



**Friends of the St. Clair River  
Board of Directors - Annual General Meeting  
Thursday November 26, 2009**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Present:** Terry Burrell, Darrell Randell, Brenda Lorenz, Modris Zandbergs, Ken Hall, Stew Thornley, Bela Trebics, Deb Trebics, Archie Kerr, Sheldon Parsons, Lynn Parsons, Ted Briggs, Jake Lozon

**Regrets:** Kris Lee, Kim Gledhill, Clint Jacobs

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Meeting called to order at 7:50 PM following dinner. Guests Sheldon and Lynn Parsons, Jake Lozon and Ted Briggs were acknowledged and introduced.

**1. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the 2008 AGM were moved for approval by Terry Burrell, seconded by Archie Kerr. Minutes accepted and approved by Board.

A motion by Brenda Lorenz to accept the meeting minutes from October 22, 2009 was seconded by Modris Zandbergs – Carried.

**2. Business from October 22 Meeting Minutes**

Archie Kerr was to contact Ken with names from the BSI distribution list for inclusion in the distribution list used for the BPAC/FOSCR E-Newsletter. (AK, KH - Done Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>)

Finalized grant application sent to Ontario Trillium Foundation. A response from OTF is anticipated within three to four months. (KH – Done Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>).

**3. Financial Report - Terry**

Treasurer Terry Burrell distributed the 2008 audited financial statement to Board members. He motioned for acceptance of the statement, seconded by Modris – Carried.

Motion tabled by Terry to accept Marion Watt, CA as auditor for 2009 financials. Motion seconded by Archie Kerr – Carried.

Ted Briggs commented that the MOE funding support of \$25,000.00 for 2009 FOSCR programs was approved and would be received early in 2010.

**4. Activity / Project Updates**

**a. CRIC Report – Ted Briggs, MOE**

Ted reported that the **CRIC Sediment Committee** had received the sediment assessment report from ENVIRON Consulting Inc. and had conducted public information sessions and held discussions with stakeholders on the findings. ENVIRON has been engaged to prepare a sediment management plan to outline the remedial actions to be implemented. The management plan is expected to be complete by June, 2010.

The **CRIC Habitat** Committee is scheduled to meet in December to review the habitat BUI criteria and prepare action plans.

**Fish Taste BUI** – both the Michigan and Ontario agencies agree that there is no evidence to suggest this BUI is impaired in the St. Clair River. A planned press release to announce the BUI as “unimpaired” was planned but ensuing discussion with Walpole Island First Nation identified some remaining concerns. An additional angler’s survey will be conducted at Walpole to gather further public input. Ted stated that he anticipates a public announcement will be made in the Spring of 2010.

**Dredging BUI** – Ted reported that the MDEQ is pressing to de-list this BUI as there is no evidence of any need for sediment disposal restrictions for sediments along the U.S. side of the river. There are some remaining sediment concerns on the Canadian shoreline so it is likely that this BUI will be addressed independently on each side by the lead agencies. The CRIC sediment committee will be reviewing the dredging criteria and revisions may be made.

**b. RAP Coordinator Staff Position**

Ted reported that the position was confirmed and that a candidate would be selected and in place by end of January, 2010. The position will be funded by both the MOE and Environment Canada and the Coordinator will report to the MOE. Key activities by the new Coordinator will be to coordinate and support all RAP sub committees, coordinate implementation of remedial action projects and review the current Canadian delisting criteria for all the remaining Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs).

**c. 2009 Communications Program Report – Ken Hall**

**Launch of E-Newsletter**, well received, distribution list of approx. 600 people, next issue Jan/2010, suggestions for articles: RAP Video, CRIC update, article from Sandra Kok - Env. Canada, new RAP Coordinator, FOSCR website promotion.

**River RAP Video / Classroom Education Program**

Video now complete and available for use by schools, community groups, etc. Presented in conjunction with “surface water” education module presented in-class by Kim Gledhill. Excellent penetration with youth audience. FOSCR should consider marketing the video into Michigan schools in 2010.

**Youth River Awareness Contest**

Goal: increase student knowledge on issues affecting the river and the BUI status and draw their attention to the FOSCR website and FOSCR/BPAC programs Contest ran from January 1/09 to Feb. 28/09. 158 entries, 72 correct responses. Prizes awarded to three lucky kids (X-Box 360) randomly selected from correct responses.

**SCRCA Duc d’Orleans Cruise**

The event on June 11<sup>th</sup> was well attended and well received. Darrell had the chance to speak to the approx. 60 guests aboard on FOSCR and BPAC projects and progress on the BUI’s.

