

November 19, 2009

The Board of Directors Meeting of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority was held on the above date, at the administration office, at the hour of 1:00 p.m.

Directors Present: Norm Giffen, Chair; Andy Bruziewicz, Vice Chair; Bill Bilton, Tony Bruinink, Terry Burrell, Peter Gilliland, Carolyn Jamieson, Larry MacKenzie, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Kevin Marriott, Jon McEachran, Tom McGregor, Steve Miller, Lonny Napper, John Phair

Directors Regrets: Diane Brewer, Joe Faas, Percival Heath, Dan McMillan

Also Present for all or part of Meeting: Ralph Coe, General Manager
Marlene Dorrestyn, Administrative Executive Assistant
Brian McDougall, Director of Watershed Services
Girish Sankar, Engineering Technician
Rick Battson, Director of Communication
Patty Hayman, Director of Planning & Research
Jeff Lawrence, Environmental Planner/Regs Officer
Kevan Baker, Director of Conservation Areas
Bill Dakin, Director of Financial Services

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested 2 minutes of silence in memory of Elmer Douglas, who passed away on November 14th. Mr. Giffen then 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.

The Chair welcomed Erin Holl, from McDowall Associates who developed the Authority's Compensation Study.

BD-09-124

McGregor - Burrell

“That the Board of Directors accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the report dated October 2009 by Erin Holl of McDowall Associates outlining the development of an updated job evaluation process, and a pay equity salary administration program report and further that the implementation of the report be effective December 1, 2009 at a cost of \$5000 in 2009.”

CARRIED

BD-09-125

Bruziewicz - McEachran

“That the Board of Directors go in camera at 12:50 p.m. to discuss property issues with all staff remaining.”

CARRIED

BD-09-126

MacKenzie - Bruziewicz

“That the Board of Directors rise and report at 1:17 p.m.”

CARRIED

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BD-09-127**Burrell - McGregor**

“That the Board of Directors accepts the Dow Wetlands as a project, as it preserves valuable wetlands and is a urban education opportunity and further requests the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation accepts this as a project and negotiates the transfer of the Dow Wetlands and Stewardship Fund, subject to satisfactory terms and conditions, subject to Board approval.”

CARRIED

Carolyn Jamieson, the director from Lambton Shores, advised that Lambton Shores would like to recognize Ronn E. Ddodge for his dedication to the community by naming the pavilion at the Esli G. Dodge Conservation Area in his honour. They would like to officially name the pavilion and place a plaque outlining Mr. Dodge’s contribution to the community.

BD-09-128**Jamieson - Burrell**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the request from Lambton Shores to recognize Ronn Dodge, former Mayor of Forest, for his contribution to the community and conservation through the naming of the pavilion at the Esli G. Dodge Conservation Area and further approves the request.”

CARRIED**BD-09-129****MacKinnon - Marriott**

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held September 17, 2009, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

The General Manager’s Report was presented:

- St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation, quarterly meeting held October 15, 2009
 - Lands:
 - Glenview Conservation Lands: Petrolia/Enniskillen – approx 80 acres. The issues with respect to closure of unopened road allowances, trust fund contributions and agreement approval have now been addressed and the Foundation has agreed to proceed and register the irrevocable trust agreement on title. The agreement is in the hands of the Glenview shareholders for signing. A woodlot management plan completed in 2009 will guide the forest management of this area.
 - North Strathroy (Western Land Company): Strathroy: significant progress has been made on the encroachment issues. Survey markers, permanent property boundary markers and signage installed along with tree planting on the buffer lands has been completed. The majority of *structural* encroachment issues (sheds, play equipment, fire pits, fencing etc) have been resolved with only two minor issues remaining. This was accomplished in conjunction and with support of the municipality. The outstanding issue is the grass cutting continues and options are being considered to stop all grass cutting on municipal or Authority owned lands. (additional tree planting, spraying, further notice, etc)

- Dow Wetlands : St. Clair Twp. (75 acres plus) Staff are in final discussions with Dow staff on the long terms plans for the wetlands and expect an announcement early in the new year. The wetlands and Dow's financial support of the development and funding outdoor education program at the site (2500 students per year) has been exceptional.
- Maples Woodlot (Plympton- Wyoming) The woodlot requires management to address the emerald ash borer and hazard trees. This will be addressed in the winter months. Tax issues on the 8 acres are trying to be addressed through conservation land tax program which will require rezoning.
- Bates Conservation Lands (Chatham- Kent) - a process began in 2004 for the closure and transfer of an unopened road allowance at the end of Kent Bridge Road (Foundation properties both sides) . The formal transfer was not made at the time and is now being addressed with the Deed prepared by the Authority Solicitor. The goal is to have the transfer before year end.
- Bingo revenue up from 2008 - approximately \$6100.00 net profit to September 2009. Bingo revenue support supplies and equipment for the Authority's outdoor education program, tree planting and conservation recreation facilities.
- Memorial Forest Dedications: two dedications were held this fall, McKenzie and Blundy (Sarnia) at Wawanosh Wetlands and the Foundation's regional dedication at the Lorne C Henderson Conservation Area. Over 900 attended these meaningful ceremonies.
- Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship: contributions have now reached \$10,700.00 with over 130 donors to the scholarship funds. The first scholarship of \$500 will be offered in the summer of 2010 with the other Conservation Scholarships.
- Playground equipment: The Foundation has committed \$30,000 to upgrade playground equipment at A.W. Campbell CA, Henderson CA and Warwick CA.
- Levy apportionment – 2010: the province (MNR) provides the proposed Modified Current Value Assessment for use in apportioning the General Levy to member municipalities for the year 2010. The levy apportionment summary in the draft budget outlines 2010 levies as a result of the new apportioning. This reflects your growth in assessment compared to the remaining member municipalities in the Authority. The provincial regulation for use of Modified Current Value Assessment for apportionment of levy was approved in 2001. Attached to this report is the actual Modified CVA provided from the province.
- 2010 Budget Process: November 19, 2009 - Draft 2010 budget reviewed and recommendation for circulation by Board. November: Circulation to member municipalities for information and input.
 - December 10, 2009 - Board reviews any feedback
 - January – (2009 audit complete) Executive Committee reviews feedback and recommends final budget to the Annual General Meeting for approval
 - February 18, 2010 - Annual General meeting and budget approval.
- MOE – St. Clair River RAP Coordinator - the selection process is underway with anticipated start date of January 4, 2010. This full time contract position is funded by Environment Canada and Ministry of the Environment and will be based in our administration office. The positions will report to our staff and a coordinating team from Ministry of Environment, Environment Canada and the Conservation Authority. Administration and support costs are also covered in the program.
- Directors Appointments for 2010 : FYI: there are currently 5 of the 20 directors whose term ends at the Annual General meeting in February 2010. A request has been forwarded to the municipalities for their appointments for 2010 and beyond. We have requested a response by January 4, 2010 so that the

