



**FRIENDS of the St. Clair River
Board of Directors Meeting, September 15, 2009
Minutes of Meeting**

Present: Terry Burrell, Darrell Randell, Brenda Lorenz, Modris Zandbergs, Ken Hall,
Janice Littlefield (guest)

Regrets: Theresa Warren, Stew Thornley, Kim Gledhill, Archie Kerr, Clint Jacobs

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM.

1. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

A few minor errors were corrected in the May 13, 2009 minutes and Terry moved to accept. Secunder – Brenda – Carried.

2. Business from May 13th Minutes

Brenda indicated that the TD Bank Environment Fund cannot provide financial support towards production of the St. Clair River “RAP” Video as the project does not meet their selection criteria.

The members discussed potential opportunities to enter into a project partnership with Lambton Wildlife Inc. in 2010. **Action** - Darrell Randell to follow up with Richard Maxfield to determine LWI interest.

3. Financial Report - Terry

Treasurer Terry Burrell circulated a financial statement for discussion. Bank balance as of 09/09/09 = \$36,508.61.

Ted Briggs at the MOE has approved our request to transfer funds from stale project accounts into ongoing “active” accounts and a funding request has been submitted to the MOE for \$24,080.00

Motion to accept Financial Report by Terry. Secunder – Brenda – Carried.

4. Guest Presentation – Janice Littlefield, U.S. Chair, BPAC

Janice thanked the group for the chance to present an idea to initiate a “rain barrel distribution project” in Port Huron and surrounding area. She reported that similar programs were in place across the U.S. and some were very successful in terms of water conservation and as a grassroots method to reduce stormwater runoff.

Janice has solicited the support of Coca Cola Inc. as a source for the barrels and is planning public workshops later this month to launch the program. She said attendance numbers looked positive.

To facilitate access to U.S. sources of funding for this and future projects, Janice has registered a new non-profit organization Conservation and Restoration Network for Areas of Concern (CRNAOC).

The committee discussed various questions pertaining to the project’s goals and objectives and logistics. Topics of discussion included stormwater management, public involvement, public awareness and preparation of the barrels for distribution and costs.

Janice asked FOSCR if it would be possible to use the FOSCR website as a link that would be provided to the community as an internet resource for further information on the AOC and the role of BPAC. She intends to apply stickers to the barrels that would include the website address.

Ken Hall suggested that a new website for the CRNAOC organization be created and volunteered to set up a site for Janice that features a link to the FOSCR website.

A motion was passed by the committee for that support to be provided.

Action – Ken Hall to create website for CRNAOC with content provided by Janice Littlefield (note: this has been completed as of 10/13/09, the site can be viewed at www.crnaoc.com)

5. FOSCR Project Reports

Smith Line Habitat Restoration Project

Darrell reported that this project has been completed. FOSCR provided \$6,205.00 towards this project. A project sign has been installed which recognizes the project partners.

SCRCA Duc d’Orleans Cruise

The event on June 11th was well attended and well received. Darrell had the chance to speak to the approx. 60 guests aboard on FOSCR and BPAC projects and progress on the BUI’s. FOSCR contributed \$1,500 towards cost of the event.

St. Clair River RAP Video

By way of email, Kim Gledhill reported that the filming was complete and post-production would be finished by October. Plans for the official launch were being planned by SCRCA, details to be provided soon. FOSCR approved \$6,000 towards cost of production.

(note: project complete as of 10/13/09, Darrell has seen the finished product and it looks great)

FOSCR / BPAC E-Newsletter

Ken Hall reported that the first two issues of the E-Newsletter had been sent out to a distribution list of about 400 people. Email feedback to this new communications tool has been favourable. The next issue will go out in early November. Ken and Stew Thornley are coordinating production and content.

Action – FOSCR board to provide additional contact names to be added to e-news distribution list.

BUI River Signs

Pt. Edward – Centennial Park – Guthrie Park – MacDonald Park – Cathcart Park All signs produced in 2009 have been installed.

The committee discussed the potential to erect an educational sign in Branton-Cundick Park adjacent to the newly created fish spawning habitat and native grass planting site. There is a possible location on the St. Clair River Trail near the new foot bridge that was installed during the habitat project. The group agreed that a sign describing the issues affecting fish spawning and wild grass prairie could serve well in this location.

