



Draft Minutes of the Board of Directors Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

**St. Clair Civic Center
1155 Emily St., Mooretown, Ontario**

Present: Darrell Randell, Brenda Lorenz, Peter Westfall, Erin Carroll, Donna Strang, Kelly Johnson

Guests: Don Hector – Chatham-Kent Lambton Children’s Water Festival

Regrets: Kris Lee, Kathy Watts, Archie Kerr, Craig Griffiths, Terry Burrell, Ken Hall

The May 16, 2017 meeting of Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR) was called to order by Darrell Randell.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes from the December 6, 2016 Annual General Meeting

The minutes from the meeting on December 6, 2016 were reviewed.

Motion to Approve the Agenda and Minutes – Peter Westfall, Brenda Lorenz

CARRIED

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

Go Wild Grow Wild event in London – Donna Strang, Darrell Randell

- Donna Strang, Darrell Randell and Archie Kerr attended this event on behalf of FOSCR. Donna reported that it was a well-attended event by both adults and children. She feels it is a worthwhile event for the group to participate in as many of the attendees have an interest in environmental issues and activities. They are keen to learn more about the work groups are doing in this area. Erin Carroll and the Biology Department at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) assisted in preparing a benthics activity which went over well with youth attendees.

Young Habitat Project – Darrell Randell

- Darrell Randell reported that construction on the Young Habitat Project, along Clay Creek was being completed today, slightly later than expected due to poor conditions this winter. The wetland will be approximately 4 acres. Darrell believes the project is turning out better than expected and suggested this as a site for a FOSCR summer/fall outing.

Ontario Trillium Foundation program with St. Clair Region Conservation Authority – Erin Carroll

- Erin Carroll provided the group with an update on the St. Clair River AOC Aquatic Inventory, Habitat Restoration, and Outreach project funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.
 - This is a 3-year project from 2016-2019.
 - The objectives of the project are to conduct aquatic inventories, restore aquatic habitat, and conduct outreach and education within the St. Clair River AOC.
 - Total project cost is \$371,450 with \$160,000 coming from OTF over 3 years.
 - Fish surveys were conducted at 15 sites within the AOC in 2016-17.
 - 12,000 individual fish were collected consisting of approximately 50 different species.
 - Species at Risk were captured during 5 surveys including Blackstrip Topminnow, Spotted Sucker, and Silver Lamprey.
 - Mussel surveys were conducted as part of the Bear Creek Barrier Removal Project.
 - The mussel surveys were used to complete a mussel relocation as part of the Bear Creek Barrier Removal Project.
 - Over 600 mussels were surveyed and approximately 300 were relocated including 69 Mapleleaf, a threatened species.
 - Temperature loggers were installed at 3 sites within the AOC.
 - These are used to determine the thermal regime of a stream/watercourse. This information is used to categorize a stream as cold, cool, or warm water.
 - Benthic macro-invertebrates were collected and analyzed at 6 sites.
 - Water quality samples were collected monthly at 7 sites from March to October.
 - It was determined that phosphorous levels were above the Provincial Water Quality Objectives at each site.
 - Aquatic habitat restoration projects were completed at four sites which included the Bear Creek Barrier Removal Project, the wetland creation at McKeough Dam, the Stephens wetland project and the Davis wetland project.
 - Tallgrass prairie buffer strips were planted along 5 properties within the St. Clair River AOC priority area 1A.
 - Buffers ranged from 7 to 20 meters wide.
 - SCRCA Biology and Education departments joined a local AOC elementary school in a River Day Celebration.
 - Approximately 160 students participated.
 - The event included a fish survey demonstration, equipment demonstration, and grade appropriate curriculum-linked games and activities related to the Great Lakes, St. Clair River, and Species at Risk.

3. Chatham-Kent Lambton Children's Water Festival (CKLCWF) Presentation – Don Hector

Don Hector provided FOSCR members with an overview of the Chatham-Kent Lambton Children's Water Festival which is sponsored by FOSCR.

- The 2017 festival will be held October 3 – 5. This will be the 9th year for the event.

- The festival is geared to grade 4 students, although grade 3 and 5 students are often accepted.
- In 2016, 1800 students attended the festival. Capacity for the event is 600 students per day. Typically, 1400-1500 students attend.
- There are 5 themes to the festival:
 - Water conservation
 - Water protection
 - Water science
 - Water technology
 - Water attitude
- Forty-two, curriculum-linked activities are offered and each activity station is led by volunteers. Approximately 300 high school students assist in leading the activity stations.
- There is no cost to attend the festival, however each school is responsible for their own busing costs. Last year the Chatham-Kent Health Unit paid all busing costs.
- Invitations to the festival are sent to all elementary schools in Chatham-Kent and Lambton. Festival organizers would like to see increased participation from Lambton schools, however travel time is restrictive.
- The festival operates on a \$26,000 budget. Funding has been received from various funding agencies including RBC Bluewater Fund, TD Friends of the Environment, various foundations and numerous service clubs.
- The following are objectives for 2017:
 - Continue to work towards achieving sustainability for the water festival
 - Increase overall community involvement and support
 - Involve more secondary school student volunteers
 - Increase adult volunteer involvement at activity stations
- The festival committee has developed a wish list for 2017, as follows:
 - Help in set up, take down, logistics
 - Traffic control, ground security
 - Assistance with registration, serving lunches
 - Infrastructure maintenance
 - Additional staff at activity stations
 - Large tent systems
- The festival website is www.ckwaterfest.com and the email address is cklwaterfestival@gmail.com.

Motion to provide \$3000 in funding for the 2017 Chatham-Kent Lambton Children's Water Festival – Brenda Lorenz, Peter Westfall

CARRIED

4. Financial Report – Terry Burrell

Terry Burrell was not present to provide a financial report.

ACTION – Darrell Randell will send the Industry Canada letter to Donna Strang and Kelly Johnson.

ACTION – Donna and Kelly will assist Terry Burrell with submitting the required information.

5. Activity/Project Updates

E-Newsletter

Ken Hall has requested that articles be submitted by June 5, 2017.

ACTION – Erin Carroll will submit an article about the OTF water project.

ACTION – Kelly Johnson will submit photos from the upcoming Great Lakes SHSM event being held in Mooretown, funded by the MOECC and hosted by SCRCA.

ACTION – Donna Strang will submit photos from the Go Wild Grow Wild event.

ACTION - Donna will submit an introduction of the new RAP Coordinator – Kelly Johnson.

ACTION – Darrell Randell will request an article from Don Hector about the Chatham-Kent Lambton Children’s Water Festival.

ACTION – Donna Strang and Kelly Johnson will provide a BUI status summary.

Ontario Community Environment Fund (OCEF) Grant – Darrell Randell

Darrell Randell reported that FOSCR will not be moving forward with an application.

Reimbursement Request from Kris Lee – Business Cards

Kris Lee requested that she be reimbursed for BPAC business cards.

Motion to approve the re-imbusement to Kris Lee for business cards purchased on behalf of the BPAC – Erin Carroll, Brenda Lorenz

CARRIED

Enviro Fest – Brenda Lorenz

Brenda Lorenz has been in discussions with various city committees regarding the revival of Enviro Fest at Canatara Park. The group encouraged Brenda to continue these discussions and supported the event idea.

6. Other Business

- Kelly Johnson, the new Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Coordinator for the St. Clair River Area of Concern (AOC) agreed to become the Secretary for FOSCR, replacing Donna Strang.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting – Peter Westfall, Darrell Randell

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.