

February 19, 2009

Present: Steve Arnold, Bill Bilton, Diane Brewer, Tony Bruinink, Andy Bruziewicz, Terry Burrell, Elmer Douglas, Joe Faas, Norm Giffen, Larry MacKenzie, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Kevin Marriott, Jon McEachran, Tom McGregor, Dan McMillan, Steve Miller, Lonny Napper, John Phair, Art Parkes

Absent: Percival Heath, Carolyn Jamieson, Gord Minielly, Martin Vink

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Steve Arnold, who on behalf of the directors and staff of the Conservation Authority welcomed everyone to the 2009 annual meeting. He advised that we were pleased to be in beautiful Wallaceburg and enjoying the hospitality of the Black Sheep Pub and Bistro. Helen and Julio, the owners of the establishment, have been tremendous supporters of our species at risk program, they have one of our species at risk interpretive sign in their window.

Steve remarked that his first year as Chair had been very exciting. He had the opportunity to discover the full scope of our conservation programming and it is extremely impressive. Within the province, we can be proud of our accomplishments and the high level of service we provide our member municipalities.

One significant project the Conservation Authority completed this past year was the publication of a set of Watershed Report Cards for all of our 14 subwatersheds in the St. Clair region. Our Watershed Report Cards evaluate key indicators of watershed health and provide valuable local information about what makes each watershed unique. These Report Cards are excellent tools to help inform our communities about their local watershed, about their strengths and about steps that can be taken to improve the health of the watershed.

Personally Steve said, he has a real passion for our Conservation Education Program. It encompasses all that we do here by teaching school children about conservation and the things we can do to improve our environment, while recognizing we also must meet the wide range of needs within our community. This year, the Outdoor Education Department launched a geocaching program in which students use state of the art GPS units to learn about their environment. It marries modern technology with good old-fashioned conservation values.

Mr. Arnold considered himself very fortunate to be able to present Conservation Scholarships to six deserving students who are continuing their education in an environmental field. He said talking with the young people reinforced his belief that what we are doing here as a Conservation Authority is very important. In fact, it is critical to the overall well-being of our region. Without clean water and clean air, without green space for our children to play in, without habitat for the creatures we share the earth with we would be much poorer indeed.

As a Board, we have set the bar high and the staff has responded with enthusiasm, skill and integrity. Steve thanked the Board of Directors for their support and leadership and the staff for their continuing commitment to providing exceptional programs for the benefit of our entire region.

Norm Giffen, Vice Chair, was called upon to present the 2009 Conservation Awards.

The Conservation Authority offers Conservation Awards to deserving individuals and groups who have contributed to the environmental health of our region. Three awards will be presented, all of which represent a personal commitment to conservation.

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The large annual plaques are given to the award winners to be displayed at their home or business for the year. A smaller plaque is also presented to be a permanent reminder of this award.

The first Conservation Award was presented to the Denning Funeral Directors Ltd., Forest Chapel. Brett Denning joined the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation's memorial forest program last year. The Foundation's Memorial Forest Program started in 1988 in Forest when Ronn Dodge began planting trees at the Esli G. Dodge Conservation Area. We are so pleased that Brett is continuing this tradition by launching this new program. Through this program, trees are planted in memory of loved ones throughout the Lambton Shores community on public lands. Their first memorial forest dedication took place last June at the Shores Recreation Centre.

The second award was presented to Mr. Keith McLean. Keith, who is a resident of Chatham-Kent and lives on his farm near Rondeau Bay. Keith was a life-long friend of Miss Melba Bates who donated 29 hectares of land along Rondeau Bay to the Foundation in 2002. Following Miss Bates death, Mr. McLean, as the executor, worked tirelessly along with Karen Townsend and Jack Foster, with the community and the Conservation Foundation to ensure that Miss Bates' dream of her land becoming a haven for wildlife would be realized. Working with Keith and Miss Bates, it was clear they both shared a passion for our natural world and the wildlife we share with it.

Keith's own farm is a tribute to conservation and his lifelong passion for natural beauty is clear when you walk through his fascinating property. Over the years, Mr. McLean has transformed his land into a wildlife sanctuary while remaining a working farm. He has planted tallgrass prairie, planted trees, created an arboretum, protected his wetlands and has developed a beautiful lotus gardens which attract visitors from around world. His love for his land and for the natural legacy of the Rondeau area sets an example for us all.

The third award was presented to the Friends of the St. Clair River. This is an all-volunteer registered Canadian charitable organization. Its purpose is to promote conservation, beautification and other environmental activities associated with the St. Clair River and assist in the development and implementation of the St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan. The membership of Friends of the St. Clair River consists of approximately 30 people who are the Canadian Members of the St. Clair River Bi-national Public Advisory Council. The organization is operated by a Board of Directors who meets on a quarterly basis.

