



**Approved FOSCR Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2021
Zoom Teleconference**

Attendees: Natasha Pozega, Craig Griffiths, Terry Burrell, Archie Kerr, Shaun Bisson, Kris Lee, Ken Hall, Peter Westfall, Brenda Lorenz

Regrets: None

Meeting Called to Order at 6:30pm

1. Review and approval of Minutes from December 2, 2020
 - Shaun and Craig have not met to talk about Facebook and Instagram. We currently have 51 followers on Instagram.
 - Funds have been transferred to purchase a kayak for the Sombra Family Fishing Day. There are 3 kayaks being given away.
 - Terry delivered the cheque for the River RAP Program to SCRCA.
 - Darrel Randell has picked his photo for his resignation gift. Ken will write the draft inscription and share it with the group.
 - Videos- Natasha will follow-up with Myra about making additional videos with extra footage from 2021 AOC video.

Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting from December 2, 2020

Moved by Craig Griffiths,
Seconded by Archie Kerr

Motion carried.

2. Ministry Funding update – Craig

The first installment of funds have been received from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks for 2021-2022. The bulk of these funds (\$25,000) is dedicated strictly to education and outreach. However, funds that we didn't spend in 2020 due to

COVID can contribute to habitat projects. There is \$4,000 available for staff transportation costs and meeting expenses, that could potentially be redistributed.

A suggestion was made to use the \$25,000 on an environmental initiative that is high profile and will recognize the progress of the Remedial Action plan and the improvements to the St. Clair River. It should also recognize everyone who has been involved over the past 30 years.

Discussion held regarding potential for shoreline work/alternative land use project where the Ferry Dock Hill building has recently been taken down. Interest was expressed in connecting with the City of Sarnia to discuss a potential partnership project for that property or at Canatara Park.

3. Finances – Terry

Terry circulated a copy of the Bank Record. The investment account sits just over \$15,000 with Scotiabank. This funding is cashable so we can draw funds at any time without a penalty, but it does mean we receive a lower interest rate. There is \$22,500 available in the bank account.

4. Children's Water Festival – Craig

Craig received a call from the Festival organizer about the \$4,000 sponsorship FOSCR provided for the 2020 event. They have offered to return the funds or will keep the funds to contribute to the next Children's Water Festival when it can happen. Craig will request a plan for how they will use the funds and how they are adapting to the virtual climate before a decision is made.

5. RLSN Letter of Support – Craig

Craig signed and delivered a letter of support for Rural Lambton Stewardship Network (RLSN) for their application to the Ontario Power Generation Biodiversity Conservation Program. They have applied for funding to support wetland projects, tall-grass prairie and native trees in Lambton County with a focus on projects in the AOC. Additional letters of support were received from Ducks Unlimited and the SCRCA.

6. Climate Action Sarnia Lambton Funding Request- Craig

Climate Action Sarnia Lambton is interested in bringing like-minded community groups together to achieve common goals. They are seeking funding to support a tree-planting project at Rainbow Park. Craig didn't receive a formal funding request, but did offer for Elizabeth Soltis to attend a future FOSCR meeting to meet the group. FOSCR will consider partnerships on projects if the focus of the two groups align. There is interest in

investigating a relationship with the group to see how we can share volunteers or to promote educational events relating to the St. Clair River.

7. Sombra Fishing Derby (July 3, 2021)- Craig

Multiple members will be available and interested in organizing a booth at Sombra Family Fishing Day on July 3, 2021 from 7am-3pm. We could provide reading materials on the fish related BUIs, inform people of the consumption guidelines for St. Clair River fish, and encourage participants to fill out the 2021 Fish Consumption Survey. Natasha will circulate examples of the Fish Consumption Wallet Cards that other AOCs have been producing and using for promotions. Interest has also been expressed to be involved with the giveaway of the kayak.

Shaun will follow-up with further details about the event. A sub-committee can be struck for planning the event.

Craig will be out of town and unavailable to assist for this event.

8. Application to Enbridge for 2021 Funding – Ken

- Two Enbridge grants are open for applications if FOSCR is interested in applying.
- As a Fuelling Futures Ambassador, Ken is able to grant \$1,000 to a charity of his choice, and he will be awarding that money to FOSCR.

9. Update on Line 5 – Ken

Ken provided an update on the current political perspectives on the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline on both sides of the international border. Line 5 currently supplies 53% of the energy used in Ontario. If permits are acquired to move the Line 5 tunnel project forward, it would be built within 4 years.

10. Letter to the Editor - Ken

Ken mentioned that there are anti-pipeline groups in Michigan that have been making public comments about how Canadians (specifically Ontarians) don't care about the Great Lakes and that it is the responsibility of Michigan residents to protect them. These articles can be found on Detroit News. Ken feels there is an opportunity for an Ontario group to respond to those comments and share details on the Canadian efforts being taken to restore and protect the Great Lakes.

11. Update and add River signage – Ken and Craig

FOSCR has signs all along the St. Clair River, but they are aging and need to be updated or removed. These are a great way to share the story of the AOC program over the years to

come. Ken will review his files to identify where the current signs are located. Other suggestions were to make the signs interactive, and to have a statue or fountain commemorating those who worked hard to restore the St. Clair River. This will be discussed further at the upcoming special meeting.

12. Newsletter on RAP and AOC – Natasha

The first FOSCR+RAP E-Newsletter was released in February. Newsletters will be released monthly. There will be a big push to encourage community members to subscribe to the E-Newsletter. We currently reach approximately 50 subscribers.

13. Moving forward for 2021 Discussion

A special meeting will be held for project brainstorming.

14. Natasha's Updates

- Fish Consumption Survey is hosted on friendsofstclair.ca. There will be 3 \$100 Gift Cards to the The Outdoorsman raffled to survey participants. This is a survey being conducted by the RAP Team to support the assessment of *BUI 1: Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption*.
- Aamjiwnaang First Nation converted their Annual St. Clair River Day into a 3-part virtual series for the last 3 Saturdays in March. Natasha will be presenting a *St. Clair River AOC 101* this Saturday. Natasha will share the event links with the group.
- BPAC met on February 16th- no pressing updates.
- MECP announced that the Ontario Community Environment Fund will be requesting proposals as soon as the Spring. Natasha will let the group know when the call for funding is announced.
- The RAP Team will be hosting the first of a 3-part virtual series to replace the annual AOC symposium. The first session will be on Drinking Water in the St. Clair River on April 21st at 6:30pm.
- The outreach component for *BUI 4: Fish Tumours and Other Deformities* has been completed and a letter has been submitted to the Four Agency Managers to recommend the redesignation of that BUI from "Requires Further Assessment" to "Not Impaired".
- The St. Clair River AOC StoryMap is near completion and will be hosted on friendsofstclair.ca to be available to the public.

15. Other Business

Natasha will investigate and provide an update on the Sediment Management Project at the next FOSCR meeting.

16. Next Meeting Date

Special Meeting- April 7th at 6:30pm for project brainstorming.

17. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.