

February 17, 2011

Present: Steve Arnold, Bill Bilton, Tony Bruinink, Andy Bruziewicz, Terry Burrell, Elizabeth Davis-Dagg, Joe Faas, Norm Giffen, Rod Glen, Helen Havlik, Carolyn Jamieson, Larry MacKenzie, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Kevin Marriott, Jon McEachran, Don McGugan, Steve Miller, Lonny Napper, Martin Vink, Jeff Wesley

Absent: Percival Heath, Tom McGregor, Dan McMillan, Allan McNeil, John Phair

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Andy Bruziewicz, who on behalf of the directors and staff of the Conservation Authority welcomed everyone to the 2011 annual meeting. He advised that we had a very successful year in 2010 and encouraged everyone to take a look at our Annual Report. It contains the highlights over the last year. He thanked the Directors of the Board for their commitment to our organization and to the wisdom they bring to the table. He also thanked staff for their conscientious effort and their success over the last year. We make a great team.

BD-11-001

McEachran - Marriott

“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-11-002

Miller - Jamieson

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held December 9, 2010, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

BD-11-003

MacKinnon - Bruinink

“That the minutes of the Flood Action Committee meeting held January 21, 2011 be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

BD-11-004

MacKenzie - Bilton

“That the Board of Directors adopts the minutes of the Executive Committee of January 27, 2011.”

CARRIED

Mr. Ken Williams of Woods Pearson Associates, presented the 2010 Audited Financial Statements.

BD-11-005

Burrell - Napper

“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee and report from the Authority’s auditors, Woods, Pearson & Associates Chartered Accountants LLP, and further approve the 2010 Audited Financial Statements.”

CARRIED

Board of Directors Meeting, February 17, 2011

Steve Arnold, Vice Chair, assisted the chair by presenting this year's service awards.

30 Years: Kevan Baker
20 Years: Brian McDougall
10 Years: Terry Burrell
Kim Gledhill
Percival Heath
Lonny Napper
5 Years: Mark Bakelaar
Jeff Lawrence
Steve Miller

BD-11-006

MacKinnon - Vink

"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

Five directors are leaving the Board this year. Allan McNeil representing Brooke-Alvinston, Tom McGregor, representing Chatham-Kent, Carolyn Jamieson representing Lambton Shores, John Phair representing Petrolia and Percival Heath representing Warwick. The Chair thanked them for their insight and contributions to the board. Their experience and dedication will certainly be missed.

The Chair, Andy Bruziewicz, welcome the new members, Frank Nemcek representing the Township of Brooke-Alvinston. Mr. Nemcek is not present today, Mr. Don McGugan is representing Brooke-Alvinston today. Jeff Wesley representing the Municipality of Chatham Kent, Elizabeth Davis-Dagg representing the Municipality of Lambton Shores; Helen Havlik representing the Town of Petrolia; and Rod Glen representing the Township of Warwick. The meeting continued with 2011 business.

BD-11-007

MacKenzie - Bilton

"That Ted Butler be appointed chairperson for the election of the 2011 Chairman and Vice Chairman."

CARRIED

BD-11-008

McEachran - Miller

"That Dick Hibma and Ken Williams 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 2011.

Jon McEachran nominated Andy Bruziewicz for the position of Chair.

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

BD-11-009

Napper - Marriott

“That nominations for the position of Chairman be closed.”

CARRIED

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

Andy Bruziewicz was declared Chair of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2011.

Ted Butler called for nominations for the office of Vice Chair for 2011.

Steve Miller nominated Larry MacKenzie for position of Vice Chair.

Martin Vink nominated Norm Giffen for position of Vice Chair.

Terry Burrell nominated Jon McEachran for the position of Vice Chair.

BD-11-010

Marriott - Davis-Dagg

“That nominations for the position of Vice Chairman be closed.”

CARRIED

Larry MacKenzie, Norm Giffen and Jon McEachran advised that they would stand as Vice Chair. All nominees spoke and an election was held.

Larry MacKenzie was declared Vice Chair for 2011.

BD-11-010

Arnold - Vink

“That the ballots be destroyed.”

CARRIED

Andy Bruziewicz assumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Betty Ann MacKinnon, Chair of the Nominating Committee brought forth the Nominating Committee report for 2011.

BD-11-011

MacKinnon - Miller

“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority adopts the 2011 Nominating Committee's Report.”

CARRIED

With the election of Larry MacKenzie as Vice Chair, an additional person was required on the Executive Committee.

Terry Burrell nominated Lonny Napper to the Executive Committee.

Martin Vink nominated Norm Giffen to the Executive Committee.

BD-11-012

MacKenzie - Bilton

“That nominations for the position on the Executive Committee be closed.”

