



LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Board of Directors Annual General Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2020
Approved May 6, 2020

Members in attendance: Dave Beres, Robert Chambers, Michael Columbus, Valerie Donnell, Roger Geysens, Ken Hewitt, Stewart Patterson, John Scholten and Peter Ypma

Staff in attendance: J. Maxwell, A. LeDuc, L. Minshall and D. McLachlan

Regrets: Kristal Chopp and Tom Masschaele

Special Guests: Jeff Helsdon, Rich Cerna, Elizabeth Van Hoorn, Ed Ketchabaw, Alan Dale, Larry Martin and David Mayberry

**Ken Hewitt arrived at 1:55pm*

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Michael Columbus, introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the Long Point Region Conservation Authority's 2020 Annual General Meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm Friday, February 28, 2020 in the Tillsonburg Administration Office Boardroom.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A-32/20

moved: R. Chambers

seconded: P. Ypma

THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held February 5, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

INTRODUCTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board members were asked to rise as their names were called.

FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dave Beres, Robert Chambers, Kristal Chopp, Michael Columbus, Valerie Donnell,
Roger Geysens, Ken Hewitt, Tom Masschaele, Stewart Patterson, John Scholten, Peter Ypma

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Columbus thanked the municipal partners for their financial support and noted a number of milestones in 2020 including the closing of the lease-to-own agreement with Port Burwell Marina, the hydro and water upgrades occurring at the campground areas and the three current floodplain mapping projects currently underway.

The Chair thanked staff, volunteers, the Vice-Chair and Members for the hard work in 2019 and continued success in 2020.

INTRODUCTION AND GREETINGS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS

The Chair introduced Jeff Helsdon, Constituency Assistant to Toby Barrett, MPP Haldimand-Norfolk; Rick Cerna, Chair, Catfish Creek Conservation Authority; Elizabeth Van Hooren, General Manager, Kettle Creek Conservation Authority; Ed Ketchabaw, Mayor, Municipality of Bayham; Alan Dale, Vice-Chair, Upper Thames Region Conservation Authority; Larry Martin, Mayor, Township of Norwich and Warden, Oxford County; and Dave Beres, Deputy Mayor, Town of Tillsonburg.

AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Chair called upon Dave Beres, Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee to present the committee report.

After introducing Ashley Didone, Audit Partner of MNP, Chair Beres stated that the Audit and Finance Committee met February 19, 2020 and received and reviewed the financial statements in detail. MNP issued a clean opinion of the Authority's 2019 financial reports and found that the financial statements fairly presented the Authority's position.

A-33/20

Moved: V. Donnell

seconded: J. Scholten

THAT the minutes of the LPRCA Audit and Finance Committee's meeting held February 19, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

A-34/20

Moved: J. Scholten

seconded: V. Donnell

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the financial statements for the year ended December 31st, 2019 prepared by MNP, LLP, Chartered Accountants.

Carried

FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dave Beres, Robert Chambers, Kristal Chopp, Michael Columbus, Valerie Donnell,
Roger Geysens, Ken Hewitt, Tom Masschaele, Stewart Patterson, John Scholten, Peter Ypma

A-35/20

Moved: V. Donnell

seconded: J. Scholten

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the appointment of MNP, LLP Chartered Accountants as LPRCA's auditors for the 2020 fiscal period.

Carried

2019 COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

The GM presented the 2019 annual report and highlighted the many projects, events and achievements of LPRCA over the past year. Shoreline and riverine mapping data were updated, over 80,000 trees were planted, 14 wetland restoration projects were completed, and staff worked with the watershed municipal emergency management partners through 12 flood events.

