Raisin Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

June 18, 2020

3:00 p.m.

(immediately following the Source Protection Authority meeting)

		Page
1.	Call to Order	
2.	Approval of Agenda	
3.	Declaration of Conflict of Interest	
4.	Approval of Minutes	
	a) Minutes of May 21, 2020	1-3
	b) Electronic Poll – June 4, 2020	4
5.	New Business	
	a) COVID-19 Update - verbal (Richard)	
	b) CMC Meeting Minutes and Annual Report (Lissa)	5-12
	c) Grant Submissions (Lisa)	13
	d) RRCA Forestry Program Update (Lisa)	14-15
6.	Future Meetings	

RRCA Board of Directors starting at 3:00 p.m. – Sep 17th, Oct 15th, Nov 19th

7. Adjournment

Richard Pilon
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

RAISIN REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES
MAY 21, 2020

PRESENT: Bryan McGillis, South Stormont, Chair
Martin Lang, South Glengarry, Vice-Chair
Frank Prevost, South Glengarry
David Smith, South Stormont
Robert Lefebvre, North Stormont
Jacques Massie, North Glengarry

STAFF: Richard Pilon, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Josianne Sabourin, Administrative Assistant
Sandy Crites, Manager of Finance
Phil Barnes, Project Manager
Lisa Van de Ligt, Communications Specialist

REGRETS : Carilyne Hebert, City of Cornwall
Claude McIntosh, City of Cornwall

GUEST : Ian Murphy, MNP

CALL TO ORDER

Bryan McGillis, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm

The Chair introduced and welcomed the new representative from North Glengarry Township, Jacques Massie to the Board of Directors.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESOLUTION #37/20: Moved by: Frank Prevost
Seconded by: David Smith

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION #38/20: Moved by: Marin Lang
Seconded by: Jacques Massie

THAT the minutes of the April 16, 2020 meeting of the Raisin Region Conservation Authority, be approved.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

COVID-19 UPDATE

Richard Pilon provided a verbal update on COVID-19 as it relates to RRCA operations and business continuity.

2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Ian Murphy provided an overview of the 2019 Financial Statements.

RESOLUTION #39/20: Moved by: Frank Prevost
Seconded by: David Smith

THAT the Board of Directors approve a net transfer to reserves of $119,667; and,

THAT special benefitting area surpluses and deficits be added to, or taken from the appropriate reserves as part of end of year municipal levies settlements; and,

THAT the Board of Directors approve the 2019 Financial Statements.

CARRIED

FLY CREEK PUMPING STATION MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

RESOLUTION #40/20: Moved by: Frank Prevost
Seconded by: Jacques Massie

THAT the Board of Directors receive the updated operations and maintenance manual for Fly Creek;

AND FURTER, THAT the Board of Directors direct staff to complete the recommended repairs to the Fly Creek facility in a timely fashion;

AND FURTHER, THAT the Board of Directors direct staff to prepare an asset management policy for the facility.

CARRIED

GRANT APPLICATIONS SUMMARY

RESOLUTION #41/20: Moved by: Martin Lang
Seconded by: David Smith

THAT the Board of Directors receive the Grant Applications Summary report, as presented.

CARRIED

FUTURE MEETINGS

RRCA Board of Directors – June 18th, Sept. 17th, Oct. 15th, Nov. 19th (3:00 p.m. start for all meetings)

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION #42/20: Moved by: Frank Prevost
Seconded by: Martin Lang

THAT the Board of Directors meeting of May 21, 2020 be adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Bryan McGillis Chair	Richard Pilon General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

Electronic Poll
RAISIN REGION SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY
JUNE 4, 2020 – 11:06 A.M.

EMAIL TO: Bryan McGillis, South Stormont, Chair
Martin Lang, South Glengarry, Vice-Chair
Frank Prevost, South Glengarry
David Smith, South Stormont
Robert Lefebvre, North Stormont
Claude McIntosh, City of Cornwall
Carilyne Hebert, City of Cornwall
Jacques Massie, North Glengarry

FROM : Richard Pilon, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

BOARD of DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE BY LAW AMENDMENT

RESOLUTION #43/20: Moved by: Frank Prevost
Seconded by: Jacques Massie

THAT the Board of Directors approve upgrading the water systems at Charlottenburgh Park to comply with the Eastern Ontario Health Unit's directives at cost of $18,550;

AND FURTHER, THAT Corput Plumbing be approved to install the water system upgrades.