CARRIED

Norm Giffen declined the nomination for a position on the Executive Committee. Lonny Napper was added to the Executive Committee.

BD-11-013

Miller - Burrell

“That the ballots be destroyed.”

CARRIED

BD-11-014

Arnold - Burrell

“That the 2011 Executive Committee for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority be: Andy Bruziewicz, Chairman; Larry MacKenzie, Vice Chairman; Betty Ann MacKinnon, Terry Burrell, Bill Bilton, Joe Faas, Steve Miller, Tony Bruinink and Lonny Napper.”

CARRIED

Two directors requested changes to the 2011 Directors' List: Martin Vink - address should also show R.R. # 1, Glencoe and Jeff Wesley requested his number be changed to his work number.

The 2011 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-11-015

Burrell - Bilton

“That the Board of Directors approves the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the 2011 budget of \$6,179,967 with a non-matching general levy of \$283,010 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-11-016

Burrell - Arnold

“That the Board of Directors approves the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the 2011 budget of \$6,179,967 with a matching general levy of \$284,250 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 2011 borrowing bylaw was considered.

BD-11-017

Faas - MacKinnon

"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 \$877,260 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 2011 was discussed.

BD-11-018

Miller - Giffen

"That Woods, Pearson & Associates Chartered Accountants LLP be appointed auditors for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2011."

CARRIED

The 2011 appointments to Conservation Ontario were considered.

BD-11-019

Bruinink - Burrell

"That Steve Arnold be the Authority's 2011 representative to Conservation Ontario and the General Manager be the alternate."

CARRIED

The General Manager's Report was presented:

- 50 years of Conservation – "Working together for a better environment"
Formed: January 12, 1961 - Sydenham Valley Conservation Authority
Enlargement: June 12, 1974 - St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
Enlargement: November 17, 2005- St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
- thanks to the members:
 - 2010 has been another very successful year in program development and delivery. 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 benefit our member municipalities and resource management in the region. We take a business-like approach to public service and conservation in our region and in a financially responsible manner. Staff consistently and successfully seeks funding partners to support our programs and services. For every \$1 of municipal levy, we raise \$10 from other sources.
 - Conservation Ontario provides a comparison of all 36 Authorities in terms of programs,

services, staffing, area, population and budgets. Highlights of the 2010 summary are found in today's Board package. 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 Watershed Report Cards released in 2008. They have proven to be a useful tool to lead groups and funding opportunities to improve the health of local watersheds. We are in the process of preparing for our second issue of report cards in 2013.
- Clean Water Act and the work of the Drinking Water Source Protection Committee: recently completed were several technical studies 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. With the characterization and assessment reports now complete, the final step in the planning process is developing the policies to protect the municipal drinking water systems. Early action stewardship initiatives around municipal intakes to protect water at its source have been successful addressing some key risks. The Committee holds their monthly Board meetings from the St. Clair office.
- 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.
- the St. Clair River RAP Co-ordinator works based from our Administration office works with many partners and government agencies including the BPAC. The goal of delisting the St Clair Area of Concern by 2015 targets has key items including sediment studies and remediation.
- Shoreline Management Plan: we continue implementing the programs and services into the new area of Lambton Shores which joined the Authority in late 2005. The Generic Regulation was approved and the development of implementation guidelines and new mapping and an updated Shoreline Management plan will be complete in 2011.
- we continue working with Lambton County on the management of over 1100 acres of County owned 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 and implementation.
- the Authority expanded our involvement with our partners in the research and implementation of sediment studies, water quality sampling, stewardship, shore protection and habitat programs in the St. Clair River Area of Concern.
- with over 522 campsites, these regional campgrounds continue to provide economic growth and spinoffs to our local and regional tourism base. Over 200,000 visitors enjoy the conservation areas on an annual basis.
- Conservation for Kids has over 11,000 students join for curriculum based outdoor education in the region.
- over 4000 acres of conservation lands provide diverse opportunities improving health and recreation opportunities for all ages. With over 42 km of hiking trails we have also included our first Water Trail on the Sydenham through Strathroy for canoe and kayak enthusiasts.
- 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 challenging economy, redistribution of responsibilities by upper levels of government, the responsibility of providing safe and healthy watersheds is becoming more complex. Your support in making the critical decisions needed 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: Woods Pearson Associates have completed the 2010 audit. The audit took place January 12-19. Ken Williams of Woods Pearson presented the audit to the Executive Committee on January 27, 2011. The Conservation Authority had a successful year financially and with program delivery. The requirement of PSAB, Tangible Assets inclusion in the financial statements with additional reporting changes has been a labour of love for staff and auditors the last year.
- 2011 Proposed Budget: the draft budget was forwarded to member municipalities in December. 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 2011 draft budget. 2011 Budget Process:
 - November 18, 2010 - Draft 2011 budget reviewed and recommendation for circulation by Board.
 - November : circulation to member municipalities for information and input.
 - December 9, 2010 - Board reviewed municipal feedback
 - January 27, 2011 - Executive Committee reviews, minor amendments based on the audit and recommended a final budget to the Annual General Meeting for approval
 - February 17, 2011 - Annual General meeting and final budget approval.
 - Provincial Funding: the 2011 allocation for Provincial Grants to support Flood and Erosion Control Operations and Maintenance, Planning, Technical studies and Administration has not changed since 1997, (\$310,000 – annually) The province uses the Authority’s business plan for funding consideration.
 - 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.
- Board Membership: five new directors have been appointed to the Board by their respective municipalities:
 - Elizabeth Davis-Dagg has been appointed by Lambton Shores replacing Carolyn Jameson
 - Frank Nemcek has been appointed by Brooke Alvinston replacing Alan McNeil. Note: Mayor Don McGugan, has been appointed by Brooke Alvinston council as the voting member for the February 17, 2011 annual general meeting only.
 - Jeff Wesley has been appointed by Chatham-Kent replacing Tom McGregor.
 - Helen Havlik has been appointed by Petrolia replacing John Phair.
 - Rod Glen has been appointed by Warwick Township replacing Percival Heath.
 - all other directors have been re-appointed.
- Board Members, Committee appointments: all members were forwarded information regarding their interest in sitting on committees for 2011. The Nominating Committee reviewed their requests on January 27, 2011 and their recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting.
- Source Protection Planning: The Source Protection Committee continues to meet monthly in the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority board room. Meetings are scheduled 6 months in advance and posted on the website. www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca

