



FOSCR Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 7, 2024
Enbridge Regional Office - 1086 Modeland Road, Sarnia

Attendees:

Craig Griffiths, Kris Lee, Terry Burrell, Ken Hall, Brenda Lorenz, Susan MacFarlane, Mellissa Wambui, Mike Moroney

Regrets:

Gabriel Torres-Pulgarin, Vince Gagner

Actions Arising:

- a) Mike to attempt to identify additional contacts at Walpole Island First Nation for engaging school children on the SCRCA's education program.
- b) Mike to include an article in the FOSCR April E-Newsletter on Myra's presentation to the FOSCR.
- c) Mike to look into the cost of the seed card that the SCRCA has available and Craig is to look into the cost for purchasing paper envelopes to contain the seed.
- d) All to consider opportunities to engage other groups about FOSCR and the St. Clair River RAP.
- e) Mike to contact members that have been unable to participate in the more recent meetings and confirm if they wish to remain on as members and whether they anticipate being able to participate in future meetings.
- f) All members are to consider ideas for utilization of MECP funds for FOSCR so that more detailed discussions can occur at the next FOSCR meeting.
- g) Ken will investigate the status of the OPG lands along the St. Clair River shoreline through St. Clair Township, and explore conservation enhancement possibilities.

1. Introductions

- Craig welcomed Melissa Wambui to the Friends of the St. Clair River meeting and introduced Mellissa to each of the Board members.

2. Land Acknowledgment

- Craig read the land acknowledgment statement.

3. Moment of Silence – A moment of silence was held in memory of John Timar.

4. Presentation: St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Education Programs – Myra Spiller, Conservation Education/Community Partnership Technician, presented information on the SCRCA’s education program, including the component that is specific to the St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan.

- A music video was created with school children, called One Shot: The River RAP, in support of the RAP program. The video can be viewed on YouTube at: [Link to YouTube](#)
- The education program also includes engaging children at Aamjiwnaang First Nation. They are continuing to explore opportunities to engage children at Walpole Island First Nation.
- **Action:** Mike to attempt to identify additional contacts at Walpole Island First Nation for engaging school children on the SCRCA’s education program.
- **Action:** Mike to include an article in the FOSCR April E-Newsletter on Myra’s presentation to the FOSCR.

5. Review and approval of Minutes from December 14, 2023 and January 16, 2024

- **Moved by:** Terry Burrell
Seconded by: Brenda Lorenz
That the Minutes of the December 14, 2023 and January 16, 2024 meetings be approved.

CARRIED

6. Business out of the Minutes:

- a) Mike to see if someone from the SCRCA can attend the next FOSCR meeting to speak to the SCRCA education programs. - **Completed**
- b) Brenda to contact Donna Blue to discuss whether there are options for adult education programs. – **Completed.** The SCRCA could potentially look into a phragmites removal event at the Wawanosh Wetland Conservation Area in Sarnia.
- c) Ken to look into getting paper packages for seeds for FOSCR SWAG, similar to the sunflower packages that are currently in supply but running low. **Completed.** Ken reported that 1,000 units would be \$400. For the plastic bags to hold the seeds, the cost would be \$70 for 1,000 units. **Action:** Mike to look into the cost of the seed card that the SCRCA has available and Craig is to look into the cost for purchasing paper envelopes to contain the seed.
- d) Mike to consider ordering additional SWAG through outreach funds that are available under the RAP Program. **Completed** – Additional items ordered and received.
- e) Mike to follow-up with Gabriel to confirm that he is still interested in participating as a member of FOSCR. – **Completed.**
- f) Ken to send the draft presentation for the Climate Action Sarnia-Lambton event to Brenda and Mike in early January 2024 for review and input. **Completed.** Ken did

the presentation with Brenda. It was well received. It was considered a good news story. Brenda also presented to two classes at Lambton College and presented to the Unitarian Fellowship. **Action:** All to consider opportunities to engage other groups about FOSCR and the St. Clair River RAP.

g) Mike to contact Melissa Wambui to inform her that she is welcome to attend the next FOSCR meeting. **Completed.**

h) Mike to send out a Doodle Poll for a meeting towards the end of February 2024. **Completed.**

7. Update on Educational Signs (Ken)

- Ken reported that the signs have been completed and delivered to the municipalities. FOSCR may need to follow-up to confirm timing for installation by each of the municipalities. FOSCR should consider organizing a photo opportunity after the signs have been installed.

8. Funding Application Process (Craig)

- Craig provided the template that MECP has asked to be completed when applying for funding. The same template is to be completed to provide updates and at year-end.

9. Review of FOSCR By-Laws (Mike)

- Mike provided a high-level overview of the FOSCR By-Laws dated August 19, 1996, and amended November 14, 2004.
- At present, the number of Board members is limited to 10 Directors.
- If any additional members are to be added, a vacancy would need to exist.
- It was acknowledged that any proposed amendments to the By-Laws would require approval by Corporations Canada through the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (formerly Minister of Industry).
- There were no proposed amendments to the By-Laws at this time.
- **Action:** Mike to contact members that have been unable to participate in the more recent meetings and confirm if they wish to remain on as members and whether they anticipate being able to participate in future meetings.

10. Letter from WATCH and FOSCR Response (Ken)

- Ken provided an overview regarding the handling of the correspondence from WATCH, as recorded in the minutes of the meeting dated January 16, 2024.
- There was consensus among all board members that their involvement with the FOSCR Board is strictly in a personal capacity, not as delegates of any other entities.
- It was proposed to routinely include an agenda item in future meetings to prompt members to disclose any potential financial interests or conflicts of interest related to the agenda topics.

11. Priorities/Projects for 2024 (All)

- **Action:** All members are to consider ideas for utilization of MECP funds for FOSCR so that more detailed discussions can occur at the next FOSCR meeting.

12. Other Business

- **Enhancing Adult Engagement in the St. Clair River RAP Program** - Brenda put forth an innovative approach to involve adults in conservation efforts. Adjacent to the former Ontario Power Generation facility lies a sizable property, once a wetland but now filled in and zoned as industrial. This land, currently covered in grass, holds promise for tree planting or the development of a tall grass prairie. **Action:** Ken will investigate its status through St. Clair Township and explore conservation enhancement possibilities.
- **Financial Statement** – Terry presented the 2024 Bank Record for FOSCR, as of March 7, 2024. The record reflected the \$7,500 that was provided to the SCRCA for their education program, and the \$100 that was provided to the SCRCA Foundation for the planting of a tree in memory of John Timar.
- **Moved by:** Terry Burrell
Seconded by: Brenda Lorenz
That FOSCR members accept the 2024 FOSCR as presented by Terry.

CARRIED

13. Next Meeting

- Next meeting is to be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2024. If Craig is able to book a room at the Sarnia Library, it will be an in-person meeting. If a room is not available, it will be a virtual meeting.

14. Adjourn

Moved by: Ken Hall

Seconded by: Kris Lee

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Adjourned at 8:56 pm.