Nominating Committee can appoint to committees in preparation for the Annual General Meeting. Appointments take effect at the Annual General meeting to be held February 18, 2010.

- Corporate compensation study: Erin Holl of McDowell and Associates will present her report and findings to the Executive Committee in the morning and to the full board at the beginning of this meeting. This is for the Board's review/consideration and recommendations.
- Website: FYI - reminder - the meeting minutes of the Board of Directors of the Conservation Authority, Conservation Foundation and Source Water Protection are on our web page. News releases program information updates are made routinely.
www.scrca.on.ca Conservation Authority and Conservation Foundation website.
www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca Thames-Sydenham Source Protection website.
- Staff:
 - Girish Sankar: Water Resources Engineer (Source Water Protection/Conservation Authority) Girish joins our team having spent part of the last 3 years working in various capacities with 3 Conservation Authorities (Long Point Region, Upper Thames River and Essex Region). Prior to his Authority experience Girish spent 3 years working as a researcher in the Civil & Environmental Engineering Department at the University of Windsor. Girish has a strong educational background for this position possessing a Master of Science in Water Resources from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Windsor as well as 2 Bachelors degrees. Girish's e-mail address will be: gsankar@scrca.on.ca
- Upcoming events:
 - RAP Video Launch – “One Shot”
When: November 20th
Where: St. Clair Twp Municipal Office
Time: 7 pm.
The video will be launched with cast/crew/sponsors and supporters to recognize this innovative way of educating.
 - Meetings
December 6-7 - Conservation Ontario meeting, Toronto, Chair and GM attend
December 10 – Christmas meeting: Conservation Authority/Foundation
December: Flood Action Committee meeting subject to discussion with committee members at the Board meeting

BD-09-130

Miller - MacKenzie

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager's report, dated November 7, 2009.”

CARRIED

A Conservation Area Update was reviewed:

- Marketing in 2009: our Conservation Areas have been marketed in the following publications or events in 2009:
 - camping ads have been placed in 7 weekly 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 – April 25th)
 - Grafiks Marketing & Communications (Sarnia) has produced our new conservation areas

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visitor guides, approximately 5000 full colour guides have been produced advertising our conservation areas.

- Conservation Ontario Conservation Areas Guide - a new guide was produced highlighting selected conservation areas throughout the province
- CHOK & MyFM weekly campsite vacancy reports
- other Conservation Area & Camping Highlights:
 - staff have completed work on the ARDA & Running Creek Dykes, Sarnia Erosion Control Project, and removed the Bridgeview Dam railings.
 - our 3 regional campgrounds have been busy this year, gross revenues are up 4.3 % to over \$ 800,000.00 however net revenues are down \$ 6.8 %.
 - 385 full, half, or quarter seasonal campers are currently registered at our 3 campgrounds, up from 374 in 2008 and 358 in June of this year (Warwick 178, LC Henderson 115, Campbell 92).

BD-09-131

Bilten - Marriott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Areas Update, dated October 30, 2009 on regional campgrounds and conservation area activities.”

CARRIED

A report on Conservation Area Campground revenue and expenditures was discussed. Revenues to July are up 4% and expenditures are up 9%.

BD-09-132

Bruinink - Napper

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Area Campground revenue and expenditure report to September 30, 2009.”

CARRIED

A Staff Report on the monthly activity summary from the Watershed Services Department was discussed.

- Girish Sankar joined the Authority to fill the role of Water Resources Engineering Technician on Nov 2nd. He brings 3 years experience working in various capacities with 3 Conservation Authorities and 3 years working as a researcher in the Civil & Environmental Engineering Department at the University of Windsor, as well as a strong educational background which culminated with a Master of Science in Water Resources from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Windsor to the Authority
- Drinking Water Source Protection
 - Tier II water budget peer review
 - Intake Protection Zone 2 & 3 delineation
 - Intake Protection Zone – review and consultation
 - Site visits to determine streamflow using transect methods
 - DWSP municipal summaries & threats database configuration
- Flood Forecast & Warning
 - streamgauge maintenance and repair as well as review of summer experience program staff maintenance report

