



**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday, January 22, 2015**

**Olives Casual Cuisine**

**1591 London Line, Sarnia, Ontario**

**Present:** Ken Hall, Brenda Lorenz, Kris Lee, Craig Griffiths, Erin Carroll, Donna Strang, Kim Gledhill, Darrell Randell, Terry Burrell

**Guest:** April White, Sharilyn Johnston, Kathy Watts, Peter Westfall, Ted Briggs

**Regrets:** Archie Kerr

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The Annual General Meeting of Friends of the St. Clair River was called to order by Darrell Randell at 7:10 pm.

**1. Approval of Meeting Agenda and Minutes from June 24 and December 9, 2014**

The meeting agenda and minutes from both June 24 and December 9, 2014 were reviewed.

**Motion to Approve the Agenda and Minutes – Ken Hall, Terry Burrell**

***CARRIED***

**2. Business Arising from the Minutes**

- At the December 9, 2014 meeting, it was suggested that FOSCR funding could be used to support attendance and participation in the Lake Erie Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) Public Forum. Kris Lee expressed that funding was provided through the Forum itself.
- Business cards for Kris Lee
  - Kris Lee requested that funding be provided to cover the cost of business cards as her supply was running low.

**Motion to Approve the Funding Required for a New Supply of Business Cards for Kris Lee – Kim Gledhill, E. Carroll**

***CARRIED***

### **3. Financial Report – Terry Burrell**

Terry Burrell reported on the current balances in both accounts and distributed copies of the most up-to-date financial statements:

Scotiabank - \$5240.27

Tangerine (Formally ING) - \$51 388.93

#### **Motion to Approve the Financial Report – Brenda Lorenz, Darrell Randell**

***CARRIED***

### **4. Appointment of Auditor for 2015**

Terry Burrell recommended appointing Bob Andrews as the 2015 auditor. Approximate charge for his services would be \$1300.

#### **Motion to Approve the Appointment of Bob Andrews as the 2015 Auditor – Terry Burrell, Kris Lee**

***CARRIED***

### **5. Activity/Project Updates**

- Application to Grants in Support of FOSCR Projects?
  - Ken Hall reported that he would be submitting a VIP program application in support of FOSCR activities. In addition, there is Enbridge money being re-directed that may be available (e.g., support work being conducted at Roberta Stewart).
  - No additional funding applications had been submitted on behalf of FOSCR.
- Canatara Park and Sarnia Bay Point Lands Update – Kim Gledhill
  - A grant received from the Ontario Great Lakes Community Fund supported the planting of dune grass and tall grass prairie at Canatara Park. The funding also supported educational sessions and signs describing the ecological importance of dune grass, among other topics.
    - Funding has been received to continue work in the Spring and will hopefully support the construction of a boardwalk.
  - The City of Sarnia in partnership with Return the Landscape is growing and storing native plants in a greenhouse located at the Sarnia Point lands. The plants will be available for future habitat work in the area.
- Stag Island Project – Darrell Randell
  - Despite having money secured to move the Phragmites eradication and habitat restoration project forward on Stag Island, members of Stag Island Fraternal Fellowship Association were not ready to make a final decision on the project. Darrell Randell recommended that no further support by FOSCR should be provided.
  - Kim Gledhill acknowledged the hard work by Darrell Randell and the funding put in place by Environment Canada to see the implementation of this project.

- It was recommended that a letter be drafted and distributed to members of the Stag Island Fraternal Fellowship to advise them that the funding secured for implementation of the project is no longer available.
  - ACTION** – Terry Burrell will draft the letter to the President of the Stag Island Fraternal Fellowship Association and arrange its distribution.
- Summary of Communication Activity – Ken Hall
  - Ken Hall provided an update of the year’s communication and outreach activities:
    - E-Newsletter:
      - Continues to grow, 30 new names in the last few weeks.
      - Over 600 subscribers.
    - Website
      - 11 620 hits in 2014.
      - The photo gallery and AOC Resources webpages had the most traffic.
    - Signage
      - No signage was created in 2014
  - Ken Hall recommended considering social media in 2015 (e.g., Facebook).
  - April White informed the group that Environment Canada has resurrected its ACTION newsletter and that she added the FOSCR website link on the departmental page.
  - Kris Lee suggested that the U.S. equivalent, Friends of the St. Clair River Watershed (FOSCRW) website be linked to FOSCR website once it is finished being upgraded.
- Sarnia Justice Film Festival – Request for Speaker – March 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Organizers for the Sarnia Justice Film Festival will be showing a film titled “Return of the River” on March 21<sup>st</sup> and have asked if a FOSCR representative would be available to sit on the panel. In addition, space for a display has been offered. New materials (e.g., fact sheets, etc.) should be prepared for events such as these, as the current versions are outdated.
    - ACTION** – Ken Hall and Kim Gledhill will attend the screening and represent FOSCR. Other members of FOSCR expressed their interest in attending but were unable to confirm their availability.
    - ACTION** – April White and Ted Briggs will provide information on federal and provincial initiatives and projects for reference during the panel session.
- Lambton Water Centre – Upcoming Symposium – Donna Strang
  - Brenda Lorenz provided an update on the upcoming Lambton Water Centre symposium as Donna Strang had not yet attended a meeting since taking over Claude Lafrance’s position on the committee.
  - The symposium will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2015 at the Lambton College Residence and Event Centre. The day will include presentations, a luncheon and tours of the Lambton Water Centre and the Bowman Centre Western Sarnia Lambton Research Park. If you are interested in attending, RSVP by Wednesday, March 11, 2014 to Sarah Shean at [sarah.shean@lambtoncollege.ca](mailto:sarah.shean@lambtoncollege.ca) or at (519) 542-7751, extension 2460.
  - A speaker has also been requested who is capable of providing a technical update on the St. Clair River AOC.