The Friends of St. Clair recently announced its support of a program to be developed and offered by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. The program will be taught in local schools and will focus on the Beneficial Use Impairments listed in the Remedial Action Plan and the efforts to de-list the St. Clair River as an Area of Concern. I hope that you all had a chance to see the education display in the other room and we have a little preview planned for you that I think you will like. In addition, the Friends of St. Clair have developed a website to promote their activities and are supporting a wetland rehabilitation project on Walpole Island. The Friends of the St. Clair River is an excellent example of community-based conservation. On behalf of the board of directors and staff, we wish them the best with their efforts to support the de-listing of the St. Clair River as an Area of Concern. The St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan education program is targeted at students in grades 7 and 8. Thanks to talents of our education staff, we believe we have come up with a unique way to catch these student's attention. Jan Dawes, the author of the Remedial Action Plan RAP, presented a rap. Darrell Randall accepted the award on behalf of the Committee.

Steve Arnold, Authority Chair, introduced Susan Gardner, Executive Editor of Municipal World, as our key note speaker. Municipal World is Canada's municipal magazine dedicated to promoting good local governance. Each month, she helps readers explore new concepts, innovations, and best practices - ideas she hopes they can distil and synthesize to apply in their own communities. Susan researches, writes and speaks on sustainability issues and frameworks for the municipal sector, and is a member of the Smart Growth Canada Network Advisory Board. She holds a Master of Public Administration in Local Government from the University of Western Ontario.

Many of us with municipalities know this magazine well. It continues to provide topical articles on a number of issues facing our municipalities. Over the last several years, environmental issues have taken on a greater predominance in the magazine. This is a clear indication that this is a topic facing municipalities more and more. Susan's presentation was "Sustainability: A New Lens for Municipal Decision Making".

The Chair, thanked Ms. Gardner and presented her with a small token of our appreciation - a special summer package: a custom St. Clair chair for her to relax in; a hat to keep the sun out of her eyes, something cool to drink and a pen set to write her next article.

A short break took place so directors and guests had a chance to chat with Ms. Gardner and the Conservation Award winners.

Brian McDougall, Director of Watershed Services, provided an update on the condition of the watershed and potential for flooding this season. Brian provided a power point presentation on the February 12-16 flood, including operation of the McKeough dam, location of ice jams and use of the ice breaker.

- precipitation and water levels: while we had significant rainfall near the end of December the overall precipitation was very close to the same month in 2007 but continues to be higher than the long term average figures. Flood advisories were issued on December 10<sup>th</sup> as well as the period December 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> resulting in no less than 9 flood advisories being issued by the Authority mostly as a result of significant rain events. This was coupled with warmer temperatures near the end of December and subsequent snow pack melts adding to flow in the watershed. Snowfall continued to dominate the north Branch due to lake effect weather systems and snow cover is now evident throughout most of the watershed as temperatures have fallen to a consistent below zero reading. The precipitation as a combination of rain plus snow converted to a equivalent liquid amount (approximately a 10 to 1 ratio or 10 inches of snow equivalent to 1 inch of actual liquid precipitation) fell as an almost weekly occurrence of between 4 mm (0.15 inches) and 8 mm (0.3 inches) per event throughout the watershed. Precipitation recorded at rain gauges indicated 114% or 110mm (4.3 inches) for the East Branch over the November to December period. Precipitation conditions in the North Branch of the watershed were higher than average compared to the southern portion of the watershed with stations reporting 135% of the normal amount totaling 128mm (5 inches).
- streamflows: as noted earlier significant rain events coupled with snowmelt resulted in high volume flows throughout the watershed by the end of December. Through careful monitoring of conditions and the potential impact of levels at Wallaceburg as well as upstream, operation of the McKeough Floodway was not necessary. Levels at Wallaceburg gauge varied from a monthly average of 174.9 metres (573 feet) to 175.8 metres (576.8 feet) or less than 1 metre (3.3 feet). Upstream as indicated in figures 2 and 3, water levels noted at stations on the North and East Branches respectively had flows that overtopped the banks into floodplain areas over the period December 26<sup>th</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The

dotted line in each graph indicates the bank threshold and any volumes above the line are generally over the top of the normal riverbank at the gauge station. As temperatures fell snowmelt abated and flows returned to normal within 7 to 10 days of the event. Freezing temperatures have subsequently resulted however in ice jam conditions in Wallaceburg. Options are currently being reviewed by staff and the Municipality as to a remedial course of action. January conditions have stabilized with flows returning to normal for this time of year however consistent snowfall has stored significant amounts of precipitation. This may create increased flow should there be periods above the freezing point as we move into February.

- flood threat: a decreasing flood threat with colder temperatures through January and near normal flows throughout the watershed. However, flood conditions may be prevalent with the anticipation of warmer days in February resulting in significant snow pack melt especially when combined with precipitation in the form of rain.
- Great Lakes Water Levels: water levels in Superior, Michigan – Huron and St. Clair and for December are higher than the same period last year as well as the 10 year average. This is a slight increasing trend compared to previous months in 2008.

**BD-09-001**

**Bruzewicz - Napper**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report date February 6, 2009, on the current flood potential including snow mass and water content, ice thickness, ice breaking, floodway status and general flood threat.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-09-002**

**MacKenzie - Burrell**

**“That the agenda for the Annual General Meeting be adopted.”**

**CARRIED**

The Chair requested that each Director declare a conflict of interest at the appropriate time, on any item within this agenda in that a Director may have pecuniary interest.

