



**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 1, 2015**

**Thornhurst School  
471 French Line, Sombra, Ontario**

**Present:** Kim Gledhill, Terry Burrell, Kris Lee, Peter Westfall, Brenda Lorenz, Darrell Randell, Archie Kerr, Craig Griffiths, Donna Strang

**Regrets:** Ken Hall, Erin Carroll

The chairman apologizes to Kathy Watts for omitting her from the meeting notices.

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Prior to the meeting, Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR) members were taken on a tour of the Caron Farm wetland restoration project and the restored Thornhurst School.

The September 1, 2015 meeting of FOSCR was called to order by Darrell Randell at 6:00 pm.

**1. Review and Approval of Minutes from the April 16, 2015 meeting**

The minutes from the meeting on April 16, 2015 were reviewed.

**Motion to Approve the Agenda and Minutes – Kim Gledhill, Brenda Lorenz**

***CARRIED***

**2. Business Arising from the Minutes**

1. At the Annual General Meeting, there was discussion regarding a monetary contribution to the Blue Water Anglers organization from FOSCR towards their annual Salmon Derby. Craig Griffiths reported that he followed up with the organization and they would welcome any financial contribution to their organization.

Donna Strang advised that she has been in contact with the President and Sponsorship Coordinator of Blue Water Anglers regarding potential outreach activities for the St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan (RAP). They advised her that opportunities to support and/or participate in events organized by the group included participating in the Kids Training Day and contributing to the “tabloid” they produce for the Salmon Derby.

**ACTION** – Craig Griffiths and Donna Strang will work together and follow-up with Blue Water Anglers regarding potential sponsorships and participation in events.

### 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 - \$5927.42

Tangerine (formally ING) - \$33 112.43

One item was not reflected in the financial summaries distributed at the meeting; funding provided from FOSCR to the Caron Habitat Restoration project to spray Phragmites.

### Motion to Approve the Financial Report – Terry Burrell, Peter Westfall

**CARRIED**

### 4. Activity/Project Updates:

- Application to Grants in Support of FOSCR Projects?
  - The Government of Ontario recently announced that applications for the 2015 Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund were currently being accepted. Project funding up to \$25 000 is available for local projects benefitting the Great Lakes. FOSCR members discussed some possible projects that could be supported through this fund.

**ACTION** – FOSCR members will provide Kim Gledhill with ideas for potential projects that could be supported under the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund.
- Summary of Communication Activities – Ken Hall
  - Ken Hall was unavailable to attend the meeting. No report was available.
- Summary of Canatara Dune Grass Restoration Project – Kim Gledhill
  - Kim Gledhill updated FOSCR members on the dune grasses planted along the beach at Canatara Park. Compared to previous years, the grasses are doing well, largely due to the installation of boardwalks and the roping off of the dune grass areas. Kim involved school groups in the dune grass project as well as in the planting of native vegetation along Lake Chipican.
- Donation in Support of Kim’s Education Program at Dow Wetlands
  - Kim Gledhill informed FOSCR members that she was contacted by the vice-president of Dow Chemical and asked if she would give a tour of the Dow Wetlands and provide a presentation to Dow Chemical representatives. The tour and presentation were very well received by those who attended.
    - Dow Chemical is looking to sell the Dow Wetlands to a solar company who would like to provide a \$1000 donation towards the school-aged education program Kim runs out of the site. This donation would support approximately 10 education sessions at the Dow Wetlands. They inquired as to who the donation should be made to.

- Members suggested that the donation be made to FOSCR who would reimburse Kim after completion of a class education session at the wetlands.

**Motion to approve the donation of \$1000 to FOSCR in support of Kim Gledhill's education program at the Dow Wetlands. – Kris Lee, Craig Griffiths**

**CARRIED**

- Caron Habitat Restoration – Thornyhurst – Darrell Randell
  - FOSCR members had the opportunity to visit the wetland site prior to the meeting. The Phragmites had recently been sprayed.
  - After the Phragmites have been eradicated, the next step will include excavating and expanding the wetland area. The project is also being supported by Ducks Unlimited Canada.
- Phragmites Outreach – Donna Strang
  - Donna Strang prepared a draft brochure on Phragmites and distributed to FOSCR members for their review and feedback. She will be sending a revised copy of the brochure to Janice Gilbert (Wetland Ecologist specializing in invasive Phragmites impacts and controls) and Nancy Vidler (Chair, Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group) for the review and feedback.
    - Other recommended reviewers included Jake Lozon (Rural Lambton Stewardship Network) and Larry Cornelius (Return the Landscape).
    - Initial comments from FOSCR members included:
      - editorial revisions
      - inserting a map of the AOC on the back page
      - use a better picture to show the differences in seedhead between invasive and native Phragmites
      - providing information for the general public on who to contact if they observe Phragmites and/or want them managed
      - other areas Phragmites are located (e.g., roadside ditches)

**ACTION** – Donna Strang will send a digital copy of the Phragmites brochure to FOSCR members. FOSCR members will send Donna comments to be incorporated into the draft.
- Enbridge Solar Farm – Report on Media Event
  - Kris Lee attended and spoke at the Enbridge Solar Farm media event highlighting the habitat restoration and wetland creation project being conducted in partnership with Return the Landscape. She advised FOSCR members that it was a successful event. She also acknowledged that the habitat restoration project sets a good example for other industries in the area to follow suit.