The GM thanked staff, the board, municipal partners, and the various community partners for their participation and efforts in helping LPRCA improve the environment for those living within the LPRCA watershed.

b) BACKUS MUSEUM COMMITTEE

Chair Betty Chanyi introduced and thanked the Backus Museum Committee for their work and provided a few highlights of the past year including the new Vic Gibbons Gallery and the "At Home at Backus" exhibit about the Backus family immigrating to Canada. The Summer Theatre – Pirates of Long Point event was well attended and the 2-day War of 1812 is always a visitor-favourite event. The Chair made note of the events of 2020 including the new Summer Theatre – The Witches of Long Point and the return of the Masquerade Ball.

Chair Chanyi thanked the staff and board for their support of the museum and heritage program and invited everyone to attend the many events this summer.

c) LEE BROWN MARSH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair Tom Haskett reviewed the activities conducted at the Lee Brown Waterfowl Management Area and of the Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee. The committee is very proud to have taken the lead in managing the invasive plant phragmites that is damaging Ontario's wetlands and beaches and continues to support the Long Point Phragmites Action Alliance. The controlled waterfowl hunting program went very well and was fully booked in 2019. The winner of the Leighton and Betty Brown Scholarship, Zach Peck, was introduced and congratulated for obtaining summer employment in Manitoba with Delta Waterfowl this summer.

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Chair Haskett thanked the committee, the board and staff with special mention to Kim Brown, Lee Brown Marsh Manager.

A-36/20

moved: P. Ypma

seconded: R. Chambers

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the 2019 Annual Report, the Backus Museum Committee and the Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee reports as information.

Carried

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

a) New application

The Planning Department recommended the approval of one application.

A-37/20

moved: P. Ypma

seconded: V. Donnell

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the following Development Application contained within the background section of this report:

- A. *For Work under Section 28 Regulations, Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulations (R.R.O. 1990 Reg. 178/06),*

LPRCA-28/20

- B. *That the designated officers of LPRCA be authorized to complete the approval process for this Development Application, as far as it relates to LPRCA's mandate and related Regulations.*

Carried

NEW BUSINESS

a) **VEHICLE TENDERS**

As per the approved 2020 budget, one new ½ ton 2WD pick-up truck and one new ½ ton 4x4 pick-up were tendered to replace two fleet trucks. Tender documents were forwarded to ten dealers. Of the five bids received for the 2WD truck, and the 4 bids received for the 4x4 truck, staff recommended the lowest bidders for both tenders.

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A-38/20

moved: V. Donnell
seconded: P. Ypma

That the LPRCA Board of Directors accepts the tenders submitted by De-Groote Hill for one new 2020 Chevy Silverado 4x2 for \$32,418 and Stauffer Motors for one new 2020 Ford F-150 4x4 for \$34,928.

Carried

b) NOTICE OF FORMAL MOTIONS

A-39/20

moved: R. Chambers
seconded: P. Ypma

That the LPRCA Board of Directors authorizes the Chair or Vice-Chair and the General Manager or Manager of Corporate Services to borrow funds as required for the day-to-day operations of the Authority.

Carried

A-40/20

moved: R. Geysens
seconded: D. Beres

That the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the Chair, Vice-Chair, General Manager and Manager of Corporate Services as designated signing officers for Authority business for the year 2020.

Carried

A-41/20

moved: D. Beres
seconded: R. Geysens

That the LPRCA Board of Directors authorizes all members appointed to the Lee Brown Committee from the Community at Large be deemed to be Authority members for the purpose of receiving remuneration for their services on the same basis as regular members of the Authority for 2020.

Carried

A-42/20

moved: R. Chambers
seconded: R. Geysens

FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Roger Geysens, Ken Hewitt, Tom Masschaele, Stewart Patterson, John Scholten, Peter Ypma

That the LPRCA Board of Directors designates the Authority Chair as the Authority's representative to Conservation Ontario (CO), with the Vice-Chair designated as alternate, and further that the General Manager be directed to participate on appropriate committees of CO, and be authorized to vote in the absence of the designated representatives.

Carried

SERVICE AWARD PRESENTATIONS

The following board member and staff were recognized for reaching service milestones with LPRCA this past year.

