



**Final Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting  
Monday, June 8, 2020  
Zoom Teleconference**

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

**Regrets:** Kathy Watts, Vince Gagner

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The June 8, 2020 meeting of Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR) was called to order by Craig Griffiths at 6:00 pm.

Prior to reviewing the minutes from the meeting held on March 10, 2020, Craig Griffiths advised that Kathy Watts will be stepping down as a Director of the Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR) and a member of the Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC). FOSCR members acknowledged the work and expertise Kathy provided for both organizations.

**ACTION** – Craig will prepare a letter addressed to Kathy Watts to thank her for her contributions to FOSCR. Craig will circulate to FOSCR members prior to mailing it.

**ACTION** – Kris Lee will forward Craig, Kathy's address.

**1. Review and Approval of Minutes from the December 11, 2019 meeting**

The minutes from the meeting on March 10, 2020 were reviewed.

**Motion to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2020 meeting as prepared – Peter Westfall, Brenda Lorenz**

***CARRIED***

**2. Business Out of Minutes**

- **ACTION** – Craig Griffiths will create a Friends of the St. Clair River Instagram account.  
**COMPLETED** – Craig reported that a FOSCR Instagram page has been created. The Instagram handle is @friendsstclairriver. He suggested that a FOSCR Facebook page be created in addition to the Instagram as linking the two accounts is done easily.  
**ACTION** – Craig Griffiths will create a Facebook account for FOSCR pending the ability of public comments to be restricted and update FOSCR members via email.

- ACTION – Craig Griffiths will investigate the possibility of creating an Instagram account with multiple administrators.  
**CARRIED FORWARD**
- 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.  
**CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19** – 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.  
**COMPLETED**
- ACTION – Craig Griffiths will contact Ted Briggs at MECP regarding what messages the FOSCR should focus on promoting to the public  
**ACTION** – Craig Griffiths will circulate the list of education and outreach activities outlined in the MECP Agreement to FOSCR members.  
**CARRIED FORWARD**
- ACTION – Sombra Kids Fishing Derby Financial Support – **Cancelled due to COVID-19**  
ACTION – Craig Griffiths will purchase the kayak and associated accessories for the Sombra Fishing Derby.  
**For discussion at meeting**  
ACTION – Vince Gagner will arrange for the kayak to be wrapped with the FOSCR logo displayed.  
**For discussion at meeting**  
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.  
**CARRIED FORWARD**
- ACTION – Brenda Lorenz and Archie Kerr will update the FOSCR Area of Concern power point presentation prepared to deliver to local service clubs.  
**CARRIED FORWARD**
- ACTION – Emergency Preparedness Day – **Cancelled due to COVID-19**  
ACTION – Ken Hall will create display banner based on information from the FOSCR website and circulate to members for their review.  
**COMPLETED**  
ACTION – Donna Blue will look for the current FOSCR banner stored at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Administration building.  
**CARRIED FORWARD**  
ACTION – Donna Blue will investigate obtaining Professor Trout.  
**NOT REQUIRED**  
ACTION – Donna Blue will circulate pictures of Professor Trout at the International Plowing Match to FOSCR members with the minutes.  
**COMPLETED**  
ACTION – Donna Blue will circulate updated factsheets to FOSCR members.  
**COMPLETED**

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.

**NOT REQUIRED**

- ACTION – Brenda Lorenz will contact Deryl Nethercott regarding a migratory bird article for the E-Newsletter.

**CARRIED FORWARD**

- ACTION – Donna Blue will contact Girish Sankar at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority to prepare an article on water levels/erosion.

**CARRIED FORWARD**

- 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.

**COMPLETED**

**ACTION** – Craig Griffiths will connect with Chris Durand at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority to receive training on how to update and edit the FOSCR website and inquire about multiple administrators.

- ACTION – A social media discussion will be included as an agenda item at the next FOSCR meeting.

**CARRIED FORWARD**

- ACTION – Ken Hall will confirm the availability of the Enbridge Gas boardroom for the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**NOT REQUIRED**

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

**CARRIED FORWARD**

### 3. Financial Report – Terry Burrell

Terry Burrell provided an update on the financial status of FOSCR. Recent transactions included compensation for the E-Newsletter (\$1,412.00) and the design and purchase of roll-up banners (\$1,525.00).

Current Balances are:

- Tangerine - \$18,183.00
- Scotiabank - \$16,839.00

Terry advised that he had transferred \$10,000 into a Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC). There has also been no invoice received for the Moore Line Buchanan Wetland and Prairie Planting project approved at the last meeting (\$5,000.00).

**ACTION** – Darrell Randell will follow-up with the Rural Lambton Stewardship Network (RLSN) regarding the outstanding invoice.

Craig also advised that he has emailed Ted Briggs at the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for guidance on spending during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**4. Kathy Watts departure from Friends – Kris Lee and Craig Griffiths**

Discussed earlier in the meeting

**5. Any News from BPAC – Donna Blue**

Kris Lee reported that Environment and Climate Change Canada was scheduled to host their annual St. Clair River Science Symposium in April, but with the COVID-19 pandemic, have had to reschedule.

There are a number of Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) that will likely be presented to BPAC in the next year or two including Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour Problems and the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat BUIs.