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- Flood Forecasting Software design and review with adjacent Authorities
- data acquisition
- flood monitoring
- Low Water Response
 - data collection and review
 - reviewing options for fall Low Water Response Committee as annual meeting as per Ministry direction
- Reforestation/Conservation Services
 - organised and ordered 281 trees for the fall large stock program for memorial, municipal and project planting
 - landowner site visits for spring tree planting program
 - 50 Million Tree Program – finalizing invoice approval – 6 project from spring 2009 with grant approved \$38,450
 - requested pricing for nursery stock from nurseries for 2010
 - fall tree seed collection of local deciduous seeds to be shipped to our grower for future tree stock
 - Waste Management – 2 km of screening berms constructed and planted this fall with 854 large stock (6 ft.) spruce trees
 - invenergy – Large stock and reforestation project secured -landscape portion slated for fall postponed until spring 2010 due to wet soil conditions
 - Union Gas – fall large stock planting and plans for 2010 reforestation
- Drain Maintenance Program
 - Municipal Drain spraying for Brush 14.2km
 - Municipal Drain spraying for Cattails and Phragmite 35.5km
- Woodlot Management
 - Walk through at Maples woodlot, looking to mark this winter
 - Started trail maintenance at the Lambton County Heritage Forest
- Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure
 - Monitoring reports and funding applications for Guthrie Park
 - Planted live dogwood cuttings and clover in planting pods at Guthrie Park
- Project Management
 - monitoring reports and review of future phases of work with City of Sarnia senior staff of Mission Park
- McKeough Dam & Upstream Lands
 - disking between trees rows on Lambton County and corporate properties completed
 - sprayed phragmites on McKeough upstream, Conservation Foundation, & corporate properties
 - liased with Seismic company seismographing the channel
 - hosted Ridgetown College here to McKeough for annual tour
 - review and commenced clean up of vacant residential leases and compiled list of issues / repairs
 - liased with Hydro One regarding grants for lighting upgrades
 - lowered pond at Marthaville Habitat Management Area in preparation for experimental phragmites control
 - supervised Arborist Interns in cutting tree rows for access on outside of channel

- Species At Risk
 - investigating permits to collect seed from SAR species
- Healthy Watersheds / Best Management Practices
 - revisions to proposed budget for approval of 2009-2010 grant
 - submission of requests for funding for 2010-2011 grants
- Provincial Dam Inventory
 - data review and response

BD-09-133**Bruzewicz - Bruinink**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the monthly activity summary dated November 6, 2009 from the Watershed Services Department for September and October 2009.”

CARRIED

A staff report on water levels, current and flood conditions was presented.

- Watershed Precipitation Levels: storm events were evenly distributed across the watershed over the last three months. Precipitation was also above average in the northern portion in August but fell dramatically below averages for September prompting a Level I Low Water Response alert for the month. Precipitation levels returned to near normal levels in October in Sarnia but remained above average for Windsor and the southern portion of the watershed. Regional averages for the last three months tended to be lower while six month and yearly figures remained above average by 15% and 17% respectively.
- Streamflows: watershed flows have remained consistent throughout the summer with all rivers at 60% to 65% capacity (bank full conditions being 100%). Higher rainfall in August resulted in higher flows in both river systems into the first part of September but stabilizing back to normal levels for the remainder of the month and into October. Overall comparison of 2009 with 2008 numbers shows a similar pattern of flow through the summer months and again into the fall period. As in the case of the summer months, the occurrence of storm events and additional rainfall runoff was readily accommodated within the watershed with a lower risk of overbank flooding. This trend continued into October and November. As previously noted there was Level I Low Water Response issued as a result of Ministry precipitation guidelines however this did not significantly impact the level of flow throughout the watershed most likely due to higher regional averages earlier in the summer months.
- Flood Threat: low risk of flood over the next month as the watershed continues to experience seasonal reductions in average flows. Possibility of local intense storm conditions may impact on watershed flows and will be monitored on an as required basis. Advisories will continue to be provided as watershed conditions dictate.

BD-09-134**Marriott - McEachran**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 6, 2009 on the current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the Healthy Watersheds programs was discussed:

- Sydenham River Habitat Stewardship Program (Environment Canada and Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) Species at Risk (SAR))
 - Year 10 (2009-2010) applications have been approved by both Environment Canada (\$144,000) and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (\$40,000) for a combined grant of \$184,000
 - proposed best management practices (BMP) projects including: wetland construction or enhancement projects, streambank stabilization and naturalization projects, riparian buffer plantings along watercourses will be submitted to the Department of Fisheries & Oceans (EC requirement) for project acceptance at the end of November and if accepted projects exceed the value of the available grant the projects will be presented to the Project Review Committee for prioritization
 - proposed BMP projects to be funded through MNR SAR will be presented to the Project Review Committee at a meeting in early January
 - educational programming in the classroom and on-site is on-going
 - public service announcements are expected to be broadcast in January and February via A Channel
 - annual newsletters are being drafted and will be completed before year end and forwarded to the printed in order to be distributed across the watershed in February
- Year 11 (2010-2011) applications have been submitted to both Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources for support for this project
 - proposed include similar projects to those undertaken in recent years as well as a survey to be undertaken through the website to obtain and understanding of the public's knowledge of species at risk and the importance of the habitat of the Sydenham River
 - the application to Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship program requested \$250,000 in funding support
 - the application to the Species At Risk Fund under MNR requested \$50,000 in funding support
- Clean Water Project
 - the final project review meeting for 2009 is to be scheduled for the end of November
 - several sites visits in September and October resulting with 3 septic projects to be presented to the next peer review meeting

BD-09-135**Miller - Bilton**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 6, 2009, on the Healthy Watersheds programs across the watershed.”

CARRIED

A Staff Report on Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects was presented.