**BD-09-003**

**Burrell - Bruinink**

**“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held December 11, 2008, be approved as distributed.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-09-004**

**Parkes - Burrell**

**“That the Board of Directors adopts the minutes of the Executive Committee of January 29, 2009.”**

**CARRIED**

Mr. Jeff Sawyer of BDO Dunwoody, presented the 2008 Audited Financial Statements.

**BD-09-005**

**Parkes - McMillan**

**“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority adopts the 2008 Auditor's Report as prepared by BDO Dunwoody.”**

**CARRIED**

Norm Giffen, Vice Chair, presented this year’s service awards.

20 Years: Rick Battson  
Steve Shaw  
15 Years: Larry MacKenzie  
10 Years: Andy Bruziewicz  
Chris Durand  
5 Years: Joe Faas  
Kevin Marriott  
Gord Minielly  
Steve Arnold  
Shane White

**BD-09-006**

**Giffen - Bilton**

**That the Board of Directors acknowledges the service awards presented to the directors and staff and further that they be thanked for their years of dedicated service.”**

**CARRIED**

Three members are leaving the Board this year. Martin Vink, representing the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex and the Village of Newbury; Gord Minielly, representing the Municipality of Lambton Shores; and Art Parkes, representing the Town of Petrolia. The Chair thanked them for their insight and contributions to the board. Their experience and dedication will certainly be missed.

The Chair, Steve Arnold, welcome the new members, Carloyn Jamieson representing the Municipality of Lambton Shores; John Phair representing the Town of Petrolia; and Diane Brewer representing the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex and the Village of Newbury.

The meeting continued with 2009 business.

**BD-09-007**

**MacKenzie - Marriott**

**“That Ted Butler be appointed chairperson for the election of the 2009 Chairman and Vice Chairman.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-09-008**

**Burrell - MacKenzie**

**“That Jerry Campbell and Rick Visser, be appointed scrutineers in the event of an election.”**

**CARRIED**

The positions of Chair and Vice Chair were declared vacant and nominations were called for the office of Chairman for 2009.

Steve Miller nominated Steve Arnold for the position of Chair.

Betty Ann MacKinnon nominated Norm Giffen for the position of Chair.

**BD-09-009**

**MacKenzie - Bilton**

**“That nominations for Chair be closed.”**

**CARRIED**

Steve Arnold and Norm Giffen both advised that they would stand as Chair. Both nominees spoke and an election was held.

Norm Giffen was declared Chair of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2009.

**BD-09-010**

**Faas - McMillan**

**“That the ballots be destroyed.”**

**CARRIED**

Ted Butler called for nominations for the office of Vice Chair for 2009.

Betty Ann MacKinnon nominated Steve Arnold for Vice Chair.

Jon McEachran nominated Andy Bruziewicz for Vice Chair.

**BD-09-011**

**Bilton - MacKenzie**

**“That nominations for Vice Chair be closed.”**

**CARRIED**

Steve Arnold declined the nomination for Vice Chair.

Andy Bruziewicz was declared Vice Chair for 2009.

Norm Giffen assumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Bill Bilton, Chair of the Nominating Committee brought forth the Nominating Committee report for 2009.

**BD-09-012**

**Bilton - Burrell**

**“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority adopts the 2009 Nominating Committee's Report.”**

**CARRIED**

With the election of Norm Giffen as Chair and Andy Bruziewicz as Vice Chair, an additional 2 people were required on the Executive Committee.

Andy Bruziewicz nominated Jon McEachran to the Executive Committee

Steve Miller nominated Elmer Douglas to the Executive Committee

Joe Faas nominated Steve Arnold to the Executive Committee.

**BD-09-013**

**Bilton - Bruziewicz**

**“That nominations be closed.”**

**CARRIED**

Steve Arnold declined the nomination. Jon McEachran and Elmer Douglas were added to the Executive Committee for 2009.

**BD-09-014**

**Bilton - MacKenzie**

**“That the 2009 Executive Committee for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority be Norm Giffen, Chairman, Andy Bruziewicz, Vice Chairman; Elmer Douglas, Tom McGregor, Terry Burrell, Jon McEachran, Tony Bruinink, Betty Ann MacKinnon and Bill Bilton.”**

**CARRIED**

The 2009 budget was considered. Two votes on the budget were required. The first vote for non-matching levy utilized a weighted vote. A recorded vote based on weighting on the non-matching general levy was held.

**BD-09-015**

**Arnold - MacKenzie**

**“That the Board of Directors approves the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the 2009 budget of \$7,373,807 with a non-matching general levy of \$245,700 with all member municipalities deemed as benefitting and further that the levy be apportioned using the modified CVA of each municipality within the Authority’s area of jurisdiction.”**

**CARRIED**

The final vote represented 100% in favour based on the total CVA in attendance.

The matching general levy was also considered.

**BD-09-016**

**Burrell - MacKenzie**

**“That the Board of Directors approves the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the 2009 budget of \$7,373,807 with a matching general levy of \$269,650 with all member municipalities deemed as benefitting and further that the levy be apportioned using the modified CVA of each municipality within the Authority’s area of jurisdiction.”**

**CARRIED**

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The 2009 borrowing bylaw was considered.