CARRIED

Bryan McGillis
Chair

Richard Pilon
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

Raisin Region Conservation Authority

18045 County Road 2, P.O. Box 429, Cornwall, ON K6H 5T2 Tel: 613-938-3611 Fax: 613-938-3221 **www.rrca.on.ca**

To: Board of Directors
From: Lissa Deslandes, Community Liaison
Date: June 8, 2020
Subject: Cooper Marsh Conservators Meeting Minutes and Annual Report

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RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Directors receive the Cooper Marsh Conservators meeting minutes of March 5, 2020 and the Cooper Marsh Conservators Annual Report, as presented.

BACKGROUND:

The Cooper Marsh Conservators is a non-profit registered charity whose mandate is to preserve and protect the flora and fauna of the Cooper Marsh Conservation Area by organizing activities that promote the conservation area and highlight the benefits of wetlands.

DISCUSSION:

The Cooper Marsh Conservators minutes of the March 5, 2020 meeting are attached.

Also attached, is the Cooper Marsh Conservators Annual Report.

Highlights include:

- 3 new dug ponds and a new osprey platform
- New UV-blocking windowpanes at the Visitors Centre
- Security camera installed to analyze demographics
- New taxidermy for educational displays
- Summer student to keep the centre open to the public

Lissa Deslandes,
Community Liaison

Cooper Marsh Conservators

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Minutes

Present: Brendan Jacobs, Elaine Kennedy, Odette Bonneville, Robin Poole, Nanette Norris, Michael Cartwright, Ian Macintosh, Gera LeBlanc, Jean-Marc Gladu, Lissa Deslandes
Regrets: Janet Keefe

1. Welcome-Chair Ian welcomed everyone

2. Acceptance of agenda
Motion: Moved by Robin, seconded by Odette that the Agenda be accepted as distributed. Carried

3. Approval of minutes of February 6, 2020
Page 2, 6d AGM is on March 11, not February 11
Moved by Jean-Marc, seconded by Robin that the minutes be accepted as corrected. Carried

4. Business arising from minutes of Feb 6, 2020

a) Memorial Benches – Gera has not been involved recently due to personal issues. Janet has met with the people at Emards. Nanette had info from an offer from her son for building 3 legs if RRCA did the seat and back from either wood or composite.
This info will be passed on by Gera to Janet for discussion. Gera will speak to Janet about having some facts for the next Board Meeting.

b) Spring Fling – Nanette indicated the Social Committee is meeting at noon. She had a draft of the poster and it was accepted. The jobs will be distributed at the meeting. Odette offered to help with the tickets. Robin will look after the ticket printing. Ian reported that he, Elaine and Odette had met with the caterer who was to get the menu suggestions to Elaine. The suggested cost was $10.00. He was told about 170 people. Directors were reminded to find donations for the Silent Auction. The Smart Serve people need to be contacted. Odette will contact Paul Petepiece re the Smart Serve people.

c) Renovations Committee – Elaine had nothing to report. Robin reported that he had called Yvon re the wood being moved for the RRCA events. Yvon has been ill in hospital. The event supervisors will be asked to keep people away from the wood stored in the Visitor's Centre. Lissa will ask Mike to cover it. Elaine will check with Rheal re plans and Yvon's prognosis and rest of materials needed, especially an estimate. We need the budget for cabinets. Robin will talk to Gary Bray about the taxidermy.
Robin has applied to South Glengarry for funds for taxidermy also. We should have a grant from Enbridge for taxidermy.

d) Legacy Document – Nanette showed a prototype. Brendan noticed that the Mink is labeled River Otter on a photograph on p 39. Jean-Marc will discuss the cost with Staples, for bound or spiral.

e) Insurance – Ian is hesitant about asking for a discount because of their sponsorships.

f) Corporate Membership - set up of committee after the AGM

g) Donor Sign – Robin indicated that there are several donors whose names should be added. He will have the list for the next meeting.

h) Logo and Permanent Name Tags – Lissa indicated that the new Communication Officer will be looking at their Logos. We can continue to use the logo that we have been using. Lissa will send us a good electronic version. Then we will look at name tags.

