



LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES - April 6, 2016

(as approved at the Board of Directors meeting held May 4, 2016)

Members in attendance: Leroy Bartlett, Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers, Michael Columbus, Roger Geysens, Noel Haydt and John Scholten

Staff in attendance: C. Evanitski, J. Robertson, J. Maxwell, D. Holmes, L. Minshall, P. Gagnon, B Hodi and D. McLachlan

Regrets: Craig Grice, David Hayes and Tom Southwick

The LPRCA Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm Wednesday, April 6th, 2016 in the Tillsonburg Administration Office Boardroom.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

MOTION A-43/16 moved: D. Beres seconded: R. Chambers

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors add "Long Point Watershed Conservation Award" under New Business as item 10 (o) to the April 6th, 2016 agenda.

CARRIED

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None

DEPUTATIONS

None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no questions or comments concerning the minutes.

MOTION A-44/16 moved: R. Geysens seconded: J. Scholten

THAT the minutes of the LPRCA Board of Directors Regular Meeting held February 26th, 2016 be adopted as circulated.

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

BUSINESS ARISING

a) Haldimand Campers' Deputation

The representatives from the Haldimand Campers Association were notified of the outcome in response to their deputation. The seasonal camper letter was updated to reflect the results of the requests of the delegation.

After the recent septic haulage tender, the same haulers, Frank's Septic and Bayside Septic, will be working the parks again this season. Costs range from \$118.65 per load for Norfolk, Backus and Deer Creek to \$209.05 per load at Waterford.

MOTION A-45/16 moved: L. Bartlett seconded: N. Haydt

*THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the staff report regarding the Haldimand Campers' Delegation Request as information;
AND THAT the Board deny the request to defer the additional fee payment for seasonal campsites.*

CARRIED

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

None

CORRESPONDENCE

MOTION A-46/16 moved: J. Scholten seconded: R. Geysens

THAT the correspondence outlined in the Board of Directors' Agenda of April 6th, 2016 be received as information.

CARRIED

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

a) Staff Approved applications

Planning staff approved 22 applications over the past two months.

MOTION A-47/16 moved: R. Geysens seconded: J. Scholten

That the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the Staff Approved Section 28 Regulation Applications report dated April 6th, 2016 as information.

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

CARRIED

b) **New Applications**

The Planning Department recommended the approval of four applications.

MOTION A-48/16 moved: R. Geysens seconded: J. Scholten

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the following Development Applications contained within the background section of the 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-21/16
LPRCA-23/16*

*LPRCA-24/16
LPRCA-38/16*

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) **CALENDAR REVIEW**

The coming month will be a busy one with Backus and community events. Of note, the Siemens' Earth Day Tree Planting will be at 2:30pm instead of the stated 2:00pm start, and P. Gagnon, Lands & Waters Supervisor, will be presenting a biodiversity seminar to Alliance Tobacco in Delhi. The GM spoke to an Eco-Tourism class at Fanshawe College in Simcoe on April 1st about the Conservation Authorities Act and the upcoming review by MNR.

MOTION A-49/16 moved: L. Bartlett seconded: J. Scholten

THAT the LPRCA board of Directors receives the April Calendar Review Report as information.

CARRIED

b) **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

The GM reported a change at the Port Burwell Marina. The new lessee has discussed improvement plans and would like to start infrastructure upgrades but would first like a lease extension. No questions or comments.

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MOTION A-50/16

moved: R. Geysens

seconded: J. Scholten

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the General Manager's Report for February and March 2016 as information.

CARRIED

c) 2016 SCATTER AND POD TREE PLANT TENDER

LPRCA typically contracts out tree-planting services on an annual basis. This year, staff tendered out the planting of approximately 40,000 trees and the recommended tender was received by Giles Restoration Services, a company that has been used with great success in the past. The cost is funded by the various funding programs and does not have an impact on the budget.

MOTION A-51/16

moved: J. Scholten

seconded: R. Chambers

That the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the tender received from Giles Restoration Services for a total of \$22,117.97 (taxes included) for LPRCA's Spring 2016 Scatter and Pod Planting contract.

