



SSMRCA January Board AGM Minutes

Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority

Jan 17, 2023 at 4:45 PM EST

@ 1100 Fifth Line East / Zoom Meeting

Attendance

Present:

Members: Sandra Hollingsworth (Chair), Marchy Bruni (remote), Enzo Palumbo (Vice Chair), Corey Gardi (remote), Ron Zagordo (remote)

Also Present: Corrina Barrett (General Manager), Christine Ropeter

Guests: Mark Crofts (Voyageur Trail Association) (remote), Darrel Philion (Sault Cycling Club) (remote)

I. Call to Order

Meeting was Called to Order at 4:46 p.m.

II. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None declared.

III. Adoption of Agenda

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented;

Motion: # 115/22

Motion moved by Marchy Bruni and motion seconded by Enzo Palumbo. **CARRIED.**

IV. Delegations

A presentation was given by Darrel Philion of the Sault Cycling Club on the proposed Fat Bike Trail.

THAT the presentation by the Sault Cycling Club on the proposed Fat Bike Trail be received as information;

Motion: # 116/22

Motion moved by Enzo Palumbo and motion seconded by Marchy Bruni. **CARRIED.**

V. Public Input (3 minutes per speaker)

Marks Crofts was present to speak on behalf of the Voyageur Trail Association on the proposed Fat Bike Trail. Concerns were voiced regarding potential liability with respect to the portions of trail that the VTA cares for. Also asked if fat bike users could be equipped with bells to ensure that other trail users know that bikers are approaching.

Darrel responded that he would confirm the insurance liabilities for the Sault Cycling Club and would look into signage asking bikers to utilize bells on the trails.

VI. 2022 Finance and Administration

A. Adoption of Regular Board Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2022

THAT the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2022, be adopted;

Motion: # 117/22

Motion moved by Corey Gardi and motion seconded by Marchy Bruni. **CARRIED.**

B. Health & Safety Meeting Minutes

THAT the Health & Safety Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2022, be received as information;

Motion: # 118/22

Motion moved by Enzo Palumbo and motion seconded by Marchy Bruni. **CARRIED.**

C. Accounts Payable

THAT the list of accounts payable from December 2 to December 31, 2022, cheque #8344 to #8384 in the total amount of \$57,622.53 be received as information;

Motion: # 119/22

Motion moved by Marchy Bruni and motion seconded by Enzo Palumbo. **CARRIED.**

VII. 2022 Water & Related Land Management

A. Application Approvals: Section 28, Ontario Regulation 176/06, Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses

THAT the summary of the 1 site report approved by staff from December 6 to December 31, 2022, pursuant to Ontario Regulation 176/06, be received as information;

Motion: # 120/22

Motion moved by Corey Gardi and motion seconded by Marchy Bruni. **CARRIED.**

VIII. Chair's Remarks on 2022

Sandra Hollingsworth, the 2022 Board Chair, provided some remarks with respect to the past year.

2022 Highlights

- A. The reopening of the CA Office for regular business post the pandemic and the reopening of the Sugar Shack for rental by the public as a meeting space.
- B. A new revenue source was created as the Sault Ste. Marie North Planning Board officially joined the SSMRCA office.
- C. The Privacy Audit was conducted by Vayle and as a result the Records and Information Management Policy and the Protection of Privacy Policy were created to increase protections for all privacy related to the CA.
- D. Additionally, the Client Services Standards Policy and the new Fee Policy were also created.
- E. Completed an Inventory of our Programs and Services as mandated by the Province, which will aid in the creation of MOUs with our partner municipalities.
- F. Successfully received funding from the Heritage River System to develop the St. Marys River 10-Year update report, as well as the Canada Summer Jobs program for the hiring of 2 Students, and funding for the Lighting Retrofit for the office, Sugar Shack, and garage.
- G. Field Work
 - Procurement of the mulcher attachment for the new excavator and completion of the large vegetation removal along the Bennett West Davignon. Was able to complete the same amount of work in 4 weeks that traditionally took well over 3 months;
 - Annual grass-cutting program;
 - Hazard tree removals and cleanup.
- H. The Conservation Areas continued to see record numbers of visitors, and permitting numbers have steadily increased since the onset of the pandemic.