i) AGM- Elaine will run off 10 copies of the Agenda and Minutes. Odette will get the coffee and Timbits. Ian asked that Directors bring someone. The Auditor will be attending so the agenda will be amended to allow him to speak early. Directors are asked to be here for 1:30 pm

j) Robin is working on getting people to help put up bird boxes. He will have a small group to fix or put up new ones. The Black Tern nesting platforms cannot be put in because of the rapid melt. Brendan will check with the RRCA staff re putting the nesting platforms in place when they do some turtle work. Robin will get the conduit needed to anchor the platforms to the bottom of the ponds. Robin has Wood Duck boxes which can be put up on poles on the dykes at the Main or West Marsh.

5. Correspondence Odette thanked Lissa for printing some material for us.

6. Reports from Partners

a) RRCA- Lissa has met with Habitat for Humanity who must have a project for Green Leadership. They will partner to have a workshop with youth re birds that nest here and build and put up bird boxes. She will let us know the date.
The Bird Club member who made the feeder at the Lost Villages will be asked about helping with one for the Marsh.
The RRCA Board will be meeting on March 19 at 3pm. Ian will attend to give his annual report.
Lissa will deliver the Spring Fling Posters to Odette.
The Chamber of Commerce is having a Spring Home and Leisure Show on April 3,4,5. We could lead a bird-house building activity in partnership with the RRCA, CABC. Lissa will forward the info to the President of the CABC.
Lissa will check about the Internet.

b) River Institute- Robin reported that the Spring Symposium is on May 27, 28 at the Ramada. The Community Day is from noon – 7pm on May 27. On the 28th it is from 8:30 to 3:30 pm. We can have a booth. Robin asked for volunteers- Robin, Ian, Jean-Marc. Robin will take the display and check it over

c) CABC- The new feeder is a success at the Lost Villages Museum

d) SLFGC- nothing to report

7. New Business

a) Microsoft Office Account – Jean-Marc showed the new computer. He is setting it up. An account is needed and he will set up a Cooper Marsh account , and try for CooperMarshConservators@yahoo.com.

b) Nominating Committee – Elaine asked each Director if they are willing for their name to stand. All agreed.

8. Date of next Board Meeting- After the AGM. After that, the April meeting on April 2, 2020 at 10 am. The time of day will be discussed with the new Board.

9. Adjournment was moved by Gera.

2019/2020 Report to Raisin Region Conservation Authority
on behalf of the Cooper Marsh Conservators Inc.
March 19th, 2020

The Cooper Marsh Conservators (CMC), a registered charity, continue to support restoration and conservation work at Cooper Marsh in partnership with the Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA) and our community partners. These include Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), South Lancaster Fish and Game Club, Cornwall and Area Birding Club (CABC) and the River Institute in Cornwall, Enbridge, Township of South Glengarry, City of Cornwall and Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (funding).

Funded by DUC, the 5-year drawdown of the West Marsh that started in 2017 continues. It will remove cattail overgrowth and improve duck breeding habitat.

In 2019, DUC completed major repairs to the West Marsh ring dyke and the parking area was expanded: this was possible by Axalta Coating Systems, the Crabtree Foundation, provincial and federal funding to DUC.

The east boardwalk has been repaired and is open again! A windstorm had damaged the boardwalk and the repairs proved to be challenging. Recent weather conditions were favorable for the RRCA to complete the difficult repairs.

With over $83,000 raised by CMC in 2018 from the federal and provincial governments, the Township of South Glengarry and the public, 3 large deep ponds were dug in the Main Marsh in January and February 2019. One is visible from the Visitors Centre and connects by a wide winding channel with the eastern perimeter channel. Another pond is in front of the blind by the west boardwalk, close by the Visitors Centre. The third is south of the bend in the west boardwalk. This encourages fish breeding providing more food for wetland birds such as Egrets and mammals like Otters and Mink.

The CMC and CABC assisted RRCA with installing new duck nesting boxes in early 2019. These provide habitat for cavity nesting ducks such as wood ducks, common goldeneye and hooded mergansers. CMC also installed additional Bluebird and Tree Swallow boxes.

In 2019, CMC funded installation of a new osprey platform (built by RRCA) just south of the Visitors Centre. This will be viewable, along with other wildlife, with a new optical 44X zoom camera, funded by CMC, which is currently being installed.