John Scholten, Director	5 years
Lorrie Minshall, Manager of Watershed Services	5 years
Sean Chechalk, Workshop/General Labourer	5 years
Judy Maxwell, General Manager	10 years
Ben Hodi, Water Resources Analyst and Regulations Officer	10 years
Craig Jacques, Water Resources Specialist	10 years
Darell Rohrer, Workshop/General Labourer	10 years
Kim Brown, Lee Brown Marsh Manager	30 years

STEWARDSHIP AWARD PRESENTATION

LPRCA encourages everyone to help enhance and protect the watershed and supports private land stewardship. The Conservation Stewardship award was created to recognize those individuals who have acted to enhance and protect the watershed as well as their own properties. The third annual LPRCA Conservation Stewardship Award, presented by Vice-Chair John Scholten, was awarded to Stephen and Katie Hotchkiss for their commitment to positive environmental actions contributing to a more sustainable and healthier watershed.

The Hotchkisses have partnered with LPRCA and the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Elgin to establish more than 40 acres of habitat; they have created four wetlands, 20 acres of forest, and more than 16 acres of pollinator habitat. They regularly share their time and insight with others in the community and have participated in events such as the ALUS Elgin Pollinator Awareness Workshop, ALUS Elgin Planting Days, ALUS Seed Sourcing Workshop and ALUS Elgin Annual Environmental Stewardship Tour.

Mr. and Mrs. Hotchkiss felt honoured to receive this award and to be part of the community as the Carolinian Zone is very unique and important to them. They also felt the need to set an example for other businesses and showcase that it is possible to provide an environmentally beneficial pathway towards a sustainable and economically positive business model.

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KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Dr. Frank Seglenieks, Water Resources Engineer, National Hydrological Service of Canada within Environment and Climate Change Canada was introduced by Chair Columbus. Dr. Seglenieks works out of Burlington, Ontario, pursuing his research interests in hydrological modelling and historical water level data of the Great Lakes. He was also the coordinator of the University of Waterloo Weather Station, a role he continues now on a volunteer basis

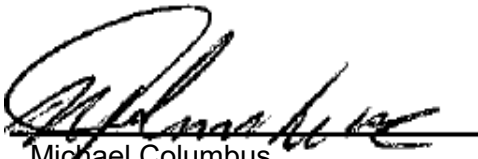
Lake Erie Water Levels: Where are they now and where are they going in the future, a look into the status of the lake whose shore we call home.

In his presentation, Dr. Seglenieks pointed out the various factors required to keep the lake level in balance; the inflows versus the outflows. There is no actual control of inflows and outflows on Lake Erie, and the persistent wet weather conditions across the Great Lakes basin has been the major contributing factor to the continuous high Lake Erie water levels since 2017.

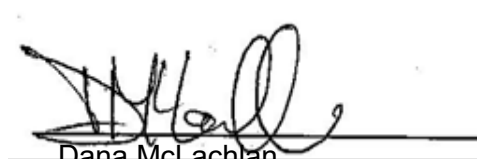
The future of Lake Erie water level depends primarily on the amount of water going into the system. Outflows from all the Great Lakes are at or near record highs and are predicted to remain so for several months. Based on his modelling and research, Dr. Seglenieks said the great lakes have tended to lock into patterns that last between 10 to 15 years of either very low water levels or very high waters levels. We are currently at three years of record highs but it cannot be assumed that the record highs will continue for the next several years. For instance, if there are average weather conditions for the next several months, the models predict that the Lake Erie water level will reach record highs in the next couple of months but the summer months would be lower than 2019.

In conclusion, Dr. Seglenieks said that regulation has a limited role. Nature will do what it wants and we have to adapt through resilient measures for both flooding and drought.

The Chair thanked Dr. Seglenieks for his presentation and then adjourned the meeting at 3:05pm.



Michael Columbus
Chair



Dana McLachlan
Administrative Assistant

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