff.

Mover: A.Murray

Secunder: B.Petrie

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

6.2. Strathroy-Caradoc Boundary Adjustment/Enlargement

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

Members supported the motion, feeling it would provide clarity regarding Section 28 regulations and enforcement for both staff and residents in the area.

Staff noted there was no timeline for when this proposed change would be in effect, there are a number of steps under the Conservation Authorities Act that need to be completed.

Staff clarified that category one programs and Current Value Assessment will inform the levy amount for Strathroy-Caradoc, the ten thousand dollars noted in the report was just an estimate.

Mover: J.Reffle

Secunder: J.Salter

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

6.3. Quarterly Progress Report #2 – Inventory of Programs and Services

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

Mover: M.Blosh

Secunder: A.Hopkins

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

7. Reports – For Information

7.1. Administration and Enforcement – Section 28 Status Report

(Report attached)

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

Mover: M.Schadenberg

Secunder: H.McDermid

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.
Carried.

7.2. Organization Modernization Overview

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

Board members thanked staff for putting this report together.

Mover: A.Murray

Secunder: M.Lupton

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.
Carried.

7.3. September For Your Information Report

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

M.Schadenberg highlighted the Celebrating Natural Connections event on Saturday October 15th at Hodges Pond.

Mover: N.Manning

Seconder: H.McDermid

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.

Carried.

8. Notices of Motion

The Chair inquired whether any Board members had motions to bring to the floor for a future meeting. There were none.

9. Chair's Comments

The Chair thanked P.Mitchell for representing the Board at the Celebrating Natural Connections event on Saturday (September 24th) and thanked all the staff who took part. He noted the event planned for Sunday (September 25th) in Dorchester was cancelled due to the weather, but a new date will be circulated when it is set.

The Chair noted that Conservation Ontario is also looking at a maintenance budget and that the UTRCA levy is slated to decrease for 2023.

The Chair reminded the members that the next meeting is Wednesday October 26th.

10. Member's Comments

B.Petrie wished M.Schadenberg and his wife a happy anniversary.

M.Blosh commented how nice it was to see two wetland creation permits listed in the Section 28 report.

P.Mitchell wished good luck to all members running in the upcoming election.

11. General Manager's Comments

The General Manager noted that, so far, none of the member municipalities have notified her that they plan to apply for an exemption to the mandatory 70% councilor representation requirement as per the Conservation Authorities Act. The City of London will be waiting for their new council's direction on this matter. The General Manager also noted that any applications for exemption are now to be made to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry.

12. Reports – In-Camera

There was no In-Camera business.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:41am on a motion by P.Mitchell.

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.