- Authority staff will be reviewing projects for 2010-2011 with municipal staff over the next few months in preparation for applying for funding in February
 - 2005 - 2006 WECI Projects - Weir #2 (LCH) - Decommissioning / Revitalization Plan: Phase II of the Plan is underway including a review of the environmental impacts and impacts on CA activities - investigating opportunities to partner with Ducks Unlimited
 - 2007 - 2008 WECI Projects - McKeough Dam - Watercourse Obstruction Removal: winter conditions provide the best opportunity to undertake this work and therefore this project is

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- scheduled for January 2010
- 2008 - 2009 WECI Projects
 - ARDA Dyke - Erosion Repairs & Vegetation Removal - Complete
 - McKeough Dam - Drop Structure Crack Repair Phase II- condition this fall did not provide an opportunity to complete the necessary works – therefore works will be schedule for summer or fall of 2010
 - 2009 - 2010 WECI Projects
 - ARDA Dyke - Hazard Tree Removal Along Wren Line - to be completed in fall of 2010 subject to approval of 2010 budget
 - Coldstream CA Dam - Headwall Safety Railing or Removal - to be completed later this month or in December
 - McKeough Dam - Highway 40 Drain Outfall Erosion Protection - to be completed in summer of 2010 subject to approval of 2010 budget
 - McKeough Dam - Diversion Berm Erosion Repair - to be completed in the summer of 2010 subject to approval of 2010 budget
 - McKeough Dam - Dam Safety Review - to be completed in spring or summer 2010 subject to approval of 2010 budget
 - Centennial Park - Splash Pad Repair and Drainage Improvements - Splash Pad Repair and Drainage Improvements - a portion of the work has been completed and additional works are to be undertaken this month. Some works will remain incomplete until spring 2010.
 - Guthrie Park - Shore Protection Revitalization Phase II - construction began on October 13 and should be completed in January 2010
 - Cathcart Park - Erosion Protection Revitalization Study - consultants with appropriate expertise will be reviewed with St. Clair Township this month. Experienced consultants will be forwarded “requests for proposals” to undertaken this phase of the Class Environmental Assessment later this year.

BD-09-136**Bruinink - MacKinnon**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 3, 2009 on the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Projects across the watershed including applications which could be submitted for funding in the spring of 2010.”

CARRIED

A Staff Report on the Guthrie Park Shore Protection Revitalization Project reviewed:

- construction commenced on October 13th
- the Project Engineer has provided fulltime site supervision for the project
- the north end of the park’s shoreline will be the focus for this phase of the work
- the contractor has constructed an additional temporary access point in order to improve efficiency on site and is beginning to assemble the rip rap revetment at the south end of the phase
- half of the excavation and disposal for this phase is complete
- stone supply has been of good quality and quantity and this has assisted in the contractor making good progress
- construction is on schedule and on budget

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BD-09-137

Gilliland -MacKenzie

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 6, 2009 on the Guthrie Park Shore Protection Revitalization Project.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the Waste Management landfill in Warwick Township was presented.

- construction on the screening berm was completed in August this year
- tree planting on the top of berm started on September 23rd and finished October 23rd
- 854 large stock spruce trees were planted along the nearly 2.3 kilometre berm
- woodchips will be placed around the base of each of the trees as mulch later this month
- the next phase of this project is planned for the spring 2010 – planting of deciduous trees and shrubs on side slopes

BD-09-138

Bruinink - Napper

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 6, 2009 on the fall plantings at Waste Management’s landfill in Warwick Township.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the Conservation Services works was reviewed.

- the Authority and Lambton College has negotiated an agreement to provide a field training component to Lambton College’s Arborist Program
- four Arborist Interns were selected from six referrals
- three of the selected candidates accepted an 8 week assignment with the Authority which commenced the week of October 19th
- the Interns have been working on plantation thinning at the McKeough Dam, planting cutting in the habitat pods at Guthrie Park as well as removing trail obstructions within the Lambton County Heritage Forest
- during their placement they will be placing mulch around recently planted trees at Waste Management, assisting with large stock tree planting and fuel wood processing at AW Campbell and Highland Glen Conservation Areas

BD-09-0139

Marriott - Bilton

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 6, 2009 on the conservation services works undertaken and planned for this fall.”

CARRIED

The Regulations Committee report dated September 30 and October 31, 2009 was reviewed.

BD-09-140

Jamieson - Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Regulations Committee Reports on "Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses" Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06), dated September 30, 2009 and October 31, 2009.”

CARRIED

Planning Activity Summary Report for September and October 2009 was reviewed.

BD-09-141

Napper - MacKenzie

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s monthly Planning Activity Summary Reports for September and October, 2009.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the Strathroy Reservoir Program was explained.

- Background
 - since 2004 the SCRCA has implemented environmental improvement projects for the Strathroy Reservoir and monitored changes
 - this was in response to community and agency concerns about a healthy environment, the aesthetic appearance of the conservation area and reservoir water and the reservoir’s effects on fish, other aquatic species at risk and recreation opportunities
- Actions and Results
 - Shoreline erosion:

 - Community and CA involved in annual cleanup days and plantings of 334 potted shrubs, 500 cattail tubers and over 900 willow and dogwood stakes
 - over 700m of shoreline plus most of sediment bars now have healthy shrubs
 - Canada Geese:
 - to limit the resident flock of Canada geese, since 2005 SCRCA staff have treated a total of 357 eggs to reduce the number of goslings
 - shoreline shrubs discourage multiple access points so area is less attractive for feeding
 - number of resident pairs seems to have peaked at twenty with egg oiling limiting the number of new goslings
 - fall migrants (over 500) continue to feed and loaf in the reservoir from October until freeze-up
 - Land use practices:
 - upstream landowners continue to access Best Management Practices grants
 - seventeen new projects have been completed upstream including wetland enhancements, tree planting along watercourses and septic system upgrades
 - Water quality monitoring:
 - included sampling at four sites up to eight times annually, for bacteria and water chemistry parameters
 - urban tributaries which enter reservoir from Metcalfe Street and from Riverview Drive and North Strathroy have influenced bacteria readings in reservoir
 - upriver sources have also caused some major bacteria spikes