Earlier in 2019, RRCA and CMC together purchased a new 4K HD screen above the fireplace.

This will be used for viewing camera footage and videos of the Marsh, including drone footage taken by RRCA in 2019. Together, this will greatly benefit the education programs run by RI and RRCA and enrich the experience of our many visitors.

The Visitor's Centre's structure has been upgraded. RRCA replaced the rotting shingles with a metal roof with partial funding from Enbridge.

CMC then raised funds to replace the windowpanes with UV blocking glass, ensuring that new and existing taxidermy displays, pictures and photographs are protected from sun-induced fading and bleaching.

In 2019, new taxidermy of birds and mammals, funded by CMC, went on display at the Centre. They include a Roughed Grouse donated by Lorna McKendry.

We welcome donations of good taxidermy of native, local wildlife for educational displays. Work is now underway to upgrade the old educational wall displays and install new notice boards.

New wildlife displays and notice boards are being prepared for the Centre. These will be mainly housed in new larger display cabinets constructed by expert CMC volunteers and local taxidermist Gary Bray. They will replace ageing and faded displays. Funding for this comes from CMC and the Township of South Glengarry.

Funding for the Centre's camera system, viewing screen and windows ($18,000) was raised by CMC from Enbridge, the Counties of Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry and City of Cornwall Tourism programs.

Our popular annual fundraising social events at the Visitors Centre continue in 2020 with the *Spring Fling and Silent Auction* on May 24th and the *Wine and Cheese* on October 4th, both from 2.00-4.00pm.

Volunteers have been busy at the native plant botanical station and wildflower nursery at Cooper Marsh. This project is led by Dr. Philip Fry with Chris Critoph. Wildflowers are being grown from seed and planted mainly in the meadowlands by Route 2.

With all the restoration work, animal life has greatly increased at Cooper Marsh according to surveys conducted by Bird Studies Canada. They now consider it to be one of the most important wetlands in Ontario with a very diverse breeding population, including endangered species.

Sandhill Cranes nested again in 2019 and this time 2 breeding pairs with chicks' were observed. An endangered Blanding's Turtle was seen for the first time in 2019 along with repeated sightings of bobcats, members of the lynx family: both are exciting new records for Cooper Marsh.

A camera was installed at the main gate to Cooper Marsh in March, 2019 by CMC to provide visitor demographics. Visitors that came to Cooper Marsh between mid March and end of October averaged 50 people a day, of which 85% were adults. In summer, the car park is now often full at weekends with 25-30 cars.

Based on vehicle license plates and those signing the Visitors Book, approximately 75% of our visitors came from Quebec. These bring important economic benefits to our local communities as Cooper Marsh is now a major local tourist attraction.

Youth education plays a vital role at Cooper Marsh and we are proud to support the RRCA and River Institute in their programs. Together they attract over 1000 students a year from local schools who attend the March Break, Summer Camps and field trips.

The Conservators, together with funding from the federal government to CMC, fund a summer student from May to August inclusive. For 5 days each week, the student acts as an interpreter for visitors arriving at the Centre, shows videos and will operate the new camera system. In addition, the Cornwall and Area Birding Club and CMC supply interpreters that are present the other 2 days each week, both in the summer months and, at weekends, from mid April to mid October. Without this support the Visitors Centre would remain closed.

To better inform the public, a small book entitled *A Legacy of Cooper Marsh* has been created. It is about the history of the Marsh, its creation, support and its wildlife. It was conceived by CMC who wrote it with staff at RRCA. It will soon be on sale at the Visitors Centre.

Looking to the future, Memorial Benches, paid for by the public, are planned for installation within Cooper Marsh. The public are very interested in this initiative and potential benches and installation sites have already been identified with RRCA.

We are also looking at the creation of elevated viewing blinds to improve wildlife viewing in the summer months when viewing is limited by the upsurge of wetland vegetation.

We will also look for funding for a new sign at the entrance to the West Marsh where Ducks Unlimited did an outstanding job last year repairing the perimeter dyke.

In support of all our activities with RRCA, the Conservators have raised $650,000 since 2012.

Finally, the Conservators AGM was held at the Visitors Centre on Sunday, March 10th at 2.00pm. A report similar to this was presented.