Key work for staff and committee is developing of the Assessment Reports and public consultation. Details of their agenda are available on the website.

First Nations have now appointed the 3 members which have been allocated for their sector.

- First Nations, (Source Protection Planning): agreement has been reached with the Source Protection Regions to include Kettle-Stony Point participation in the Ausable-Maitland Source Protection Region. Technical studies and reports and representation will be developed through the Ausable Maitland SPR. Through the Thames-Sydenham Region Source Protection we provided Early Action for funding on the Kettle- Story Point lands and a small portion of Ipperwash.
- Workwell Audit: WSIB representative will be in our office on February 8, 2011 to review the progress from a workwell audit completed in 2010. The Health and Safety committee and all staff have worked diligently over the past year on policy and program recommendations outlined in the 2010 audit. An employment program staff with health and safety experience was dedicated in 2010 to update manuals, policies, inspections process. We will report on the results of the follow up review.
- Outstanding Farmer/Conservation Farm Award: the Conservation Authority in partnership with the Lambton Soil and Crop Association presented the award at the Soil and Crop Annual General Meeting held January in Brooke Alvinston. Steve Arnold presented the award on behalf of the Conservation Authority. The award winner this year was Kevin Marriott from Enniskillen Township.
- Members (Directors) 2010 expenses/disbursements will be presented at the April Board meeting.
- Ministry of Natural Resources: Conservation Authority Year end reports for Provincial funds are due February 28, 2011. The reports will be submitted based on the audited financial statements and project descriptions have been provided.
- 2011 Fee Schedule: the 2011 fee schedule was approved in November 2010 is posted to the website.
- Earth Day Community Environment Day Fund –supported by Sobeys. I have been asked to participate as a judge for the 2nd year for this worthy Community Environment Fund.
- Meetings/Events:
 - January 12-19 - Auditors complete 2010 audit for the Conservation Authority and Foundation
 - January 14 - Lambton Soil and Crop- Conservation Farm Award – Steve Arnold presented award to Kevin Marriott – Brooke Alvinston.
 - January 27 - new Member Orientation, Nomination Committee and Executive Committee meetings. (Strathroy)
 - February 24, 2011 - Biz after Biz.- Administration Office - 6-8 pm. Networking and business development opportunities. Celebrating 50 years. St. Clair Conservation was awarded the Chambers 2010 Community Involvement Award. Strathroy and District Chamber of Commerce
 - Maple Syrup Festival - March 20 - 21. A.W. Campbell Conservation Area (displays/demonstrations) Alvinston Community Centre (pancake breakfast and maple syrup sales) - in partnership with the Alvinston Volunteer Firefighters. 9 am-4 pm
 - Sydenham River Canoe Race: April 18, 2011 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.
 - March 7, Conservation Ontario, Toronto - Board rep and GM attend.
- 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-11-020**Marriott - Davis-Dagg**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report dated February 11, 2011.”