- some contaminants appear reduced or stabilized (chloride, ammonia) but others appear to
- be still increasing (phosphorus, suspended solids, bacteria)
- Fish monitoring:
 - Electro-fishing carried out in four areas in 2004 and 2009
 - minnow traps tested in 2005
 - has been a small increase in numbers of some species – Largemouth bass, Pumpkinseed, Bluegill, White Crappie, Bluntnose Minnow
 - continue to be species differences between the reservoir and the river downstream
 - dam has not been a barrier to fish movement as high water overtops the sheet steel wall
 - small size of reservoir means that invasive species like zebra mussels are not likely to establish, even if they were accidentally introduced
 - introduced carp continue to stir up sediment but a healthy warm-water fishery has persisted
- Reservoir Dynamics
 - the life expectancy of the dam when constructed in 1972 was fifty years or 2022 which is thirteen years from now
 - the integrity of the dam is reviewed regularly with the most recent inspection by Stantec Consulting Limited in 2004
 - in the reservoir, a sediment bar has grown in the last five years and extensive areas downstream of the sediment bar have very shallow water
 - between 2003 and 2006 the surface area of the reservoir above Head Street was reduced from approx. 5.5ha to approx. 5.1 ha
 - at that rate of there will be at least 1 ha of open water for approx. thirty more years
 - this open area which should continue to provide an appealing view of open water from the day use area and the Head Street bridge throughout the life expectancy of the current dam
- Recreation:
 - trails have been maintained with more chips and dust, and the boardwalks have been extended – 3km of trails
 - trails have been extended north and applications underway for further extensions to Second Street
 - popular for walking, biking and jogging
 - site has several annual walk-a-thons, Trails Ontario hike in 2009 and regular Communities in Bloom profile
 - canoe access points now form a Sydenham Water Trail with access in the reservoir, at the dam and points downstream
- Community Involvement:
 - thirty people attended the Family Planting Days in 2005 or 2006
 - between 120 and 200 elementary students (four to six classes) have attended each spring clean-up event
 - river-based projects have been supported by Strathroy-Caradoc, Rotary Club, Fanshawe College, Shoppers Drug Mart, Langs Bus Company, Cuddy Farms, Denning Funeral Home, TD Friends of the Environment, Strathroy Business Improvement Association and the Lions Club

- Recommendations
 - continue the current programs and when the dam reaches its life expectancy in 2022, proceed with an environmental assessment to consider retirement of the structure and naturalization of the remaining reservoir
 - continue planting program for erosion control, where sediment is exposed
 - continue Canada goose control program
 - investigate funding for more Best Management Practice grant programs
 - encourage stormwater management programs in town, including maintenance of existing stormwater facilities
 - electro-fish at five year intervals and collect surface water samples at four sites up to eight times annually
 - continue to support recreation enhancement programs and programs to improve water quality and public recreation around this unique 60 ha urban greenlands corridor

BD-09-142

Miller - Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 6, 2009 on the Strathroy Reservoir program which recommends continuation of the current programs of habitat improvements, goose control, fish and water quality monitoring and enhanced recreation and community involvement throughout the life expectancy of the existing dam.”

CARRIED

A staff report on Lake Huron Biodiversity Conservation Strategy was discussed.

- Biodiversity is the variety of life, “expressed through genes, species, interactions and ecosystems, and shaped by ecological and evolutionary processes”
- the biodiversity of the Lake Huron watershed is under stress from a number of factors including:
 - non-native invasive species
 - habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation
 - rapid residential and industrial growth
 - incompatible agricultural practices
 - poorly-managed aggregate extraction
 - altered hydrology
 - incompatible harvest of fish and forests
- in keeping with the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, bi-national natural resource management agencies and organizations have been working to rehabilitate, maintain and protect the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Great Lakes
- work started with Lake Erie; proceeded to Lake Ontario and in 2008 started for the Lake Huron
- workshops were organized in November 2008, March 2009 and November 2009 watershed for over sixty agencies to work together to develop a Lake Huron Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
- the Conservation Authorities with Lake Huron watersheds have been part of this process, highlighting the role CAs can play in land use decisions, watershed management and facilitating grants for landowner stewardship
- the larger group ranked the threats and then developed 47 draft strategies to address the following priority threats:
 - non-native invasive species

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- housing and urban development and shoreline alteration
- dams and other barriers
- agricultural, forestry and urban non-point run-off
- climate change
- SCRCA staff has been part of the group addressing the threat from housing and urban development and shoreline alteration
 - eight strategies to address this threat have been prioritized to date including:
 - develop and implement programs that conserve priority near shore and coastal habitats
 - develop comprehensive, integrated and harmonized coastal management initiatives at US and Canadian pilot sites
 - rehabilitate priority degraded coastal and near shore habitats
 - enhance research, monitoring and inventory of coastal and near shore ecosystems
 - increase community engagement, awareness, understanding and commitment to coastal and near shore conservation
 - enhance knowledge, technical skills, and information exchange for policy and land use planning authorities
 - identify priority coastal and near shore habitats that are unprotected and vulnerable to loss and degradation
 - understand the value of ecological goods and services provided by the coastal and near shore ecosystem
- if the strategies are endorsed by the larger group, they should cascade into American and Canadian government support in the bi-national Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and the Canada-Ontario Agreement respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem
- from the equivalent Lake Ontario process, the Canadian Trent River and Moira River watersheds were prioritized for funding for agricultural best management practices and implementing urban storm water standards for water balance in all new developments

BD-09-143**Miller - Burrell**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report on the Lake Huron Biodiversity Conservation Strategy dated November 6, 2009.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the Lambton Natural Heritage Study was presented.

