



**FOSCR Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2023
Lambton-Kent District School Board Sarnia Education Centre
200 Wellington Street, Sarnia**

Attendees:

Craig Griffiths, Kris Lee, Ken Hall, Brenda Lorenz, John Timar, Peter Westfall, Luis Gabriel Torres-Pulgarin, Vince Gagner, Mike Moroney

Regrets:

Terry Burrell, Gisela Arizabaleta Moreno, Susan MacFarlane

Actions Arising:

- a) Ken to share his version of FOSCR PowerPoint presentation with FOSCR, for use by members.
- b) Brenda will reach out to the current teacher of the environmental course at Lambton College to see if there is interest in having someone from FOSCR attend to make a presentation.
- c) Craig will reach out to the chair of PAIRS to see if there are opportunities to make presentations about FOSCR.
- d) Mike to contact Conservation Education Coordinator – Melissa Levi and Conservation Education/Community Partnership Technician – Myra Spiller for information on current and planned educational activities that include the RAP program.
- e) Mike to provide an email response to Jordan Williams on the decision of FOSCR funding the tree planting project at Walpole Island First Nation.
- f) Brenda will reach out to the organizer of the Climate Action Sarnia speaker series to see if there is interest in having FOSCR speak at one of the monthly speaker events.
- g) Kris to contact Paulette and Melanie and confirm that they are OK with the current version of the Binational Success Story sign.
- h) Mike to confirm who conducts inspections of water treatment plants in Michigan.
- i) Ken to replace the map on the sign, showing drinking water plants, with the image used on the drinking water fact sheet that is posted on the FOSCR website.
- j) FOSCR members are to provide comments on the signs to Ken by February 15, 2023. When providing comments, they are to also indicate suggestions for sign locations.
- k) Mike to scan relevant FOSCR incorporation documents, provided by Peter, for records retention in the SCRC files.

Meeting Called to Order by the Chair, Craig Griffiths, at 6:35 pm.

1. Introductions and Welcome New Members

- No introductions necessary. Anticipated new members were not able to attend.

2. Land Acknowledgement

- Members discussed whether the meetings should commence with a land acknowledgement statement, consistent with the practice of other organizations to recognize the relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.
- There was consensus to start the meetings with such a statement and then discussion occurred as to what the appropriate wording would be for such a statement.

Moved by: Peter Westfall

Seconded by: Kris Lee

That the FOSCR meetings commence with a land acknowledgement statement using the following wording that has already been used for the educational signs that are currently under development by FOSCR:

“We acknowledge that the land on which we are gathered is part of the traditional territory of the Chippewa, Odawa, Potawatomi and Delaware Nations. These Indigenous Nations, known as the Anishinaabeg and Lunaapeew, agreed through their ancestral languages to the mutual sharing of the land, with obligations and responsibilities to the environment. Today these responsibilities and obligations extend to all peoples.”

CARRIED

3. Review and approval of Minutes from December 5, 2022

Moved by: Craig Griffiths

CARRIED

4. Business out of Minutes

- a) Identifying opportunities to engage students: Craig will again attempt to reach out to schools within the St. Clair River AOC to find out what opportunities there are for FOSCR to engage students. Susan to contact Engineers for Tomorrow. **Update** - Craig has not received any responses yet after reaching out. Ken advised that he has begun promoting FOSCR through Enbridge. Used the Friends of St. Clair River presentation that Mike prepared and added a slide to it to show the 14 BUI's. Presented it to their Environment, Health and Safety Committee. It was well

received. **Action:** Ken to share the presentation for use by members. Gabriel commented on the environmental course at Lambton College and that students might be interested in a presentation from FOSCR. **Action:** Brenda will reach out to the current teacher to see if there is interest. There was discussion about contacting the PAIRS Committee (Partners Actively Involved in Resource Sharing). It is a science-based committee and may have an interest in being informed of the FOSCR work. **Action:** Craig will reach out to the chair of PAIRS. There was discussion about the work of SCRCA education staff and their activities with local schools and First Nation communities. **Action:** Mike to contact Conservation Education Coordinator – Melissa Levi and Conservation Education/Community Partnership Technician – Myra Spiller for information on current and planned activities.

- b) Mike to inform Climate Action Sarnia of FOSCR decision to support the Biodiversity speaker. – **Completed.**
- c) Mike to schedule a virtual meeting with Jordan Williams of Walpole Island First Nation and other FOSCR members that are available to discuss the proposal in more detail. – **Completed.** On the agenda for an update.
- d) Ken to email electronic versions of the signs to all members for review. Comments will be due January 15, 2023. – **Completed.** On the agenda for an update.
- e) Kris to contact St. Clair Township to see if Mooretown’s Centennial Park is on their priority list for shoreline restoration work. – **Completed.** On the agenda for an update.
- f) Mike to check with the SCRCA Water Resources Department to see if Mooretown’s Centennial Park has been identified as a priority area for shoreline work. – **Completed.** On the agenda for an update.
- g) Mike to locate a presentation previously prepared for use by FOSCR and update it as required for use when presenting to Bluewater Anglers. - **Completed.**
- h) Brenda will reach out to the organizer of the Climate Action Sarnia speaker series to see if there is interest in having FOSCR speak at one of the monthly speaker events.

