



Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 2015

**St. Clair Township Civic Centre
1155 Emily Street, Mooretown, Ontario**

Present: Darrell Randell, Ken Hall, Erin Carroll, Donna Strang, Craig Griffiths, Peter Westfall, Brenda Lorenz

Regrets: Kim Gledhill, Terry Burrell, Kris Lee

The April 16, 2015 meeting of Friends of the St. Clair River was called to order by Darrell Randell at 6:40 pm.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes from the Annual General Meeting on January 22, 2015

The meeting minutes from the Annual General Meeting on January 22, 2015 were reviewed.

Motion to Approve the Agenda and Minutes – Ken Hall, Peter Westfall

CARRIED

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

None

3. Financial Report – Terry Burrell

Terry Burrell was unable to attend the meeting but provided the current balances for both accounts prior to the meeting. Copies were distributed with the most up-to-date financial statements:

Scotiabank – \$6611.08

Tangerine (Formally ING) – \$60,490.58

Darrell Randell reported that the funding support provided by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (OMOEC) has been received. The regular programs supported by FOSCR such as the Children’s Water Festival and the education program at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) total approximately \$14 000. Discussions surrounded potential projects that could be

supported using funds carried over from previous years and whether funding would be available again for the Stag Island Restoration Project.

ACTION – Darrell Randell will send a synopsis of the Stag Island project to Ken Hall and Peter Westfall.

Motion to Approve the Financial Report – Ken Hall, Erin Carroll

CARRIED

4. Activity/Project Updates:

- Application to Grants in Support of FOSCR Projects?
 - None reported
- Summary of Communication Activities – Ken Hall
 - Ken Hall reported that he continues to receive positive feedback regarding the FOSCR E-Newsletter and is continually looking for additional contacts to add to the distribution list.

ACTION – Donna Strang will send Ken Hall the updated BPAC membership list once it becomes available.
 - The last issue of the FOSCR E-Newsletter was a little light on content. The next issue of the E-Newsletter is scheduled for June 2015. Some suggestions to ensure the E-Newsletters are sufficiently populated included:
 - Reducing the number of issues from four annually, to three
 - Broaden the scope of the issues to include articles from industry on initiatives that support the St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan (RAP)
 - Add industry contacts to the distribution list
 - Approach other community groups and organizations to submit articles (e.g., Bluewater Anglers)
 - Ken Hall circulated an invitation to FOSCR members from Enbridge. Enbridge has partnered with Return the Landscape to restore land at their Sarnia Solar Farm. FOSCR Directors are invited to the official announcement that will be held on Friday, June 12, 2015.
 - Ken Hall also suggested that FOSCR begin to seriously consider entering social media (such as Facebook and Twitter). Discussion surrounded how labour intensive maintaining accounts can be (particularly with Twitter) and how to best approach this task (e.g., hire a consultant, approach social media class, etc.)
- Sarnia Justice Film Festival – Report from March 21st Event – Kim Gledhill
 - Kim Gledhill was unable to make the meeting. Darrell Randell advised FOSCR members that both her and Kris Lee attended and presented at a screening organized by the Sarnia Justice Film Festival on March. They received positive feedback and a good amount of discussion was provoked.
- Lambton Water Centre Symposium – Donna Strang
 - Erin Carroll reported on the Lambton Water Centre Symposium on behalf of Donna who did not attend the event.

- The event was industrially focused. Erin Carroll attended and presented on behalf of the SCRCA on water initiatives undertaken by the organization.
 - There were also a number of presentations by government agencies on funding opportunities for industry research projects.
 - The day was finished with a tour of the Lambton Water Centre.
- Caron Habitat Restoration – Thornyhurst
 - Darrell Randell was approached by a land owner who inquired about how a small pond on the property can be enhanced and restored. The property is located at French Line and Highway 40. No update was available.
- Phragmites Outreach – Donna Strang
 - Donna Strang reported that despite the initial idea of preparing a video to post on the FOSCR website about Phragmites, at the last meeting it seemed as though FOSCR members felt there was enough information currently available on the subject.
 - As an alternative, Donna Strang suggested preparing a page on the FOSCR website solely for Phragmites education. In addition, an educational brochure on Phragmites could be created, referring readers to the FOSCR website.
 - ACTION** – Ken Hall will collect information (e.g., links, etc.) on Phragmites to post on the FOSCR website.
 - ACTION** – Donna Strang will draft the educational brochure on Phragmites.
- Enbridge Solar Farm – Support for Return the Landscape
 - At the last FOSCR meeting in January, a \$1000 contribution by FOSCR to the Enbridge Solar Farm project was approved. A plan for the restoration has been prepared by Return the Landscape. The project will be completed in stages over a three year period.
 - Ken Hall declared a conflict of interest and did not participate in the voting of the following motion.