CARRIED

A report on 2011 Capital Projects and Conservation Area Update

- background:
 - the Conservation Authority owns 15 conservation areas in the watershed
 - of those 15 conservation areas, 6 are managed by the local municipality and 9 are operated by the Conservation Authority
 - of these 9, 3 conservation areas are regional campgrounds which attract campers from primarily Southwestern Ontario
 - our three regional campgrounds have over 500 campsites and over 380 seasonal campers
 - our campgrounds are self-sufficient and require no tax dollars to operate
 - profits obtained are used to offset capital improvements within these regional conservation area
 - opening day for our campgrounds is Friday, April 29th and close Thanksgiving Day the HST (Harmonized Sales Tax) will now be applicable on all conservation area fees
 - staff presently accept camping reservations at the administration office for our 3 regional campgrounds
- Conservation Area Development 2011:
 - L.C. Henderson CA:
 - Pool Repair
 - pool repairs involve the removal of existing tiles and plaster and refinish with new
 - existing pool is 20 years old and for the past number of years the tiles have been falling off and plaster finish has eroded
 - this is a specialized trade with few contractors in our area, we have received pricing from Hollandia Pools & Spa, London (original builder) for \$ 20,530.00 plus HST and Acapulco Pools, Kitchener for \$ 39,500.00 plus HST
 - Main building entrance renovations:
 - in 2010 new entrance doors were installed to the lobby and washroom area of the main washroom building
 - this entrance will be further improved with handicap ramps and approach area
 - estimated cost to be \$ 3,000.00
 - total cost for L.C. Henderson is \$ 25,000.00
 - A.W. Campbell CA:
 - Washroom renovation:
 - the renovations to include 2 new shower stalls, new washroom partitions, new sinks and counter top, new rough in plumbing and fixtures and ceramic tile laid on the floors and walls in the shower areas.
 - estimate cost is \$ 17,000.00
 - Hydro Upgrades:
 - 10 existing campsites to be upgraded with hydro

- upgrade to include new underground cable and trailer receptacles
 - estimated cost \$ 8,000.00
 - Total cost for capital for A.W. Campbell is \$ 25,000.00
- Warwick CA:
 - Men's Woodlot Washroom Renovation:
 - men's washroom to have all interior concrete block partitions, and concrete floor removed
 - the renovation to include 2 new shower stalls (1 handicap), new washroom partitions, new sinks and counter top, new rough in plumbing and fixtures and ceramic tile laid on the floors and the walls in the shower areas.
 - ceiling in the washroom to be lowered and finished with ag tuff and new light fixtures installed
 - ventilation system extended to men's washroom and light timers installed
 - estimated cost for washroom renovation is \$ 35,000.00
 - Pool washroom renovation:
 - to replace cedar shingles on the exterior of the building with new product which will modernize building exterior
 - 2 shower areas to have barn board removed and replaced with cement board and tile
 - 1 damaged shower stall to be replaced
 - 4 shower areas to have floors removed and new concrete floor installed (these floors will be properly sloped to the drain and new mosaic tile installed).
 - new aluminum soffit to be installed
 - estimated cost \$ 6,000.00
 - Hydro Upgrade:
 - upgrade hydro to two sites in C section (current underground hydro to campsite plug failed in late August and has been temporarily wired)
 - estimate cost to upgrade hydro is \$ 2,000.00
 - Total cost for Warwick is \$ 43,000.00
- Other Capital which would require either reserve or Foundation commitment:
 - A.W. Campbell Access Crossing: (from reserve funds if needed)
 - this would involve removing the existing 40 year old culverts and construct crossing to engineered standards
 - would recommend paving crossing and hard surfacing the roadway up the slope to the campground where the roadway "Y's" to the campground or the day use area (this would greatly improve the access roadway and reduce future road maintenance costs).
 - estimated cost to engineer, construct and complete road upgrades \$ 150,000.00
 - L.C. Henderson Visitor Centre: (complete as a Foundation Project)
 - propose to construct a 34 x 40 enclosed visitor center/ pavilion at L.C. Henderson CA
 - currently we have 145 campsites of which 112 are occupied by seasonal campers
 - there is presently an active camper group who offers programs throughout the summer
 - the present pavilion constructed in the early 1980's is located close to the main campground and is open to the elements and wind

- proposed building and location would meet the needs of camper activities and would permit outdoor education to operate larger groups close to activity areas
- this would be a great addition to the conservation area and would boost the appeal of the campground to current and prospective campers
- estimated cost \$ 38,000.00

BD-11-021**Faas - MacKinnon**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the 2011 Capital Projects and Conservation Area Update, dated February 1, 2011.”

CARRIED

A monthly Watershed Services Department activity summary was reviewed.

