



## **Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 22, 2016**

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

**Present:** Peter Westfall, Darrell Randell, Ken Hall, Archie Kerr, Donna Strang, Kathy Watts, Brenda Lorenz, Craig Griffiths, Kris Lee

**Regrets:** Erin Carroll, Terry Burrell

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The March 22, 2016 meeting of Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR) was called to order by Darrell Randell at 6:30 pm.

### **1. Review and Approval of Minutes from the December 2, 2015 meeting**

The minutes from the meeting on December 2, 2015 were reviewed.

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

***CARRIED***

### **2. Business Arising from the Minutes**

- Bluewater Anglers – Craig Griffiths and Donna Strang
  - Craig Griffiths reported that he had been in contact with Bluewater Anglers and they were very interested in having FOSCR participate in their annual Kids Training Day on Saturday, May 28, 2016. FOSCR members were interested and an initial discussion regarding supplies commenced and included:
    1. FOSCR Factsheet – Needs to be updated
    2. Tent – Craig Griffiths
    3. Give Away – Ideas included fishing lures, arm bands, fishing poles, etc.
      - ACTION** – Donna Strang will have FOSCR magnets and grocery totes available for the Training Day.
      - ACTION** – Archie Kerr will get prices for arm bands.
    4. Table – Donna Strang

**Motion to approve a \$500 budget for FOSCR participation in the Bluewater Anglers Kids Training Day on Saturday, May 28, 2016. – Ken Hall, Kris Lee**

**CARRIED**

**ACTION** – Ken Hall will set up a conference call to discuss logistics, etc. for the Bluewater Anglers Training Day. Craig Griffiths will chair the conference call.

- Phrag Outreach – Donna Strang
  - Donna Strang advised FOSCR members that the draft brochure had been reviewed by Janice Gilbert, but revisions had not yet been included. FOSCR members suggested that a Phragmites work shop hosted by FOSCR may be another effective method to communicate the dangers of invasive Phragmites to the general public. A monthly meeting held in Sarnia called “Green Drinks” would also provide a possible venue.

**ACTION** – Donna Strang will finalize the Phragmites brochure and have 500 copies printed and available for the Bluewater Anglers Kids Training Day on May 28, 2016.
- CKLCWF Program Discussion – support in 2016? – Darrell Randell
  - Darrell Randell has been in discussions with another supporter (funder) of the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children’s Water Festival who have advised that the 2016 festival may be the last one organized. Darrell suggested supporting the 2016 Festival with a \$2000 contribution as has been done in previous years but that maybe something more local could be organized in future years. Some FOSCR members suggested contacting the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) to inquire about their interest in assisting FOSCR in organizing future Children’s Water Festival events.

**3. Financial Report – Terry Burrell**

Terry Burrell was unable to attend the meeting but provided bank statements for both accounts current to March 16, 2016. Copies of the most up-to-date financial statements were distributed:

Scotiabank - \$16 459.37

Tangerine (formally ING) - \$29 686.77

**Motion to Approve the Financial Report – Peter Westfall, Brenda Lorenz**

**CARRIED**

**4. Activity/Project Updates:**

- Summary of Communication Activities – Ken Hall
  - Ken Hall advised that the FOSCR website continues to be updated. Between January and March the website had 380 hits.

**ACTION** – Ken Hall will post the FOSCR PowerPoint on the website.
  - Social media continues to be an effective way to communicate FOSCR activities. The American FOSCR group maintains a Facebook page with regular posts. It was suggested that the American FOSCR group be contacted to see if Canadian information could be posted on their Facebook page.

**ACTION** – Kris Lee will contact Kirsten Lyons, Stewardship Director with the American FOSCR group about including Canadian content on their Facebook page.

- Ken Hall approached FOSCR members about another photo contest. The last one in 2011 was very successful. He suggested that if a photo contest was held, that it would provide a good opportunity to refresh the FOSCR website. FOSCR members supported the idea of the photo contest, however, Lambton Wildlife is planning on holding one over the summer.

**ACTION** – Brenda Lorenz will find out when Lambton Wildlife is planning to hold their photo contest. This activity will be re-visited at the next FOSCR meeting.

- Eight people have contacted Ken Hall through the FOSCR website to be included on the E-Newsletter distribution list. The next E-Newsletter will be published in June. Ken requested that articles be received by May 31, 2016.
- Kim's Education Program at Dow Wetlands
  - Darrell Randell reported that Kim Gledhill continues to conduct education sessions at the Dow Wetlands.
- Thornhurst Pond Site Visit will be Soon
  - Darrell Randell advised that he is planning on visiting the Thornhurst Pond restoration site soon. He will let FOSCR members know when he will be going so they can attend. He will also take pictures and circulate to the group.
- Lake Chipican, discussion – Contribute to Eradication but not Whole Project
  - At the last FOSCR meeting, discussions surrounded Lake Chipican and the Phragmites that are beginning to significantly encroach the area. It was recommended that FOSCR provide some financial support towards treating the Phragmites before they dominate the lake.

