

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CATFISH CREEK CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

Thursday, February 18th, 2016

Meeting #01/2016

The 65th Annual General Meeting of the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority was held at the East Elgin Community Complex.

PRESENT:

Sally Martyn	Chairperson	Municipality of Central Elgin
Arthur Oslach	Vice-Chairperson	Town of Aylmer
Rick Cerna	Member	Township of Malahide
Anne Vanhoucke	Member	Township of South-West Oxford

ABSENT:

Mark Tinlin	Member	City of St. Thomas
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STAFF:

Kim Smale	General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer
Susan Mann	Financial Services Coordinator
Ed Pietrzak	Conservation Areas Supervisor
Tony Difazio	Resource Planning Coordinator
Laura Ronayne	Program Support Assistant
Ric Wellwood	Fundraising / Communications Coordinator
Dusty Underhill	Field Technician

GUESTS:

Murray Alward	CCCA Supporter
Dan Arppe	Jaffa Environmental Education Centre
Kim Black	Ducks Unlimited Canada
Fred Bozso	Chairperson, Catfish Creek Irrigation Advisory Committee
Craig Bradford	Reporter, The Aylmer Express
Cathy Brooks	CCCA Volunteer
Ron Casier	Canadian Chestnut Council
Kyle Cronk	Lake Erie North Shore Landowners Association
Eugene Crosby	Lake Erie North Shore Landowners Association
Dan Dale	CCCA Supporter
Jed DeCory	Lake Erie North Shore Landowners Association
Ron Drabick	Aylmer District Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Diane Dubois	Conservation Award Recipient
John Duffy	CCCA Volunteer
Dominique Giguere	Lake Erie North Shore Landowners Association
Jeremy Gorman	CCCA Volunteer
David Harding	Lake Erie North Shore Landowners Association
Dick Hibma	Chairperson, Conservation Ontario
Al Hurst	St. Thomas Field Naturalists
David Jeffreys	The Rotary Club of Aylmer
Stan & Karen Jones	Lake Erie North Shore Landowners Association
Henry & Ena Kielstra	CCCA Volunteers
John Luttmer	Lake Erie North Shore Landowners Association
Bill Mackie	Chairperson, Kettle Creek C.A.
Keith Malcolm	Elgin Stewardship Council
Tom Martin	Conservation Award Recipient
John Martyn	CCCA Supporter
Betsy McClure	Stewardship Coordinator, Kettle Creek C.A.
Whitney McWilliam	for Jeff Yurek, MPP Elgin - Middlesex - London
David Mennill	Mayor, Township of Malahide
Lloyd Perrin	Member, Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee
Rick Pineo	Lake Erie North Shore Landowners Association
Darrell Randell	Ducks Unlimited Canada
Jennifer Reynaert	C.A.O., Town of Aylmer
Gerry Richer	CCCA Supporter

Jackie Rochefort	Elgin Hiking Trail Club
Josh Sayers	Guest Speaker
Al Sharpe	Director, Elgin Hiking Trail Club
Megan Siemens	Auditor, Graham Scott Enns
Duncan Sinclair	Teacher, Environmental Leadership Program
Marvin & Nina Sjoerdsma	Lake Erie North Shore Landowners Association
DJ Smale	CCCA Supporter
Todd Sprague	Hamilton Ward & Cathers Insurance
Bruce & Penny Tolmie	CCCA Supporters
Elizabeth VanHooren	General Manager, Kettle Creek C.A.
Roger Vanhoucke	CCCA Supporter

WELCOME / CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Martyn welcomed everyone to the 65th Annual General Meeting of the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority and called the proceedings to order at (2:10 p.m.).

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

<u>Motion # 01/2016</u>	A. Oslach	R. Cerna	CARRIED
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THAT, the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting be adopted as circulated.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

No one had a pecuniary interest to disclose at this time.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Chairperson Martyn introduced the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority Board of Directors, Staff, and Special Guests in attendance.

She asked Dick Hibma, Chairperson of Conservation Ontario to say a few words about the role of Conservation Ontario and the Review of the Conservation Authorities Act initiated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in 2015.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

<u>Motion # 02/2016</u>	A. Vanhoucke	A. Oslach	CARRIED
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THAT, the Minutes of Full Authority Meeting # 10/2015 (December 10, 2015), be accepted as circulated.

<u>Motion # 03/2016</u>	A. Oslach	R. Cerna	CARRIED
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THAT, the Minutes of Personnel / Finance Committee Meeting # PF 01/2016 (January 22, 2016), be accepted as circulated.

2015 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Megan Siemens of Graham Scott Enns Chartered Accountants presented the 2015 Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority.

She stated that the Financial Statements present fairly, in all material respects, the statement of financial position of the CCCA as at December 31, 2015, and the statements of operations and accumulated surplus, changes in net assets, and cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for public sector entities.

The audience was advised that full copies of the Financial Statements are available at the CCCA Office upon request.

<u>Motion # 04/2016</u>	A. Vanhoucke	A. Oslach	CARRIED
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THAT, the Financial Statements of the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority and Audit Findings Letter prepared by Graham Scott Enns LLP, as at December 31, 2015, be adopted as circulated.