- Drinking Water Source Protection
 - working on data management project to standardize all consultant data for input into central spatial database files
 - collect and validate data for GUDI wells for UTRCA region of SPA
 - assist in preparations for IPZ-3 consultant contracts
 - assemble tables to support policy development for specific threats within vulnerable areas
 - complete proofing for both CD and written St. Clair Amended Proposed Assessment Report
 - working on a Source Protection Planning Advisory Committee to establish common ground for policy development and language for Source Protection Plans
 - collecting existing and potential policies that may be incorporated into Source Plans
 - intake Protection Zone -3 work for the St. Clair Region Source Protection Area has started with completion by February 2011
 - continued assistance with GUDI studies for the Thames, Sydenham & Region
 - SCRCA Assessment Report formatting, pdfing, linking etc.
- Flood Forecast & Warning
 - daily and monthly acquisition of hydrologic and climate data
 - continued upgrading of watershed data analysis tools including data storage (BRFU and HEC-DSS) as well as the completion of in-house tools and graphic interface (GDAT v4.0)
 - participate in provincial conference for flood forecasting (PFFW) as well as regional (SWOFFA)
 - update GDAT system to include flood prone areas in Strathroy and Petrolia based on slope breakline layers from GIS system
 - attend annual PFFWC meeting to review current provincial flood policy development and forecasting procedures
 - continued participation in the BRFU users group including implementation of new versions on BRFU programming in partnership with SW Ontario CA's.
 - on going monthly snow and ice thickness surveys
- Low Water Response
 - continued monitoring of watershed conditions to determine current status in relation to MNR reporting standards

- Reforestation/Conservation Services
 - site visits for spring tree planting
 - drafting tree planting plans for the spring
 - winter maintenance on equipment and the Workshop/Cold storage at Clark Wright
- Woodlot Management
 - reading through Lambton County Management Plans for final edits
 - Maples woodlot in Plympton-Wyoming has had the ash marked for removal, letters delivered to adjacent landowners informing them of management, contracted harvesting to Horsepower Logging Co.
- Drain Maintenance Program
 - received letters from St. Clair Township and Southwest Middlesex with predicted kilometres of drain for the next few years.
- Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure
 - Guthrie Park project administration
 - soils report review and administration for Cathcart Park Shore Protection Rehabilitation Project
- McKeough Dam & Upstream Lands
 - McKeough Floodway fall shut down procedures and winterization
 - controlled Deer Hunt report
- Permits to Take Water
 - reviewed applications from landowner for new permits to take water for conservation purposes for wetland ponds in Strathroy-Caradoc and in Middlesex Centre
- Water Quality - Surface Water
 - analyzed and reported on St. Clair River Aesthetics (Sarnia Fishing Derby Survey, Walpole Island, Aamjiwnaang survey analysis and aesthetics monitoring).
 - presented finding from Aesthetics Monitoring (2009/ 2010) and Surveys (2007-2010) at CRIC, WIFN
 - prepared two-year GLSF funding application for a \$61,000 project to survey surface water quality to assess potential impacts of tributary water quality on the St. Clair River in respect to impact on Aesthetic Quality and Fish Habitat, responding to concerns expressed by partners about potential impacts.
 - water quality equipment (YSI) repaired and calibrated (pH glass and reference replaced), MOE paid
 - provided feedback on MOE GIS Portal regarding water quality
- Water Quantity (PGMN)
 - confirmed contacts/receipt of reports re: St. Clair Region groundwater exceedences
- Fish Habitat Review
 - reviewed 16 municipal drain projects including many maintenance works and culvert replacements
 - site visit to Wawanosh Wetlands and follow-up with MOE, MNR, DFO re: stressed fish.
- Natural Heritage
 - Lambton Natural Heritage Study –Continued site selection for 2011 season; evaluation of criteria and integration with County planning
 - received draft report from North-South Environmental on 2010 field season

- Strathroy Reservoir Report
 - drafted Strathroy Reservoir report, summarizing five year monitoring program including enhancement programs, water quality and fish surveys and stewardship programs, and offering recommendations for future management
- Species at Risk
 - wrote and submitted SAR stewardship fund proposal: “Reptiles at Risk” for \$59,000 project that includes funding for construction of snake hibernaculum, artificial nesting sites, reptile monitoring using cover boards, and continued monitoring with assistance of volunteers of Spiny Softshell and Northern Map turtles
 - prepared final report for 2010-11 SARA permit.
 - application for funding for HSP project for 2011-12
- Habitat Stewardship Program
 - assisted with 2009-2010 HSP priorities report
 - review of habitat projects proposed for 2010-11
 - application for funding for HSP project for 2011-12
- Funding Applications
 - completed a funding proposal to Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program for \$49,000 project for Invasive Plant Awareness for Nurseries, Pet Stores and Gardeners
- Health & Safety
 - performed 2 workplace inspections at the Administration Building

BD-11-022

Arnold - Napper

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the monthly activity summary, dated February 2, 2011, from the Watershed Services Department for December 2010 and January 2011.”