### **BUI River Signs**

Pt. Edward – Centennial Park –Guthrie Park – MacDonald Park – Cathcart Park All signs produced in 2009 have been installed. Plans to erect more signs in 2010 (Brandon-Cundick, Sarnia Pt. Lands)

### **St. Clair River RAP Display**

Portable display produced for public outreach activities. Has been effectively used about a dozen times including SLEA annual meeting May 27<sup>th</sup> and the BSI Forum on May 28<sup>th</sup> and the OPAC meeting in Sarnia on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Marine City/Sombra Girl Guides Jubilee – Sept. 26, 2009**

FOSCR participated in this annual Girl Guide event held in Sombra and Marine City, MI. Stew Thornley, Kim Gledhill, Modris Zandbergs, and guest Sharon Nethercott (SCRCA outdoor education coordinator) supported the event. The BPAC exhibit was set up and BUI progress reports distributed. Kim presented the “Surface Water” educational model and Sharon Nethercott was present representing SCRCA to demonstrate the “River Critters” module.

### **BUI Fact Sheet**

Updated in 2009 and distributed to stakeholders at every opportunity. Available at S-LEA, MOE, St. Clair Township offices and the Sarnia Bay Marina

### **Conservation Award – SCRCA**

Award received in Feb/09 for FOSCR’s contribution to conservation of the St. Clair River environment. Event provided positive media exposure and stakeholder recognition for the work of FOSCR in education and public outreach.

### **Conferences and workshops**

FOSCR was represented by Stew Thornley, Darrell Randell, and Phil Vallance at several events promoting networking for the organization.

#### **d. FOSCR / BPAC Website [www.friendsofstclair.ca](http://www.friendsofstclair.ca)**

Over 20,000 site visitors in 2009. Increase in site visits since recent introduction of E-Newsletter. Links to our site now featured on WATCH, SARENE and S-LEA websites. Site features a large depository of information on the river including technical reports, newspaper articles and FOSCR and BPAC meeting minutes. Requests received from other groups and organizations to use FOSCR website to help promote their activities. We should consider a site overhaul in 2010 to remove outdated technical content and revitalize site’s visual design.

#### **e. Walpole Island Land Trust (Swan Lake)**

Clint Jacobs was unable to attend so Darrell Randell reported that the 10-Year lease agreement documents for the Land Trust were all in place.

A public announcement for the new partnership with Ducks Unlimited and Wildlife Habitat Canada is now being planned and details will be provided to FOSCR for inclusion in the project launch event.

Darrell stated that the Land Trust has obtained money to pursue purchase of two additional parcels of land and that this agreement holds excellent potential for the future.

Terry Burrell made a motion to nominate the Land Trust for the 2010 SCRCA Environmental Stewardship Award. Motion seconded by Bela Trebics – Carried.

**Action:** Terry Burrell to prepare the nomination and submit to SCRCA.

**f. Lozon Marsh (Mallard Club) – Darrell Randell**

This is a dyked, coastal wetland managed with a pump to augment water levels. The project site is located at Pt lot 8, Conc 11, Dover, Chatham-Kent. This project is a renewal of the former Mallard Club DUC project which has been drained and farmed for a number of years. The new owners have contacted Stewardship Kent and funding for the work has been obtained, outside of DUC. This project aligns with existing coastal marshes along the east shore of Lake St Clair and will add to the staging habitat available for mallards, wood ducks, and other dabblers.

**Project Partners:** Stewardship Kent, Gerald Lozon and family, Species at Risk program, Great Lakes Sustainability Fund (Environment Canada) and Friends of the St Clair River.

**g. Highway 40 Prairie Passage – Jake Lozon**

Jake Lozon (MNR) provided an overview of the Prairie Passage initiative launched by MNR and MTO in 2002. The regional goal is to connect wildlife migration corridors between Aamjiwnaang F.N. – Bickford Woods – Walpole Island F.N. to provide migration route for migratory birds and butterflies. Seven acres of land at the corner of Bickford Line and Highway 40 has been acquired and MNR is looking for project partners to cover the cost of planting native grasses and flowers on the property. Cost is set at \$3000 per acre.

Motion made by Terry Burrell that Friends support the project with \$3000 to sponsor one acre of land. Seconded by Brenda Lorenz – Carried.

**5. Requests / Recommendations from FOSCR to BPAC/CRIC**

No items recorded.

**6. Update on USA Friends of the St. Clair Watershed**

No report as Janice Littlefield was unable to attend

**7. Election of Officials for 2010**

Director Stew Thornley assumed the position of meeting Chairperson during the elections of the executive. The following individuals were nominated and accepted as the FOSCR Board of Directors for 2010:

- |                     |   |  |
|---------------------|---|--|
| President           | - | Darrell Randell  |
| V. President        | - | Bela Trebics   |
| Treasurer           | - | Terry Burrell  |
| Secretary/Webmaster | - | Ken Hall   |
| Directors           | - | Kim Gledhill, Kris Lee, Brenda Lorenz, Deb Trebics, Archie Kerr, Modris Zandbergs, Clint Jacobs, Sheldon Parsons |

Motion to accept Board appointment by Darrell Randell. Seconded by Ken Hall – Carried

## **8. Other Business**

No new business was brought forward.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM. Motion to adjourn by Terry. Seconded by Darrell – Carried.

Date for next meeting: **T.B.A at discretion of President**