We thank Pete Sabourin and his team at RRCA for achieving the very difficult repair of the damaged east boardwalk.

We also thank Lissa Deslandes and Brendan Jacobs from RRCA for their helpful contributions to our monthly Board meetings and other activities on behalf of our partnership with RRCA.

Raisin Region Conservation Authority
18045 County Road 2, P.O. Box 429, Cornwall, ON K6H 5T2 Tel: 613-938-3611 Fax: 613-938-3221 **www.rrca.on.ca**

To: Board of Directors
From: Lisa Van De Ligt, Communications Specialist
Date: June 4, 2020
Subject: Grant Submissions

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Directors approve requesting $14,500 from Ducks Unlimited Canada to restore wetland and riparian habitat on three local farms;

And further, that the Board of Directors approve requesting up to $8,000 from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation to create new Conservation Area signage.

BACKGROUND:

Below is a summary of grant requests to support the RRCA's programs and services:

1. Project Title: Wetland Restoration

- **Funder:** Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)
- **Request:** $14,500
- **Summary:** The DUC funding request will supplement existing funding to restore approximately 10.5 acres of wetland and riparian habitat on three local farms.
- **Submission Deadline**: n/a

2. Conservation Area Signage

- **Funder:** TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (FEF)
- **Request:** up to $8,000
- **Summary:** The FEF funding request will enhance visitor experience at the RRCA's 3 Conservation Areas with refreshed or additional signage (ex. directional, trailhead, interpretive, etc.).
- **Submission Deadline**: July 15, 2020

Lisa Van De Ligt

Lisa Van De Ligt,
Communications Specialist

Raisin Region Conservation Authority

18045 County Road 2, P.O. Box 429, Cornwall, ON K6H 5T2 Tel: 613-938-3611 Fax: 613-938-3221 **www.rrca.on.ca**

To: Board of Directors
From: Lisa Van De Ligt, Communications Specialist
Date: June 9, 2020
Subject: RRCA Forestry Services - Spring Update

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Directors receive the RRCA Forestry Services – Spring Update report, as presented.

BACKGROUND:

The RRCA offers various forestry services including: tree planting, tree sales, community outreach and stewardship, and RRCA property management. Many forestry services were completed this spring and others are currently underway.

DISCUSSION:

This spring, nearly 40,000 trees were planted by the RRCA. The RRCA has now reached a major milestone of planting over 1 million trees since 1990. A celebratory event is planned with the RRCA Board of Directors in the fall. Below is a summary of our tree planting initiatives:

Tree Planting and Seedling Sales

The RRCA partners with Forests Ontario to offer tree planting subsidies to the community under the 50 Million Tree Program. For projects over 500 trees, the RRCA offers tree planting services with significant cost savings which includes consultation, site preparation, seedling purchase and planting, and follow up assessments. For smaller projects, the RRCA offers tree seedling sales at a discounted price.

This spring, the RRCA planted 25,750 trees on 13 properties across the jurisdiction. Additionally, the RRCA sold 6,120 tree seedlings to 82 customers. Our tree planting services have been promoted via social media, press releases, and website. Landowners are already requesting spring 2021 tree planting consultations.

Community Outreach & Stewardship

For the last 20 years, the RRCA has hosted a spring tree giveaway at Gray's Creek Conservation Area. This year, the RRCA enhanced the event by partnering with its 5 member municipalities to host a tree giveaway in their communities.

Tree giveaways in the Townships of North Glengarry, North Stormont, and South Stormont were hosted in partnership with South Nation Conservation. Combined, 3,000 trees were safely distributed through curbside pickup or direct delivery. Tree giveaways in the Township of South Glengarry and the City of Cornwall are planned to take place in the fall.

Through various stewardship projects and programs (e.g. ALUS, compensation projects, restoration projects, Butternut Recovery Program, etc.), the RRCA planted an additional 3,210 trees in the region this spring.

RRCA Property Management

The RRCA owns a total of 665 ha (1,644 acres) of environmentally significant properties. As approved in the 2020 RRCA budget, a forestry consultant has been secured to review all RRCA properties for eligibility into the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP). Landowners who get their property classified as 'Managed Forest' pay 25% of the municipal tax rate set for residential properties. Where successful, this classification will result in significant annual cost savings for the RRCA.

Lisa Van De Ligt,
Communications Specialist