



**FINAL Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, October 24, 2019  
Enbridge Pipelines Inc.  
1086 Modeland Road, Sarnia, Ontario**

**Present:** Peter Westfall, Donna Blue, Ken Hall, Terry Burrell, Craig Griffiths, Brenda Lorenz, Darrell Randell, Vince Gagner

**Regrets:** Archie Kerr, Kathy Watts, Kris Lee

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The October 24, 2019 meeting of Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR) was called to order by Craig Griffiths at 6:55 pm.

Craig Griffiths advised FOSCR members that long-time Director Erin Carroll has decided to resign from FOSCR. Directors acknowledged the tremendous contributions made by Erin for the organization and wished her well in her future endeavors.

**1. Review and Approval of Minutes from the December 8, 2018 meeting**

The minutes from the meeting on December 8, 2018 were reviewed.

**2. Business out of Minutes**

Discussion:

- The BUI celebration event originally planned for the spring of 2019 has not occurred. A media release was circulated to local outlets advising of the re-designations of the "*Beach Closings*", "*Restrictions on Dredging Activities*" and "*Bird and Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems*" Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) in November 2018.
- Melissa Levi had attended the last FOSCR meeting and was invited to join the group.  
**ACTION** – Craig Griffiths will contact Melissa Levi and Sharon Nethercott regarding their interest in becoming members of FOSCR.

**Motion to Approve the Agenda and Minutes – Terry Burrell, Peter Westfall**

**CARRIED**

### 3. Website Update – Donna Blue

Donna Blue advised FOSCR members that the new website was live. She acknowledged all the work put forth by Kelly Johnson, former RAP Coordinator and Chris Durand, Manager of IT/GIS, at St. Clair Region Conservation Authority who were instrumental in getting the new website online. There were many others who reviewed the content and supplied helpful comments and recommendations.

A number of topics surrounding the FOSCR website required discussion:

i. Website Contact Form

Currently, any submission through the website contact form is delivered to Craig Griffiths' email.

**ACTION** – Donna Blue will advise Chris Durand to change the contact email to Ken Hall.

ii. Hosting

The current site was developed using the web design software WordPress and is currently being hosted, free-of-charge by the SCRCA. It was formally hosted using StormWeb, a local company at a cost of \$130/year. The new site can easily be moved to StormWeb with minimal disruption if requested.

In an attempt to support local companies and business, FOSCR members preferred to keep the website hosted by StormWeb. Ken Hall will continue to manage the site on behalf of FOSCR.

**Motion to have the Friends of the St. Clair River website hosted by StormWeb – Brenda Lorenz, Darrell Randell**

***CARRIED***

iii. Photo Gallery

The photo gallery has not yet been completed on the website. If the gallery is still desired, it is recommended that the gallery be maintained using a social media account such as Instagram. Pictures would also need descriptions and photo credits assigned to them.

Discussion:

- Craig Griffiths recommended to FOSCR members that the group develop some type of social media presence.
- Craig offered to run an Instagram account on behalf of FOSCR.
  - Use photos from the gallery with messages attached.
    - Beneficial Use Impairments
    - Projects
  - Use #StClairRiver, #GreatLakes, etc. to gain more followers, etc.
  - Concerns regarding our message becoming lost and unable to track who is viewing the account, etc.

**Motion to have an Instagram account created for the Friends of the St. Clair River with an account status review after one-year of activity – Peter Westfall, Vince Gagner**

***CARRIED***

**ACTION** – Craig Griffiths will create a Friends of the St. Clair River Instagram account.

**ACTION** – Once created, the Instagram account will be linked to the website photo gallery.

#### 4. **Financial Report – Terry Burrell, Craig Griffiths**

Terry Burrell reported that the FOSCR Scotiabank account balance is \$4,709.12. The Tangerine account balance is \$26,095.26.

