



**FINAL Minutes of the Board of Directors Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, December 11, 2019
Open Grill Steakhouse
721 Lite Street, Point Edward, Ontario**

Present: Peter Westfall, Archie Kerr, Terry Burrell, Brenda Lorenz, Ken Hall, Kathy Watts, Kris Lee, Vince Gagner, Craig Griffiths, Darrell Randell, Donna Blue

The December 11, 2019 Annual General Meeting of Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR) was called to order by Craig Griffiths at 6:35 pm.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes from the October 24, 2019 meeting

The minutes from the meeting on October 24, 2019 were reviewed.

Motion to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2019 meeting – Darrell Randell, Ken Hall
CARRIED

2. Business Out of Minutes

- ACTION– Craig Griffiths will contact Melissa Levi and Sharon Nethercott regarding their interest in becoming members of FOSCR.
CARRIED FORWARD
- ACTION – Craig Griffiths will create a Friends of the St. Clair River Instagram account.
CARRIED FORWARD – Craig reported that the Instagram account had not yet been activated. He is currently stockpiling images of the St. Clair River to be used in weekly posts. The Enbridge cheque presentation that occurred earlier in the day might be an appropriate photo to use for the account's launch.

Discussion:

- FOSCR members discussed the possibility of having multiple users on one Instagram account.
ACTION – Craig Griffiths will investigate the possibility of creating an Instagram account with multiple administrators.
- ACTION – Craig Griffiths will contact the teacher [from Sacred Heart School in Port Lambton] and follow-up regarding the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival and transportation costs.
COMPLETED – Craig Griffiths attempted to contact the teacher but received no response.

- At the last meeting, FOSCR members expressed their preference for the new FOSCR website to be hosted through StormWeb and managed by Ken Hall. Although the official transition from the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) has not occurred, Ken Hall and Chris Durand (GIS/IT Manager at the SCRCA) have been in contact and will move forward with the transition shortly.

3. Enbridge Donation – Craig Griffiths

Craig Griffiths advised that the FOSCR were successful in their application to Enbridge and will be granted \$1,500 to help fund the broad programs and initiatives supported by FOSCR (e.g., habitat restoration). A cheque presentation was held earlier in the day with Craig Griffiths and Enbridge representatives along the St. Clair River.

ACTION – The cheque presentation and photo will be uploaded on the FOSCR website.

4. Children’s Water Festival Request for Funding – Craig Griffiths

Don Hector, coordinator of the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children’s Water Festival contacted FOSCR to seek support for the 2020 festival that is running between October 6-8, 2020. The festival attracts primarily elementary school students (Grade 4 and 5). Specifically, the request is for \$3,000 that will support bussing costs for students from Sarnia, Corunna and Port Lambton to attend the festival.

Discussion:

- Recommend increasing FOSCR support to \$4,000
- In some cases, organizations can “sponsor” a station, however, gaining support to sponsor a station seems to be more popular among organizations than funding transportation costs. No details were provided regarding station sponsorship.
- Request FOSCR recognition (e.g., name on station, brochure, etc.).
- Could FOSCR be the organization that reaches out to the local schools and offer to cover their transportation costs?
- Volunteers are always needed.

ACTION – Craig Griffiths will circulate the information provided by Don Hector regarding the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children’s Water Festival to FOSCR members.

Motion to provide \$4,000 to the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children’s Water Festival to support bussing of students from the Corunna, Sarnia and Port Lambton regions – Archie Kerr, Kathy Watts

CARRIED

ACTION – Craig Griffiths will discuss with Don Hector how FOSCR’s donation will be advertised before and during the festival.

5. Financial Report – Terry Burrell

Terry Burrell reported that the FOSCR Scotiabank account balance is \$3,286.62. The Tangerine account balance is \$26,095.26.

Recent activity has included a withdrawal to support the preparation of the November FOSCR E-Newsletter, a withdrawal to cover annual insurance required by the province and the deposit of \$1,500 from the recently received Enbridge grant. The provincial Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) funding administered by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (\$25,000) is pending final approval. Deliverables focus primarily on Education and Outreach activities.

ACTION – Craig Griffiths will circulate the COA Agreement developed with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to FOSCR members for their information.

