



Draft Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, March 22, 2018

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

Present: Darrell Randell, Kelly Johnson, Brenda Lorenz, Archie Kerr, Craig Griffiths, Kathy Watts, Ken Hall, Erin Carroll

Guests: Don Hector

Regrets: Terry Burrell, Kris Lee, Peter Westfall

The March 22, 2018 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 12, 2017 meeting

The minutes from the meeting on December 12, 2017 were reviewed.

Motion to Approve the Agenda and Minutes – Archie Kerr, Brenda Lorenz

CARRIED

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

Tour of Young's Habitat Project – Darrell Randell

- Darrell will work with the landowner to arrange a tour for FOSCR members in mid-late April.

Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) Application – Courtright Park Shoreline – Darrell Randell

- An Ontario Trillium Foundation application for the Courtright Park shoreline project has been declined.
- Phase 1 of the project, which is fully funded, began in February.

Website Improvement Status – Kelly Johnson

- Kelly will be working with Chris Durand of St. Clair Region Conservation Authority to re-develop the Friends website. It is hoped that work will commence near the beginning of May.

Wright Swamp – Darrell Randell

- Darrell reported that construction on the Wright swamp project (1/2 acre wetland) is underway and should be finished by the end of the month.

3. Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children’s Water Festival – Don Hector

Don Hector informed Friends that the Children’s Water Festival will not be held in 2018. The International Plowing Match is taking place in Chatham-Kent, so the organizing committee decided to assist with the education aspect of the Conservation Authorities tent rather than hold the water festival. Essex Region Conservation Authority, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, and St. Clair Region Conservation Authority will be sharing the tent at the plowing match.

The organizing committee attended last year’s plowing match in Huron County and viewed a demonstration by the local conservation authorities. The demonstration used an interactive sandbox using augmented reality. Students are able to create a ‘sandscape’ by forming the sand into hills and depressions. A specialized computer scans the sand, recognizing differences in elevation, changing the sand colour to represent the differences (e.g. depressions turn blue to represent bodies of water). This tool can be used to share watershed messages with students.

Don Hector requested a donation from the FOSCR to help cover the costs of purchasing a similar unit for the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children’s Water Festival.

Motion to approve funding of \$3000 for the Children’s Water Festival engagement tool. FOSCR would have the opportunity to use the unit for events. – Brenda Lorenz, Ken Hall

CARRIED

4. Financial Report – Terry Burrell

Terry Burrell reported that the FOSCR Scotiabank account balance is \$14,396.50. The Tangerine account balance is \$89,386.69.

Motion to accept the March 22, 2018 financial report – Erin Carroll, Ken Hall

CARRIED

5. Activity/Project Updates

Summary of Communications Activities – Ken Hall

- *Newsletter:*
 - The latest FOSCR newsletter was distributed in March.

- *Website:*
 - The website received the following visits:
 - January – 1811
 - February – 1714
 - March – 1365
 - Files opened from the website were as follows:
 - January – 9428
 - February – 12,778
 - March – 8366

Cargill Projects Proposal – Kelly Johnson

- Kelly submitted four project proposals to Cargill in January on behalf of the FOSCR and St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. No response was received. Kelly sent a second email to Cargill in February regarding the proposal submission and again no response has been received, although the email was read by the recipient.

Moore Wildlife Area – Erin Carroll

- This project will remove an agricultural crossing on Bear Creek (North Sydenham River – St. Clair Township) which is no longer required.
- The crossing acts as a barrier to passage for aquatic species and alters the flow regime of the river especially during times of low flow.
- This project will mitigate the human impact caused by the construction of this crossing.
- A mussel relocation will take place prior to barrier removal to re-locate mussels from the project area to prevent harm to those individuals.
- Altered flow regimes can disrupt host fish populations, cause silt accumulation, and low dissolved oxygen. This threat can impact Mapleleaf mussel reproduction, feeding, cover, and development on host fish.
- Removal of this barrier will improve critical habitat for the Mapleleaf as mussels cannot currently use the riverbed where the crossing is located. In addition, habitat downstream of the barrier will be improved by restoring the natural flow and sediment transport. Improving fish passage will benefit the Mapleleaf as their host fish (Channel Catfish) will be able to move more freely throughout the river aiding in mussel dispersion.
- This project will improve critical habitat for the Mapleleaf mussel and will take place in a regional priority area - the "Sydenham River Watershed".

Motion to approve funding of \$3000 to support the Moore Habitat Management project.

– Brenda Lorenz, Archie Kerr

CARRIED

Go Wild Grow Wild – Kelly Johnson

- Friends will be having a booth again this year at Go Wild Grow Wild in London on April 7th.
- Darrell will set the booth up on Friday evening (the 6th). Kathy and Brenda will work the booth on the 7th from 9:30 – 1:00 pm, and Erin and Kris will work from 1:00 – 4:30 pm. Erin and Kris will dismantle the booth at the end of the day.

6. Future of FOSCR with regard to Delisting – Darrell Randell

Darrell sought opinion on the future of FOSCR with the likely de-listing of all Beneficial Use Impairments to occur in the next couple years, except for the removal of contaminated sediments, where we may have a small PR role but little affect in the process. Without the AOC as the main focus, there seems to be consensus that the group's work should continue, but the lens under which projects will be taken will have to change. E.g. Rather than AoC BUIs, the work and funding may be done to mitigate climate change, or reduce nutrients to the Great Lakes.

7. Other Business

Enbridge – Future of Line 5 – Ken Hall

- Ken Hall reported that Enbridge has committed to replacing Line 5 which runs under the St. Clair River, delivering oil and associated products from western Canada to Sarnia. 95% of the oil coming to Sarnia flows through Lines 5 and 6.
- Pressure has been mounting from the Government of Michigan and Governor Snyder to replace Line 5.
- Before replacement can occur many permits must be acquired. The construction phase of the project is expected to take 4 months to complete and it is hoped the project will be complete by 2020.

8. Adjournment