- the SCRCA has signed a collaborative agreement with Lambton County, Sarnia, Sarnia Urban Wildlife Committee and Carolinian Canada Coalition to complete a Natural Heritage Study for Lambton and Sarnia
- the goal is to have good baseline data to select significant natural areas and to make recommendations to protect a natural heritage system that can be incorporated into Official Plans of the County and the local municipalities
- a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has been formed, led by Dave Posliff, Manager of Planning and Development Services for Lambton
- a Steering Committee will be needed, and a Community Liaison and Implementation Committee with representatives from a wide range of interests
- on behalf of the TAC, the SCRCA has applied for a three year \$75,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium

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- Foundation to finance the field work and data entry
- most of the mapping and database work will be completed through in-kind support from Lambton and Sarnia with a volunteer from the Sarnia Urban Wildlife Committee providing administrative assistance
- if the grant is approved, criteria will be finalized and potential sites selected this winter to request landowners' permission, with field work to start in 2010
- current information on natural heritage areas will prioritize Clair River tributaries in the AOC Watershed Plan.
- clear information for the Official Plans will increase private landowners' knowledge of their land and reduce conflicts over tree removal and development proposals

BD-09-144**Bilton - Marriott**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report on the Lambton Natural Heritage Study dated October 23, 2009.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the AOC Bateria Sampling Program was presented.

- SCRCA conducted an *E. coli* sampling program for the Area of Concern along the St. Clair River. This was completed with funding provided from Ted Briggs, Great Lakes Advisor from the Ministry of Environment. *E. coli* is a species of fecal coliform bacteria that is specific to fecal material from humans and other warm-blooded animals. Elevated levels of *E. coli* in the water may indicate the presence of disease causing bacteria. The unit of measurement for *E. coli* is the number of colony forming units per 100 ml of sample water, cfu/100 ml. The Provincial Water Quality Objectives state that the acceptable concentration of *E. coli* in drinking water is 0 cfu/100 ml and in recreational waters the acceptable level is 100 cfu/100ml.
- Originally 16 sites were considered for the sampling program. The number of sites was reduced to 13 and then to 8. Five of the thirteen sites were sampled only once with the remaining 8 sites being sampled 12 times throughout the spring and summer. The samples were taken each Tuesday between June 2, 2009 and September 1, 2009 with the exception of June 30th and August 1st. See figure 1 for site locations.
- *E. coli* results were variable throughout the river. Average concentrations were lowest at the Bluewater Bridge in Sarnia, Willow Park near Oil Springs Line and Brander Park near Port Lambton with an average of 4 cfu/100 ml for each site. The highest average concentrations were found at the mouth of Pierce-Lapish Drain near Bentpath Line and the mouth of Marshy Creek near French Line with 1300 cfu/100 ml and 117 cfu/100ml respectively. Most of the sites' concentrations hovered around 60 cfu/100 ml which is 40 units below the provincial standard. The sites with the lowest concentrations seem to have the least influence from tributaries entering into the St. Clair River.
- The majority of the sites would have been at acceptable levels for swimming throughout the sampling period. Only the Marshy Creek site would have been closed frequently throughout the summer – 7 out of 12 dates. Reagan Park would have been closed 3 times and Branton-Cundick Park, Courtright Park and Guthrie Park would have only been closed on one date out of 12.
- Ryan Smith, Surface Water Specialist for MOE and Ted Briggs have indicated the program may be funded again in 2010.

BD-09-145

Burrell - Bruziewicz

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 6, 2009 on the AOC Bacteria Sampling Program 2009.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the Generic Regulations Mapping Update was presented.

- Background:
 - the “Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses” regulation approved in May 2006 directs the Authority to determine the regulation limit using default setbacks outlined in provincial technical guidelines, or, determine the regulation limit utilizing a study completed by qualified personnel using accepted scientific and engineering principles.
 - since this time the Authority has been actively mapping the components of the Regulation Limit. The Regulation Limit is comprised of the following components:
 - a top of bank valley setback based on the slope and toe erosion potential;
 - a meander belt
 - wetlands and land adjacent to and supporting the functions of a wetlands
 - flood lands
 - shoreline setbacks based on Shoreline Management Plan data
 - the Regulation Limit is the greatest limit of the combined layers listed above.
- Current Status:
 - each of the component layers has been mapped for the entire watershed. The first three components in the list were mapped by authority staff. The flood plain mapping was completed by Riggs Engineering. Riggs Engineering provided estimated floodplain mapping for the entire watershed excluding flooding inundation from Lake Huron and St. Clair River.
 - due to insufficient data there are two areas of the watershed that have incomplete mapping; the shoreline of the St. Clair River and the Lake Huron shoreline within the Municipality of Lambton Shores. A Shoreline Management Plan for the Lambton Shores portion of Lake Huron shoreline within the SCRCA’s area of jurisdiction has been proposed for initiation in 2010. We are currently investigating the acquisition of the elevation data needed to map the St. Clair River flood elevation.
- Summary
 - to date delivery of the SCRCA Regulation Limit has been sent to Middlesex County and a number of lower tier municipalities. Complete digital distribution of the SCRCA Regulation Limit to all member municipalities for use as screening maps and inclusion in the zoning bylaws, is expected in the near future. The Regulation Limit will also be available on the CA Web Portal Map. For inquiries related to Regulation mapping SCRCA staff can direct consultants, Municipal staff and the general public to this mapping site increasing efficiency to staff time.
 - the next stage of the regulations mapping project is to develop protocol for updating the Regulation Limit as new data becomes available (ie. better elevation data). Also, it is likely that site visits/inspections may provide information that could lead to changes to the digital version of the Regulation Limit. The protocol for updating the Regulation Limit will include

the development of an automated update procedure. This will facilitate the maintenance/upkeep of the Regulation Limit so that a change to one component, for example a wetland boundary, can be easily incorporated into a revision of the Regulation Limit

BD-09-146

Miller - MacKenzie

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 6, 2009, on the Generic Regulations Mapping Update.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the St. Clair River Sediment Project was presented.