- I. The Source Protection Program was able to continue remotely in 2022, with a new chair being appointed, the successful completion of the 2021 Annual Progress Report, and the editing of the Source Protection Plan documents to reflect the changes to the Director's Technical Rules.
- J. Conservation Ontario-led campaigns showed a high level of both public and partner support for Conservation Authorities and the work that they do, especially since significant changes to the role of Conservation Authorities
- K. Activities
 - Coordinated an Earth Day Bioblitz event with the City of SSM and Kensington Conservancy;
 - Coordinated the installation of a Butterfly Pollinator Garden with Carly Creagh, a Butterflyway Project lead through the David Suzuki Foundation at Fort Creek;
 - Coordinated the installation of a Rain Garden on Conservation Authority property near the Korah Bridge with the St. Marys River Remedial Action Plan Coordinator through their Tributary Project.

I would also like to thank the Board members for their dedication and support to the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority, and to say thank you to the Staff and GM for their great work throughout 2022.

IX. 2023 Finance and Administration

A. Election of Officers

Scrutineers

THAT Corrina Barrett and Christine Ropeter be appointed as scrutineers for the 2023 election of Chair and Vice Chair be approved;

Motion: # 1/23

Motion moved by Enzo Palumbo and motion seconded by Marchy Bruni. **CARRIED.**

Chair

Corrina called for nominations for Chair.

Marchy Bruni nominated Sandra Hollingsworth.

Corrina called twice for further nominations for Chair. There being no further nominations for Chair:

THAT nominations for Chair be closed, be approved;

Motion: # 2/23

Motion moved by Enzo Palumbo and motion seconded by Corey Gardi. **CARRIED.**

Corrina asked Sandra Hollingsworth if they are willing to let their name stand for Chair, and Sandra agreed.

With only one eligible nomination, a vote was not necessary.

THAT Sandra Hollingsworth be appointed as Chair of the SSMRCA Board for 2023 be approved;

Motion: # 3/23

Motion moved by Marchy Bruni and motion seconded by Ron Zagordo. **CARRIED.**

Vice-Chair

Corrina called for nominations for Vice-Chair.

Corey Gardi nominated Enzo Palumbo.

Corrina called twice for further nominations for Vice-Chair. There being no further nominations for Vice-Chair:

THAT nominations for Vice-Chair be closed, be approved;

Motion: # 4/23

Motion moved by Marchy Bruni and motion seconded by Corey Gardi. **CARRIED.**

Corrina asked Enzo Palumbo if they are willing to let their name stand for Vice-Chair, and Enzo agreed.

With only one eligible nomination, a vote was not necessary.

THAT Enzo Palumbo be appointed as Vice-Chair of the SSMRCA Board for 2023 be approved;

Motion: # 5/23

Motion moved by Marchy Bruni and motion seconded by Ron Zagordo. **CARRIED.**

B. Appointments for 2023:

1. Banking Agents

THAT the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce be appointed as Banking Agents for 2023.

Motion: # 6/23

Motion moved by Ron Zagordo and motion seconded by Enzo Palumbo. **CARRIED.**

2. Signing Authority

Whereas two authorized signatures are required to bind the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority,

THAT Corrina Barrett, General Manager, Sandra Hollingsworth, Board Chair, and Enzo Palumbo, Board Vice-Chair, be authorized to sign on behalf of the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority with any two of three signing together be approved.

Motion: 7/23

Motion moved by Corey Gardi and motion seconded by Ron Zagordo. **CARRIED.**

3. Borrowing Arrangements

THAT subject to Conservation Authority Board approval of loan arrangements, during 2023 the Board Chair or Board Vice Chair and the General Manager be empowered to arrange any necessary borrowing of funds as required from time to time for approved Conservation Authority projects and programs, to a maximum amount of \$125,000, and

Further **THAT** Corrina Barrett, General Manager, be authorized to apply payments to the operating loan on behalf of the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority, as funding allows be approved;

Motion: # 8/23

Motion moved by Ron Zagordo and motion seconded by Marchy Bruni. **CARRIED.**

4. Appointment of Auditor

THAT the firm of BDO Canada LLP be appointed as Auditor for the year ending December 31, 2023, be approved;

Motion: # 9/23

Motion moved by Corey Gardi and motion seconded by Enzo Palumbo. **CARRIED.**

5. Appointment of Legal Council

THAT the firm of Skeggs Paciocco Lawyers LLP be appointed as legal counsel for administrative matters for the year ending December 31, 2023, be approved;

Motion: # 10/23

Motion moved by Marchy Bruni and motion seconded by Ron Zagordo. **CARRIED.**

6. CA Representatives on Conservation Ontario Council

THAT Sandra Hollingsworth, Enzo Palumbo, and Corrina Barrett be appointed as the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority's representatives to Conservation Ontario, be approved.