CARRIED

d) GREAT LAKES GUARDIAN COMMUNITY FUND

Staff applied for two projects through the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund: 1) Lake Lisgar - Phase 5 which involves dredging and planting of aquatic vegetation; 2) Port Burwell East Beach Restoration which involves planting native dune vegetation, fence installation and signage.

MOTION A-52/16

moved: R. Geysens

seconded: J. Scholten

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with the Province of Ontario.

CARRIED

e) MEMORIAL WOODLOT

When the Long Point Region Memorial Forest was established, a lot of the original plantings included various ash species. Since then, there has been greater diversification in tree species but there are 162 ash trees that must be removed this year due to infestation by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Once EAB was discovered,

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ash trees were no longer planted in the Memorial Forest. Trees will be replaced with other species next spring. A news story will be released, previous donors and funeral homes will be notified and posters will be displayed at Backus detailing the work being done.

MOTION A-53/16

moved: J. Scholten

seconded: Roger Geysens

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the report on the Memorial Forest as information; and

THAT the Board approves allocating up to \$16,000 from the Memorial Woodlot Reserve to remove ash trees from the Memorial Forest.

CARRIED

f) ECOLOGICAL INVENTORIES – FOREST MANAGEMENT

LPRCA conducts ecological surveys prior to forest management activities. These surveys are contracted out and conducted annually. This year ecological surveys will be conducted at two properties consisting of 141 acres (57 Ha) total. Staff had hired a different ecologist in the past but, due to rising costs, researched other firms and retained Blue Oak Native Landscapes in 2015. Staff has again recommended retaining the services of Blue Oak Native Landscapes.

MOTION A-54/16

moved: R. Chambers

seconded: R. Geysens

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves retaining the services of Paul O'Hara of Blue Oak Native Landscapes to conduct ecological inventories of identified Conservation Authority properties – totaling 141 acres (57 Hectares) for a total submitted bid of \$19,662, which includes all applicable taxes and disbursements, as part of the 2016/2017 Forest Management Operating Plan.

CARRIED

g) VIC GIBBONS RECOGNITION EVENT

A wine and cheese event is scheduled at Backus Heritage Conservation Area on Friday, April 22 in honour of Vic Gibbons who has generously donated artwork to LPRCA in support of conservation education. Tickets are \$15 each and include admission, a complimentary Gibbons print, entry into a door prize and a sampling of local cheeses. Organizers are still requesting donations for the silent auction.

MOTION A-55/16

moved: R. Geysens

seconded: J. Scholten

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves naming the auditorium in the Conservation Education Centre at Backus Heritage Conservation Area as "The Gibbons Room" in recognition of donations made by artist Vic Gibbons.

CARRIED

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h) SPECIAL USE OF AUTHORITY PROPERTIES

The report and survey on special use of Authority properties was last completed in 2006. In summary, trapping is allowed with permission; hunting is allowed on most properties, permission is not required; off-road vehicles are not allowed; snowmobiles are allowed; and boating is allowed on certain waterways with limitations.

MOTION A-56/16 moved: J. Scholten seconded: R. Chambers

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the LPRCA Policy on Special Use of Authority Properties Report as information

CARRIED

i) FOREST MANAGEMENT OPERATING COSTS

Since the early days of the Conservation Authority, one of the main priorities has been forest land acquisition to help fulfil its core mandated programs as directed by the Province. All of LPRCA's forested properties are under either the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) or Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP). Forest management activities are secondary after water retention and low-flow augmentation functions. Revenues are obtained from forest management sales while expenses include but are not limited to staff costs, garbage collection, signage, equipment maintenance and/or rentals, as well as, gate replacement if needed.

MOTION A-57/16 moved: L. Bartlett seconded: D. Brunton

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the Forest Management Operations – Authority Woodlots Report as information

CARRIED

j) 2015 PARK OCCUPANCY REPORT

Park occupancy statistics are compiled on a monthly basis. It was noted that the daily camper rate is low during the shoulder seasons with the exception of Deer Creek. Deer Creek is a very popular, smaller park with a long seasonal camper waiting list. It also has a shortened camping season opening just before the Victoria Day long weekend and closing Labour Day. Staff is looking to enhance the social media activities in order to bring more visitors to the parks.