**BD-09-017**

**Marriott - Burrell**

**“That the Authority Chairman or the Vice Chairman and the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer or Director of Financial Services be authorized to borrow from the Libro Financial Group, Strathroy for the general operations and capital program of the Authority, a sum not to exceed \$825,350 to be repaid from grants received from the Province of Ontario, Government of Canada, levies assessed the member municipalities and general revenue.”**

**CARRIED**

The appointment of the Authority auditor for 2009 was discussed.

- on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008, eight requests for proposals for auditing services were sent to firms requesting proposals for a five year term (2009-2013).
- the proposals were to include separate fees to audit the Authority and the Foundation; along with any discount that would be available should both audits be awarded to the same firm.
- we requested that the firms identify any one-time costs that may be associated with the PSAB 3150 compliance.
- five proposals were received by the due date of August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008.
- Woods Pearson and Associates in Strathroy submitted the low bid of \$6,500 for the Authority audit and \$2,000 for the Foundation audit for the fiscal year of 2009. The proposal includes a 3% inflationary increase per year for the next four years thereafter. The proposal also offered a \$500 .00 discount if both audits were awarded to their firm.

**BD-09-018**

**McMillan - MacKinnon**

**“That Woods Pearson (Strathroy) be appointed auditors for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2009.”**

**CARRIED**

The 2009 appointments to Conservation Ontario were considered.

**BD-09-019**

**McGregor - Bruinink**

**“That the Chairman be the Authority's 2009 representative to Conservation Ontario and the General Manager be the alternate.”**

**CARRIED**

The General Manager's Report was presented:

- thanks to the Members: 2008 has been another very successful year in program development and delivery. We have been able to continue to expand our programs in a financially responsible manner. The development of these diverse conservation programs at the St. Clair would not be possible without the support of our Board which encourages a progressive and entrepreneurial approach in the development of new opportunities that will benefit our member municipalities and resource management in the region. We take a business-like approach to public service and conservation in our region. Staff consistently and successfully seeks funding partners to support our programs and

services. For every 1\$ of municipal levy, we raise \$10. In 2008, Conservation Ontario compared all 36 Authorities in terms of programs, services, staffing, area, population and budgets. The St. Clair can be proud of the high level of service and program delivery in a cost effective manner.

- the health of your local watersheds was reported in the newly released Watershed Report Cards.
- additional partnerships were developed during the transition of the Parks Commission programs, services and assets to the local municipalities including waterfront protection for St. Clair Township, City of Sarnia, contract administration for Sarnia Bay Marina and other administrative responsibilities for the Parks Commission.
- considerable effort has been invested in the background reports to meet the needs identified in the Clean Water Act and the work of the Drinking Water Source Protection Committee. There are several technical studies underway to assist municipal water managers in the protection of their intake zones for their facilities. These include Petrolia (Brights Grove), Wallaceburg and Lambton Area Water Supply System in Sarnia. Efforts continue to provide stewardship initiatives around municipal intakes to protect water at its source. The Committee base their monthly Board meetings from the St. Clair office.
- we began implementation of the programs and services into the new area of Lambton Shores which joined the Authority in late 2006. The Generic Regulation was approved and the development of implementation guidelines and new mapping continues.
- we continue working with Lambton County on the management of the County of Lambton's natural areas, forests and buffer lands. The management plans for the county lands are now complete and have been forwarded to the County for their consideration.
- the Authority continues with greater involvement with our partners in the research and implementation of water quality, stewardship, shore protection and habitat programs in the St. Clair River Area of Concern.
- staff wishes to sincerely thank the Board members for their support and contributions to the Authority over the past year. We look forward to working with the Board, our member municipalities and our hundreds of partners in providing a comprehensive watershed management program throughout the region. One of our greatest strengths is that our conservation programs are locally driven. With issues such as climate change, a tough economy and continued downloading by upper levels of government, providing safe and healthy watersheds is becoming more complex. Your help in making the critical decisions needed in such a time is important for the environmental well being and safety of the residents in the watersheds. The work we do today not only impacts ours, but future generations as well. Your continued interest and support is sincerely appreciated.
- **Auditors:** BDO Dunwoody have completed the 2008 audit and will present the draft financial statements at the Executive Committee for recommendation to the Board at the Annual General Meeting. The audit took place January 12-15. Jeff Sawyer of BDO presented the audit to the Executive Committee on January 29, 2009. The Conservation Authority had a successful year financially and with program delivery.
- **2009 Proposed Budget:** the draft budget was forwarded to member municipalities in December. We have included the summary of the budget in today's package. A detailed budget is available, with all changes based on carry forwards, year end audit adjustments etc with no impact on general levy from the 2009 draft budget. The amendments to the draft budget presented in November are in bold in the January 22, 2009 draft.