CARRIED

A staff report on flood conditions was explained:

- Watershed Precipitation
 - precipitation across the watershed continues to return to nearer normal numbers for January with the exception of Sarnia. There were few significant snowfall events throughout January with the exception of the very beginning of the month with warmer temperatures and significant rain conditions. By mid-month, colder temperatures resulted in snow, with only small amounts of precipitation distributed over the entire period. Comparison with the average precipitation data still indicates only 47% of the normal precipitation for Sarnia as opposed to other areas that have received closer to expected values. The three month regional averages (80.5%) are now returning to normal but not as quickly as expected with lower January numbers specifically in Sarnia which remains at only 60.4%. Six month (79.5%) and yearly (90.7%) averages also remain low and should continue to trend slowly upward into February.
- Streamflows
 - The overall month of January remained consistent with normal flow patterns. Snow accumulations across the watershed were boosted by lake effect snow but flows were unaffected since cold temperatures and the formation of ice on the rivers has slowed the movement of precipitation into the watercourses. Ice conditions are currently slightly below normal expected values based on ice survey data taken by staff in the last week of January.
 - data for the average river levels based on the Period of Record (min 10 years) indicate most

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stations in general recording below average levels and equivalent flows across the watershed as we move into February.

- Flood Threat
 - with increasing snowpack and lower temperatures there is still a reduced risk of flood events moving into the heart of the winter. Most subwatersheds are well within seasonal levels. However with sudden changes in temperature and the possibility of extreme storm systems producing large amounts of precipitation, care should be taken during such weather events where local conditions may change without warning (i.e. low lying areas and adjacent roadways or underpasses, drainage ditches and culverts).
 - ice conditions may also impact flow conditions into late February and early March and will be monitored to assess potential flood situations during the spring breakup period. Advisories will continue to be provided as watershed conditions dictate.

BD-11-023

McEachran - Faas

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 2, 2011, regarding current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.”

CARRIED

A staff report on Guthrie Park Shore Protection Revitalization was discussed.

- construction is in the homestretch as all in-water works (construction of the rip rap and armour stone revetment shore protection and the removal of the failing steel sheet pile wall) have been completed
- Coores Construction continues to work on the armourstone walls which will border the parking lot and walkway and expects to have this work completed this month
- once these walls are constructed, the contractor will leave the site and return in early spring to complete the fine grading, walkway & parking lot construction and landscaping
- the top photos below provide an understanding of the current project status and the bottom photos provide an example of the goal we are looking to achieve in time for a project opening tentatively scheduled for June 2011
- the project remains on budget financially despite some additional costs being incurred, however the most significant portion of these costs will be attributed to protection Ethyl’s outfall

BD-11-024

Miller - McGugan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 2, 2011, regarding Guthrie Park Shore Protection Revitalization and the schedule for completion of the project.”

CARRIED

BD-11-025

Arnold - MacKenzie

“WHEREAS the federal government is providing a one-time extension of the deadline for funding of certain projects under the Community Adjustment Fund from March 31, 2011 to October 31, 2011; AND WHEREAS all funding from the Government of Canada will cease after October 31, 2011; AND WHEREAS St. Clair Region Conservation Authority has asked the federal government for an extension to federal funding to October 31, 2011 for the following project:

Project Number: 80116, Project Title: Improvements to Guthrie Park, Approved CAF Funding: \$275,000

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT St. Clair Region Conservation Authority attests that it will continue to contribute its share of the required funding for the aforementioned project; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT actual claims for all eligible costs incurred by March 31, 2011, for the aforementioned projects must be and will be submitted no later than April 30, 2011; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT St. Clair Region Conservation Authority will ensure that the project will be completed.”

CARRIED

The Regulations Activity Reports dated December 31, 2010 and January 31, 2011, were reviewed.

BD-11-026

Bilton - Marriott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Regulations Activity Reports on "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses" Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06), dated December 31, 2010 and January 31, 2011.”

CARRIED

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

BD-11-027

Havlik - MacKenzie

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s monthly Planning Activity Summary Report for January 2011.”

CARRIED

At the December meeting of the Board of Directors, a request from a director to change the time of the Board meetings to 10:00 a.m. was considered.