**6. Sombra Kids Fishing Derby Kayak (buy this year or wait) – Craig Griffiths**

FOSCR has committed \$2,000.00 towards the purchase of a kayak and associated safety gear as a prize for the Sombra Kids Fishing Derby originally scheduled to occur in July 2020. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the derby has been cancelled. The grand prize boat worth \$10,000 will still be purchased by the organizers with the intent to publicize the fishing derby (now scheduled to occur in 2021) and the organizations that have donated prizes to the event

Discussion:

- Delay purchase of the kayak until more information is provided surrounding the 2021 event.
- Vince Gagner should be consulted to determine what events/publicity will occur to promote the 2021 event. It might be a good idea to purchase the kayak now so it can be displayed with the grand prize boat and trailer.

**ACTION** – Ken Hall will speak with Vince Gagner regarding the publicity of the 2021 Sombra Kids Fishing Derby and report back to FOSCR.

**7. Moore Line Wetland Financial Support – Darrell Randell**

Darrell Randell advised FOSCR members of a habitat restoration project on a private landowner's property located on Moore Line, in close proximity to the river. The landowner intends to retire some hay field areas to wetland and reforestation. The project will have approximately 1.5 acres of wetland created and 1.5 acres of trees.

The total cost of the project is \$20,000. Currently, funding has been secured through Ducks Unlimited Canada (\$5,000), Wildlife Habitat Canada (\$5,000) and the Rural Lambton Stewardship Network (\$5,000). They are also inquiring as to whether this project would be eligible for the Alternative Land Use Program (ALUS) program. A request to FOSCR has been put forward for \$5,000.

**Motion to approve the contribution of \$5,000 towards the Moore Line Wetland project with the condition that the landowners provide an article for the FOSCR E-Newsletter and that a cheque presentation can be arranged – Archie Kerr, Ken Hall**

**CARRIED**

## 8. Bluewater Bridge Peregrine Falcons – Kris Lee

Kris Lee reported that a CBC reporter was interested in learning more about live-webcams set up throughout the Great Lakes monitoring wildlife (e.g., birds). There are Peregrine Falcons that nest under the Bluewater Bridge and to the best of our knowledge, there is no camera currently installed to monitor the nest. Kris has been in contact with the Canadian Bridge Authority and inquired as to how FOSCR could be involve (if at all).

### Discussion:

- As the nesting box is located on the American side of the Bluewater Bridge, it is likely a concept that should be proposed to the US Friends of the St. Clair River community group.
- FOSCR could provide their support to US agencies and community groups towards installing a camera at the nest.  
**ACTION** – Brenda Lorenz will contact the Port Huron Audubon Society regarding their interest and knowledge surrounding the installation of live webcams of the Peregrine Falcons that nest under the Bluewater Bridge and report back to FOSCR.

## 9. Communications Activity – Ken Hall

Ken Hall provided an update on recent communications activities and how to move forward with communicating FOSCR's mission and activity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Newsletter:

The most recent E-Newsletter was circulated, and numerous subscribers responded with positive feedback on the work FOSCR is doing to assist in the restoration of the St. Clair River.

### Factsheets:

With most events unable to move forward as a result of COVID-19, creating an updated factsheet can be delayed.

### Virtual/Socially-Distanced Communication Strategies:

With the likelihood of restricted events and gatherings continuing for the next 6-12 months as a result of COVID-19, FOSCR members discussed potential opportunities and strategies to continue engagement in a virtual space.

- Social media (Instagram, Facebook) – continue creating posts and messages highlighting FOSCR activities
- Create presentations that can be used using virtual platforms (e.g., Zoom) and promote to local service groups (e.g., Kiwanis), teachers, community groups (e.g., Green Drinks) and local media.
- Highlight partnerships with local organizations (e.g., Ontario NativeScape) and promote to the agricultural community.
- Photo Contest – An opportunity for people to get outside and experience the mental and physical health benefits associated with being in nature. It is also an activity that can be completed while abiding by “social-distancing” guidelines.
  - Theme of the photo contest will relate to how nature and the St. Clair River have helped you cope during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Judges will include a representative from FOSCR, a professional photographer and a member of the mental health community.
- The proposed date to begin the photo contest will be after the July 1<sup>st</sup> holiday.
  - ACTION** – Ken Hall will prepare a communications plan and media strategy and share with the group for comment.
  - ACTION** – Craig will set up a meeting with those interested in being more involved in the photo contest to discuss final details (e.g., prizes, categories, etc.).
  - ACTION** – All FOSCR members will reach out to their contacts to help promote the photo contest.

**10. Thoughts and Ideas on How to Move Forward this Year – Craig Griffiths**

Discussed during the Communications Update portion of the meeting.

**11. Anything Else Donna Wants**

Donna Blue updated FOSCR on the virtual field trips prepared by St. Clair Region Conservation Authority staff during school closures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The resources have received tremendous positive reviews and have been used by school boards throughout Ontario, Alberta, the United States and by educators teaching abroad.

FOSCR members inquired as to whether a resource similar to the virtual field trips could be developed in the fall for posting on the FOSCR website that focused on the St. Clair River Area of Concern and Remedial Action Plan.

**ACTION** – Brenda Lorenz will forward the FOSCR presentation to Donna Blue, who will forward to Sharon Nethercott and Melissa Levi as a reference.

**ACTION** – Donna Blue will speak with Sharon Nethercott and Melissa Levi about their interest and ability to produce a FOSCR virtual field trip and if so, an estimated cost.

**12. Other Business**

No reports

**13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.