- 2009 Budget Process:
  - November 16, 2008 - Draft 2009 budget reviewed and recommendation for circulation by Board.
  - December: circulation to member municipalities for information and input.
  - December 11, 2008 - Board reviews municipal feedback
  - January 29, 2009 - Executive Committee reviews feedback, minor amendments based on the audit and recommended a final budget to the Annual General Meeting for approval
  - February 19, 2009 - Annual General meeting and final budget approval.
  - Provincial Funding: the Authority's Business Plan was submitted to the Province in November 2008. 2009 allocation for Provincial Grants to support Flood and Erosion Control Operations and Maintenance, Planning, Technical studies and Administration.
  - the Authority budget is required to be passed prior to the end of February, however the Provincial grants will be unknown until later in the year. This will not affect the municipal levy.
- Voting Procedure: Matching and Non-Matching levy: This procedure has not changed.
- Banking and auditors: Libro continues to be the Conservation Authority and Foundation banker as per 2008 board direction. As a result of the 2008 Request for Proposals process, the Board has recommended that **Woods Pearson** (Strathroy office) will be the audit firm for 2009.
- Board Membership: three new directors have been appointed to the Board by their respective municipalities: Diane Brewer replaces Martin Vink - representing South West Middlesex and Newbury; Carolyn Jamieson replaces Gord Minielly - representing Lambton Shores; John Phair replaces Art Parkes - representing Petrolia. all other directors that were up for renewal, have been re-appointed
- Board Members, Committee appointments: all members were forwarded information regarding their interest in sitting on committees for 2009. The Nominating Committee reviewed their requests on January 29, 2009 and their recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting.
- Source Protection Planning: the Source Protection Board met Friday, February 13, 2009 Meeting locations will be the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority board room. Meetings scheduled 6 months in advance and posted on the website [www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca](http://www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca) Details of their agenda are available on the website. The terms of reference recommended by the St. Clair Region Source Protection Area have been acknowledged by the Ministry of Environment and are under review.
- First Nations, (Source Protection Planning): Kettle-Stony Point have expressed their interest to the Ministry of Environment to participate in the Ausable-Maitland Source Protection Region. Preliminary discussions have occurred with our staff and representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation Ontario, Ministry of Natural Resources etc on February 6, 2009. We will review the options and implication along with the process in an effort to ensure that First Nations participate in Source Water Protection.
- Employment Programs: the Authority has submitted or will be submitting applications for the following programs:
  - Job Creation Partnership (Prov) for 7 positions at a value of \$135,608 (expect response in early February for an April start if successful)
  - Career Focus (Federal) for 1 position for 22 weeks for a value of \$15,000 (expect response in late March)
  - Summer Experience (Prov) 3 positions at a value of \$5900.00

Summer Job Service (Wage subsidy \$2/hr) -9 positions through Lambton College.

We expect a response on the applications in March/April. These programs are extremely important for all Authority operations from technical support, campgrounds, tree planting, and planning. Minimum Wage will be increased to \$9.50 per hour effective March 31, 2009. Currently the rate is \$8.75 per hour. (Some variations may apply with short term summer students with age and hours of work.

Office- Inspection: in January, staff requested Middlesex County Fire Inspector to review our administration office to ensure we meet code for fire exits, emergency lighting etc.. An order to add additional exit signs/emergency lighting at all exits and lower hallway was given and were completed well in advance of the Feb 11, 2009. The inspection was completed. In addition we asked for input or requirements for an emergency/evacuation plan. While not required we are completing one with meeting location outside etc..

- Conservation Farm Award: in partnership with the Lambton Soil and Crop Association an Outstanding Farmer and Conservation Farm award is presented at their Annual General Meeting held January 16, 2009 in Brooke Alvinston. Elmer Douglas presented the award on behalf of the Conservation Authority. The award winner this year is Mr. Henry Peters, of RR3 Thedford. Mr. Peters has been a very successful businessman, hog farmer and conservationist.
- Members (Directors) 2008 disbursements: to be presented at the April board meeting.
- Ministry of Natural Resources: Conservation Authority Year end reports for Provincial funds are due February 28, 2008. The reports have been submitted based on the audited financial statements and project descriptions have been provided.
- Low Water Response: funding of \$5,500 has been approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources to document background information to support low water condition reporting: watershed characterization, communications material, & engaging an effective Water Response Team. This funding is geared toward watersheds which experience Level 1 and II conditions.
- Upcoming Special Events:
  - Maple Syrup Festival: March 21 - 22. A.W. Campbell Conservation Area (displays/demonstrations) Alvinston Community Centre (pancake breakfast and maple syrup sales) - in partnership with the Alvinston Volunteer Firefighters. 9am-4 pm
  - Sydenham River Canoe Race: April 19, 2009 Registration 10 am at Sydenham River and Mossie Line. Race end at Shetland Conservation Area. A great event to cure cabin fever, get out of the house spring time event. Proceeds from the event support the Authority's outdoor education program.
  - Municipal Presentations: Staff is available at your request for presentations to council or committees on any programs and services of the Conservation Authority or Foundation. We would be pleased to address council on any issue of interest.

#### **BD-09-020**

#### **Bruzewicz - Faas**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report dated February 11, 2009.”**

**CARRIED**

An Activity Summary from the Watershed Services Department was reviewed.