- Background: the March 2008-March 2009 phase involved utilizing the federally/provincially approved COA (Canada Ontario Agreement) Framework to assess the contaminated sediment and identify potential effects on sediment-dwelling aquatic organisms and the potential for biomagnifications in higher trophic levels. It was found that a risk from biomagnification was found. Zones of sediment management were prioritized based on risk to fish from biomagnification. As reported at the September Board, Authority staff are now working on the next phase which involves remediating the high priority contaminated sediment areas identified in the 2008-2009 report.
- Update
 - Terms of Reference were finalized and a Request for Proposals (9) have been circulated. Five proposals have been received.
 - the successful consultant will evaluate sediment management options for the high priority areas. The evaluation will include detailed feasibility studies and cost estimates to assess potential sediment management options. Pre-engineering designs will be prepared.
 - the Technical Team is currently reviewing the proposals and an update will be provided at the Board.
- Timeline

Task	Date
Issue date of RFP	Early October 2009
Proponent's deadline for questions	Mid October
Proposal Submission Deadline	Late October
Review of proposals	November
Award of contract	November

Work by consultant to be complete by March 31, 2010.

BD-09-147

Bilton - Jamieson

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the update on the St. Clair River Area of Concern Sediment Remediation Project dated November 6, 2009 and that the General Manager or his designate be authorized to award the project to the successful consultant based on the recommendation of the Sediment Technical Team.”

CARRIED

A staff report on 4178 Bluepoint Drive, Plympton-Wyoming was discussed.

- Background

- at the September 2009 Board Meeting, the Board directed staff to forward correspondence from Gowlings to the Authority's solicitor - Grant Inglis, Little Inglis & Price LLP for a response. Basically, the solicitors for the Royal Bank (Gowlings) wanted to know if the Authority would issue permission to re-build on the lot should the existing building on the lot be demolished (due to County order). This lot is situated in a high erosion area that cannot be protected.
- Action to date
 - our solicitor's correspondence was forwarded to Gowlings. No response from Gowlings to date.
 - SCRCA staff also forwarded our solicitor's response to Corrine Nauta, Chief Building Official, Lambton County and Adam Wills, Planning Coordinator for Plympton-Wyoming as they are reviewing possible demolition action on 4178 Bluepoint Drive.
 - the correspondence received from our solicitor supports Authority's staff policy to require written inquiries and applications (when applicable) with regard to Regulation 171/06 - "Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses"

BD-09-148

Marriott - Bruziewicz

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 6, 2009 on the legal opinion received for 4178 Bluepoint Drive, Plympton-Wyoming."

CARRIED

Authority revenue and expenditures to September 30, 2009, were reviewed.

BD-09-0149

Bilton - McEachran

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the revenue and expenditure report to September 30, 2009, as it relates to the budget."

CARRIED

September and October 2009 disbursements totaling \$736,407.83 were considered.

BD-09-150

MacKenzie - Gilliland

"That the Board of Directors approves the September and October 2009 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$736,407.83."

CARRIED

A status report on general levy received to date was discussed.

BD-09-151

MacKenzie - Burrell

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report on the 2009 general levy receipts to date."

CARRIED

The 2010 fee schedule for Authority programs and services was considered.

BD-09-152

Burrell - Phair

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and approves the Schedule of Fees dated October 2009, for all programs and services for the year 2010.”

CARRIED

Direction for apportioning of the matching and non-matching levy for the 2010 budget was requested.

BD-09-153

Bilton - MacKenzie

“That the Board of Directors approves the apportioning of matching and non-matching general levy to member municipalities for 2010 as per Schedule “A”, using the Modified Current Value Assessment, values provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources received October 20, 2009.”

CARRIED

Directors for the City of Sarnia asked for Mission Park to be included in the budget process.

BD-09-154

Burrell - Bruziewicz

“That the Board of Directors recommends that Mission Park Shore Protection be included in the 2010 draft budget with the City of Sarnia Special levy.”

CARRIED

BD-09-155

Phair - Burrell

“That the Board of Directors recommends the 2010 preliminary forecast budget of \$5,713,996 with a municipal general levy of \$540,250, as amended and further that this preliminary budget be circulated to member municipalities for information and input based on our budget review process.”

CARRIED

Carolyn Jamieson, director from Lambton Shores, thanked staff for an excellent budget report.

A Communications Progress Report was presented.

- Conservation Awards - a list of possible conservation award recipients will be brought forward at our board meeting in December. Should a board member wish to nominate any individual or organization, would they please contact Rick Battson at the office.
- St. Clair River Sediment Committee Open House - an open house was held on October 26 at the Aamjiwnaang First Nation. Attendance was excellent with over 50 people participating with this opportunity to provide input. Delisting the St. Clair River as an area of concern under the Canada-US Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement is the ultimate goal of Ontario, Canada, local industry and other stakeholders. In 2007, the Canadian Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Implementation Committee (CRIC) asked the St. Clair River Sediment Technical Committee (on which the SCRCA participates) to assess the sediment contamination in an area just upstream of the Dow-Suncor property line and extending

to the southern tip of Stag Island. The initial risk assessment on the sediments is now completed and has helped to identify priority areas within the area of study. The next step is to develop options for managing the contaminated sediments.

Together with Ontario and in consultation with local stakeholders and residents, Canada will develop a sediment management strategy for the site. The clean-up project is expected to begin 2012 and be completed by 2014. There will be a second public open house on Thursday, November 26 from 3:00 – 7:00 at the Township of St. Clair council chambers at 1155 Emily Street, Mooretown, ON. There will be displays and a presentation highlighting the findings of the report and opportunities to provide input to the sediment committee.