**ACTION** – Brenda Lorenz will contact the symposium organizer to get more details on the specific knowledge-base/qualifications, etc. they would like the speaker to have, after which a speaker can be selected.

- Walpole Island – Grant Contribution to Pump?
  - A pump is required for Swan Lake marsh and other water bodies on Walpole Island to maintain water levels for fish and turtles, particularly in the Fall season.

**Motion to approve the FOSCR contribution of \$5000 towards the pump required for Swan Lake at Walpole Island – Terry Burrell, Ken Hall**

**CARRIED**

## **5. Comments from April White, Environment Canada and Ted Briggs, Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change**

- April White
  - April White congratulated FOSCR on all the work conducted over the last year. In particular, the habitat projects supported by FOSCR are contributing greatly to reaching the targets for the “Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat” Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI).
- Ted Briggs
  - Ted Briggs also congratulated FOSCR for their work in the St. Clair River AOC. He also provided an update on some upcoming provincial initiatives including:
    - The Canada-Ontario Agreement was signed by both the federal and provincial governments securing additional funding for the Great Lakes and AOCs.
    - The Great Lakes Protection Act, initially introduced in early 2013, may be tabled once again at the Ontario Legislative Assembly.
- Sharilyn Johnston
  - Sharilyn Johnston attended the meeting on behalf of Marina Plain, Chair of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation Environment Committee and conveyed Marina’s thanks to FOSCR, particularly for the support provided to the Talfourd Creek project. As a result of this project, the Aamjiwnaang First Nation Environment Department is receiving a Conservation Award from the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

## **6. Projects for 2015**

- BUI Assessments
  - A draft discussion paper is currently being prepared for the “Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour Problems”.
- Caron Habitat Restoration – Thornyhurst
  - This project will see the enhancement of a small wetland and the installation of riparian buffers.
- Phragmites Outreach – Donna Strang
  - Donna updated the group on the status of the Phragmites outreach recommended at the last meeting. An email was sent out and a number of resources were provided. Next steps will involve a teleconference, etc. to discuss how to move forward.
    - Some discussion points included:

- There is already abundant information/video/public service announcements, etc. available. Maybe instead of creating a video, a page or section on the FOSCR website should be devoted to Phragmites outreach and information.
- Janice Gilbert of the Great Lakes Phragmites Collaboration was recommended as a good resource for information on Phragmites and their invasion and eradication.
- Sharilyn reported that some Phragmites eradication work may be possible at Aamjiwnaang First Nation on the corner of LaSalle Line and Highway 40.
- Aamjiwnaang First Nation Shoreline Restoration – Sharilyn Johnston
  - Sharilyn Johnston reported that the Aamjiwnaang First Nation Environment Department is looking into conducting shoreline softening along the St. Clair River shoreline. The department has been in contact with Girish Sankar of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and they are currently holding focus groups with the community.
- Enbridge Solar Park – Ken Hall
  - Ken Hall reported that Enbridge has committed \$250 000 over five years to support the planting of native vegetation over 200 acres at the Enbridge Solar Park. The project is in partnership with the Rural Lambton Stewardship Network and Return the Landscape.

**Motion to approve the FOSCR contribution of \$1000 towards the Enbridge Solar Park project – Terry Burrell, Erin Carroll**

***CARRIED***

## **7. Election of Officers**

Darrell Randell asked that Ted Briggs facilitate the elections process. Ted Briggs asked for nominations from the floor for the following positions:

- President
  - Darrell Randell was nominated by Terry Burrell. Darrell Randell accepted the nomination.
- Vice-President
  - Brenda Lorenz was nominated by Terry Burrell. Brenda Lorenz accepted the nomination.
- Treasurer
  - Terry Burrell was nominated by Brenda Lorenz. Terry Burrell accepted the nomination.
- Secretary
  - Darrell Randell appointed Donna Strang.
- Directors
  - The following Directors were elected: Ken Hall, Archie Kerr, Craig Griffiths, Erin Carroll, Kathy Watts, Peter Westfall, Kim Gledhill, Kris Lee

**ACTION** – All FOSCR members will send Terry Burrell their full name, address and birth date.

**ACTION** – Donna Strang will send Ken Hall and Darrell Randell the email addresses of the new members.

**8. Other Business**

None

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Darrell Randell at 9:30 pm.