- Drinking Water Source Protection :
  - reviewed director’s Assessment Report, Technical Rules and Threats Guidelines
  - BMP Cost Benefit Analysis / Caradoc Well Field Research Project

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- Intake Protection Zones updates from new Directors Rules
- Flood Forecast & Warning
  - streamflow & precipitation data collection and processing
  - streamgauge repair, upgrade and maintenance
  - Davis weather station and lake level data analysis
  - update BRFU software to new version and year end processes
  - Bi-Weekly Snow survey and reporting and manual updates
  - ice surveys and update Ice Management Plan
  - update Flood Warning Plan
  - floodwatch - advisories and monitoring
- Low Water Response
  - update monthly summaries and reporting
- Reforestation / Conservation Services
  - Fall Large stock tree orders and distribution of 335 for Municipal, Authority and Corporate lands
  - finished off fall herbicide maintenance for seedling program
  - Trees Ontario funded planting, survival assessments
  - field site visits for tree planting
  - planting plan designs for approximately 150,000 trees
  - 2 large corporate projects for 2009
  - applications being made to Trees Ontario for grant
  - staffed a booth at Podolinsky's John Deere Days Dec.11&12
  - staffed booth and assisted Elmer Douglas presenting the Farm Conservation award at the LSCIA and AGM
- Forestry
  - Gypsy moth survey at Evoy property
  - 3 inventories of Conifer plantation for ABCA
  - reviewed the Lambton County Management Plans
- Conservation Services Workshop
  - supervised the construction and completion
- McKeough Dam & Upstream Lands
  - annual shut down procedures
  - ice jam monitoring
- Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure Projects
  - Guthrie Park Shore Restoration - Construction review
  - Mooretown Waterfront Park Flank Protection - Tendering & Construction review
  - Sarnia Erosion Control Infrastructure Review & Prioritization
  - proposed WECI applications
- Project Management
  - Mission Park Shore Restoration - Construction review
- Species At Risk / Best Management Practices Projects
  - Woodlands SAR Inventory Phase II - final report drafted
  - Clean Water Project - Project review and presentations
  - Sydenham River HSP - Project review and approvals, final report drafted
  - site visits for BMP grant application preparation

**BD-09-021****Miller - McEachran**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the monthly activity summary from the Watershed Services Department for November and December 2008 as well as January 2009.”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report outlining the highlights and key successes of the Watershed Services Department was presented.

- Source Water Protection
  - forums were held across the watershed to present information on the status of local actions for source protection, as well as intakes and grants available to close proximity landowners
  - Tier I Water Budget proceeding to draft final reporting for Peer Review
  - Best Management Practices Research Study in Strathroy-Caradoc with landowner surveys completed by Authority staff
- Lambton County Lands
  - management plans drafted for not only the Lambton County Heritage Forest, but also Bowens Creek, Szabo Forest and Moore Landfill and updated plans for Perch Creek and Marthaville Habitat Management Areas
- St. Clair River Restoration Project
  - Authority recognized for actions/plans to assist landowners in installing habitat friendly shore protection measures along the St. Clair River to protect lands and provide important near shore habitat
  - presentations to Lake St. Clair Binational Conference & Ontario Habitat Technology Transfer Sessions
- Tree Planting / Reforestation
  - spring works included over 60,000 seedling trees (over 31 hectares) being planted on private lands across the watershed
  - partnered with Trees Ontario to provide grants for some of these tree planting projects to assist in offsetting the effects of green house gases and climate change
  - over 400 large stock trees were planted in the spring on both private and public lands
  - fall works included planting of over 100 large stock trees on corporate lands
  - seed collection continued at various points across the watershed in an effort to ensure that stock, appropriate to the unique characteristics of our watershed, can be obtained from and supplied by nurseries in the future
- Lambton County Larvicide
  - the Authority continued its partnership with Lambton County to assist in controlling mosquitos which can potentially carry West Nile Virus through the application of approved larvicide treatments to catch basins across the County
  - again in 2008, almost 15,000 catch basins were treated, on up to 3 occasions, from June through August under this project
- Flood Forecasting / Floodwatch
  - December saw the highest water levels experienced in the watershed in several years
  - nine storm events resulted in 34 flood advisories and watershed bulletins being issued in January, February, March, September and December
- Healthy Watershed Programs / Best Management Practices Grants
  - provided technical and financial assistance to landowners undertaking 53 projects with grants of over \$120,000 to projects with a total project value of over \$300,000

- Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure and Capital Projects
  - Guthrie Park Shore Protection Revitalization Project cleared some hurdles through the Class Environmental Assessment process and commenced construction of Phase I late in the year
  - Mission Park Shore Protection Revitalization Project also proceeded to construction of Phase late in 2008
  - Mooretown Boatramp was tendered and has commenced construction in 2009
  - erosion issues and drain outlet issues along the McKeough Dam were controlled and repaired
  - hazard trees were removed at the McKeough Dam and Channel
  - watercourse obstructions were removed at various locations along the Sydenham River
  - erosion control and woody vegetation removal on the ARDA and Running Creek Dykes

**BD-09-022**

**Napper - Marriott**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 6, 2009, outlining the highlights and key successes for the Watershed Services Department in 2008.”**

**CARRIED**

The Regulations Activity Report dated January 31, 2009 was reviewed.

**BD-09-023**

**Faas - Douglas**

**“That the Executive Committee acknowledges and concurs with the Regulations Activity Report on "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses" Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06), dated January 31, 2009.”**

**CARRIED**

The Planning Department’s January Planning Activity Summary Report was discussed.