- meetings have been traditionally scheduled for 1:00 p.m. and as an alternate for certain meetings or tours to 10:00 a.m.
- board meetings generally run 1.5 hours to 2 hours (max)
- Board member surveys indicate the number of board meetings scheduled is sufficient to meet the needs. Between meetings members receive additional information through Conservation Updates, tours, special events, website, etc . In addition, staff is always available to the members and municipalities for meetings, information or to address any concerns. All other meetings are scheduled at the call of the chair.
- the Executive Committee meets a minimum of 1 time (January) as the finance and audit committee and carries out general business prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Executive Committee also meets at the call of the chair and for personnel issues if required. Other committees where board members are involved include Conservation Foundation, Flood Action Committee, Western Fair, Low Water Response, Conservation Ontario, Habitat Stewardship Committee (Healthy Watersheds), Nominating Committee .
- attendance at meetings range from 80% and above at most meetings. (20 members)
- 20 members representing 17 municipalities.
- 17 of the 20 members are elected, 3 as public appointments by their municipal councils.

BD-11-028

Faas - Glen

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the approved schedule of meetings for 2011 and further the time of the meetings be 10:00 a.m..”

CARRIED

A staff report on grant applications was reviewed.

- staff actively pursue grants to support the work of the Conservation Authority for projects and programs. Over the next several board meetings we will provide detailed summaries of the revenue sources.
- other revenue sources: (April board meeting): in addition we will provide summaries for contracts, agreements, land/house rentals, oil and gas leases, management and administrative fees and various revenue sources.
- Provincial Statistics (April Board meeting): Conservation Ontario co-ordinates a statistical report on the key programs, services and administration issues with respect to the 36 Conservation Authorities across the province. This information assists their work at the provincial level when promoting the significant work of the collective.
- the most current statistics is from information gathered in 2009.
- the summaries includes reports on finances, area, population, staffing, Board composition, Foundations, land holdings, education centres, planning and other municipal services, water quality and stewardship. (spreadsheets on all the conservation authorities)
- we will provide a detailed report for discussion to the board at the April meeting.

BD-11-029

McEachran - Davis-Dagg

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and approve the grant applications summary report dated February 10, 2011 outlining grant applications to date to support the programs and services within our region.”

CARRIED

A staff report outlining the schedule of Special Events were discussed.

- 2011 Special Events
 - A.W. Campbell Maple Syrup Festival, March 19 - 20, A.W. Campbell Conservation Area
 - Sydenham River Canoe Race, April 17, Shetland Conservation Area
 - Earth Week, April 18 – 22 Strathroy Tree Planting Day - tba, Strathroy Conservation Area
 - Trails Open – Strathroy Water Paddle, May 28, Centennial Park, Strathroy
 - Denning Bros. Funeral Home Memorial Forest Dedication, May 29, Centennial Park
 - Member’s Project Tour, June 16
 - Trails Open – Geocaching Event, September 11, Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area
 - McKenzie and Blundy Memorial Forest Dedication, September 18, Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area
 - Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication, September 25, Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area
 - Chatham-Kent Children’s Water Festival date tba

BD-11-030

Arnold - McGugan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the schedule of Special Events outlined in the report dated February 3, 2011.”

CARRIED

BD-11-031

McEachran - Bruinink

“That staff explore the possibility of changing the canoe race to a Saturday.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the posting of the St. Clair Region Source Protection Area Amended Proposed Assessment Report was explained.

- the Thames-Sydenham and Region *St. Clair Region Source Protection Area Amended Proposed Assessment Report* has been posted for comment. Letters to Municipalities have also been sent as part of a consultation process as per the Clean Water Act (2006) Ontario Regulation 287/07. The documents are available on our website at www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca.
- the Amended Proposed Assessment Report is a result of revisions based on directions received from the Ministry of Environment following the submission of the Proposed Assessment Report for the St. Clair Region Source Protection Area. Amendments made to the report helped fill some of the data gaps identified in the Proposed Assessment Report. These include additional threats and risk assessment related to the application of nutrients, and livestock grazing, pasturing and outdoor confinement. No significant threats were identified through this work. Also, mapping products that show impervious surfaces in vulnerable areas were revised.
- comments on the St. Clair Region Amended Proposed Assessment Report must be received on or before February 20, 2011.

BD-11-032

Burrell - Arnold

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 7, 2011 on the posting of the St. Clair Region Source Protection Area Amended Proposed Assessment Report.”

CARRIED

Carolyn Jamieson expressed her appreciation to staff.

BD-11-033

MacKenzie - Burrell

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

Lunch followed the meeting.

Following lunch, Steve Arnold, Vice Chair, was called upon to present the 2010 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.

Each Year the Conservation Authority presents Conservation Awards to deserving individuals and groups who have contributed to the environmental health of our region. Recognizing this is our 50th Anniversary, these awards take on a special significance. When considering this year's recipients, we wanted to be sure they were special. All three of our award recipients have shown a great commitment to a more sustainable future. Their efforts go beyond our own borders as a Conservation Authority and beyond the borders of our province.

