



**LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 26, 2016**

(as approved at the Board of Directors Meeting held April 6, 2016)

Members in attendance: Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers, Michael Columbus, Roger Geysens, Noel Haydt, David Hayes and John Scholten
Staff in attendance: C. Evanitski, J. Robertson, J. Maxwell and D. McLachlan
Keynote Speaker: Julie Foster, Parks Ontario
Regrets: Leroy Bartlett, Craig Grice and Tom Southwick

The LPRCA Chair called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm Friday, February 26th 2016 in the LPRCA Boardroom.

WELCOME

Chair Columbus, introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the Long Point Region Conservation Authority's 2016 Annual General Meeting. He commented on the highlights and achievements of LPRCA during 2015 including the final approval of the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Plan and the current *Conservation Authorities Act* Review by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Mr. Columbus also noted the upcoming challenges facing LPRCA in 2016 and how staff and the board plan to manage and/or mitigate those challenges.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None recorded.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

None recorded.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

MOTION A-32/16 moved: R. Geysens seconded: D. Hayes

THAT the minutes of the LPRCA Board of Directors regular meeting held February 3rd, 2016 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair introduced the members of the Long Point Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors then asked for greetings from the municipal and provincial partners in attendance, as well as, the guests from neighbouring conservation authorities.

FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Leroy Bartlett, Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers, Michael Columbus,
Roger Geysens, Craig Grice, Noel Haydt, David Hayes, John Scholten, Tom Southwick

The Chair acknowledged the dedication and contributions of LPRCA staff and board members.

SERVICE AWARDS PRESENTATION

The following staff and board members have reached service milestones with LPRCA this past year.

Carolyn Jones, Accounting and Administration Supervisor	5 years
Robert Chambers, LPRCA Board Member from Brant County	5 years
Dave Beres, LPRCA Vice-Chair from the Town of Tillsonburg	5 years
Michael Columbus, LPRCA Chair from Norfolk County	5 years

NEW BUSINESS

a) CALENDAR REVIEW

Activities this coming month include a presentation by P. Gagnon, LPRCA Lands and Waters Supervisor at the Soil Health Roadshow in Delhi; a Trail Walk event at Hay Creek Conservation Area; and an Owl Prowl at Backus Heritage Conservation Area.

Staff will be participating in the Camp Trillium/LPRCA Fishing Derby and as an exhibitor at the Go Wild Grow Wild event in London in April. The Fishing Derby is a new annual partnership initiative to coincide with Earth Day and provide some support to Camp Trillium.

MOTION A-33/16 moved: J. Scholten seconded: N. Haydt

That the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the March Calendar Review Report as information.

CARRIED

b) NOTICE OF FORMAL MOTIONS

MOTION A-34/16 moved by: D. Brunton seconded: N. Haydt

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

CARRIED

FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Leroy Bartlett, Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers, Michael Columbus,
Roger Geysens, Craig Grice, Noel Haydt, David Hayes, John Scholten, Tom Southwick

MOTION A-35/16 moved by: D. Hayes

seconded: R. Geysens

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 2016.

CARRIED

MOTION A-36/16 moved by: D. Hayes

seconded: R. Geysens

That the LRPCA Board of Directors, pursuant to Section 26 (2) and 27 (2&3) of The Conservation Authorities Act RSO 1990, Chapter 27, designate all Member Municipalities as Benefiting Municipalities for the Administration, Capital and Operations Costs in the same proportion that the current value assessment of the whole Municipality or part thereof bears to the total assessment of the whole area under the jurisdiction of the Authority.

CARRIED

MOTION A-37/16 moved by: R. Chambers

seconded: J. Scholten

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 2016.

CARRIED

MOTION A-38/16 moved by: J. Scholten

seconded: R. Chambers

That the LPRCA Board of Directors designates the Authority Chairman as the Authority's representative to Conservation Ontario (CO), with the Vice-Chairman 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

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Chair introduced D. Beres, Chair of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee met February 17th, 2016 and received and reviewed the financial statements in detail. KPMG issued a clean opinion of the Authority's 2015 financial reports and found that the financial statements fairly presented the Authority's position.

FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Roger Geysens, Craig Grice, Noel Haydt, David Hayes, John Scholten, Tom Southwick

MOTION A–39/16 moved by: D. Hayes

seconded: R. Geysens

THAT the minutes of the LPRCA Audit Committee's meeting held February 17th, 2016 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

MOTION A–40/16 moved by: J. Scholten

seconded: D. Brunton

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the financial statements for the year ended December 31st, 2015 prepared by KPMG, LLP, Chartered Accountants.

CARRIED

MOTION A–41/16 moved by: R. Geysens

seconded: J. Scholten

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the appointment of KPMG, LLP Chartered Accountants as LPRCA's auditors for the 2016 fiscal period as per the 5-year proposal of January 29th, 2013.

CARRIED

2015 COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The GM presented the 2015 annual report which focused on leadership and partnerships, and highlighted the various projects and achievements of LPRCA over the past year. The GM thanked staff, the board and the various partners for their participation and efforts in improving the environment for those living within the LPRCA watershed. Mr. Evanitski also stressed the importance of working with all levels of government to achieve its goals. In closing, LPRCA staff look forward to working with current partners, as well as, look for opportunities to develop new partnerships in 2016 with the hope of attaining greater environmental enhancements.

b) LEE BROWN MARSH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair Tom Haskett provided some history on the Lee Brown Waterfowl Management Area, donated by Lee Brown and currently managed by Kim Brown. This past year the Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee (LBMMC) focused on the invasive plant *phragmites* that is damaging Ontario's wetlands and beaches. The LBMMC identified *phragmites* as a major threat some time ago and others have now taken notice. Mr. Haskett detailed the pilot project undertaken by LPRCA at the Marsh to control *phragmites* and declared that the project has been a success but noted that the work continues. The LBMMC and staff proudly presented the Marsh project during the Biennial Tour hosted by LPRCA in

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conjunction with Grand River Conservation Authority.

MOTION A-42/16 moved by: D. Brunton

seconded: D. Beres

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the 2015 Annual Report and the Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee Report as information.

CARRIED

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Julie Foster is the Superintendent of Long Point, Turkey Point and Selkirk Provincial Parks. In his introduction, the GM noted that the Ontario Parks system is similar to LPRCA parks and faces some of the same issues and challenges. Both organizations focus on protecting nature and the environment and both have noticed, for instance, that there is now a greater request to accommodate larger camping equipment with greater electricity needs.

Ms. Foster presented Knowing Ontario Parks Visitors stating that Ontario Parks has a very strong brand and provides access to many types of accommodation (tents, trailers, backcountry, cabins, yurts). The various roofed accommodations have proven so popular the Ontario Parks Commission plans to add more roofed accommodations in the coming year. Backcountry camping; the Learn to Camp program; and the Healthy Parks, Healthy People program (free day-use day) have also proven very popular with the public.

Ms. Foster also discussed the various social media platforms used by Ontario Parks. Each park also has the option of running its own Facebook page and Twitter account to promote the activities and post accommodation vacancies within each park. J. Foster fielded questions from the audience.

The Chair thanked Ms. Foster for her presentation and then adjourned the meeting at 3:05pm.

Mike Columbus
Chair

Dana McLachlan
Administrative Assistant

FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Roger Geysens, Craig Grice, Noel Haydt, David Hayes, John Scholten, Tom Southwick