Action – Darrell to follow up with Municipality and project partners to determine interest in installation of a sign at Branton-Cundick Park.

Terry Burrell suggested FOSCR explore the possibility of replacing the aging RAP signs that are located on the Sarnia Point Land property facing Centennial Park and look for other options to develop that site's habitat and educational potential.

Website Report

Ken reported that monthly hits to the site continue to exceed 2,500 as the web photo gallery is frequently visited. See detailed web activity reports from EBTech www.webreports.ebtech.net Username: www.friendsofstclair.ca, password: *whatever*

Ken performing regular site maintenance – adding news items and meeting minutes. The site now features access to E-Newsletter past issues and offers people the chance to sign up to be added to distribution list.

Walpole Island Land Trust - Clint

Clint Jacobs was not in attendance due to other meeting obligations at Walpole Island. Darrell reported that the Walpole Island Land Trust documents had been signed and he saw this as a milestone event for habitat conservation in the AOC. This is a partnership project with Ducks Unlimited Canada and Wildlife Habitat Canada which secures lease of the “former Swan Lake Club” marsh on Walpole Island. FOSCR approved \$10,000 to support acquisition of the marsh lease.

The initiative will initially focus on Phragmites monitoring and education outreach with the long term goal of restoring ecological functions and enhancing wildlife diversity and utilizing the site for mentoring youth regarding good hunting practices, cultural teachings, etc. Clint Jacobs to provide details at next FOSCR meeting.

Industry Land Use Project

Ken Hall circulated a draft letter of approach to industry to solicit support for a program to reintroduce natural habitat on vacant lands owned by industry. A committee (Ken, Brenda, Archie) is to meet in the next few weeks to formalize a project plan and set timelines and deliverables. The concept of working in conjunction with Lambton Wildlife on this project was postponed and FOSCR will pursue this initiative alone for the time being.

Action – Ken to coordinate meeting of sub-committee to advance project.

Ontario Nature AGM – May, 2010

Brenda Lorenz provided some additional details on the plans being made for this event. She anticipates approximately 250 – 300 naturalists from across Ontario and region will attend. The theme of the conference will be “water” due to the proximity to Lake Huron and area river systems. Brenda requested that FOSCR provide \$1,500 to support a river cruise for the conference attendees during which the BPAC and FOSCR programs could be presented to the group.

Motion by Terry to provide \$1,500 to support the event. Secunder – Ken – Carried.

Marine City/Sombra Girl Guides Jubilee – Sept. 26, 2009

FOSCR will participate in this annual Girl Guide event to be held in Sombra and Marine City, MI. Stew Thornley, Kim Gledhill, Modris Zandbergs, and guest Sharon Nethercott (SCRCA outdoor education coordinator) will support the event.

The BPAC exhibit will be set up and BUI progress report will be distributed. Kim will preset the “Surface Water” educational model and Sharon Nethercott will be present representing SCRCA to demonstrate the “River Critters” module.

Action – Stew Thornley coordinating FOSCR exhibit

6. FOSCR Application to Ontario Trillium Fund

Darrell indicated that Ken Hall was working on an application for FOSCR to obtain funding from Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) to create a fulltime position for a FOSCR/BPAC Public Outreach Coordinator. The OTF deadline for submissions is November 1, 2009.

The draft application will be circulated to committee members for review and comment and a meeting will be scheduled to finalize the application.

A motion was passed by Brenda to allocate funds to allow for Ken to prepare the application as this was a time consuming task. Seconder – Modris – Carried.

7. New Business

Darrell Randell provided a map showing the location of a new 16 acre coastal wetland project being led by Stewardship Kent. The project site is located along the southern edge of the St. Clair AOC but is within the zone and would be beneficial to the habitat goals for de-listing. Darrell requested that FOSCR contribute \$5,000 to help with costs of this project.

Motion to commit \$5,000 to the project made by Ken, Seconder – Modris – Carried.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Motion to adjourn by Terry. Seconder – Darrell – Carried.

Date for next meeting: **Thursday, Oct. 22**
6:30 PM, St. Clair Township Office
1155 Emily Street, Mooretown

Secretary
Ken Hall
10/14/09