



**FINAL Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 2020
Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association
1086 Modeland Road, Sarnia, Ontario**

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

Regrets: Terry Burrell

The March 10, 2020 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 December 11, 2019 meeting

The minutes from the meeting on December 11, 2019 were reviewed.

Vince Gagner recommended one revision to the draft minutes:

- The Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association (SLEA), the Industrial Education Cooperative (IEC) and Community Awareness Emergency Response (CAER) organizations are not combining into one entity as was recorded in the minutes. Rather, the three organizations are becoming better aligned with one another, but will remain separate entities.

**Motion to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2019 meeting with above noted revision
– Brenda Lorenz, Kathy Watts**

CARRIED

2. Business Out of Minutes

- ACTION– Craig Griffiths will contact Melissa Levi and Sharon Nethercott regarding their interest in becoming members of FOSCR.
COMPLETED – Craig Griffiths contacted Melissa Levi. At this time, she is not interested in becoming a member of FOSCR.
- ACTION – Craig Griffiths will create a Friends of the St. Clair River Instagram account.
IN PROGRESS – Craig reported that he has created an Instagram account for FOSCR, however, technical issues have created problems in posting pictures. Craig will be reaching out to a colleague to try and resolve the issue.

- ACTION – Craig Griffiths will investigate the possibility of creating an Instagram account with multiple administrators.
CARRIED FORWARD
- 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.
- ACTION – Craig Griffiths will discuss with Don Hector how FOSCR’s donation will be advertised before and during the [Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children’s Water] festival.
IN PROGRESS – Craig Griffiths contacted Don Hector to advise him of FOSCR’s \$4,000 donation. A cheque presentation will be scheduled later in the spring. Craig will discuss further with Don how FOSCR’s contribution will be advertised during the event.
- ACTION – Craig Griffiths will send Chris Durand at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA), a thank-you card on behalf of FOSCR for developing the new website.
CARRIED FORWARD
- ACTION – Craig Griffiths will contact Ted Briggs at MECP regarding what messages the FOSCR should focus on promoting to the public
COMPLETED – Craig Griffiths contacted Ted Briggs. Ted advised that the funding provided by MECP should focus on public outreach and education and not habitat projects within the St. Clair River Area of Concern. If towards the end of the Agreement period, there is a surplus of funding identified, these monies could be used to support habitat restoration.
ACTION – Craig Griffiths will circulate the list of education and outreach activities outlined in the MECP Agreement to FOSCR members.

3. Financial Report – Terry Burrell

Terry Burrell was unable to attend the meeting but provided a report via email. The FOSCR Scotiabank account balance remains at \$3,286.62. The Tangerine account balance is \$34,595.26. Recent activity included the withdrawal of \$4,000 towards the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children’s Water Festival and the deposit of \$12,500 from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) funding.

4. Sombra Kids Fishing Derby Financial Support – Vince Gagner, Craig Griffiths

Vince Gagner provided an update to FOSCR members regarding the Sombra Kids Fishing Derby scheduled to take place on July 4, 2020. In partnership with the Sombra Township Optimist Club, the fishing derby will coincide with Sombra Days and act as a fundraiser supporting youth programs and facilities in the Sombra region.

The entry fee for the fishing derby is \$100 per team with over 200 teams expected to enter the event. Participants are entered into a draw for a grand prize boat and trailer (worth \$10,000) by taking and submitting a picture of a youth fishing during the derby. The focus of the event is not on the size of fish caught, but rather having youth taking part in fishing activities.

Discussion:

- The fishing derby offers the opportunity for FOSCR members to connect with users of the river and deliver messaging surrounding the Area of Concern and restoration efforts (e.g., booth, activities, donation)
- Display materials required:
 - Pull-up banners (one or two)
 - Factsheets
 - Give-Away
 - Activity (e.g., Native vs. Non-native Fish)
- Proposed time for FOSCR booth to be set-up – 11 am to 1 pm
- An opportunity to speak at the event could be arranged during the grand prize draw if there is interest.

Motion to provide \$2,000 towards purchasing a second grand prize (e.g., kayak and associated accessories) for the Sombra Fishing Derby – Darrell Randell, Archie Kerr

CARRIED

ACTION – Craig Griffiths will purchase the kayak and associated accessories for the Sombra Fishing Derby.

ACTION – Vince Gagner will arrange for the kayak to be wrapped with the FOSCR logo displayed.

ACTION – Darrell Randell will (tentatively) attend the upcoming Sombra Township Optimist Club to represent FOSCR and accept recognition for the donation to the Sombra Fishing Derby.

ACTION – Brenda Lorenz and Archie Kerr will update the FOSCR Area of Concern power point presentation prepared to deliver to local service clubs.

5. Moore Line Buchanan Wetland and Prairie Planting – Darrell Randell

Darrell Randell provided FOSCR members with details on an anticipated habitat restoration project scheduled to be completed by Ontario NativeScape on the Buchanan property, located on Moore Line. In total, 1.1 hectares (2.75 acres) of farmland will be retired. A 0.1 hectare (0.25 acre) wetland will be created and 1 hectare (2.5 acres) of tall grass prairie will be planted to improve local water and habitat quality.