Motion: # 11/23

Motion moved by Ron Zagordo and motion seconded by Corey Gardi. **CARRIED.**

C. January Health and Safety Meeting Minutes

THAT the Health & Safety Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2023, be received as information;

Motion: # 12/23

Motion moved by Enzo Palumbo and motion seconded by Marchy Bruni. **CARRIED.**

D. 2023 Meeting Schedule

THAT the proposed schedule for 2023 Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority Board meetings be approved as presented;

Motion: # 13/23

Motion moved by Marchy Bruni and motion seconded by Enzo Palumbo. **CARRIED.**

E. Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct was supplied in the Board package for each member's signature.

F. 2023 SSMRCA Budget Approval

i) Levy (matching MNRF funding under S.39 of the Conservation Authorities Act): simple majority vote:

THAT the matching 2023 Municipal General Levy amount of \$68,113.00 be approved.

Motion: # 14/23

Motion moved by Corey Gardi and motion seconded by Enzo Palumbo. **CARRIED.**

ii) Levy (non-matching): weighted vote:

Note – a recorded vote is required in accordance with Provincial Regulations to establish the Nonmatching Municipal Levy. The vote is weighted based on each Municipality's Assessment within the SSMRCA watershed.

THAT the non-matching 2023 Municipal General Levy amount of \$495,510.45 be approved;

Municipality	Director	Vote YES	Vote NO	%
City of SSM	Sandra Hollingsworth	✓		24.70625
City of SSM	Marchy Bruni	✓		24.70625

City of SSM	Corey Gardi	✓		24.70625
City of SSM	Ron Zagordo	✓		24.70625
Prince Township	Enzo Palumbo	✓		1.17500
	TOTALS			100.00%

Apportionment present at the meeting 100%
Apportionment voting in favour of the motion 100%
Apportionment voting against the motion 0%
Apportionment absent from the meeting 0%

Motion: # 15/23

Motion moved by Marchy Bruni and motion seconded by Ron Zagordo. **CARRIED.**

iii) Budget: simple majority vote

THAT the 2023 SSMRCA Budget in the amount of \$831,491.91 be approved;

Motion: # 16/23

Motion moved by Marchy Bruni and motion seconded by Enzo Palumbo. **CARRIED.**

X. 2023 Board Member Orientation Presentation

As there are new Board members this year, the GM gave an overview presentation of Board and SSMRCA responsibilities.

THAT the orientation presentation given by the GM for the Board be received as information be approved;

Motion: # 17/23

Motion moved by Ron Zagordo and motion seconded by Marchy Bruni. **CARRIED.**

XI. 2023 New Business & Other

A. Update for the Board on Bill 23 and recently released Minister's regulation on Prescribed Acts as well as Minister's Direction on Fees

THAT the presentation given by the GM for the Board Members on Bill 23 and recently released Minister's Regulation and Direction be received as information be approved.

Motion: # 18/23

Motion moved by Ron Zagordo and motion seconded by Enzo Palumbo. **CARRIED.**

XII. Closed Session

To approve the minutes of the December 13, 2022 closed session.

THAT the Board move into Closed Session to approve the minutes of a previous closed session at 6:54 p.m. be approved;

Motion: # 19/23

Motion moved by Ron Zagordo and motion seconded by Enzo Palumbo. **CARRIED.**

THAT the Board come out of Closed Session at 6:54 p.m. be approved;

Motion: # 20/23

Motion moved by Marchy Bruni and motion seconded by Enzo Palumbo. **CARRIED.**

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business,

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:55 p.m. be approved.

Motion: # 21/23

Motion moved by Ron Zagordo and motion seconded by Enzo Palumbo. **CARRIED.**

Corrina Barrett,
General Manager

Sandra Hollingsworth,
Board Chair