## 5. Projects for 2015

- Swan Lake – Darrell Randell
  - The Swan Lake Marsh project has been on-going for a number of years through the Walpole Island Land Trust. The marsh is located on Anne Island and covers an area of

approximately 171 acres. The FOSCR has provided support for this project over the last few years.

- Darrell Randell reported to FOSCR members that work continues towards the restoration of this wetland including the excavation and sculpting of depressions that will fill in with water. Recent highlights include the discovery of a cattail monoculture in a location where it was originally expected to be invasive Phragmites.
  - Over the next year, work will include establishing a direct connection to the Snye River and the creation of fish habitat.
- Bear Creek – National Wildlife Area – Darrell Randell
  - Darrell Randell advised that the Bear Creek rebuild project has been completed. The project included installing new controls, excavating ditches and repairing damage caused by rats along the wetland dykes.
- Bossu Wetland – Add a Pump for 2016
  - At the April 2015 FOSCR meeting, Darrell Randell advised members of a potential funding opportunity that would support the purchase of a pump at the Bossu Wetland. Funding up to \$10 K has been identified for the next year to support this purchase. Hopefully this contribution will help leverage the additional funding required for the pump.

## 6. Other Business

1. The 7<sup>th</sup> Binational Lake St. Clair Conference is being planned for October 21, 2015 in Chatham, Ontario.
  - **ACTION** – Donna Strang will circulate the registration information to FOSCR members.
2. Terry Burrell advised that a property currently owned by the City of Sarnia at 1541 Blackwell Road could provide an opportunity for local habitat restoration. FOSCR members discussed some of the past issues in moving any type of restoration project forward at this site.
3. Donna Strang provided an update on current status assessments for Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) identified for the St. Clair River. Currently, two assessments and one discussion paper are at different stages of review:
  - *Restrictions on Dredging Activities*

A status assessment has been completed for the “Restrictions on Dredging Activities” BUI that recommends re-designating this BUI from “Impaired” to “Not Impaired”. The recommendation has been approved by CRIC and has received concurrence from Aamjiwnaang First Nation. Consultation activities are currently being organized with Walpole Island First Nation after which the recommendation will be presented to BPAC.
  - *Beach Closings*

A draft status assessment has been prepared and has been reviewed by AOC representatives from Environment Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (OMOECC) and Lambton Public Health. The report was revised and sent for expert review at both Environment Canada and the OMOECC. Comments will be incorporated into the draft and the status assessment will be presented to the Canadian Remedial Action Plan Implementation Committee (CRIC).

- *Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour Problems*  
A discussion paper has been prepared and is currently being reviewed by the CRIC. The purpose of the document is to provide relevant information regarding this BUI to initiate a discussion on its status (no re-designation recommendations are provided). Once a final draft is approved by CRIC, consultation activities with the local community will be organized.
4. Donna Strang solicited input and suggestions from FOSCR members regarding outreach opportunities for the St. Clair River AOC. The Outreach and Education subcommittee of the CRIC is focusing on events and activities that will reach a broader demographic compared to past events.
- One of recommendations from the committee was to approach FOSCR about holding another photo contest as the last one was held in 2011.
    - FOSCR members were interested in holding another photo contest but discussions with Ken Hall would be required as maintaining the website and receiving entries would constitute the majority of the work.
    - Darrell Randell advised that in the last year there were a number of local photo contests held by other organizations so it might be redundant for FOSCR to hold another one at this time.
  - Other ideas on potential activities included:
    - Youth Trivia Contest – possibly delivered through the River RAP program by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
    - Geocaching – A number of caches could be hidden throughout the AOC with a question, clue or phrase at each location. Participants could submit to FOSCR website for their chance at a prize.
- ACTION** – Donna Strang will follow-up and discuss with Sharon Nethercott at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority about her interest in helping with organizing an AOC-specific geocaching activity.
5. Darrell Randell put together a budget for the 2015-16 year for submission to the OMOECC. He solicited FOSCR members for input on line items after which Darrell will submit to the OMOECC. Points of discussion included:
- Lambton-Kent Children’s Water Festival - \$2000 identified in support

**Motion to approve the \$2000 contribution from the FOSCR to the 2015 Lambton-Kent Children’s Water Festival – Brenda Lorenz, Archie Kerr**

**CARRIED**

- Tuckey Project – Unidentified Amount – Darrell Randell was approached by a landowner regarding a potential habitat project. He is unsure of what the project would entail and will follow-up.
- Public Outreach - \$2500 identified to cover the costs of prizes for any contest organized by the FOSCR.
  - **ACTION** – Darrell Randell will revise the 2015-16 budget based on discussions at the meeting and submit to the OMOECC.

## **7. Adjournment**

### **Motion to Adjourn the Meeting – Terry Burrell, Peter Westfall**

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.