



FRIENDS of the St. Clair River
Board of Directors Meeting, May 13, 2009
Minutes of Meeting

Present: Terry Burrell, Darrell Randell, Brenda Lorenz, Modris Zandburgs, Stewart Thornley, Kim Gledhill, Ken Hall, Clint Jacobs, Archie Kerr.

Regrets: Theresa Warren, Bela Trebics, Deb Trebics

1. Committee Restructuring

It was with sadness and regret that Darrell asked the Board to accept the resignation of Bela Trebics from the position of Vice President for FOSCR due to his employment relocation. Motion moved by Stew to accept Bela's resignation. Secunder - Terry - Carried.

As a result, Deb Trebics has also decided to resign from her role as Secretary to the Board although she has expressed the interest to continue serving as a Director until such time that she also relocates to join Bela in his new position. Motion moved by Terry to accept Deb's resignation. Secunder - Archie - Carried.

Ken Hall volunteered to assume role of Secretary for FOSCR. Motion to accept by Brenda. Secunder - Kim – Carried.

Discussion re: position of V.P for FOSCR was tabled for consideration at the next Board Meeting. Board members are to consider accepting the role over the summer.

2. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

A few minor errors were corrected in the March 12, 2009 minutes and Clint moved to accept. Secunder – Kim – Carried.

3. Business from Nov 20 AGM Minutes:

Archie Kerr asked about the use of the \$20,000 received from the MOE in January, 2009. Darrell and Terry clarified that these funds had been allocated to support the development of the five riverfront signs and the youth awareness contest completed in March, and for ongoing support of the FOSCR website.

There was no other business arising from the March minutes.

4. Financial Report - Terry

Treasurer Terry Burrell stated there was nothing of significance to report since he presented the auditors report at the March meeting. He reviews details of recent financial transactions. Bank balance as of 02/28/09 = \$55,321.00.

Terry requested that the Board officially accept the 2008 Auditor's Report as presented in March.

Motion to accept Auditor's Report by Archie. Secunder – Brenda – Carried.

5. CRIC Report - Stew

CRIC Meeting Presentations

- *Dr. James Li* presented the findings of his assessment of the Spills "BUI" definition using a statistical analysis of historic spill frequency data collected by the MOE Spills Action Centre. The goal of his study was to determine the suitability of introducing a new method to measure progress to address this BUI. There is common agreement that the current delisting criterion – achieving a 24 month period with no closure of downstream water intakes is not adequate. The CRIC spills sub-committee is hoping to introduce a mathematical model that predicts the likelihood of industrial spills and illustrate significant progress has been realized by local industries.

There is ongoing discussion of Dr. Li's analytical approach and the strength of the data assimilated in the study. Stew reported that the CRIC group has asked Dr. Li to conduct further assessment of the data set and examine the effects of certain variables in his interpretation.

- *ENVIRON Study on Dredging BUI*
The CRIC has contracted ENVIRON International Corporation. to perform an assessment of contaminated sediment zones along the Ontario shore of the upper St. Clair River and determine the needs for sediment management. The study, using the "*Canada-Ontario Decision-Making Framework for Assessment of Great Lakes Sediment Contamination*" (*COA Framework*), will be concluded this summer. To date, a focus the study has been on the concentrations of mercury identified in the sediment and the potential for re-suspension.
- *Fish Tainting BUI*
Stew reported that the CRIC has agreed that the BUI for tainting of fish and wildlife flavour should be considered for de-listing. Discussion with MDEQ representatives shows there is agreement on both sides of the river that there is no evidence of a problem with fish taste and odour along the St. Clair River. Stew indicated that an announcement on this BUI status would be presented at

the next meeting of the Bi-national Public Advisory Council (BPAC) in September, 2009.

6. French Line Tile Restriction Demonstration Project - Darrell

Darrell reported that this project has stalled due to a disagreement between OMAF and the property owner. As a result Darrell requested a motion to reallocate the \$14,500 dollars that FOSCR had approved in support of this project to the FOGR General Fund for application to a future project decided by the Board.

Motion to move funds by Terry. Seconder – Archie – Carried.

7. Communications Activities Report – Ken

BUI Informative Signs

Pt. Edward – installed (as of June 10, 2009)

Centennial Park – installed

Guthrie Park – installed

MacDonald Park – installed

Cathcart Park – installed

Earth Fair at Goodall's Park, St. Clair, MI

Ken reported that due to other work project commitments neither he nor Kim Gledhill were able to attend the Earth Fair this year. Plans to participate next year will be reviewed in the Spring of 2010.