- Memorial Forest Dedications
 - approximately 800 people attended the McKenzie and Blundy Dedication at the Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area on September 20. Conservation Authority staff assisted with the arrangements and the set up for the day. Norm Giffen, brought greetings on behalf of the Conservation Authority and Foundation. Over the last year, 234 trees were dedicated through the McKenzie and Blundy Memorial Forest program which were planted at the Perch Creek Habitat Management Area. This accounted for a donations totalling \$7,020. Since 1988, 5,627 trees have been dedicated resulting in donations of \$168,810.
 - the dedication ceremony at the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area, which was held on September 27, dedicated all trees planted which were not part of a formal program. Approximately 100 people attended. Duncan Skinner, the Conservation Foundation President, brought greetings on behalf of the Conservation Foundation and Authority. The ceremonial tree was planted by the Arnold family in memory of Mary Joe Arnold. Over the last year, 77 trees were dedicated at 18 different sites resulting in donations totalling \$2,310. Since 1988, 1,468 trees were dedicated outside of the funeral home programs resulting in donations of \$44,040.
 - in addition to the two programs above, the Foundation also operates memorial forest programs with the Denning Bros. Funeral Home in Strathroy, the Denning Forest Chapel Funeral Home in Forest and the Nicholls Funeral Home in Wallaceburg. These three programs in total, resulted in the dedication of 217 trees (total donations of \$6,510).
 - combined with funeral home programs and our individual tree program, a total of 10,728 trees have been dedicated since 1988 resulting in donations totalling \$321,840.

BD-09-156

McEachran - Bilton

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Communications Report, dated November 5, 2009, Conservation Awards, Memorial Forests, Sediment Committee Open House and Summary of Special Events.”

“CARRIED”

An education staff report was reviewed.

- Fall Education Programs (to date)

Dow Wetlands	405 students
L.C. Henderson	1024
Gr.12 Tree Management.	20
Endangered Species	112
High School Training	200 (Children’s Water Festival)

Board of Directors Meeting, November 19, 2009

Go With The Flow	400
Total (Sept-Oct)	2,161 students

- Education Program Advertising: instead of sending five, sixteen page Program Booklets to each school, this fall each teacher was given a flyer outlining a condensed version of all education programs. For more detailed information, teachers were directed to the web site to view the Teachers Program Book. All fall programs, including the Dow Wetlands, L.C. Henderson C.A. and in-school programs have seen increased attendance numbers. Cost of production for both versions are about the same.
- Dow Wetlands: the water quality programs, Waterworld and Watershed Management, are the most popular due to increased emphasis on this subject matter at grade level 8, 9, and 10.
- L.C. Henderson: Pond studies at the primary, junior and intermediate levels as well as Geocaching and Instincts for Survival continue to be very popular programs this fall.
- Yellowfish Road: presentations were done in one elementary and one secondary school this fall. The Yellow fish Road co-ordinator has advertised the program so that it can continue in the spring. The cold, fall weather has halted further bookings until spring.
- Special Events:
 - Girl Guide River Crossing, Sombra - September 26- a display was set up to promote Best Management Practices in our Watershed using the Enviroscape model. One thousand girls from Canada and the United States participated in the event.
 - Open Trails Henderson: Sept. 13, 2009 - in order to promote C. A. properties, Conservation Ontario requested that each Authority offer a one day free admission to a local Conservation Area as part of Trails Open. Thirty enthusiastic geocachers descended upon the L.C. Henderson Conservation Area to learn about Geocaching. Participants were able to find 5 new caches, and 8 previously placed caches, allowing them to explore the far reaches of the C.A. The GPS receivers, purchased with Foundation money, were provided on loan, so new geocachers could experience this exciting new activity.
 - Caching at the Wetlands – Sept. 27, 2009 - 45 geocachers participated in this fund raiser for the Huron House Boys Home. Eleven new caches were placed for the event.
 - lots of positive feedback was heard from both events. The cache owner receives an e-mail every time a geocacher logs on-line that the cache was found. Many people continue to visit both sites. It's a great way for people to find out about our Conservation Areas.
 - Children's Water Festival, Chatham - October 6, 7 and 8 - SCRCA staff assisted with set-up on October 4th and 5th.and were Zone leaders (supervising high school students) for the 3 day event. Day 2 was cancelled due to high winds which destroyed 90% of the tents around 4:00 in the morning. The entire day was spent cleaning up and preparing for a slightly down scaled version of the event for the final day. Insurance will cover the cost of repairs.
 - RAP Video - October 6 - the first public viewing of the RAP video was at the Children's Water Festival. The video was shown for lunch time entertainment and was well received by the students, teachers and parents. There are 2 bookings for the RAP program next month.
 - Agriculture in the Classroom, Brigden Fair - October 9 - "Caring for the Land" was this year's theme. The many projects of the SCRCA were discussed, including assistance provided to farmers for improving soil and water conditions. i.e. Fencing off streams, capping abandon wells, no till farming, proper manure storage, tree rows, forest management etc. Demonstrations were shown using the Enviroscape and Groundwater model. 400 students attended this event.
- Other:

- September 28 – October 1: Training Week for Children’s Water Festival.
- the week was spent traveling to Chatham Area High Schools to train 200 students on how to run the Activity Centers. There are 41 water based science Activity Centers.
- the Butterfly Garden at LCH was cleaned up to prepare for the Memorial Tree Service.
- a few dead trees were cut out at Dow and some tree guards were removed from trees in part of the Memorial forest. There have been problems with vandalism at Dow. A picnic table was thrown in the pond and a sign ripped off the pavilion.

BD-09-157

Napper - Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Education Progress Report, dated October 28, 2009, including Outdoor Programs, In-Class Programs, Education Program Advertising, Yellow Fish Road and Special Events.”

CARRIED

BD-09-158

Bilton - MacKenzie

“That the meeting be adjourned.”



Norm Giffen
Chairman

Ralph Coe
General Manager