MOTION A-58/16 moved: L. Bartlett seconded: D. Beres

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the staff report regarding the 2015 Occupancy Report as information

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CARRIED

k) SWOOP 2015 UPDATE

SWOOP is the South Western Ontario Orthoimagery Program administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR). The SWOOP data is updated every five years and is used by the Planning and Forestry staff. The data can be utilized by licensed funding partners only. The imagery is multi-spectral, can see moisture content of the soil, the soil contents and can determine elevations. It is important for floodplain mapping; wetland mapping; dam safety and dam break reviews; property management to monitor encroachment; among other uses. SWOOP data is quality controlled and quality assured. By using SWOOP data LPRCA saves time and money as site visits must be conducted by two staff members and could be anywhere within the watershed. LIDAR was mentioned but it does not offer the same required data.

MOTION A-59/16

moved: L. Bartlett

seconded: D. Brunton

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the SWOOP Update Report as information

CARRIED

I) NATIONAL DISASTOR MITIGATION PROGRAM (NDMP) UPDATE

Staff reviewed the history of flooding and the risk of future flooding along the Norfolk County resort/coastal communities. Conservation authorities are mandated to develop and maintain programs that will protect life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion. In June 2015, the Board directed staff to apply to the NDMP to obtain updated data for emergency response in low-level, flood-prone areas. The total project cost is \$240,000 with \$120,000 confirmed by Public Safety Canada provided Norfolk County Council approve \$90,000 special levy over two years and a contribution of \$12,000, plus in-kind staff time from LPRCA. The deadline to proceed is April 15. Discussion ensued.

MOTION A-60/16

moved: D. Beres

seconded: R. Chambers

THAT LPRCA proceed with the project to update flood hazard mapping and flood risk assessment for the Lake Erie shoreline in Norfolk County, subject to Norfolk County's approval, and

THAT the General Manager be authorized to enter into an Agreement with the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

CARRIED

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m) COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Staff has reviewed the Twitter pilot project and made a number of recommendations to increase/enhance LPRCA's profile on social media channels. Marketing and communications efforts will focus on experiences to be had at the five conservation areas. Additional staff, including park supervisors, will be trained and authorized to post to LPRCA Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts during the upcoming camping season in an effort to bring more people to the parks and experience all that LPRCA has to offer.

MOTION A-61/16

moved: N. Haydt

seconded: D. Beres

THAT LPRCA Board of Directors receives the Communications Update as information; and THAT the expanded social media program be approved as presented.

CARRIED

n) HALDIMAND CAMPSITE HYDRO UPGRADES TENDER

Staff recommended accepting the tender received from Darlington Wiring and Plumbing to complete the hydro upgrades at Haldimand Conservation Area. Staff asked that \$6500 be transferred from the budgeted Backus water system capital upgrade project to complete a full block of sites at Haldimand. Staff predict that the Backus project will be under budget. It is projected the Haldimand hydro upgrades would be completed prior to park opening May 1st, depending on weather conditions.

MOTION A-62/16

moved: N. Haydt

seconded: D. Beres

*THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors accepts the tender submitted by Darlington Wiring and Plumbing Ltd. for campsite upgrades at Haldimand CA for a total submitted tender price of \$23,852.92 + HST;
AND FURTHER THAT \$6500 be re-allocated from capital projects at Backus Heritage CA to the Haldimand campsite upgrades to cover the cost over-run.*

CARRIED

o) LONG POINT REGION WATERSHED CONSERVATION AWARD

The Chair recommended the creation of a new conservation award to recognize landowners who provide good stewardship on private lands. The General Manager was directed to provide a report detailing terms of reference and award criteria.

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MOTION A-63/16

moved: L. Bartlett

seconded: N. Haydt

That the LPRCA Board of Directors does now enter into an "In Camera" session to discuss:

- a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the Conservation Authority;*

CARRIED

MOTION A-64/16

moved: D. Brunton

seconded: N. Haydt

That the LPRCA Board of Directors does now adjourn from the "In Camera" session.

CARRIED

MOTION A-65/16

moved: D. Beres

seconded: L. Bartlett

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors directs staff to proceed with an appraisal, survey and any other required actions regarding the potential donation of said property in Norfolk County as per the GM's in-camera presentation, and bring forward a final acquisition report for the Board's consideration.

CARRIED

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:20pm.

Michael Columbus
Chair

Dana McLachlan
Administrative Assistant

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