The total project cost is \$12,000 (\$7,000 for wetland creation and \$5,000 for tall grass prairie planting). Ontario NativeScape is requesting financial support for this project from FOSCR.

Motion to provide \$5,000 towards the Buchanan Restoration Project led by Ontario NativeScape, conditional on the arrangement of a cheque presentation and article for the FOSCR E-Newsletter – Brenda Lorenz, Peter Westfall

CARRIED

6. Emergency Preparedness Day – Archie Kerr

The Emergency Preparedness Day organized by the Community Awareness Emergency Response (CAER) is being held on May 8, 2020. Archie Kerr has secured a booth for FOSCR. The event draws over 1,400 students during the day and approximately 1,000 members of the general public to learn about the safety measures put in place to respond to local emergencies.

Discussion:

- Display materials required:
 - Table and hydro – confirmed by organizers
 - Pull-up banners (one or two)
 - ACTION** – Ken Hall will create display banners based on information from the FOSCR website and circulate to members for their review.
 - ACTION** – Donna Blue will look for the current FOSCR banner stored at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Administration Building.
 - Attraction – E.g., Professor Trout
 - ACTION** – Donna Blue will investigate obtaining Professor Trout.
 - ACTION** – Donna Blue will circulate pictures of Professor Trout at the International Plowing Match to FOSCR members with the minutes.
 - Factsheets
 - ACTION** – Donna Blue will circulate updated factsheet to FOSCR members.
 - The event runs from 9 am until 2 pm (set-up beginning at 8 am). Archie will be at the booth for the entire day. Two other FOSCR members are requested to help run the booth for half the day.
 - ACTION** – Peter Westfall, Donna Blue and Ken Hall are all available to help with the booth at the Emergency Preparedness Day. Schedules will be determined closer to the date of the event.

Motion to provide \$5,000 towards the development and production of factsheets and display materials – Brenda Lorenz, Kathy Watts

CARRIED

Peter Westfall distributed samples of potential give away items that FOSCR could order and have available at local outreach events (E.g., bobbers, straws, frisbees, etc.).

Discussion:

- Recommend ordering 500 fishing bobbers for Sombra Fishing Derby
- Ensure the FOSCR website is also included on the imprint

Motion to provide \$3,000 to purchase FOSCR branded give away items to have available at local outreach events (approximate cost - \$2.00/per item) – Archie Kerr, Kathy Watts

CARRIED

8. Big Cheque Photo Ops – Craig Griffiths

Craig Griffiths proposed having a large, reusable, blank cheque printed that can be used for FOSCR cheque presentation media events and photo ops.

Motion to provide \$60.00 towards the purchase of a large blank cheque for FOSCR cheque presentation media events and photo ops – Vince Gagner, Archie Kerr

CARRIED

7. Branton-Cundick Park Trees – Kris Lee

Kris Lee advised FOSCR members that a number of willow trees were recently cut down at Branton-Cundick Park leaving a number of stumps scattered over the property. The stumps are adjacent to the St. Clair River Trail and in close proximity to the wetland created with FOSCR support at the park. She inquired as to whether FOSCR members were interested in utilizing these stumps for signage/educational purposes on the history and facts about willow trees.

Discussion:

- Constant maintenance would be required.
- The idea has potential, but it is likely better suited for a local artist.

9. Communication Activity/Newsletter – Ken Hall

Ken Hall updated FOSCR members on recent communications activities:

- A FOSCR E-Newsletter will be produced for the end of April and end of September.
 - Potential stories for the April E-Newsletter include:
 - Message from the President
 - Buchanan Restoration Project
 - Migratory Birds in Lambton County
 - ACTION** – Brenda Lorenz will contact Deryl Nethercott regarding a migratory bird article for the E-Newsletter.
 - Water Levels and Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Funding (DMAF) – St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
 - ACTION** – Donna Blue will contact Girish Sankar at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority to prepare an article on water levels/erosion.
 - St. Clair River Sediment Management Project
 - 2017-2022 St. Clair River Area of Concern Work Plan
 - Coming Events – Sombra Fishing Derby

- Website – Ken Hall will continue to try and connect with Chris Durand at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority to learn the software program used to create the new website so updates can be made. He proposed it might be better for another FOSCR director to take on the responsibility of keeping the website updated.
ACTION – Donna Blue, who currently has access to the FOSCR website will update content as needed until Ken Hall can receive training on the new software from Chris Durand at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.
- Social Media – Ken Hall recommended that FOSCR develop a Facebook page.

Discussion:

- Kris Lee suggested an alternative option could be using blog platform (commonly used by local teachers).
ACTION – A social media discussion will be included as an agenda item at the next FOSCR meeting.

12. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 6 pm on Monday, June 8, 2020 at Enbridge Gas.

ACTION – Ken Hall will confirm the availability of the Enbridge Gas boardroom for the June 8th meeting.

ACTION – An updated FOSCR presentation will be included as an agenda item for the June 8, 2020 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.