**BD-09-024**

**McMillan - MacKinnon**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s monthly Planning Activity Summary Reports for January 2009.”**

**CARRIED**

A Conservation Education Report was presented.

- Oh Christmas Tree (December): in the month of December, 457 students learned to identify evergreen trees while discovering Yule Log and Christmas tree traditions. This hands-on program is predominately run inside the cozy nature centre.
- January Outdoor Programs: 212 students enjoyed this year’s very deep snow. Programs included Geocaching, Bird Orienteering, Nature In Winter, and Instincts for Survival.
- new “Bird Orienteering”: a new orienteering program was offered to 21, grade 3 students in January. This adaptation of the established orienteering program, ties into the Social Studies Curriculum. Students learned to use tools (compass and map) to find locations within L.C. Henderson Conservation Area. Staff worked closely with the attending teacher in developing the program. Two other grade 3 teachers have already expressed an interest in the program.

- In School Programs: the following in-school programs are on-going at this time of year. 810 students have participated in these curriculum based programs since the start of the New Year. Endangered Species; Go with the Flow; River Bottom Critters
- Lambton Wildlife Inc. - Young Naturalist Club: students built and designed 12 “Awareness Signs” to show case the many projects they have been involved in over the year. One of the signs, “Butterfly Garden”, will be placed in the garden at the front of the L.C. Henderson Education Centre to reflect the planting of butterfly friendly species.
- the Young Naturalists also learned how to make paper. Local native seeds were added to the paper mix and later cut into heart shapes to be sold as Valentine cards. When planted in a flower bed, the cards will sprout into beautiful native plants. Money raised will be used to buy more native plants to create a second garden later this spring.
- Duck’s Unlimited “Project Webfoot”: Stephanie Walker, Ontario Education Specialist has confirmed 8 bookings for this spring at the Dow Wetlands. British Petroleum, Sarnia Site, is this year’s sponsor and will pay for the bussing costs. The program will be free to the 8 participating classes. D.U. will pay the Authority \$125.00 per class for delivering Project Webfoot program on their behalf.

#### **BD-09-025**

#### **Bilton - Brewer**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Education Report, dated February 4, 2009, including program attendance updates, Young Naturalist Club, and Project Webfoot.”**

#### **CARRIED**

A staff report on the Yellow Fish Road program for the Brights Grove community was reviewed.

- the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is requesting permission from City of Sarnia Council to implement a Yellow Fish Road Project in the Brights Grove community within the Intake Protection Zone of the Petrolia Water Intake. This is a project offered in cooperation with Trout Unlimited Canada.
- the Yellow Fish Road program is targeted at youth as a fun, participatory way to teach the importance of clean water, and how decisions made by one person make a difference on the whole community.
- the program has two main components:
  - painting: participants learn about their local water supply and how to protect it from pollution and hazardous wastes. They then paint yellow fish next to storm drains to serve as a reminder that any materials going down the drains eventually go into the lake.
  - Door Hangers: participants also leave “fish hangers,” information pamphlets printed on yellow fish-shaped brochures, on doors in the community to inform the neighbourhood of their actions.
- Conservation Authority staff will work with local youth groups such as Girl Guides, Scouts Canada, Lambton Wildlife Young Naturalists, Church youth groups etc. to undertake the program in April – June of 2009. Should this program prove successful, we will consider seeking approval to expand the area covered.
- a concern was raised regarding liability by City staff. As the trademark owner of the Yellow Fish Road trademark, Trout Unlimited Canada is ultimately responsible for any liability relating to the YFR program. Our partners and the group leaders of YFR participants are required to perform their “due diligence” for the program. This is extremely important, considering the nature of the program (outdoors, on or near roadways). The City of Sarnia can be added to the Trout Unlimited Canada’s insurance policy as an “Additional Insured.”

- should permission be granted to undertake this program, Conservation Authority staff will ensure that any permits required from the City will be obtained and we will seek advice from the City on proper safety procedures to be followed by the participants.

**BD-09-026**

**McEachran - Burrell**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated February 4, 2009 on the Yellow Fish Road Program for the Brights Grove Community.”**

**CARRIED**

A tentative list of special events for 2009 was presented.

- Annual General Meeting: February 19, 1:00 pm, Black Sheep Pub and Bistro - keynote speaker Susan Gardner
- St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation Annual Meeting, March 5, 10:00 am, Strathroy
- Maple Syrup Festival: March 21 – 22, 9:00 am – 4 pm, A.W. Campbell Conservation Area
- Conservation Authority Board of Directors Meeting: April 16, 1:00 pm, Strathroy
- Sydenham River Canoe Race: April 19, registration starts at 10:00 am, Mossie Line at the Sydenham River – race ends at the Shetland Conservation Area
- campgrounds open – April 25
- Strathroy River Clean-Up, date tba, Strathroy Conservation Area
- Denning Bros. Memorial Forest Dedication: date tba, Centennial Park, Strathroy
- Forest Chapel Memorial Forest Dedication: early June date tba
- Mini Water Festival at Art Walk, Sarnia, June 6 - 7
- Kids Fun Fest, Sarnia, June 13
- Conservation Authority Board of Directors Meeting: June 11, 1:00 pm, Strathroy
- Members Bus Tour: tba
- Conservation Authority Board of Directors Meeting: September 17, 1:00 pm, Strathroy
- McKenzie and Blundy Memorial Forest Dedication: September 20, 2:00 pm, Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area
- St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication, September 27, 2:00 pm, Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area
- Chatham-Kent Children’s Water Festival, October 6 - 8
- Campgrounds Close October - 13
- Conservation Authority Board of Directors Meeting: November 12, 1:00 pm, Strathroy
- Conservation Authority Board of Directors Meeting: December 10, 10:00 am, Strathroy

**BD-09-027**

**Napper - MacKenzie**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the tentative list of special events for 2009.”**

**CARRIED**

A Conservation Areas update was explained.