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE:

Chairperson Martyn delivered her Annual Message to the audience. A condensed version is included on the first page of the 2015 Annual Report.

ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION:

The General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer presented the 2015 Annual Report noting that the cover photograph of the Springwater Forest Boardwalk was taken by Misty River Photography. He highlighted the many special recognition events outlined in the “CCCA In The Community” section of the report.

In addition to the Annual Report, the audience also received a copy of the new CCCA Trail Guide which was supported by the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Health Promotion, the National Trails Coalition, Green Lane Community Trust and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.

Motion # 05/2016 R. Cerna A. Vanhoucke CARRIED

THAT, the 2015 Annual Report be adopted as presented.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Elizabeth VanHooren, General Manager of the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority was asked to conduct the elections for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the year 2016.

Ms. VanHooren reviewed the election procedures and declared all offices vacant. She then read the names of the current members eligible to vote and asked for the appointment of two scrutineers in the event of an election.

Motion # 06/2016 A. Vanhoucke A. Oslach CARRIED

THAT, Susan Mann and Laura Ronayne act as scrutineers in the event of an election; and further,

THAT, the scrutineers distribute ballots to the eligible voting members, tabulate and report the results of the vote, and destroy all ballots.

Ms. VanHooren called for nominations for the position of Chairperson of the CCCA for 2016.

Anne Vanhoucke nominated Sally Martyn.

Nominations for Chairperson were called for a second and third time.

Motion # 07/2016 R. Cerna A. Vanhoucke CARRIED

THAT, nominations for the position of Chairperson be closed.

Sally Martyn was acclaimed Chairperson for 2016.

Ms. VanHooren called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the CCCA for 2016.

Arthur Oslach nominated Rick Cerna.

Ms. VanHooren called for nominations a second and third time.

Motion # 08/2016 R. Cerna A. Oslach CARRIED

THAT, nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson be closed.

Rick Cerna was acclaimed Vice-Chairperson for 2016.

Sally Martyn assumed the Chair to continue the meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Chairperson Martyn called upon Arthur Oslach to introduce Josh Sayers from the Ontario Badgers Program as the Guest Speaker.

Mr. Sayers began his talk by thanking the CCCA for the opportunity to speak at the Annual General Meeting. He provided a very informative PowerPoint presentation on badgers which are related to the Weasel Family. Rare, elusive, and mostly nocturnal, Ontario's badgers are not often seen. They are solitary and nomadic, often wandering over an area much larger than 8,000 hectares in search of groundhogs, chipmunks, mice, skunks and other small animals that they eat. Badgers can travel up to 14 kilometers in one night. Researchers have been successful in equipping ten (10) badgers in this region with radio transmitters to track and map their whereabouts. Badgers are considered to be endangered in Ontario with an estimated population of fewer than 200 in the province.

Josh concluded his presentation by encouraging anyone who may have any sightings of badgers or their burrow sites to contact the Badger Hotline at 1-877-715-9299 or visit their website at www.ontariobadgers.org.

Member Oslach thanked Josh for his talk and presented him with a small token of appreciation on behalf of the Conservation Authority.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD:

Member Vanhoucke informed the audience that Taylor Hooghiem had been selected for the 14th Annual Catfish Creek Conservation Authority Student Scholarship Award. Unfortunately, Taylor was unable to attend the meeting to accept the Award due to a prior commitment.

CONSERVATION AWARD:

Vice-Chairperson Cerna presented the Conservation Award to Tom Martin and Diane Dubois in recognition of their efforts to restore over three (3) hectares of former developed agricultural land for wetland and wildlife habitat on their 80 hectare farm located in the Municipality of Central Elgin.

Mr. Martin thanked the CCCA and Tony Difazio for his guidance and encouragement to undertake many of the restoration activities on their property.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Motion # 09/2016 A. Vanhoucke A. Oslach CARRIED

THAT, Sally Martyn, Chairperson, Rick Cerna, Vice-Chairperson, and Kim Smale, General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer, be designated as Signing Officers for Authority business in the year 2016; and further,

THAT, Susan Mann, Financial Services Coordinator, be assigned with signing authority for payroll items and utility accounts; and further;

That, the borrowing maximum for 2016 be up to the sum of \$175,000.00.

Motion # 10/2016 A. Oslach R. Cerna CARRIED

THAT, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Aylmer Branch, be appointed the Authority's banking institution for the year 2016.

Motion # 11/2016 A. Vanhoucke R. Cerna CARRIED

THAT, Steve Gibson, be appointed as the Authority Solicitor for the year 2016 to deal with matters of litigation; and further,

That, Kim Bowsher of Bowsher + Bowsher be appointed to deal with matters of real estate for the year 2016.

Motion # 12/2016 A. Oslach A. Vanhoucke CARRIED

THAT, Graham Scott Enns LLP Chartered Accountants, be appointed as the Authority's Auditor for the year 2016.

ADJOURNMENT:

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Chairperson Martyn invited everyone to stay for refreshments and networking opportunities.

Motion # 13/2016 R. Cerna A. Oslach CARRIED

THAT, the Annual General Meeting of the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority be adjourned at (3:28 p.m.).

General Manager / Secretary –Treasurer

Authority Chairperson