**ACTION** – Brenda Lorenz will approach the Sarnia Urban Wildlife Committee at their next meeting about supporting the treatment of Phragmites in Lake Chipican.
- Ontario Trillium Fund Application with SCRCA – Erin Carroll and Darrell Randell
  - Erin Carroll was unable to attend the meeting. Darrell Randell and Donna Strang reported on her behalf. The SCRCA has submitted a Trillium Fund application in collaboration with FOSCR to conduct aquatic inventories in St. Clair River AOC tributaries and create and restore aquatic habitat. An education component is also included in the application. Applications will be reviewed on March 24, 2016 with notification of successful applicants within two weeks (April 7, 2016).
- Proposed Shoreline Rebuilds
  - Darrell Randell advised FOSCR members that a number of shoreline rebuilds have been proposed, including Courtright Waterfront Park in St. Clair Township.
- Industry Canada – Charitable Status – Peter Westfall and Terry Burrell
  - A notice was received by FOSCR outlining the federal Not-For-Profit Act requirement for FOSCR to re-register to maintain its charitable status. Peter Westfall provided a brief overview of the process and documents prepared and solicited input from FOSCR members. To re-register, FOSCR must submit an approved Special Resolution, Article of Continuance and By-Law No. 1.

- Some members recommended that because of the small size of FOSCR, the requirement for quorum should be revised from 10% of the members to 30%.

**Motion to amend Section 4.03 of the draft By-Law No. 1 to identify a quorum at 30% of members present from 10%. – Peter Westfall, Archie Kerr**

***CARRIED***

**Motion to approve the By-Law No. 1 related to the conduct of the business and affairs of Friends of the St. Clair River with amendment to Section 4. 03. – Peter Westfall, Archie Kerr**

***CARRIED***

**Motion to file with the Federal government the Article of Continuance and By-Law No. 1 for the Friends of the St. Clair River. – Peter Westfall, Brenda Lorenz**

***CARRIED***

- Life After De-listing – Kris Lee
  - Kris Lee has attended recent Lake Erie-St. Clair Binational Public Forum meetings. The group was organized to promote public input on the Lake Erie Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) of which the St. Clair River is a part of since the 2012 amendment to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Currently, funding is no longer available to support the forum and the group is looking for options to “park” their website within those maintained by other organizations until future funding is determined. Kris suggested that the FOSCR website may be suitable.
  - It has been suggested that after the St. Clair River is delisted, the Lake Erie- St. Clair Binational Public Forum will be a potential outlet to maintain advocacy for the St. Clair River.
- Go Wild Grow Wild Event – Donna Strang
  - The Go Wild Grow Wild event is being held on April 2, 2016 in London, Ontario. The event is organized by Carolinian Canada and attracts exhibitors from Conservation Authorities, environmental organizations, gardening groups, etc. Although not in the St. Clair River AOC, it could provide an opportunity to promote the work FOSCR does to a broader demographic. The SCRCA has offered to let FOSCR join with their booth. Donna Strang will attend on behalf of FOSCR.

## **5. Project Updates**

- Bossu Wetland Update
  - Darrell Randell updated FOSCR members on the proposed Bossu Wetland. It was recommended that this site receive funding to purchase a pump in order to maintain water levels at a local wetland. Due to circumstances beyond the control of FOSCR and the landowner this project will not be viable in the near future. There was \$10K set aside to assist in the purchase of the pump. Other projects that may benefit from this funding include a site south of Bickford Woods and a wetland on the Ontario Power Generating property.

- New Landowner Contact – Pond Request – Oil Springs Line
  - Darrell Randell advised FOSCR members that he was contacted by a landowner interested in creating a pond. The landowner’s property is located on Oil Springs Line.
- New Landowner Contact for Wetland on Bickford Line
  - Darrell Randell advised FOSCR members that he was contacted by a landowner interested in creating a wetland. The property is located on Bickford Line.

**6. Other Business**

1. FOSCR members raised concerns over the encroachment of Phragmites in the Wawanosh Conservation Area. The property is owned and managed by the SCRCA.

**Motion to send a letter to the SCRCA, expressing concern over the encroachment of Phragmites in the Wawanosh Conservation Area with the recommendation that the SCRCA take measures to treat the invasion. FOSCR will provide support as appropriate. – Archie Kerr, Peter Westfall**

***CARRIED***

**ACTION** – Donna Strang will draft the letter to the SCRCA and circulate to FOSCR members for their feedback.

2. Donna Strang has been in contact with a local company to create magnets and grocery totes to give away at events with the FOSCR logo imprinted. Because the original logo was hand drawn, it is not in a format that allows for this type of printing. Donna presented a logo that was recreated by the company that could be used for this purpose. FOSCR members were in support of the revised logo.
3. Donna Strang reported that the Canadian Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Implementation Committee approved the re-designation of the “Beach Closings” Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) from “Impaired” to “Not Impaired” at their last meeting. Next steps will include an update presentation to the Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC) and consultation with Walpole Island and Aamjiwnaang First Nation.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.