- Background:
  - the Conservation Authority owns 14 conservation areas in the watershed
  - of those 14 conservation areas, 6 are managed by the local municipality and 8 are operated by the Conservation Authority

- of these 8, 3 conservation areas are regional campgrounds which attract campers from primarily Southwestern Ontario
- our three regional campgrounds have over 500 campsites and 374 seasonal campers
- total revenue at our three campgrounds was over \$ 800,000.00 up 21 percent, with net revenue in 2008 up 18 percent from 2007
- our campgrounds are self sufficient and require no tax dollars to operate
- profits obtained are used to offset capital improvements within these regional conservation areas
- Seasonal Camper Geographic Trends:
  - A.W. Campbell Conservation Area: South Lambton & Kent County 25 %; West Middlesex 25 %; Alvinston, Inwood, Watford 23%, Central/Western Lambton County 12 %; Other 6%
  - L.C. Henderson Conservation Area: Sarnia & Area 46 %; Petrolia 19%; South Lambton/Kent County 17 %; East Lambton 9 %, Essex 6%; Other Ontario 2%; Michigan 1%
  - Warwick Conservation Area: Sarnia & Area 42%; Watford, Forest, Wyoming, Alvinston 19%, London 9%, Petrolia, Oil Springs, Oil City 9%; West Middlesex 8%, South Lambton/Kent County 13%
- Henderson Conservation Area:
  - new ceilings, lights, and 4 windows were installed in the main washroom building
  - a roadway was constructed & water service extended to 19 new campsites (in 2009 hydro service to these campsites will be added)
  - a new steel roof was installed on the pool pump house building
- A.W. Campbell Conservation Area:
  - new washroom partitions were installed in the pool washroom building
  - our visitor centre was upgraded with new drywall, baseboards and window trim
  - 13 existing unserviced campsites were serviced with hydro, water and picnic tables
- Warwick Conservation Area:
  - 32 existing campsites were upgraded with new underground wire & transformers
  - 9 existing unserviced campsites were serviced with hydro, water, roadway and picnic tables (8 of the 9 sites were occupied by seasonal campers in 2008)
  - a 32 ft x 48 ft visitor centre was constructed as a project of the St. Clair Conservation Foundation (the building was used for camper activities, an education centre and a pavilion for local groups wishing to rent for family gatherings)
- Highland Glen Conservation Area:
  - the boat ramp and harbour area was dredged to provide a safe harbour and access for boaters to Lake Huron
  - a catch basin and tile was installed to eliminate erosion to the parking lot
- Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area:
  - Ducks Unlimited installed an agro drain to control water levels in the south pond
  - a new trail was developed along the southern portion of the conservation area
  - a new entrance sign was installed on Blackwell Side Road
- Strathroy Conservation Area:
  - in partnership with the municipality, and the Strathroy Rotary Club we installed a 20 ft section of steel stairs at the main access point to the Strathroy Rotary Memorial Woodlot Trail.

- 6 new board walk sections were installed and 15 existing sections were upgraded and relocated
- Clark Wright Conservation Area:
  - staff have widen the trails, replaced a number of boards on the board walks, levelled and repaired the main bridge, and removed more than 20 dead trees along the trails
- Shetland Conservation Area:
  - Dawn Euphemia Township added 12 new serviced campsites
  - the annual Sydenham Canoe Race with over 70 canoes and kayaks finished at the conservation area (this years event is scheduled for Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>)
- Bridgeview Conservation Area:
  - a \$ 3,500 donation was received from TD Friends of the Environment to undertake tree and shrub planting around the reservoir
- Marketing in 2008: our conservation areas were marketed in the following publications or events:
  - camping ads placed weekly in 7 local newspapers from early April to August
  - Sarnia Lambton Tourism Guide
  - Blue Water Tourism Guide (in partnership with other Conservation Authorities)
  - Middlesex Home & Leisure Show (Strathroy Gemini complex - late April)
  - Strathroy radio station MyFM (ran camping ads for month of June)
  - RBC Community Day - Royal Bank and Conservation Ontario sponsored a Community Appreciation Day (June 8) which permitted free entry into all conservation areas in Ontario
- Conservation Ontario Conservation Areas Guide - a new guide was produced highlighting selected conservation areas through out the province

**BD-09-028**

**McEachran - Burrell**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Areas Update - 2008 Year in Review, dated February 5, 2009 on regional campgrounds and conservation area activities.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-09-029**

**MacKenzie - Bilton**

**“That the meeting be adjourned.”**

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Norm Giffen  
Chairman

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Ralph Coe  
General Manager