5. Proposed Tree Planting on Walpole Island for Sun Dance Ceremony

- Mike, Brenda and Ken provided an overview of the teleconference discussion that was held on January 26, 2023 with Jordan Williams, Gary Raymond, and Julie George.
- It was noted that the group had previously received some funding from TD Bank Friends of the Environment and still had \$3,000 remaining from that contribution.

Moved by: Kris Lee:

Seconded by: Brenda Lorenz

That FOSCR contribute \$3,000 upon confirmation from SCRCA that funding has been secured to cover the balance of the remaining costs for the approximate \$20,000 project.

CARRIED

- In the response that is provided to Jordan Williams, it was suggested that he be made aware that members of FOSCR would be interested in assisting with the planting, if it is needed, and would like the opportunity to observe the ceremony at the appropriate time. **Action:** Mike to provide an email response to Jordan Williams on the decision of FOSCR.

6. Proposed Fish Habitat Creation - Centennial Park, St. Clair Township

- Mike explained that he has been working with Girish Sankar, Director of SCRCA's Water Resources Department on the proposal to construct a habitat area along the south side of the park. The SCRCA provided an estimate of the cost to St. Clair Township and has requested confirmation as to whether they are supportive of the proposed work, and if so, if they are able to contribute any funds towards it.
- The SCRCA requires a letter of support from the municipality as part of the application for funding that must be submitted to ECCC under the Great Lakes Protection Initiative. The closing date this year to apply is February 8, 2023. At the time of application, the SCRCA would also look for an opportunity for funds to be provided to the FOSCR for a component of the project work (e.g. creation of educational signage).

7. Review of Wording in Proposed Signs

- Ken handed out copies of the current version of the signs for all members to review.
- Binational Success Story -This sign is ready to be finalized. Ken will make it more readable and modify the "left justified" portion of the paragraphs on the right side of the sign. Ken will also add the FOSCR logo to the sign. **Action:** Kris to contact Paulette and Melanie and confirm that they are OK with the current version of the sign.
- Drinking water treatment plants – **Action:** Mike to confirm who conducts inspections of water treatment plants in Michigan. **Action:** Ken to replace the map on the sign, showing drinking water plants, with the image used on the drinking water fact sheet that is posted on the FOSCR website.
- Additional comments were provided by the members for Ken to incorporate into the signs. To avoid confusion, it was agreed that each sign would be identified by number in the following manner:
 1. Drinking Water
 2. On the Way to Delisting
 3. Fish and Wildlife
 4. Welcoming Home to Aquatic Life
 5. A Binational Success Story

- Ken advised that the company that will be producing the signs is located in Quebec. The approximate cost is \$750 per sign. There will also be a cost of \$200 for a post to secure the sign at the site location. FOSCR would need to rely on the assistance of municipal parks and recreation departments to install the signs.
- Members had a discussion over various locations that the signs could be posted. It was agreed to postpone a decision in that regard to a future meeting.
- **Action:** FOSCR members are to provide comments to Ken by February 15, 2023. When providing their comments, they should also indicate their suggestions for sign locations.
- Ken suggested that the members might want to consider having 3 locations along the river, with potentially 5 signs at each location.

8. Items for Monthly E-Newsletter

- Mike asked the members for feedback as to whether the use the newsletter meets their expectations, and sought input from members as to any suggestions to further improve the newsletter. Three suggestions were made:
 - Consider a biology component by referencing interesting facts about fish and wildlife in the AOC
 - Consider environmental initiatives of local industry, connect with BASES.
 - Consider reaching out to those that are subscribing to the newsletter, for input on what they would like to see in the newsletter.

9. Request by Angler's Atlas

- Mike provided an overview of the information that was provided by Angler's Atlas out of British Columbia. Specifically, the use of an app called MyCatch, to help with research in regard to fish in the AOC. The members appreciated the information and agreed that there did not appear to be an opportunity to use the services at this time.

10. Other Business:

- Sarnia Urban Forest Management Plan - Mike made the members aware of a potential invitation coming from the City of Sarnia to attend the launch event. Once the invitation arrives, it will be shared with FOSCR members for their consideration if they wish to attend.
- Is the Coast Clear Conference – This is the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation biennial conference being held in Grand Bend in 2023. Kris made members aware that she has submitted an abstract to make a presentation on behalf of FOSCR and is awaiting confirmation that will be able to present.

11. Anything that Mike Wants?

- Mike tabled the FOSCR Bank Record that was previously provided to him by Terry Burrell. Terry Burrell was not able to attend the meeting.

Moved by: Peter Westfall

Seconded by: Brenda Lozon

That the Financial Record as provided by Terry Burrell for 2022, and up to January 31, 2023, be accepted.

CARRIED

- FOSCR Articles of Incorporation: Mike noted that Peter brought the incorporation documents to the meeting and delivered them to Mike to be retained by the SCRCA in their records management system. **Action:** - Mike to scan the relevant documents for records retention.

12. Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held on April 11, 2023 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at the Enbridge Regional Office, 1086 Modeland Road, Sarnia.

13. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.