



**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, August 25, 2020
Zoom Teleconference**

Present: Craig Griffiths, Donna Blue, Shaun Bisson, Terry Burrell, Darrell Randell, Kris Lee, Brenda Lorenz, Ken Hall

Guest(s): Greg Wilcox (SCRCA)

Regrets: Peter Westfall, Archie Kerr

The August, 25 2020 meeting of Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR) was called to order by Craig Griffiths at 6:00 pm.

1. Wawanosh Wetlands Phragmites- presentation by Greg Wilcox, SCRCA

Greg has been approached by Lynn Eves from the Blue Water Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation to start process for dealing with phragmites and other wildlife enhancements in Wawanosh wetland. Greg has been onsite to look at phragmites and has asked Janice Gilbert to take the lead on developing a plan to address phragmites over the next few years. They intend to present the plan to the City of Sarnia to evaluate long-term management to ensure that efforts are made to help control phragmites into the future. Janice is estimating a total project cost of \$200K-\$300K over the next few years to get the phragmites under control. Greg is seeking support from the FOSCR to get the process started and to start developing the plan. Greg believes there is enough interest to move the project forward, but are seeking financial support. Expecting to have to reach out to corporations and the public to drive project forward as grants are typically hard to come by to support phragmites projects. Greg is seeking a letter from FOSCR to support the project and any other support they can offer at this stage. Seeking \$12,000 to develop the plan.

FOSCR is expected to spend the funds that they can on education and outreach, with the remaining funds to be used to support habitat projects.

Motion: The FOSCR will provide a letter of support with a financial support of \$4,000 to the SCRCA to support their phragmites control project— Ken Hall, Terry Burrell

CARRIED

2. Introductions—Craig Griffiths

Shaun Bisson has taken over Vince Gagner's seat as a director on the Board. Shaun is the Communications and Engagement Advisor for the Industrial Education Cooperative, Sarnia Lambton Environmental Association, and Community Awareness and Emergency Response.

3. Discussion of Minutes from June 8, 2020 meeting

- **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. --
CARRY FORWARD
- Craig to write a letter to Kathy Watts to thank her for her contributions to the FOSCR—
CARRY FORWARD
- Craig tried to create a Facebook page for the FOSCR, but was unsuccessful because it required information that he did not feel comfortable submitting without permission from the group (I.e. gender, birthday, etc.). Shaun is willing to provide support to set up the Facebook account and link it to an existing user account.
- Craig will share the Instagram username and password to anyone who is interested in posting on Instagram. **ACTION**—Craig to provide Shaun and Ken with credentials.
- Discussion held about the funding committed to 2020 Children’s Water Festival that was cancelled.
- Brenda contacted US partners to discuss peregrine falcons on the bridge but received no response.
- The photo contest has started and will wrap-up at the end of September. 6 prizes of \$500 will be awarded.
- **Motion to allow the Children’s Water Festival to keep 2020 funds to put towards the 2021 Festival—**
Craig Griffiths, Terry Burrell

CARRIED

- FOSCR has committed to giving \$2,000 to purchase a kayak and safety gear to promote the Sombra Fishing Derby.

Motion to provide \$2,000 to the Sombra fishing derby to support the purchase of a kayak and associated safety gear—Craig Griffiths, Kris Lee

CARRIED

- **ACTION**— Craig to connect with Vince to discuss safe storage of the kayak as well as a liability release on the FOSCR wrapped kayak.
- Brenda Lorenz and Archie Kerr have discussed the FOSCR presentation. **ACTION** —Brenda and Archie to update BUI content then share with Sharon Nethercott to gauge interest in developing virtual field trips that focus on the St. Clair River AOC.
- **ACTION**— Kris Lee to search for creative way to use willow stump in Branton Cundick Park to promote the AOC.

4. Review and Approval of Minutes from the June 8, 2020 meeting

The minutes from the meeting on June 8, 2020 were reviewed.

Motion to approve the minutes from the June 8, 2020 meeting as prepared – Brenda Lorenz, Darrell Randell

CARRIED

5. Financial Report – Terry Burrell

Terry Burrell provided an update on the financial status of FOSCR. Recent transactions included commitments to Rural Lambton Stewardship Network (\$5,000.00) Roberta Buchanan and Owen Nichols wetlands (\$5,000.00).

Current Tangerine/Scotiabank balance: \$24,870

Motion to accept the financial report- Terry Burrell, Ken Hall

CARRIED

6. Detailed Project Summary for MECP

Craig worked with Ted Briggs to complete and submit the detailed project summary. The document was shared with the Board.

7. Funding request to support SCRCA River RAP education program – Donna Blue

Annual request for funding to support the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority's River RAP (Grades 6-8) and Phosphorus 101 (secondary school) interactive school programs. This funding supports the ability to offer those programs to schools free of charge. Between 250-400 students are engaged in the program each year. The SCRCA hopes that schools move forward in September and that they will be able to provide those programs.

SCRCA is requesting a \$2,500 donation. FOSCR is recognized for their contributions in program brochures and newsletters. Donna also mentioned that there may be a new project for the education team to develop virtual fieldtrips focused on the Lake Huron to Lake St. Clair River corridor for the MECP.

Motion to continue to provide \$2,500 annual funding to the SCRCA to support their River RAP educational programming. FOSCR is also interested in supporting the Great Lakes virtual field trips once more information is available- Darrell Randell, Brenda Lorenz

CARRIED

8. Photo Contest Update

Photo Contest submissions are available on the FOSCR website. Up to about 50 entries to date. The contest was promoted through a media release (promoted in Observer, Sarnia Journal, and radio interview). The second media was released to local media outlets, however, no articles have been observed to date. Suggestions for the next media release include: discussing the status of the remaining BUIs and what still needs to be accomplished. Donna suggested that the release be drafted through the RAP office and sent out to the media. Another suggestion was to include a technical component.

ACTION -- Shaun to assist with getting the word out for the photo contest on FOSCR social media and partner accounts.

ACTION -- Committee members to share the photo contest poster on their own social accounts and to encourage others in their networks to share it as well.

ACTION -- Donna to reach out to Sheri Faust at FOSCR-US to request another contest announcement to increase engagement.

Discussion:

- The FOSCR-US is promoting the contest in their communities as well.
- Dan Bellyk has agreed to be a judge for the contest. Proposed judging committee: Craig, Donna, Ken and Dan.
- Discussion was held regarding contest eligibility. What defines “professional”?
- Shawn suggested asking a contestant to meet with a social media outlet to talk to someone about why they entered their contest and why they chose to photograph what they photographed.
- To date there has only been one youth entry, discussion held for ideas to promote increased youth participation. Ideas include promotions at local libraries and Big Brother Big Sisters.

9. Habitat Projects Update – Darrell Randell

Photographs still need to be taken at Nichol’s farm, the ponds need time to fill with water to provide worthwhile photos.

10. Newsletter- Ken Hall

- Article submissions to be requested for end of September.
- Next Newsletter release planned for end of October, early November.
- The results of the photo contest will be the main story.
- Ken suggested an area map with identified locations of past habitat projects would be an interesting fit for the newsletter. Discussion was held about what data is available to produce this map and which projects are already documented in the SCRCA AOC GIS layer.
- Other article ideas include: AOC video in production, River RAP education program receiving additional FOSCR support, birding, new RAP coordinator.

11. Anything Else Donna Wants

N/A

12. Other Business

No reports

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.