Website Report

2,710 "requests for pages received in April, 4,251 received in March. See detailed web activity reports from EBTech www.webreports.ebtech.net

Username: www.friendsofstclair.ca, password: whatever

Regular site maintenance –news items, meeting minutes added. Youth contest features removed.

Site now promoting River RAP project and current events.

St. Clair River RAP Display

Ken and Archie have arranged for display to be viewed at SLEA annual meeting May 27th and the BSI Forum on May 28th. The display will also be set up at the OPAC meeting in Sarnia on May 29th.

Service Recognition Awards for D. Craig and G. Johnson

Presented to D. Craig at SCRCA AGM Feb. 19th

Stew presented award to Gary Johnson on May 29th.

Consider creation of Award for Bela Trebics ??

7. River RAP Video / Classroom Education Program – Kim

Plan underway to create a video of the River RAP performance and share it with educators and interested groups in AOC locations across Ontario. Local youth talent will be involved in the production. Director will be Jan Dawes on contract to St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

Budget for video set at \$8,000 to \$10,000.00.

Looking for shared funding from FOSCR and St. Clair Regional Conservation Authority (SCRCA has approved \$2k)

Darrell stated that Ted Briggs at the MOE has approved use of \$4,000 for this project.

Motion by Stew to approve \$4,000 for project funding. Secunder – Brenda

Brenda indicated there could be additional funds available from the TD Canada Environment Fund. She is to investigate. She asked the Board to consider raising the funding amount to \$6,000 if she could offset \$2,000 with a cheque from the TDF.

The motion by Stew was amended to allow for \$6,000 to support the project.
-- carried

▪ FOSCR Classroom Education Program

Kim stated that 378 students in grades 7 – 10 had participated in the program to-date with 12 classroom presentations delivered by Kim. There is a waiting list of interested teachers for the Fall of 2009.

The FOSCR Board voiced their appreciation to Kim for her efforts and agreed that this outreach/education program should continue.

Motion by Archie to allocate \$1,500 for program deliver in the Fall. Secunder – Clint – Carried.

8. Walpole Island Land Trust - Clint

Clint Jacobs reported that he continues to pursue a \$50,000 grant from Wildlife Habitat Canada to secure purchase of the "Swan Lake Club" lands on Walpole Island.

FOSCR has approved \$10,000 to support this land lease acquisition if Clint is successful in obtaining the grant from WHC. The land will be used initially for Phragmites monitoring and education outreach with the long term goal to be ongoing development of the marsh lands as a habitat restoration site with educational uses.

9. Smith Line Wetlands Project - Darrell

Darrell reported that he had successfully applied for \$5,795.00 under Environment Canada's Environmental Damages Fund to support this wetlands creation project. Excavation of the property to create wetland habitat will commence during the summer with the upland restoration of tree & prairie planting phase scheduled for spring, 2010 with the second phase being done by other partners. Darrell indicated that this project site had good potential for habitat creation in support of the Habitat BUI targets of the RAP.

Motion by Terry to allocate \$6,205.00 to support this project. Secunder – Stew – Carried.

10. SCRCA River Cruise - Darrell

Date: Thursday, June 11th. 9:00 AM departure on the Duc D'Orleans II
The tour will highlight SCRCA projects and other projects and programs related to St. Clair River. Invited guests include local and regional elected officials, First Nation representatives and community business leaders.

As discussed at the March meeting, the SCRCA approached FOSCR for partnership funding for the tour.

Motion by Terry to approve \$1,500.00 to support the tour. Secunder – Archie – Carried.

11. Marine City/Sombra Girl Guides Jubilee – September, 2009

Stew reported that he had been asked for FOSCR to participate in this annual Girl Guide event to be held in Sombra and Marine City, MI. The Canadian event will take place in Cundick Park.

Action: Kim Gledhill to contact Irene Biscaro to coordinate FOSCR participation.

12. Recommendations to BPAC

The Board agreed that it was time to remind the BPAC membership that FOSCR is a charitable, non-profit group and that financial funding contacts and recommendations would be welcome.

13. New Business

Modris Zandburgs suggested the creation of a new initiative to encourage corporate land owners to become more involved in the support of RAP program objectives to de-list the BUI's on the river. Discussion of projects to restore wildlife and fish habitat along the shoreline and create prairie grass areas.

A sub-committee (Ken, Archie, Brenda, Kim) was created to develop ideas for outreach to industries.

A second concept was discussed regarding how FOSCR might work with local yacht clubs to educate boaters on actions they can take to reduce/eliminate negative impacts on the river associated with recreational watercraft.

14. Adjournment

With no further business raised, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Motion to adjourn by Terry. Secunder – Archie – Carried.

Date for next meeting to be set at discretion of the President.

Secretary
Ken Hall
06/08/09