Motion to accept the December 11, 2019 financial report – Terry Burrell, Peter Westfall

CARRIED

6. Habitat Projects by RLSN – Darrell Randell

Darrell Randell reported that he continues to speak with local landowners who are interested in implementing stewardship projects on their property. The following projects located within the Area of Concern (AOC) were presented as opportunities that could be funded in the future and will be re-visited by FOSCR at the next meeting:

- Moore Line Property west of Brigden Road
 - Landowners are interested in creating a small wetland and planting native grasses and a hedgerow. The landowners have previously completed tree planting on their property that connects adjacent woodlots.
- Lambton Line near Mandaumin Road
 - Darrell will be visiting a potential project were an expanded pipeline was installed. A low-lying area has been identified as a potential location for a wetland.

7. SLEA Outreach – Kris Lee, Vince Gagner

Vince Gagner and Kris Lee initiated a discussion on how the Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association (SLEA) could increase communications efforts surrounding the work achieved to improve the health of the St. Clair River AOC and how, or if, that could be done in collaboration with the work that FOSCR conducts.

Discussion:

- The roles and objectives of SLEA and FOSCR are different, but it would make sense to collaborate where it makes sense (e.g., Environmental Preparedness Day). Events and projects organized by SLEA and where FOSCR literature or presence would fall within scope will be presented to the group for consideration.
- Articles could be included by SLEA in the FOSCR E-Newsletter and FOSCR articles could be incorporated into the SLEA newsletter.
- SLEA will be holding an Annual General Meeting in March. SLEA, the Industrial Education Cooperative (IEC) and Community Awareness Emergency Response (CAER) organizations, while remaining separate legal entities, will be working towards becoming better aligned.

- Role of SLEA representation on FOSCR could be to provide industrial representation, knowledge and information regarding industrial processes and initiatives that benefit the environmental quality of the St. Clair River, and contribute to AOC-related discussions that occur within the FOSCR and the Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC).
- FOSCR and AOC committees and organization have expressed their interest in learning more about the “good-news” stories and positive improvements made by industry to reduce their impact on the St. Clair River.

8. 2020 Strategy for Public Engagement/Community Awareness – Craig Griffiths

Deferred to the next meeting.

9. Communication Activity/Newsletter – Ken Hall

Ken Hall reported to the group that two E-newsletters were produced in 2019 (one in April and one in November). The distribution list has not changed substantially. There was media interest after the November E-Newsletter from the St. Clair Township Beacon regarding the River RAP program run by the SCRCA and is sponsored by FOSCR.

The new website is online and Ken and Chris Durand at the SCRCA will be working together to switch administration of the site back to FOSCR. Ken expressed his thanks to Chris Durand for the work he put into developing and creating the new site. Some consideration should be given to 1) how many pictures are included via Instagram that will populate the Photo Gallery and 2) whether a highlight box detailing the current status of the Sediment Management Project should be created with a link to the project’s website.

Moved that the President sends Chris Durand at the SCRCA a thank-you card on behalf of FOSCR for developing the new website – Ken Hall, Darrell Randell

CARRIED

Recommended 2020 Communication Considerations:

- Update signage along the river (e.g., Blue Water Bridge, Centennial Park, Guthrie Park)
- Professional display for events (i.e., Three roll-ups, full backdrop picture)
- Update Factsheets
- Order novelties to giveaways at events
- Expand social media presence

Discussion:

- What are the major messages that FOSCR can assist in education and promoting to the public?
 - Sediment project and implementation?

ACTION – Craig Griffiths will contact Ted Briggs at MECP regarding what messages the FOSCR should focus on promoting to the public.

10. Anything Else that Donna Wants

No report.

11. Future of FOSCR with Regards to De-listing

No report.

12. Other Business

- Events to attend/participate in:
 - Environmental Preparedness Day – May 8, 2020

Moved to investigate partnering with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority in developing a booth at the SLEA Environmental Preparedness Day in May 2020 – Brenda, Darrell

CARRIED

- Green Drinks
- Pow Wows
- Sombra Days Fishing Tournament
 - July 4, 2020 in Sombra, Ontario
 - Could hand out updated Factsheet

Motion to investigate opportunities to get involved in the Sombra Day and Kids Fishing Derby event in July 2020 with a tentative maximum budget of \$2,000 – Kris Lee, Peter Westfall

CARRIED

13. Annual Meeting Election of Officers

Moved that all Directors be re-appointed to their current position on FOSCR – Darrell Randell, Peter Westfall

CARRIED

14. Adjourn

The next meeting will be on March 10, 2020 at the new SLEA offices located at the Western Research Park.