- our first Conservation Award is presented to Catherine Creber. Catherine began her career at Dow in Sarnia as a young engineer. Her name is most frequently associated with environmental remediation efforts in Sarnia, across Canada, as well as parts of the United States. Catherine advocated for innovative remediation technologies including phytoremediation - that is remediation using plants for us non-scientist type - which led to the development of The Dow Wetlands project. The Wetlands have evolved into an 80 acre sanctuary for plant and wildlife located adjacent to an urban and industrial area. Catherine has been a key supporter of the Conservation Authority's Outdoor Education Program for the last 10 years. This association has been tied to the development of the Dow Wetlands. Over the last ten years, Dow has contributed approximately \$200,000 to support Conservation Education Programs at the wetland. Catherine retired from Dow in December and she is now enjoying a well-deserved vacation. Doug Wong, Catherine's son is with us today to accept this award on her behalf.
- Municipal World is the oldest continuously published monthly municipal magazine in the world. Founded in 1891, the magazine is devoted to promoting effective municipal government. Over the years the importance of conservation has increasingly been highlighted through a wide variety of articles on energy conservation, urban natural areas and wetlands to mention a few. Municipal World has tapped into the talents and expertise of people in the environmental field to share their experiences with managing municipalities in an environmentally sustainable way. The articles are full of innovative solutions to the environmental challenges municipalities face. In addition to articles, Municipal World published a book called *Stepping up to the Climate Change Challenge*, edited by Susan Gardner and David Noble. It is very gratifying to see this forward-thinking initiative taken on by Municipal World. Susan Gardner, Municipal World's Executive Editor, was a guest speaker at our 2009 Conservation Authority Annual Meeting. Her remarks clearly showed Municipal World's commitment to building sustainable communities throughout Canada and the world. Nicholas Smither, President of Municipal World and Susan Gardner are with us today.
- the RBC Blue Water Project is an innovative, 10-year, global commitment to help protect the world's most precious natural resource: fresh water. Under the RBC Blue Water Project, RBC has committed:
 - to provide \$50 million in charitable grants to not-for-profit organizations that protect watersheds and provide or ensure access to clean drinking water. Since 2007, RBC has committed more than \$25 million in single and multi-year grants to 292 organizations.
 - to promote responsible and sustainable water use with their employees and clients through education and awareness programs that create an understanding of the value and vulnerability of our water resources; and to reduce the intensity of their own water footprint;
 - to encourage the growth of North American businesses that develop and commercialize innovative solutions to the water issues facing the world and increase their ability to provide financial services to these companies;
 - to take a leadership role to encourage the involvement of other corporations and encourage a spirit of collaboration among and between all sectors to help protect the world's fresh water.
 - through the RBC Blue Water Project, funding supported two projects of the Authority. The

first supported the Strathroy Water Trail and the second supported education programs related to Species at Risk. Both of these grants provide a significant contribution to our ability to provide conservation programs to the region. Matthew Chate and Michelle Lyons, both RBC Branch Managers in Sarnia accepted the award.

- one award was presented earlier this year. The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and the Lambton Soil and Crop Improvement Association present an award each year the Soil and Crop Improvement Association's Annual Meeting. Kevin Marriott, deputy Mayor of Enniskillen Township and a member of our Board was presented with the Outstanding Farmer of the Year Award at their meeting in January.

Steve Arnold, introduced Gord Miller, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario here to help us celebrate our 50th anniversary. As Conservation Authorities across the province grapple with the challenges which face us including issues such as climate change and decreasing biodiversity in a back drop of a challenging economy, it is great to know that there is another voice out there – a voice that is respected, a voice that is listened to and voice that instils confidence in our ability to move the yardstick forward in achieving sustainable watersheds. Gord Miller was first sworn in as the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario on January 31, 2000, to oversee the continued implementation of the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR). He has now been re-appointed for his third term. As an independent officer appointed by the Legislative Assembly, Commissioner Miller oversees 14 ministries and monitors and reports annually on: Government compliance with the provisions of the EBR; Government progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions; activities in Ontario to reduce the use or make more efficient use of electricity, natural gas, propane, oil and transportation fuels. Prior to his appointment as Environmental Commissioner on January 31, 2000, Gord Miller worked as a scientist in pollution abatement and in environmental education and training. As Environmental Commissioner, Gord Miller has released eleven annual reports, eight special reports, two Greenhouse Gas Progress Reports and two Energy Conservation Progress Reports to the Ontario Legislature. The slides from Mr. Miller's presentation are available on the Authority's website: www.scrca.on.ca

Steve Arnold thanked Mr. Miller for his presentation.

The Chairman, Andy Bruziewicz thanked everyone for attending.



Andy Bruziewicz
Chairman

Ralph Coe
General Manager