

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2017

Members Present:	T.Birtch	S.McCall-Hanlon
	M.Blackie	H.McDermid
	M.Blosh	A.Murray
	R.Chowen	B.Petrie
	A.Hopkins	M.Ryan
	T.Jackson	J.Salter
	S.Levin	G.Way
	N.Manning	

Regrets:

Solicitor: G.Inglis

Staff:	D.Charles	C.Saracino
	T.Chapman	A.Shivas
	C.Harrington	M.Snowsell
	M. Fletcher	C.Tasker
	T.Hollingsworth	I.Wilcox
	B.Mackie	T.Annett
	C.Quinlan	B.Glassman
	K.Winfield	J.Howley

M.Blackie called the meeting to order and introduced two students from Western University who were there to observe the meeting. He also reminded the Hearings Committee of the Hearing following the Board meeting.

1. Approval of Agenda

G.Way moved – T.Jackson seconded:-

“RESOLVED that the UTRCA Board of Directors
approve the agenda as posted.”

CARRIED.

2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

The Chair inquired whether the members had any conflicts of interest to declare relating to the agenda. There were none.

3. Confirmation of Payment as Required Through Statutory Obligations

The Chair inquired whether the Authority has met its statutory obligations in the payment of the Accounts Payable. The members were advised the Authority has met its statutory obligations.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
September 26, 2017

T.Jackson moved – S.McCall-Hanlon seconded:-

“RESOLVED that the UTRCA Board of Directors approve the Board of Directors’ minutes dated September 26, 2017 as posted on the Members’ web-site.”

CARRIED.

5. Presentation: UTRCA Forest Cover Loss

C.Quinlan gave a presentation regarding forest cover loss in the UTRCA watershed. This information will be in the upcoming Watershed Report Cards.

C.Quinlan clarified that for a woodlot to be considered a forest it must cover an area of at least 0.5 hectares and measure at least 30m in any direction. If the trees are the mature height for their species, it is classified as a mature forest. The presentation highlighted net forest cover loss leading up to 2010 and reinforces the need for greater protection measures.

Board Members congratulated staff on an excellent presentation and asked that this information be shared with all of the member Municipalities. Staff added that this is all brand new information that Staff wished to communicate to the Board Members as soon as possible. This information will be converted into a communications package and shared in any possible way across the Watershed. This presentation will also be included as part of the Minutes package that is sent directly to all the Municipalities.

The program response for the Forestry Target may change based on this new data. There will be more focus put on working with Municipalities to prevent loss than previously planned.

Staff clarified that the data presented does not include trees planted by groups other than the UTRCA, as the UTRCA is the biggest player in tree planting across the Watershed.

C.Quinlan clarified that a percent die off in a forest due to the Emerald Ash Borer would not change the forest designation.

There was a request for data that would highlight, by Municipality, where the greatest losses were and the causes of those losses. This would allow Board Members to encourage specific

practices in the highlighted areas to prevent future losses. There was a suggestion to have the UTRCA work with Municipalities to create Policies to protect remaining forested areas.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

- (a) Wildwood Reservoir Carp Die Off
(Report attached)

C.Harrington introduced a Youtube video about the September Carp Die off in the Wildwood Reservoir. Board Members had questions regarding potential long term ecological impacts of this incident. M.Fletcher responded that through discussions with other CAs and organizations who have had similar die offs in the past, none have noticed any long term ecological impacts.

M.Ryan moved – T.Birtch seconded:

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors receive the report as presented.”

CARRIED.

- (b) 2017 Municipal Budget Workshop Full Summary
(Report attached)

B.Petrie moved – T.Jackson seconded:

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors receive the report as presented.”

CARRIED.

7. Business for Approval

- (a) 2018 Draft Budget Approval
(Reports attached)

C. Saracino presented the proposed Draft budget, which is to be circulated to the Municipalities for comment. She clarified that user fees are a work in progress. Planning for split year funding and budgeting for depreciation are two areas that staff are working on improving. The formula for distributing Levy across the Units has been reviewed and built into the budget, but it is still up for discussion. Board members thanked C.Saracino for all the work she has done to prepare this draft budget.

T.Jackson would like to better understand the information that is planned to be provided to the Municipalities so Board members and UTRCA staff can explain the variances shown. He was concerned that the reported 7% operating and activities levy adjustment may be misleading, as the general levy increase is actually 10.2%. The additional 3.2% is blended into the infrastructure and dam levy. I.Wilcox clarified that the detailed, unit by unit information

provided to the Board was included only to support the one page summary. In the next few weeks staff will work on formatting the draft Budget to be presented to the Municipalities and it will look similar to the 2017 Draft Budget. The Board asked to see the final Draft Budget before it is circulated to the Municipalities.

S.Levin asked that the desired transfer to reserves, the amounts going into each reserve, and the reserve fund balances be shown in the next version of the Budget. He also suggested, based on the Budget Workshop, that it would be helpful to calculate for each individual Municipality how much of their increase is related to Targets, disaster mitigation, and the minimum wage change to show what the main pressures are on the Budget.