Recent activity has been minimal while FOSCR awaits word from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) regarding Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) funding. Activity that has occurred this year include support for habitat restoration projects in the Port Lambton area and the River RAP education program administered by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

#### **Motion to accept the October 24, 2019 financial report – Terry Burrell, Brenda Lorenz**

**CARRIED**

##### \$25,000 Confirmed by Ted Briggs – Craig Griffiths

Craig Griffiths advised that MECP has provided a draft COA Agreement (\$25,000) to FOSCR for review. The agreement identifies education and outreach as priority objectives for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

##### Enbridge Gas Foundation Grant – Friends of the St. Clair River - \$1,500 – Ken Hall

Ken Hall reported to FOSCR members that he was approached by Enbridge staff who advised that a \$1,500 grant was available to support FOSCR activities (e.g., habitat restoration, education).

#### **Motion to move forward with an application to Enbridge for \$1,500 – Ken Hall, Terry Burrell**

**CARRIED**

**ACTION** – Ken Hall will provide Terry Burrell with the application instructions and website for Enbridge funding.

#### 5. **Activity/Project Updates**

##### Summary of Communication Activity/Newsletter – Ken Hall

Ken Hall reported that there hasn't been a Newsletter produced in 2019 and reached out to FOSCR members for ideas.

##### Story Ideas:

- New website
- COA funding
- Sediment Management Project update
- Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) update
- CANUSLAK exercise

- River RAP Education Program
- Trillium Foundation program overview
- Bridgeview Park wetland project
- Blue Water Anglers organization

**ACTION** – FOSCR members will provide Ken Hall with stories for the November newsletter by November 15, 2019.

#### Habitat Projects – Darrell Randell

There are currently no proposed habitat projects located within the Area of Concern (AOC). Past habitat projects have supported the advancement of the “*Loss of Habitat*” BUI to a level where its redesignation is being considered. The current balance in FOSCR reserves is still available to support habitat restoration projects if proposals are provided.

Brenda Lorenz recommended reaching out to the Aamjiwnaang First Nation environment department regarding opportunities to rehabilitate more habitat along Talfourd Creek.

#### Social Media Presence – Craig Griffiths

Craig Griffiths addressed this agenda item earlier in the meeting during discussions related to the new website.

#### Ideas for Increasing Community Awareness/Education – Craig Griffiths

Craig Griffiths led a brainstorming session with FOSCR members to develop a list of potential events that FOSCR could attend and/or have their information available.

- Sarnia Home Show
- Sombra Days Fishing Tournament
- Captain Kidd Days, Corunna
- St. Clair River Run
- Art Walk/Alt Walk
- Pow Wows
- Blue Water Anglers Training Day
- Gala Days, Port Lambton
- Hobby Fest, Sarnia
- Mackinac Island Race
- Fall Fairs – E.g., Brigden
- Go Wild Grow Wild
- Green Drinks
- High School Science Fairs
- Golden K Presentations
- Ontario Litter Awareness Day
- Bird Counts

#### Potential Projects:

- Point Edward – Tall-grass Prairie
- Walpole Island Bush Marsh project
- Education programs at Walpole Island
- Community Projects – E.g., native grass plantings at local museums

Anything else that Donna Wants

No report

**6. Future of FOSCR with regard to delisting**

No report

**7. Other Business**

Funding Request from teacher at Sacred Heart School in Port Lambton – Ken Hall

FOSCR was contacted by a teacher from Sacred Heart School regarding funding to support student bussing to the Chatham Kent and Lambton Children’s Water Festival. Craig responded and then never heard back from the teacher. The event has already occurred and it is unknown as to whether the class was able to attend the event or not.

**Moved that the teacher be contacted and funding in the amount of \$400 be provided to cover transportation costs, if the students attended the water festival – Terry Burrell, Ken Hall**

**ACTION** – Craig Griffiths will contact the teacher and follow-up regarding the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children’s Water Festival and transportation costs.

Enviro-Fest at Canatara Park

Brenda Lorenz advised that she is moving forward in trying to revive Enviro-Fest at Canatara Park.

**8. Adjournment**

The next meeting will be the week of December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**ACTION** – Craig Griffiths will circulate potential dates for the Annual General Meeting to canvas FOSCR members as to their availability.