Motion to Approve an increase from the \$1000 contribution approved at the last meeting to support the work by Return the Landscape at the Enbridge Solar Farm to \$2500 with the condition that FOSCR is recognized as a funding contributor and a record of what the money was spent on is provided – Brenda Lorenz, Craig Griffiths

CARRIED

5. Projects for 2015

- FOSCR members discussed a number of events that could be supported by the FOSCR and other outreach ideas:
 - Sarnia Fish Derby – FOSCR could donate a prize for the Shoreline Fishing event (e.g., bait and tackle gift card)
 - ACTION** – Craig Griffiths will contact organizers of the Fish Derby and inquire about FOSCR exposure or contribution opportunities (e.g., monetary, brochures, fact sheets).
 - Month Topic/Focus – e.g., Plant-A-Tree Month
 - Organize a Spring clean-up

- Prepare an article about the connection between St. Clair River tributaries and local sport fish populations.

ACTION – Erin Carroll will prepare an article on the connections between St. Clair River tributary health and local sport fish populations.

- Spraying Recent Tree Plantings at Bowen’s Creek

- Erin Carroll advised FOSCR members about the proposed maintenance required at Bowen’s Creek. Bowen’s Creek was a very significant and successful habitat project completed in the St. Clair River Area of Concern and in order to maintain the over 40 000 trees planted, herbicide application is required. Total cost for the proposed maintenance of this property is \$45 000.

Motion to Approve a \$5000 financial contribution to the maintenance requirements at Bowen’s Creek to be undertaken by the SCRCA - Erin Carroll, Brenda Lorenz

CARRIED

- Ducks Unlimited Canada – Major Rebuilds, 2 Segments at Bear Creek, Sloan Marsh, Rex 14

- Darrell Randell informed FOSCR members about three wetland rebuild projects currently being proposed by Ducks Unlimited (DU). Presently, DU has acquired approximately ¾ of the funding required to complete these projects.
 - Bear Creek Marsh
 - The dykes at this location were damaged by muskrat and requires repairs.
 - A pump is also being considered.
 - Sloan Marsh
 - The dyke at this location requires repair and there are areas where Phragmites eradication work could be conducted.
 - Rex 14
 - Repairs and upgrades will see the installation of a pump and new pipes, etc.
 - Total cost = \$332 100
- FOSCR members discussed supporting these projects, but wanted to hear more about the Walpole Island Land Trust project before approving any financial contribution to the DU initiatives.

- Walpole Island Land Trust – Update and 2015 Restoration Plans

- The Walpole Island Land Trust has an on-going project at Swan Lake located on Walpole Island that will and has seen habitat enhancement and creation. FOSCR has supported the project in the past and once completed, this project will see over 171 acres of wetland habitat.
- Upcoming work at Swan Lake includes establishing a connection to the Chenal Ecarte, Phragmites eradication and dyke maintenance.

Motion to Approve support of \$10 000 to the Bear Creek segment of the Ducks Unlimited re-building project and support of \$10 000 to the Swan Lake restoration project and purchase of a pump, with the condition that FOSCR is recognized as a funding contributor – Ken Hall, Brenda Lorenz

CARRIED

- Bossu Wetland – Add a Pump for 2016
 - Darrell Randell advised FOSCR members that providing support for a pump at the Bossu Wetland may be a funding opportunity in 2016.

6. Other Business

None

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Darrell Randell at 9 pm.