J.Salter commented that a five year Financial Plan for the UTRCA may make things easier for Staff and the Municipalities. C.Saracino stated that she currently has a long list of updates that need to be made, and a long range Financial Plan is part of that list.

B.Petrie asked that staff add foot notes in the future to explain changes to the Budget so the Board can have a better understanding of the reasons behind any changes.

A.Hopkins asked about and discussed the City of London four year budgeting cycle and how it impacts the UTRCA budgeting process.

M.Ryan felt that the UTRCA has already received good feedback and pushback from some Municipalities that feel they do not have an effective say. He suggested that staff look into shifting other resources towards the Targets to reduce the Levy as a show of good will. M.Blosh raised a concern that any cuts to the Levy in the 2018 Budget will be to the Targets, and the future cost of not achieving the Targets is not being taken into consideration. She asked if there was a way of presenting to the Municipalities the future costs of not achieving the Targets.

T.Birtch moved – M.Blosh seconded:

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors accept the 2018 UTRCA Draft Budget.”

CARRIED.

- (b) Agenda Posting Date Recommended Policy Change
(Report attached)

S.Levin moved – N.Manning seconded:

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors accept the recommendation as presented in the report.”

CARRIED.

- (c) Trails & Pathways Erosion Hazards Policy
(Report attached)

T.Annett outlined her report and stated that the purpose of this Policy is to provide clarity and consistency for staff. Although this has been an issue in the past throughout the Watershed, the trigger for this policy clarification was from the City of London as it is a very active issue at the moment. There were concerns raised that this Policy would affect rural landowners who create recreational trails on their properties. Staff clarified that the Policy is for paved pathways and would only be triggered if the definition of a pathway, as stated in the Policy, was met. The UTRCA is encouraging developers to include plans for pathways in the planning process stage.

S.Levin moved – T.Birtch seconded:

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors accept the recommendation as presented in the report.”

CARRIED.

- (d) St. Marys Flood Wall Rehabilitation

T.Jackson moved – S.Levin seconded:-

“RESOLVED that the recommendation be amended to read “The Board authorize staff to award some exploratory construction work in this unique, non-precedent setting case, directly to McLean Taylor Construction Limited for an amount of less than \$50,000.” ”

CARRIED.

N.Manning moved – S.McCall-Hanlon seconded: -

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors receive the recommendation as amended.”

CARRIED.

8. Closed Session – In Camera

There being property and legal matters to discuss,

N.Manning moved – H.McDermid seconded:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors adjourn to Closed Session – In Camera.”

CARRIED.

Progress Reported

- (a) Legal matters relating to the Fanshawe Cottages were discussed.

9. Business for Information

- (a) Administration and Enforcement – Section 28
(Report attached)

S.Levin moved – T.Birtch seconded:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors receive the report as presented.”

CARRIED.

- (b) House Rental Rates
(Report attached)

Staff explained the house rental rates to the Board members. In 2011 the Board investigated getting out of house rentals, but at the time it was not possible. In the past, staff were advised that due to legislation in Perth County, the UTRCA could not sever and sell the Wildwood CA house. Recently, policies and attitudes have changed and UTRCA staff have been advised to again pursue possible severances.

S.Levin moved – T.Birtch seconded:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors receive the report as presented.”

CARRIED.

- (c) Harrington and Embro EA Next Steps
(Report attached)

S.McCall-Hanlon moved – S.Levin seconded:-

“RESOLVED that the Board of Directors receive the report as presented.”

CARRIED.

10. October FYI
(Attached)

The attached report was presented to the members for their information.

11. Other Business

I.Wilcox informed the Board that Don Pearson is retiring from the Lower Thames Valley CA at the end of 2017. Mark Peacock from the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority has been selected as the new General Manager. Mr. Pearson's retirement is a loss, but UTRCA staff look forward to working with Mr.Peacock. I.Wilcox gave a number of examples of shared services, both formal and informal, between the UTRCA and the Lower Thames Valley CA.

C.Harrington added that the UTRCA shares and collaborates with the City of London in regards to Water Quality data, and there has been an offer to share Water Quantity data as well.

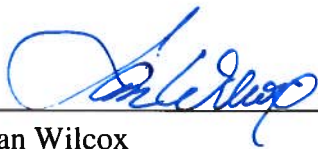
I.Wilcox updated the Board on the status of the CA Act update. It has past it's second reading and the additional consultation period was cut short. The next step is for the Bill to receive Royal Ascent, which could happen very soon.

M.Blackie, R.Chowen, N.Manning, I.Wilcox and M.Viglianti attended the 2017 Biennial Tour, hosted by Credit Valley Conservation and Conservation Halton, at the beginning of October. The Board members who attended noted the differences between the two neighbouring Conservation Authorities and discussed the highlights and observations from the Tour.

Conservation Ontario has asked I.Wilcox and C.Harrington to host a webinar on Nov 7th to present the Targets Strategic Plan to the other Conservation Authorities.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m. on a motion by N.Manning.



Ian Wilcox
General Manager
Att.

M.Blackie, Authority Chair